

Where There is a Will, There is a Way

Some are born great; some achieve greatness through single minded devotion. But they are rare who can triumph a tragedy— a serious physical disability—and make a mark for themselves as a budding music maestro and newly qualified Chartered Accountant. A naturally gifted strong-willed Bhushan Toshniwal is one of those rare personalities, who has not only excelled as a budding singer but has also recently become Chartered Accountant despite being blind.

A resident of Pimpri Chinchwad in Maharashtra, 24 years old Mr. Bhushan passed his CA Final Exam in May 2011. His success story is an inspiration for all those who pursue their professional careers.

Born in a very educated and cultural family he lost his eye sight due to detachment of his retina when he was just 20 days old. However, discovering his liking for music, his parents taught him Indian Classical music from the age of four and half year. He was sent to Blind school at Koregaon Park to pursue his education. He showed signs of brilliance in both fields from a tender age. He sang five ragas at the age of five in a Grand Musical Function and was felicitated by the then Governor Shri C. Subramaniam. His success graph continued to rise high as he won Tak-Dhina-Dhin competition at Doordarshan.

He scored 87% in 10th and was 11th in Merit List Hsc- Pune board. After that he decided to take up CA course as a challenge, although he was discouraged by people saying that it is a very difficult course. But he never gave up; he proved his ability by passing PE I Exam in the first attempt.

Even while pursuing CA course, music didn't take a back seat. He participated in Reality Shows like "Idea Sa Re Ga Ma Pa" at Zee TV and "Maharashtra Sangeet Ratna" at Sahyadri and got great acclaim from the doyens of music and reached the semifinal in both the shows.

His striving for perfection and determination helped him pass the CA final Exam with good marks. He had to take help of an undergraduate writer for writing his

CA exams. He learnt music from Padmashree Padmaja Fenani Joglekar, Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota Ustad Rasid Khan. Presently he is learning Karnatic music and the violin.

When asked about his way of studying he revealed that he didn't join any classes for any of his course.

He believed in self study and understanding the intricacies of the subject. His parents use to read for him and he took the help of Internet to read the various laws, accounting standards, auditing standards and other theory part. He did this with the help of the screen-reader software which reads whatever comes on the screen of a computer. His parents were instrumental in his upbringing as they put enormous efforts in his studies and helping him out through thick and thin in his life.

His talents have been appreciated and recognised on various occasions as he has been conferred with several awards like Swami Vivekanand Purskar, Swami Dayanand Sarswati Purskar, Moraya Purskar, Yuva Gaurav Purskar, and Rashtragarav Purskar. He is also a winner of classical and semi-classical competition at national level. He has received the National Scholarship of Government of India and Sawai Gandharv Mahotsav Samitee. He was awarded the Dheerubhai Ambani Scholarship to pursue Academic Education after his remarkable performance in 12th exams.

Indeed, Bhushan is a great example of grit and determination and inspires all those striving to excel against all odds. ■



Bhushan Toshniwal