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Resume of Dr. Samar Chattopadhyay, W.B.S.E.S.

Throughout my journey, I have a consistently good and bright academic career. Coming from a very poor but dignified family, I earned a respectable 1st division in Madhyamik in 1982 and got star marks in 1984 in H.S. from Bhabla Tantra Sir Rajendra Nath High School. I earned 1st class in B.Sc. Hons. in Physics from Basirhat College in 1987 with letter in Mathematics and a respectable marks in Chemistry. I earned a High 1st class in my M.Sc. Physics from Calcutta University in 1989-90. At the time of pursuing M.Sc. course, I qualified for NET(JRF), CSIR in one go even before passing my M.Sc. in Physics. The entire journey was filled with blood, toil, sweat and tears, as I had to earn my bread not only for myself but partly for my family. From a remote village, Tantra at Basirhat, I was at first admitted to the prestigious Radio physics Electronics department of the University of Calcutta. But fortune laughed at me with its natural wit and I switched to get admitted in M.Sc. course. I had worked at CGCRI, Kolkata as a Junior research fellow in 1990, just after passing my M.Sc. But again when everything about my research gave its rewards, I was compelled to quit and joined as a School Teacher in Tentulia High School. A part of taking this decision may be attributed to my legendary teacher Sri Subhash Kundu. This time I also got the job of an Officer in Central Excise and Custom, which I didn't accept. In 1995, I stood 1st class 1st in my B.Ed. examination from University of Calcutta scoring nearly 70% marks. The cars in its time flight went on one by one during my seven and half years of tenure as a School Teacher. These have almost shattered the entire dream of a boy representing a community and challenges were in almost every family who became a myth once upon a time. As a first boy in almost every class, I used to get my results indirectly after all the positions of class results were declared. The last golden bangles from my mother's hand were used to get my marksheet. I made myself awaken in the academic arena in torrid times, which finally gave me the final breakthrough when I joined the West Bengal Education Service as a Lecturer in Physics at Hooghly Mohsin College, Chinsurah in 1999. Though, I missed the opportunity to get my Ph.D. in Experimental Physics in the mid-nineties, this time reality again gave a significant twist and I used the advantageous situation at Hooghly Mohsin College to earn my Ph.D. in theoretical Condensed Matter Physics with the help of the erudite company of my supervisor Dr. Arunava Chakrabarti, from Kalyani University in 2005. I have published several papers in international journals of repute. Thereafter, I worked as an Assistant Professor in Physics in Maulana Azad College, Kolkata, Head of the Department of Physics in Jhargram Raj College and as an Associate Professor in Physics and H.O.D. at P. R. Thakur Government College, Thakurnagar. Life gave me another flight of fantasy when it swirled its swords in different directions in the pandemic period and I stood 2nd in the merit list in Principals selection in November 2020 in spite of having no previous administrative background, in the West Bengal Senior Education Service and joined as a Principal at Barasat Government College.

Throughout my journey I was greatly inspired by my father and from the writing and lives of Garry Kasparov and Bobby Fischer. I am a FIDE rated chess player, an honorary coach and a teacher of chess and also two times Bengal Rapid Champion in Chess. I became a champion in the Tata Sports Complex Open Chess Championship in 2001 at Jamshedpur in the below 2000 rating category. Got high applause and reverence in the Bhubaneswar tournament. I represented West Bengal Government Services Chess team at Chennai and our team narrowly missed All India 2nd position to ultimately get the 5th position. I openly demonstrated my ability to play Blindfold Chess in the bank of Ganges at Chandannagar in 2002, when in front of large gatherings at streetlight and faded moonlight I defeated the local hero, who was otherwise playing in open eyes. Got the cassette "Siddhi" as a reward. My last swansong as a chess player was at Nagpur when I defeated the Iranian top seed Vasily Arif in a textbook ending in front of some renowned chess player of India. Besides chess, poetry is my other passion. Though some or many of the parts may seem ornamental, yet I hate to dwell with past achievements and from the inspiration of Little Maestro Sachin Tendulkar, each time I like to start from zero. Following the quote of a great revolutionary, I also believe that,

"The body is in jail
But the spirit never".