

## Babar Ali

### I. Comprehension

1. Where does Babar Ali run classes for poor children?

Babar Ali runs classes for poor children in the backyard of his house in Murshidabad, West Bengal.

2. How is Babar Ali's routine described by the writer?

Babar wakes up every morning at seven and starts his day by doing some - house hold chores. Then he takes an auto - rickshaw first and later walks five kilometres to his school "Cosimbazar Raj Govinda Sundari Vidyapeeth" where he is a student of class XII.

After school hours he makes his way to an afternoon school where he is the headmaster. He teaches the students who come there for free of cost unlike other teenagers who run off to the playground after school hours. Babar has taken the great initiative to teach other students who are less fortunate than he is.

3. Give a picture of Babar Ali's school?

Babar Ali's school 'Anand Siksha Niketan' is made up of a dilapidated concrete structure covered in half <sup>toen</sup> posters.

Children study under the open blue sky. Some sit in the mud while others on rickety benches under a rough homemade shelter. The children were taught free of cost in this institution and the fact that it was headed by a nine year old boy made it more special.

4. Why is Babar Ali called a fortunate soul in his village?

Babar Ali was born to a man called Nasiruddin Sheikh, a jute seller by profession who supported him to get formal education. Babar Ali's family was considered to be better off financially when compared to the other families in that village. This had helped him to get formal education, whereas many from his village cannot afford to send their children to school. Also his father was a dropout himself and so believed that education is man's true religion. This great support from his father had helped him to achieve his goal.

5. What according to Babar's father, is true religion?

According to Babar's father Nasiruddin Sheikh Education is man's true religion.

6. Why is sending children to school a costly affair for parents?

Poor families find sending children a costly affair because even though children are provided free education, parents still have to bear the cost of uniforms and other books, where most families cannot support it and so they are in the opinion that thus instead of going to school most of the boys as well as girls help out their families by working.

7. Tulu Rani Hazra is  
d. a fishmonger.

8. The teaching staff of Babar Ali's school is made up of  
b. High school student volunteers

9. Babar Ali gets the children to listen by  
d. taking advantage of age gap.

### Comprehension II

1. Why do you think Babar Ali took the initiative to start his own school?

OR

2. What started as a game resulted in a much sought after school for the unprivileged? Explain?

The author Samarjittha Mukherjee Sharma is the Associate Creative Editor of Youth Leader, India, Magazine. In her interview with Babar Ali she says that Education is a boon, so Babar Ali took the initiative to start his own

school which turned an impossible mission into a possible one.

Babar Ali noticed how most of his friends in his village had not received formal education. Although children were provided with free education, the parents still had to bear the cost of books and uniform. Instead of going to school most of the girls and boys started to help their parents by going for ~~to~~ work. So Babar Ali to bring about a change in their lives took the support from his father Nasiruddin Sheikh and started his own school and provided free meals for the poor students.

Babar Ali actually started his school Anand Shiksha Nikethan when he was nine. It grew out of a game. Babar Ali and his friends used to play school-school with him as a teacher. As his friends had never experienced school atmosphere they enjoyed playing as students. While they played, his friends would end up learning arithmetic and this was what led him to open his own institution, for his friends and other children like them in his own village. Teaching in Ali's school is taken care of by high school student volunteers. According to Babar Ali teaching learning process has become more effective as the generation gap is less between the teacher and the students, and this was a big advantage.

3. Do you think that Babar Ali's act of thoughtfulness has enabled the poor children move towards growth? Discuss.

Yes, Babar Ali's ~~act~~ act of thoughtfulness has enabled the poor children to move towards growth and to be a great success in the society.

The village children who would have continued as maids, mechanics, grass cutters and day labourers have the scope of looking for jobs with the education they have received at Babar Ali's school. The little afternoon venture has now been recognised and registered by the West Bengal state govt, which means that the students graduated from this school are eligible to be transferred to any other local high school. It is touching to see that the children are interested in studying. — Education is not forced onto them. They are hard workers. They work in the morning ~~to~~ and to get educated in the afternoon. Because of this afternoon school the great success has been seen in the life of many children here. So it is very clear that Babar Ali is the architect of the lives of hundreds of children in the village.

### Comprehension ii

1. According to Nasiruddin 'Education is man's true religion'. How does Babar Ali's school prove this?

Babar Ali's school 'Anand Siksha Nikethan'

which started in 2002 at his mere age of 9, where the game has got institutionalised with the strength of 8 students. Gradually word's spread out and numbers increased, today after 9 years the school has 60 regular attendance, over 200 students on roll call and 800 students in total with 10 volunteer teachers. His little afternoon venture is now registered and recognised by west Bengal state govt. which means that the students graduating from this school are eligible to be transferred to other local high schools. Totally Babar Ali's school offers to the children of the village the scope of living a meaningful and virtuous life.

2. The increasing strength of Babar Ali's school reflects the transformation in our society's attitude towards education. Substantiate.

'Education is man's true religion' the words said by Nasiruddin Sheikh is exactly correct. People in the society now realised that without education it is impossible for a man to survive peacefully on the earth. People like Babar Ali has changed the people's thought over time and shown to them the power of education. The people are not silent spectators any more and would like to participate acting towards the change in society. The poor childrens are encouraged to undergo education so that they can stand on their own legs in future.

3. Do you feel that Babar Ali's initiation is a success story? Explain:

The institution of Babar Ali is really a successful story, not only because it educates hundreds of underprivileged children but also it has inspired many to join hands with Ali in helping the less fortunate.

Babar Ali's intention when he started the institution was that to help the less fortunate people by providing free education. Today more and more underprivileged people have utilized this opportunity.

If more people take part to change the world for the better, then there is no greater success than that, he could have wished for. Babar Ali brought the change which he wanted to see and that was his aim.

If a young boy from a village have the will and determination to change the world then that is our duty to participate actively towards the change which take place in the society.

In short, Babar Ali's foresight has given opportunities for hundreds of deprived students.