

Doctor Feelgood scores in test cases

MICHAEL JACKSON is his inspiration. No, he has no popambitions; he only identifies strongly with the star's 'Heal the world make it a better place for you and for me and for the entire human race'. If he could, Dr. A. K. Maity would like nothing better. Over the past decade, this young doctor, formerly with SSKM, has been researching human psychology - studying behaviour patterns of individuals depressed by failure, especially youth disappointed at competitive examinations. He counsels them and says he has already got "a lot of satisfactory results".

As an MBBS student, Maity says, he would often be moved by the sight of otherwise bright and sincere studentsturning into psychological wrecks because they couldn't clear competitive exams. "There was this boy who had taken the JEE ten times, yet the only thing he ever wanted was to become a doctor. He would read up practically everything that there was to the subject, but invariably mess up while putting it down in the answer script. He would run short on time, panic, forget things and generally end up writing a disastrous paper.

"This boy is a successful doctor now, you know," continues Maity. "I didn't do much I simply advised him to stop trying too hard, to sleep soundly at night and to strictly monitor time both while reading and writing. When he finally got through, he burst into tears - 'Dada aami perechhi (Brother, I have done it)', he told me".

That experience, says Maity, put him firmly on the path of his research. He read up on the subject, spoke to a wide range of people and analysed individual cases in the light of specific circumstances faced by each of them. Over a period of time, he became convinced that if any intelligent and hardworking boy or girl received the right guidance and proper career-based counselling, there remained very little chance of a wastage of talent.

"Counselling is a must. If a student, in spite of not being sound academically, decides to be a doctor, and if the decision is genuine, in that case he must be given the chance to prove himself. But it should be assessed where he's strong and what are his weak points - and he should be counselled accordingly". Peer pressure and guardians' expectations are important factors that career aspirants need to be taught to handle, feels Maity.

The doctor now runs a coaching academy for JEE aspirants at Entally where he imparts not just academic, but also psychological training. "I always try to help a student in every way that I can. I counsel both students and their guardians on the A to Z of the technical and psychological aspects of facing the JEE. I have to take some money from them for doing all this, but I always coach my poor students for free."

To the grateful beneficiaries of Maity's commitment, the doctor is godsend. "He is just like a saint", says a student. "I get immense confidence by just chatting with him."

Expectations run high. Says a father. "I want my daughter to be a doctor. She's not brilliant, but Dr. Maity can do magic."

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