

A Story of Determination and Courage

Aakash Institute student Shivam Namdev from Sidhi District in Madhya Pradesh defies odds to prepare for NEET and fulfil his lifelong dream of becoming a doctor

- *With a dream of seeing his parents never take stress over a single rupee, Shivam is determined to crack NEET and one day make his parents proud by becoming a doctor.*
- *Always wanting to become a medical professional, Shivam had his goals straight since his childhood. The ongoing pandemic boosted his resolve to help people and contribute to the society.*

Jabalpur, June 07, 2021: The Second Wave of the Covid-19 pandemic has had a lasting impact on almost everyone. For students particularly, the lockdown has caused deep distress – the constant worry about exams being rescheduled, preparing for competitive exams online as well as the fear of an uncertain future. However, this period of grief and struggle has also given rise to many stories of courage among the student community that are a true inspiration for all. Of fighting against a situation and overcoming it and of finding opportunity in adversity.

One of such stories is that of **18-year-old aspiring doctor Shivam Namdev, a student of Aakash Institute in Jabalpur who hails from Chakrawar Village in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh.**

Belonging to a low earning farmer's family from a small village, Shivam's family has always struggled to make two ends meet for a family of eight including three sisters and three brothers. Somehow, Shivam's parents managed to arrange the expense needed for the marriage of his three sisters. Now with his eldest brother too married, he feels a day will come when a proposal may arrive for him as well, but before that he wants to be settled on his own and be able to take care of his parents and remove all disparities from their lives.

Youngest in the family, Shivam has set his goals straight to not follow the family's legacy of farming but instead fulfill his dream of becoming a doctor. In the struggles faced by him, his maternal uncle has always been a pillar of strength in his life. From taking care of his education to day to day expenses, his uncle has always supported him. Unlike his siblings, his uncle made Shivam finish his schooling from a private school outside his village because he knew the village school would not be able to give him the required exposure.

Stating his struggles, **Shivam said**, "I have seen my parents struggle to make ends meet, especially during the lockdown. My family has always motivated me even through all the hardships faced. My mama (maternal uncle) made sure we, children, never let go of our small dreams due to financial problems. Last year I decided to enroll at Aakash Institute in Jabalpur to

prepare for my NEET examinations. Detailing my financial situation, I requested Aakash Institute to provide me with a 90% consent in fees off merit. Luckily, I was able to receive the consent and started my classes at Aakash. Now I look forward to cracking my NEET Examination, that would be my first goal. One day I would like to make my parents proud and let them enjoy their old-age days at peace without any tension.”

Aakash Institute has made special efforts to ensure that students from Tier 2 cities and rural areas who were badly hit when the lockdown struck, are able to continue their studies and are not left behind. Teachers across all branches in India are making constant efforts to mentor the student, solve their doubts and them so as to overcome their infrastructure needs and any problems thereof.

Says Mr. Aakash Chaudhry, Managing Director, Aakash Educational Services Ltd, *“The pandemic has disrupted the usual schedule of competitive examinations. Examinations like JEE and NEET are hard to crack and require a lot of hard work and dedication during the preparations. While safety of our students has been the top-most priority, we are also committed to provide best learning culture to achieve higher goals during such difficult times. No geographical boundaries or financial statements should be the reason why a child is unable to follow his dreams. Which is why, we at Aakash make sure to reach out to the exceptional students in such remote areas providing them as much as support possible. I am glad, Shivam being the youngest in the family has such hopes and dreams, I wish him all the best for his NEET exam. Hope he fulfils his dream of providing a better life to his family.”*

Students who wish to take admission in Aakash can either take the instant Admission cum Scholarship Test (iACST) or register for ANTHE (Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam). iACST is a recently launched scholarship program conducted for students in Class 8th to 12th which offers them a chance to win upto a 90% scholarship on tuition fees.

About Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL)

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) provides comprehensive test preparatory services for students preparing for Medical and Engineering Entrance Examinations, School/Board Exams and Competitive Exams such as NTSE, KVPY, and Olympiads. AESL believes that the “Aakash” brand is associated with quality coaching and a proven student selection track record in various Medical and Engineering Entrance Examinations, Scholarship exams & Olympiads.

With over 32 years of operational experience in the test preparatory industry, the company has a large number of selections in Medical & Engineering Entrance Exams and several Foundation level Scholarship exams/Olympiads, a pan India network of 200+ Aakash Centers (including franchisee), and a student count of more than 250,000.

The Aakash group also owns famous K-12 EdTech brand, Meritnation.com as well.

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