

Blindness not an obstacle

Habiganj teacher makes education's light shine

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To make sense of the world around us, everybody sometimes relies on mental visualisation, using the proverbial "mind's eye". Teacher Sanjit Chakrabarty, 70, from Sayestaganj town in Habiganj has fine-tuned this ability. When he buys groceries at the market, in the 37 years of his remarkable teaching career, it's primarily his "mind's eye" that guides, since it's his only sight. Sanjit is blind.

"As a child," says Samiron Chakrabarty, who was Sanjit's first student and is currently a teacher at Shekura Adonso High School, "I thought he saw my books. It was only later I realised he didn't see from his eyes."

"I had some exceptional teachers," says Abdus Salak, another student of Sanjit, who is now a police inspector. "One of them was Sanjit Sir." Sanjit's teaching has touched many lives, including at least 2,000 students who completed higher education. Among former pupils are bankers and teachers.

"A teacher needs a good mind," Sanjit says. "Knowledge of subject, the curriculum, and creativity are most important." He believes it is vital that students learn to think for themselves. "It is most frustrating if students merely repeat their lessons from memory, without developing their minds."

Sanjit's reputation has earned him the respectful moniker "Sanju Thakur". "Sanju is able to motivate students," Jalal Uddin, a college lecturer, says. "Parents have confidence in him."

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Visually impaired teacher Sanjit Chakrabarty, of Sayestaganj town in Habiganj, believes in teaching students to think for themselves. For 37 years he has excelled in contributing to primary and secondary education.

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