

Durgadas Basu

1912-1996

BHSAA is commemorating the life and time of Late Durgadas Basu, an iconic teacher and integral member of the eminent pedagogical lineage of Basirhat High School.

Durgadas Basu was born on September 26, 1912 at Town Shreepur of Satkhira Sub-division in present-day Bangladesh. He completed Matriculation from Town Shreepur High School in 1927 and I. A. from Daultpur College in 1929, both in the first class. Subsequently, he took admission in B. A. (Hons) in History at Ashutosh College in Calcutta.

A brilliant academic pursuit till then, got severe blow because of sudden demise of his parents, one after another, forcing him to leave the graduation mid-way. His two brothers and four sisters were dependent on Durgadas babu and he had to shoulder the responsibility of running the family at a young age.

Eventually, putting the career on the backburner, he joined as the Headmaster of an ME School operating up to the class VI. So much struggle for sustenance, too, could not thwart his passion for studies! Later in 1937, he cleared the B. A. (Private) examination and got a teaching position in Town Shreepur High School, his alma mater.



Larger twists and turns of history were still awaiting. Like million others, Durgadas babu and his family were caught in the midst of mass exodus caused by the Partition in 1947. They had to leave their house behind to settle at Basirhat across the river Ichhamati. In January 1948, he joined as a teacher in Basirhat High School where he served impeccably till his retirement in 1975.

He sailed through this journey of abrupt uncertainties to become a self-made person achieving everything on his own merit and perseverance. Yet, he always made it a point to acknowledge even the little support he had received from his well-wishers at difficult times -such was his grace and genuineness!

Essentially a teacher of history, Durgadas babu taught languages alongside with flair and precision. He was a generalist performing many roles with ease – a rare trait in the academia now. All the while, his gentle and amiable nature won him respect from friends, colleagues and students.

Today, we remember Durgadas Basu, the “Acharya” and cherish his legacy... ..

(A tribute by Dr. Suptendu P. Biswas, a student of late Durgadas Basu, based on the factual information provided by his family)