

## Teacher: A Role Model

### Headmaster Mitra sets example with aids, online backups for students in need

#### Digital mode to deny disruptions

Prabir Mitra of Coochbehar's Patakhawa High School is an ideal teacher who with his initiatives and endeavour has made it possible for his students to continue their learning in pandemic-induced disruptions. With some welfare measures and innovative digital learning programs he has made it possible for his students belonging to socio-economically backward communities to avail opportunities of equal education and equitable learning outcome as envisaged by **School Education Shagun** initiative during the post pandemic crisis and closures.

#### Prabir Mitra, a teacher with mission

In 2014, Prabir Mitra joined as the headmaster in Patakhawa High School of Coochbehar-II block. He started his career as a teacher in Murshidabad district in 1999 and then he lost both of his parents in 2001. Financially the family was weak before Mr. Mitra joined service as a school teacher. Being inspired by his parents, Mr. Mitra dedicated his life in teaching to bring changes spreading the light of education in the lives of his students. He also has a penchant to serve the people in distress and penury.

In 2020, during COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns, the children have suffered a lot due to the prolonged closure of schools. The pandemic triggered across the globe an unprecedented



1) Prabir Mitra, headmaster of Patakhawa High School, distributing food to a needy student



2) Mr. Mitra on a battery-run rickshaw distributing food to a needy student

socio economic crisis. The children were the worst sufferers due to disruptions caused by the dreaded infection. Millions of children have not been able to meet their basic needs. The children belonging to the weaker section of the society have to suffer a lot for lack of nutrition and other health related issues. They have been deprived of their fundamental right to education as enshrined in the Constitution due to disruptions of normal life and closures of institutions. They have lost the joy of childhood considerably in the accursed times of pandemic.

Mr. Mitra readily extended his help to his students by arranging for food and medicines on his own. He personally distributed the materials to the community. He had to overcome many adversities in his mission to help his students in their studies. He also took up community service catering to both the students and their families during the pandemic situation.

The parents of the students of Patakhawa High School hailing from different villages in the vicinity held him in high esteem for his caring attitude and concern for their wards.

“The blessings I get from the community members are my coveted rewards. I am really glad that I am able to distribute food and medicines among the children belonging to poor families,” said Mr. Mitra.

The headmaster used to spend a sizable amount of his salary for the welfare of his poor children so that they could continue with their studies surmounting all hurdles during lockdown period. He also bought books, exercise copies, pens and other stationary goods for the needy students.

In order to enlighten his students Mr. Mitra took the initiative to organize some special sessions to discuss diverse topics that would raise the awareness level among the students. Gradually he started taking online classes with the backups from different digital platforms for secondary and higher secondary students of the school during the closures due to pandemic.

### **Inspiration for many**

The assistant teachers of the school also became motivated by the enterprising spirit of their headmaster and joined the digital learning program by taking regular online classes for the students. During the pandemic situation, Mr. Mitra also arranged for celebration of various special days in the midst of the villages with his students and their parents to instill nationalistic fervor in them. In all his activities he always took care of maintaining Covid protocols.

Prabir Mitra is a role model for other teachers. He has inculcated a sense of responsibility and commitment in them. His good deeds and dedication have endowed his students with a moral and ideological foundation to make progress along the path of enlightenment.



3) Mr. Mitra discussing topics with his students in an open air session



4) The students celebrating Sister Nivedita's birthday