

IITGN aims to strengthen science and maths skills among school students

Ankur Tewari, TNN | Oct 14, 2015, 07:55PM IST



GANDHINAGAR: A traditional charkha that spins electric energy and flutes made of straws were some of the toys that school students fascinated upon at Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) on Monday.

IIT-Gn will be conduct a series of workshops called "Toys from Trash" to reinforce the knowledge of science and mathematics among school students.

As many as 200 students took part in the workshop which was conducted over two sessions of two hours each. Mr Manish Jain, an IIT Kanpur graduate who is dedicated to popularizing science and mathematics in schools, explained the basic principles of science through toys which were made from everyday items such as cycle tubes, spokes, magnets, pens, drinking straws, compact disc etc. The hand-made toys, explained concepts of gravitation, levitation, centrifugal and centripetal forces, Waves, Magnetism, electricity, lattice structures and mathematical models.

Faculty at IIT-Gn, prof Shivkumar Jolad who was one of the coordinators of the workshop, said, "The issue in the teaching methods in schools is that most of the students are taught mathematical equations but how these equations work, or what do they look like are not demonstrated to them with practical methods." Prof Jolad said, "It is a long term goal that we are aiming at. If the country needs good researchers in science and technology, we need to strengthen the basic understanding of science among the school students through such innovative concept teaching methods."

The first workshop was taken part by standard 11 and 12 students of Kendriya Vidyalaya number 3 and Kendriya Vidyalaya, CRPF, Gandhinagar.

Another IIT-Gn faculty coordinator of the event, Prof Sriram Kanvah said, "We will gradually involve more schools. We are also working on the feasibility of the idea of including school teachers in the workshop to expose them to such innovative teaching methods."