

IITGn's tryst with theatre

Young artists of Chhara community will perform a play 'Budhan Bolta Hai' today

Dhwani Pathak Dave
dhwani.pathak@timesgroup.com

Budhan theatre is set to make its entry at IIT Gandhinagar on Saturday when young artists of Chhara community will perform a play, *Budhan Bolta Hai*, on the campus. The theatre has been introduced at the premier institute for the students of Political Science to understand oppression through participatory approach.

ELECTIVE COURSE ON BUDHAN THEATRE

Like IIMA which began an elective course in theatre a year ago, IITGn too will offer the elective course under the Humanities & Social Studies group.

Assistant Professor Mona Mehta said: "There is a topic called 'Paradox of Indian Democracy' in the course. It talks about the post-independence politics. And the students showed



Chhara community children performing a street play

keen interest in Baba Saheb Ambedkar's fight against untouchability. Sometime ago, I saw a play by the members of Chhara community. It depicted the issues of discrimination and marginalisation which we discuss in class."

She said: "It will be a failure on our

part if we do not address these issues as aware citizens of the country. It will provide students an insight into the problems of the Chharas."

Dakshin Bajrange, the man behind Budhan theatre, said, "The play is an attempt to present a general perception about denotified tribes. The exercise is aimed at encouraging discussion between the two groups."

"The students will have a feel of the place. Their interaction with families will help them understand their issues," he said.

The play will be followed by a discussion. On Sunday, the students will visit Chharanagar. The students will also visit Ganeshnagar, where some of the Chhara families have been shifted recently, and rehabilitation site in Piplaj. This will be followed by a session on Budhan theatre artists. Even the students will present their work after the session, Bajrange said.