Light at darkness

Sri Samir Das, son of Mr. Biswajit Das and Mrs. Tutu Das, born with V.I. disorder, due to partial cerebral disorder is a student of K Sreni at Tanuram Shishu Vidyalaya (Lower Primary School) situated in Shantipu village Mirza, Kamrup (Rural). Biswajit Das works as a labour at fruit whole sale market at Guwahati, 35 Km away from the village village. His mother Smt. Tutu Das is house wife living in their own house at Shantipur, Mirza.

Samir's disability was realised when he was 2 years old and did not responding any hint passed by his parents. They brought him immediately to Nepal for treatment, after getting a general check up made at GMCH. MRI was done there. According to the opinion of the doctor's report, his eyes are impaired due to his the cerebral disorder that is linked with the vision related mechanism of the body. This is partially damaged due to lack of sufficient oxygen supply, when he was in mother's womb.



Samir and his parents



Samir Das is enthusiastic towards his ability. His response to questions is almost normal and nearly similar to other children. His right eye is active So, he uses right eye to see anything from very close distance.

He is unable to sit at one place for a long time. He walks in the class randomly whenever uncomfortable in one posture.

The society, where he lives, is a semi Bosti area. The society has a positive view to his family members for what parents and Samir are getting moral and the physical support for the boost of the child. The family is economically backward. So, advanced medical treatment has not yet received. He is admitted at the class 'K' shreni in the school. Ms Puja Chetry, Assistant Teacher of the school is taking care of the child during school hours. But she has no training to interact with impaired children

Ms Puja Chetry has accepted it as her challenge to enhance his learning. She takes his mother inside the class room to help the children for learning. His mother helps willingly to the teacher and students both. Thus teaching learning process goes on. Samir response to the questions put for him, though roaming in the class, whenever he likes.

The school has paid attention to Samir for his learning and engaged a teacher separately to take care of Samir for learning. Ms Puja Chetry who has understood how to engage and involve Samir along with other children by support of DIET. She plans her lessons on a regular basis for

Samir that does not hinder other children learning. Children in his class play in groups with him freely.

Mr. P. Goswami, Sr. lecturer, DIET Mirza has been visiting school for past six months to extend his help to Ms. Puja Chetry. He has been trained by UNICEF on Inclusive education.

The parents are optimistic and school support has shown light in the darkness. They believe, the therapy, advised by doctors, though costly, would improve situation of Samir one day. The school and the inclusion are now reciprocity of learning.

The right path leads to attain the goal. Best wishes to Samir and school in their endeavour.

- Ravindra Kumar Mishra State Consultant (Teacher Education) UNICEF Assam
