

A Change Leader in Education : The Story of Yashoda Mallik



In the sacred city of Puri, where tradition and values shape everyday life, Yashoda Mallik grew up in a supportive yet disciplined family. From a young age, she dreamed of becoming a teacher. With strong determination and the encouragement of her family, she pursued her education with dedication and later completed her Bachelor of Education, stepping into the teaching profession in 2015.

Her journey took her to Government Upper Primary School, A. Fashipoda in Kholikote block of Ganjam district—a remote area where challenges were many. Most families depended on migration for livelihood, and children often lacked support for education at home. Although the school had around 180 enrolled students, only about 60% attended regularly. Many children were disengaged, and the learning environment lacked energy.

Instead of feeling discouraged, Yashoda saw this as an opportunity to create change. With support from the Youth for Social Development (YSD) team, she began reaching out to the community. She visited homes, spoke to parents, and patiently explained the importance of education. She organized village rallies to raise awareness and conducted mother workshops to involve families in their children's learning. Through regular interactions and simple communication materials, she helped parents understand their role in supporting education.

Inside the classroom, Yashoda introduced new and engaging teaching methods. Using activity-based approaches and simple teaching-learning materials, she made learning enjoyable for children. Her classroom became a space where children felt safe, encouraged, and eager to participate. Slowly, the fear of school reduced, and children started attending regularly. Within a short time, attendance improved, and the school became lively and vibrant.

Yashoda also believed in the holistic development of children. She transformed the school environment by creating a kitchen garden and planting trees. Children actively participated in these activities, learning responsibility, teamwork, and life skills. She encouraged creativity by developing wall magazines and preparing worksheets for different subjects. Students participated in national events and competitions, gaining confidence and exposure.

Her leadership extended beyond the classroom. She ensured regular School Management Committee (SMC), Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), and Mother-Teacher Association (MTA) meetings, strengthening the relationship between the school and the community. Parents began to take interest in their children's education and developed trust in the school.

One parent shared, ***“Earlier, we did not pay much attention to our children’s studies. But now, we see them learning and enjoying school. Yashoda Madam has brought a big change in our village.”***

Today, the school stands as a vibrant learning space filled with energy and hope. Yashoda Mallik’s journey reflects the power of dedication, community engagement, and innovative teaching. She is truly a Bodhadayinee—a giver of knowledge—who continues to inspire children and communities, proving that one committed teacher can transform an entire school.

Support



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