

Today's Reader Tomorrow's Leader

It takes around 150 minutes on national highway no. 37 from Guuwahati for us to reach District Institution of Education and Training (DIET), Dudhnoi in Goalpara district of Assam. It is managed by Principal Jafar Ali. This teacher education institution prepares teachers and Mr. Jafar Ali is diligently trying to do meaningful works. He greets us very enthusiastically and explains various practices that he follows with his team. He is creative and has mind of his own. Imagine the enormous job he has to perform while minding teacher educators, student teachers and office staff who come from different academic and socio-cultural backgrounds.

He is responsible for implementation of D.El.Ed.

and B.Ed. courses. He is expected to be multitasking manager in one go - always in touch with the teachers, teacher's educators, student teachers, headmaster of the elementary schools and others functionaries in accomplishing their roles for providing effective curriculum transaction and effective management of institutions. Practically, his role is eulogized as mentoring, guiding and preparing future teachers. Yet in most conversations, the DIETs are often the butt of all criticism. They serve as favourite punching bag for one and all.

Despite all these challenges, Jafar Ali takes charge of all important roles and devise strategies that are useful for the realization of potential of student teachers.



Simple and polite Jafar Ali says – *“I think one of the keys to leadership is recognizing that everybody has gifts and talents. A good leader will learn how to harness those gifts toward the same goal”* and adds – *“My own examples are best to command”* When it comes to strengthening the institution, appropriate and intelligent use of the resources available is key to access milestones one by one. His quest for knowledge makes him a leader.

Action speaks louder than the words and that is what Jafar Ali does.

In a resource deficit institution, he has delegated responsibilities to teacher educators and student teachers to carry out their assigned tasks besides teaching and learning. He has various committees to dispense responsibilities. He has 12 member committee of student teachers including a President and Vice president, under the guidance of teacher educators. Each member is accountable for leading exercises like – incharge – boys common room, girls common room, culture, cleanliness, sports and games, cleanliness and sanitation, events and so on.



Members of Student teachers committee with their mentor, Bharti Das

Today the institute is celebrating DIET week, Teacher Educators and student teachers are full of enthusiasm and energy. Jafar Ali calls a brief meeting reviews the status of responsibilities with teacher educators, staff members and student teachers' committee discusses agenda and proceeds satisfactorily for inauguration of events scheduled for the day. National anthem, flag hoisting, précised speech with deliberation on importance of the week, roles to be performed by teacher educators and student teachers, Jafar Ali opens the day. Now it is turn of teacher educators and student teachers who are performing their roles adroitly. All engaged, all involved, disciplined and dispensing their duties. Arrests attention, worth watching



Teacher Educators with their responsibilities



Jafar ali shares – Few years back there were few applications for admission to D.El.Ed. course. Now the number of applications have increased and credit goes to his team and student teachers whose efforts in making people and institution of the district aware of the value and significance of the course and institutions. He further says that student teachers are the best advertisements if they are engaged involved and are given opportunity to participate in teaching learning extra curricular and co curricular activities. He continuously, look for various ways of teaching learning and bringing that learning to the class. His team and students hail his effort in bringing out hidden leader within them.

Leadership is not about alorious crowning acts. It is about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter.



“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”