

ht beyond books

guruvani

SEEMA SAHAY, principal, G.D. Goenka Public School, Sarita Vihar

'We learn the most from our failures'

How does it feel to head such a huge institution, with all the responsibilities that come along?

It calls for a great deal of commitment and passion to be at the helm of affairs of any institution. I feel energised and spirited in the company of children which, I feel, drives me to work on multiple fronts, addressing issues, taking decisions and executing them in quick succession. There has never been a dull moment in school. Planning ahead and taking the team together makes it an enjoyable journey.

What would be the one change you would like to make/see at the national level in the present education system?

The hallmark of any good education system would be where the students design their own curriculum and learning becomes application-based where students learn to construct knowledge as this learning will be for life. This change will steer learning to a new direction. While this evolution



is taking place in a few schools, my aspiration is to see this happen at the national level.

Whom do you look upon as a source of inspiration and motivation for excellence in your profession?

It is none other than Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Having read his autobiography "Wings Of Fire", it has reinforced my belief that sky is

the limit for any individual to shine. Despite his modest background, he rose professionally with his dynamism and innovation to become a defence scientist, helping India create its awesome weaponry. He donned various hats to move on to become the President of India and has left behind a legacy with his technological endeavours being honoured with the Bharat Ratna.

How would you describe your journey to this day?

There were several instances in my initial years when I experienced failure despite planning and hard work. When we can't control what's happening, we need to challenge ourselves to control the way we respond to what's happening. Once I was stepping outside a food outlet when I saw a young man buying burgers for a lady. He saw me and introduced himself as a past student. This is a true reward for a teacher.

Crystal-gazing 25 years ahead, where do you see teaching, as a profession, headed for?

Teaching will take a whole new shape by being more creative, fluid and based in reality. Limiting education to a physical classroom might be detrimental to any institution, as virtual space will take over the learners. Teaching will become more of facilitation where multiple realities and perspectives will be encouraged rather than imparting knowledge per-se.