

## Hope and Will Power Pave the Path

A 13 year boy, Rashi Das belongs to a small place Howly Town of Barpeta district in Assam has cerebral palsy. Cerebral palsy has been classified as spastic quadriplegia associated with being prematurely born with an extremely low birth weight. Rashi has decreased trunk, shoulder, and pelvic girdle mobility. He has voluntary and involuntary movements in both upper and lower extremities. His movements are slow and labored. He is unable to speak and has difficulty writing. Rashi is unable to walk and therefore uses a wheelchair for mobility.



*Rashi with his special shoes and bag*

Rashi's father, Mr. Rajendra Das, is an electrician and the only bread earner of the family. His mother is a housewife. He is blessed with a sister, studying in elementary school. Rajendra's low income is insufficient to meet the basic household requirements. This delayed the schooling of Rashi who is in class IV now and attends 348 no. Ambari Mairamara L.P. School under Bhabanipur Educational Block of Barpeta District. Rashi was crippling and his father has not lost hope.



*Rashi being diagnosed*

In between teacher and head teacher of the L P School are carrying out a survey of children with special needs who are not attending school and meet Rajendra, interact with him and discuss about admission and schooling Rashi. They mention about aids and appliances, health check-up, resource teacher and day care centre in the school campus for CWSN. This comes as a miracle in Rajendra's eyes and he decides to send Rashi to school as it not only helps in earning his daily wages but takes care of security and safety of the child with learning.

At the beginning of the school year his attending school was a struggle until the resource teacher and day care centre intervened in his journey of the school life. It was serious challenge to bring him to school and take back home. Gradually, teachers and resource persons along with DIET Faculty paid heed to the need of Rashi. School offered Wheel Chair, Try Cycle, Crutches, Bag, Escort Allowance, Special shoes, MSIED Kit and Walking Stick. By dint of continuous efforts made by the teachers and the resource persons of the Day care centre which is located in the school campus and aids and appliances, Rashi is attending school.



*Rashi at Day care Centre in school*



*Rashi with DIET Faculty learnig Bengali*

Rashi belongs to a Bengali Family and his mother tongue is Bengali. So speaking Assamese language in the school as well as in the Daycare centre is another challenge for him which is being bridged by DIET faculty who knows Bengali and is a master trainer for inclusive education.



Rashi is overcoming day to day challenges along with learning challenges. He is allowed extra time to complete his assignments. Rashi is able to communicate by using special and extra efforts. He is coping up on conversation front. However, Rashi often becomes frustrated because of the effort it takes to spell out each word. He finds it difficult to answer questions in class or communicate with groups of friends instantly and frequently. His voice is becoming clearer and he is trying to stand on his feet.



Rashi likes to play games and watch sporting events with his friends. He wishes there was an activity he could participate in with fellow classmates. He is endeavouring to learn and grow.



*Resource Teacher and Rashi*



*Teachers support and attitude makes difference*



*Peers and Teachers with Rashi*

Efforts of teachers, resource teachers, DIET faculty and fathers support has motivated Rashi to overcome the challenges. He is now getting peer support that strengthened and encouraged him to move further. Currently, Rashi's father who carries him up at home during night and morning, sees brightness ahead.

Peers support, teachers and resource teachers regular attention and guidance of DIET faculty has made a difference the life of Rashi. Teachers, Parents and Rashi are full of hope with brightness in their eyes.

