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Labourers' kids make lamps for Diwali

Sangeeta Rane @SangeetaCRane



The IIT-Gn students also teach children from from poor backgrounds to sell their products

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joy of giving

Ahmedabad: Diwali is the time to spread joy and happiness all around us. However, people usually don't take the time out to do something for people who are less privileged than them. Thankfully, the students of IIT-Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) are not cut out from the same cloth. They have taken the children of the construction workers under their wing and are teaching these kids how to make lamps and sell them to raise funds.

The initiative under Nyasa, IIT Gn's outreach programme for the education and welfare of construction workers, will sell hand-painted diyas, hand-made papers lamps and wall hangings made by the children.

"This Diwali we wanted to give our Nyasa kids a skill apart from the usual gifts. We taught them how to make diyas, greeting cards, torans and other decorative items," said Kushal Salecha, third year student at IIT Gn. The items will be displayed as an exhibition will not have any price tag over them but will display them at the institute's basketball court and invite the institute's faculty members and staff to pick any item of their choice and donate accordingly.

Apart from this, IIT Gn students organised a party on Friday at the Chandkheda campus to celebrate Diwali with the kids. They will distribute new clothes, sweets and host games for the Nyasa kids.

"We will explain the meaning of Diwali – which means overcoming personal challenges, to these kids. We will also encourage these children to take up skilled work rather than begging" explained Salecha.

Apart from the Diwali celebration, IIT -Gn students celebrate other festivals like Navratri, Uttarayan, etc with Nyasa kids. "It is our responsibility to include socially deprived children into celebrations and teach them skills that only are creative but also useful" said Jaison Manjaly, dean of student affairs.



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