

CASE STUDY



NAME	:	BIKRAM KAR
SEX	:	Male
AGE	:	13 Years
FATHER'S NAME	:	SHYAMAL KAR
FATHER'S OCCUPATION	:	Daily Labour
MOTHER'S NAME	:	KRISHNA KAR
MOTHER'S OCCUPATION	:	Daily Labour
SIBLINGS	:	1 brother and 1 sister

Background

Bikram is a little different from any other child of his age. He is mentally challenged and cannot talk, walk or study like a normal child. He has to depend upon his mother for everything. Just like a walking stick provides support to an old person, Bikram's mother is his one and only support, without whom, he becomes almost dysfunctional. The child stays with his father, mother, sister and grandmother in a straw hut in a slum near Panchannagram.

Apart from being an alcoholic, Bikram's father is also a gambling addict and as such spends all his earnings on his addictions without making any contribution towards his family's sustenance. Sometimes he even takes away Bikram's mother's savings by force and stays away from home for long periods of time. The helpless mother has to do many kinds of odd jobs to support her children. Bikram's mother has become a member of a women's self help group and earns her livelihood by supplying food and working as a domestic help. She cannot provide education and good medical care for her children due to her acute financial crisis. She wants to provide good education to her children but simply does not have the means to do so. She often suffers violent physical abuse from her husband, but is willing to bear anything for her children's welfare.

Intervention

Bikram first came to Matangini, the NFE Centre run by Mass Welfare Society at Matangini Pally, EM Bypass, Kolkata in 2006. The teachers of the centre understood after sometime that due to his disabilities, it would be next to impossible to teach Bikram. But his mother's ardent requests made the teachers determined to take up Bikram's case as a challenge. They had to give a lot of effort for him and Bikram too responded very enthusiastically by trying his best. It was 6 long years after which

Bikram was somewhat capable of going to a formal school. The teachers approached many schools in the vicinity and other areas for his admission, but to no avail. No school was willing to accept Bikram. However, the teachers were persistent and went on searching for a school without giving up hope. At last on 7th January, 2013, Bikram was admitted into V.I.P. Junior High School in Class V. The school authorities and teachers were also sensitized about Bikram's condition and they provided him with all support they could.

Current Status

Bikram is now a shadow of his former self. He is confident, enthusiastic and performs all actions properly. At present he is studying in Class V in V.I.P. Junior School. Matangini also arranges coaching class/tuition help in the evening for school-going children of the local slum. Bikram goes to school regularly and comes to the coaching centre everyday for educational support. The teachers and staff of Mass Welfare Society constantly motivate Bikram and his mother so that he can build a compelling future for himself.



Since Bikram is child with special needs, individual attention is given to him