

Poor kids get free lessons for NTSE

IITRAM, with AMC, has started project Dayatva where students coach underprivileged children for national-level exam

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At a time when private tutorials charge exorbitant fees for coaching children for competitive exams, a group of students of a city-based college is helping less privileged children prepare for the exams for free. It's been a year now since students of Institute of Infrastructure Technology Research and Management (IITRAM), Maninagar, collaborated with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation for the initiative. They provide coaching for National Talent Search Examination (NTSE), a national-level scholarship programme, to secondary students from economically weaker section.

The first batch of 15 students from class 10 took the exam in November 2018 and everyone—including teachers, students and AMC—is eagerly waiting for the results. Students who clear both levels of the exam will be provided scholarship of Rs 1,250 per month till PhD.

The project, named Dayatva, was initiated in November 2017. Since then, 110 students have enrolled for it. They are taught by 38 student volunteers of IITRAM. The AMC provides resources, test materials and also pays for the meal for which it spends nearly Rs 15,000 per month. It also provides workbooks at a cost of Rs 17,000 per year. Classes are conducted on IITRAM campus every Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm.

To break the monotony of studies, the 'teachers' organise



A class in progress



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fun activities like drawing, music, dumb charades, etc once a month. Animesh Rathi, a second year student of civil engineering of IITRAM and member of Dayatva, said, “Private coaching classes charge a hefty amount as fees for coaching. Through this initiative we wanted to help students with our bit of knowledge. Students who come to learn belong to economically weaker section and whose parents mostly work as labourers.”

Shivani Tripathi, a class 10 student, has been taking coaching for past one year said, “I appeared for the exam last month and I am hopeful that I will manage to clear the first level exam.

Apart from the coaching for the NTSE, they also teach us school subjects and that too for free.”

Class 9 student Jitendra Pal who will be appearing for the exam next year said, “The teachers teach us various subjects without charging a penny. They are working hard for our benefit.”

JS Prajapati, DyMC of East Zone, said, “AMC is providing a helping hand as we want to strengthen learning of students from primary level itself. There are professional tutorials preparing students for competitive exams, but these students do it for free. With an infrastructure like IITRAM, students would want to study well.”