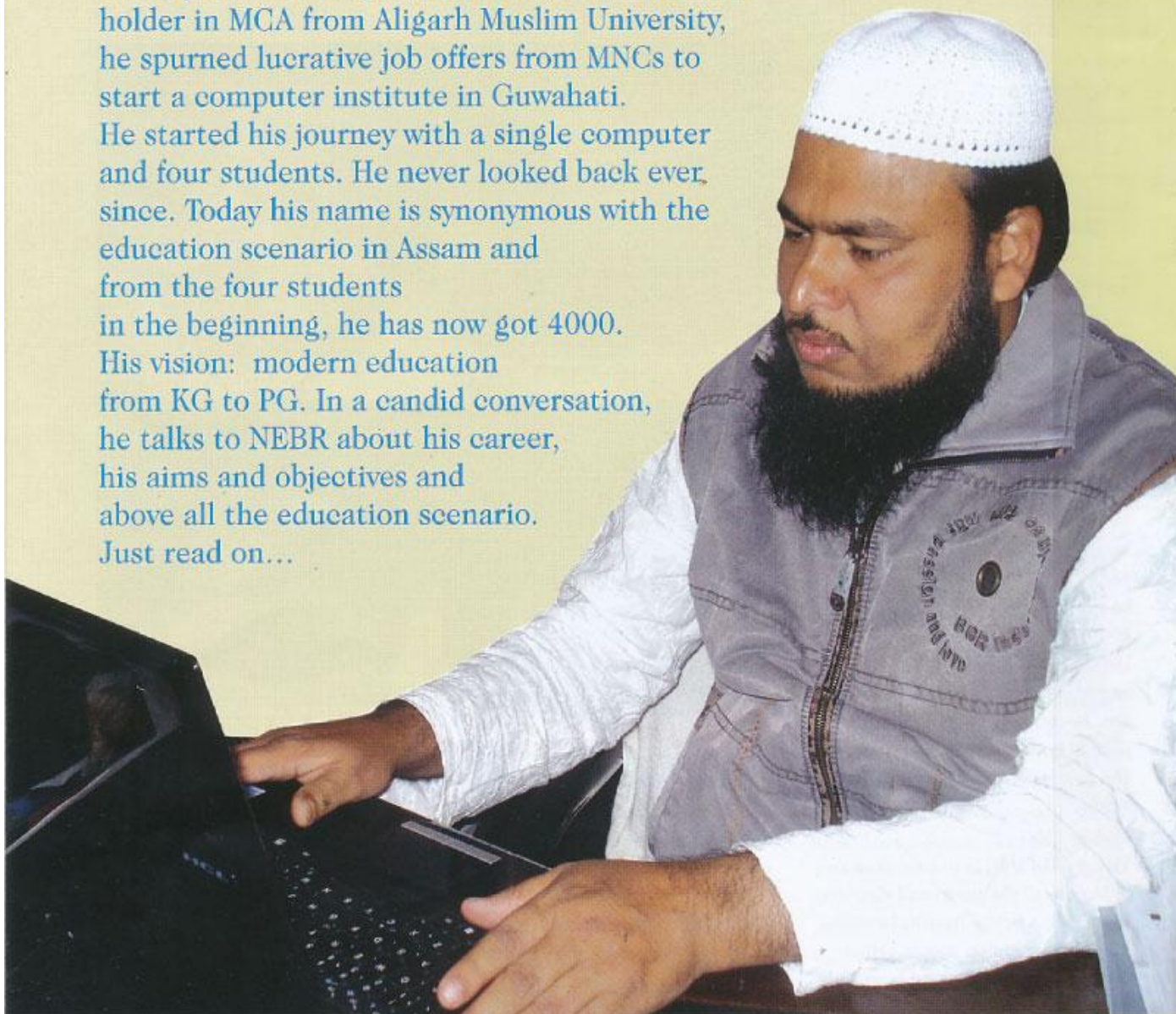


His vision: Modern education from KG to PG

Mahbubul Hoque

Mr. Mahbubul Hoque has a humble beginning. Hailing from Karimganj in Assam, a second rank holder in MCA from Aligarh Muslim University, he spurned lucrative job offers from MNCs to start a computer institute in Guwahati. He started his journey with a single computer and four students. He never looked back ever since. Today his name is synonymous with the education scenario in Assam and from the four students in the beginning, he has now got 4000. His vision: modern education from KG to PG. In a candid conversation, he talks to NEBR about his career, his aims and objectives and above all the education scenario. Just read on...



What made you enter the education scenario?

My family members are all from teaching background. I did my post graduation in computer science from Aligarh Muslim University. I was the second rank holder and got many lucrative job offers from different companies. Many of my friends are working in USA and UK. But I came back and thought of starting a computer institute. It was in the year 2000 and there was a dearth of computer literates. I started assembling computers. I have one computer from Aligarh and I have found 4 students. They were pursuing BCA from IGNOU. They used to come to Kahilipara where I started coaching them. Many of my friends and relatives were shocked at what I was doing and many thought I had gone crazy. Then I got the franchise of Sikkim Manipal University which gave birth to Central IT College. I initially got 18 students. All my students got jobs and in the next batch I got 73 students. Then in 3rd batch 225, 4th batch 550, 5th batch 1760 in the year 2008 my total number of enrollment was around 3700 with 4 blocks and 80 faculty members and by this time I stated to work for setting up an engineering college. My friends and colleagues supported me throughout the journey. Media has supported me right from the beginning. I also wanted to do something for my local area. I started schools. I am running two schools in Karimganj district. Above 90% students are from villages and all are smart and can speak in English now. What I want to do is to

set up model schools in one village in every district so the rural students get the benefits of modern education from KG to PG.

How do you look at the education scenario in the North East?

The system is improving day by day and even rural students are getting educated. However, science education is very poor in Assam. We need to popularize science education from basic level to higher education level. If we don't have enough science students, what is the use of establishing engineering colleges?

Why the students of Assam are more into Arts stream?

Firstly, lack of awareness; and then fear of finance. The parents and students think science educations needs huge expenditure. Thirdly, the generation. Most of the parents are in government jobs or in teaching profession and as such their wards also think of only such jobs. We have to change this mentality. Then only more and more students can be attracted to science stream.

Most of the universities in North East are following the old syllabus. Why?

True, because of the mismanagement and administration. Politics is also taking over educational system.

How do you look at student politics in colleges?

It is necessary; students are not creating any obstacles in the education system. But if political parties push the students it will pollute the environment. Students

must adopt leadership qualities but it must be among them.

Why did you prefer Meghalaya to set up your university than Assam?

See, I started everything at Guwahati. I started Central IT College which became the 2nd largest centre SMU in the country in five consecutive years. I had a vision, I must utilize it. I was thinking of promoting the higher education to fulfill the needs of the people. I approached to the government as there was a need for a technical university. In the meantime I approached the ministry of HRD which advised NEHU to give an NOC. I started Regional College of Higher Education and in the first batch our students stood 1st. In this way we were close to NEHU and Meghalaya Government. And also I got land there. Professor Samudra Phukan encourages me. Then I received the NOC. This way we started the University and admission procedure is now going on. In December we will conduct the entrance test for Ph D programme.

We are in the process of giving complete shape to the university. And by 2020 I am confident that our university will be able to fulfill the vision 2020. We are having good terms with all government universities and they encourage and co-operate with us.

About ERD Foundation

All my institutions are set up by the ERD Foundation. If I am wearing a shirt that is also owned by ERDF. It is also doing many social activities including helping the children of the underprivileged. ■■