

## Indomitable spirit of Disha

### Disha pitches for education for girls who face challenges to continue studies

#### Back to schools: A vision upheld by SE Shagun initiative

The authorities in a populous and developing country like India face huge challenges in various forms to properly implement the Right to Education Act. One of those principal challenges is to stop the children belonging to the economically backward segment of the society from dropping schools which has increased in a menacing dimension during the pandemic-induced lockdowns. Under the cardinal Sarba Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) program, the government of India (GOI) and all the state governments and union territories (UTs) have launched a game-changing initiative **School Education Shagun (SE Shagun)** to arrest the trend among the children with proper measures targeting especially the school dropouts belonging to downtrodden families in both urban and rural areas. Our story of Disha Halder, a former student of Nalgoradham Baikhuntha Vidyapith KGBV Hostel located in Joynagar-II Block, South 24 Parganas speaks a volume about the sincere efforts taken under **SE Shagun** initiative to help the students continue their studies overcoming all hindrances. The scheme is specially designed for providing opportunities for equal education and equitable learning outcome for all school going children of the country.

#### Leading from the front

Disha is passionate about her studies and with her indomitable spirit and strong disposition she attended school despite facing uphill challenges. Her willingness to learn and perseverance has become a source of inspiration for her peers. Her teachers are also very proud of her. In 2011 Disha took admission in Class-V in Nalgoradham Baikhuntha Vidyapith KGBV Hostel in Joynagar-II Block. She used to live with her parents and sibling in the nearby Nalgora village of South 24-Parganas. With strong determination she continued her studies with diligence fighting against all odds and passed out her Secondary Examination and Higher Secondary Examination and obtained first division in both the examinations. Presently, she is pursuing her 1<sup>st</sup> Year Honours course in English Literature in Raidighi College.



Disha Halder, the inspiration for many dropouts to return to schools

Disha has set an example for other girls who have dropped out from school citing various reasons. She works hard to generate awareness amongst her community about fruits of education and encourages the parents of her village to enroll their daughters in schools. She has realized the importance of education and according to her every child deserves to get the best education available as enshrined in Right to Education Act.

### **Missionary zeal**

Disha also wants to work for the upliftment of children like her who get little or no chance to fulfill their dreams. She is determined to pursue her dreams after completing her studies. A staunch believer in change and empowerment through education, she has set out in a long journey to fulfill her mission in life. She may well be deemed a **SE Education** warrior who is determined to help hundreds of school dropouts to return to school to complete their education.

**Disha Halder:** Parent – Raghupati Halder (Father), Jayasree Halder (Mother)

Age: 15 years, Class: X (Nalgoradham Baikhuntha Vidyapith)

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