

A Teacher Who Brings Children Back to Learning: The Story of Mamata Sahoo



At Government Upper Primary School in Bharasha village of Khollikote block, Ganjam district, a young teacher is quietly transforming lives. Mamata Sahoo, a 27-year-old Assistant Teacher, is not just teaching lessons—she is bringing children back to learning with care, commitment, and compassion.

Originally from Sakhigopal in Puri district, Mamata grew up in a simple family where education was valued. Supported by her parents, she completed her studies with dedication and went on to pursue a Diploma in Elementary Education. Becoming a teacher was her dream, and in 2018, she joined the school in Bharasha as a Junior Teacher.

When Mamata first arrived, she noticed worrying signs. Some children were irregular, and a few had completely dropped out of school. Instead of accepting this as a common rural challenge, she decided to act. She started visiting the homes of these children, speaking patiently with parents, and explaining the importance of education. She listened to their concerns and tried to find practical solutions. To motivate the children, she even arranged basic learning materials. Slowly, her efforts began to show results—children started returning to school, and attendance improved.

Inside the classroom, Mamata focused on making learning joyful and inclusive. She created a safe and friendly environment where children felt comfortable and encouraged to participate. Her approach helped build trust, and students began to engage more actively.

A key focus of her work is Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). Every day, she dedicates the first three periods to strengthening basic reading and math skills. She groups children based on their learning levels and uses simple, creative Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) and worksheets to make concepts easy to understand. She also uses children's stories, songs, and activities to make learning more engaging.

Her classroom reflects her effort—it is colorful, lively, and filled with learning materials. A special FLN corner encourages children to read, write, and explore freely. Over time, the fear of learning has reduced, and children have become more confident and curious.

The impact is visible not only in the classroom but also in the community. Parents now see positive changes in their children and have developed trust in the school.

One parent shared, ***“Earlier, my child did not want to go to school and was falling behind in studies. Now, he goes happily every day and even teaches us at home. We are very grateful to Mamata Madam for bringing this change.”***

Mamata Sahoo's journey shows that change begins with one committed teacher. Through her dedication, empathy, and innovative approach, she has not only improved learning outcomes but also restored hope and interest in education among children. Her story is a powerful reminder that when teachers care deeply, children return to learning—and to their dreams.

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9 Govind Vihar, Near Ruby Eye Hospital, Lochapada
BERHAMPUR-760 001, Ganjam, Odisha, INDIA
Tel : +91-81143 97760 E-mail : info@ysdindia.org
Web : www.yzdindia.org