

## **Visual Impairment does not deter dream**

Eleven years Pushpita Nornsudra is a student of class II at 509, Surajdas lower Primary School situated in Routgram village under Kaliganj Postoffice of Karimganj district. The school was established in 1958 and DISE Code of this school is 18220513004.



*Pushpita with her mother, Grandfather and siblings*

Pushpita is a visually impaired (Moderate low vision) child since birth. Her father Late Shomol Nornsudra, a construction worker died in an accident while working in a bridge construction. Her mother Chandana earns her livelihood by selling handmade bamboo goods. She has four small sisters. Her grandfather Mr. Sukchandra is old and lives with the family. Death of Pushpita's father brought adversity in their life and made life miserable.

Pushpita faced challenges in daily routine due to poor acuity. It was a barrier in her reading writing and learning. She could hardly read except when touching books with eyes. She has difficulty in seeing words on blackboard. She has difficulty in recognising faces, watching Television, choosing clean cloths etc. She is unable to play with other children in the community. She was not attending school.

Family could not realise her problem. However during an assessment survey by school, she was identified as CWSN. The head teacher of the school discussed with her mother and grandfather. He convinced that he has good team of teachers and staff who would take care of the child. The head teacher shared that the school has ramp for easy access, easy stairs, lighted classrooms, safe drinking water, toilet for CWSN, kitchen and uninterrupted supply of mid day meal for children. He informed them that a dumb child is also in their school who belongs to this village only. Expert support of DIET and BTC are also available to the school. These institutions are at a stone's throw from the school.





*Pushpita happy with facilitation by teacher*

The head teacher suggested the family to send Pushpita to school where she will get incentives like uniform, books, mid day meal and security during school hour. This motivated the family to send Pushpita to school, although delayed.

Emotional support was a prerequisite to win the child and retain her in the school. This was enhanced with peers training and support. The teachers attitude matters and they started engaging her in recreational activities that she could do independently. It required time and energy. Many a time it was very frustrating for Pushpita and teachers as well. DIET faculty used to visit the school and guide the teachers to engage Pushpita in the classroom and with peers. Slowly efforts of teachers, head teachers and more support from the peers plays pivotal role of encouragement and enthusiasm for Pushpita. Pushpita is now enjoying school, playing and learning with peers



Happiness of Chandana and Sukchand is glittering in their eyes that speaks volumes of hope and progress of Pushpita, whose spirit of attending school reveals that **when learning happens nothing can deter development of the child.** Best wishes to Pushpita. Keep it up.