



Apeejay Tea's children Pollovi Das and Riju Raj hold motivational session with Hokunguri Tea Estate Manager.

Guwahati, 22nd August: Apeejay Tea's Hokonguri L P School on Thursday brought together its school students with two of the Estate's academic and sports performers - Pollovi Das Panika, an ex-student of the school and Riju Raj Patra – to learn how to pursue excellence in academics and sports.

11 year old Riju Raj Patra returned victorious with a Gold medal at the Sultana Kamal KWFA 2nd Asia Kung-Fu-Wushu Championship last month. The 21 year old Pollovi Das Panika was back at home after spending her first year at the Asian University for Women in Chittagong where she bagged a fully paid scholarship along with two other students from Dikom Tea Estate last year.

Head Teachers from all three Apeejay Tea schools in the garden, health Assistant, Assistant Manager, Welfare Officer led by the Hokonguri Tea Estate manager spent hours making these achievers talk to the young students to orient them towards developing passion for sports or education. Hokonguri L P School has received A+ Gunotsav rating for the last two years.

Introducing the motivation session, Estate Manager Sudesh K Singh said, "*Gold Medalist 11 year old Riju and Scholarship winner 21 year old Pollovi's effort and journey is something all children can be inspired by. It is quite admirable that they, despite being so young, know the value of inspiring others; doing what they can to help others succeed and agreed to lead this session with us. We have celebrated their achievements and now we are even more proud that they have come together to speak to our young ones. We need more youngsters like them in our society."*

Sharing his experiences the recently crowned Kung-Fu-Wushu champion Riju Raj Patra said, "*I have been practicing from class 5. A group of six members including me went to Bangladesh. I got to play against countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. I could have never done it if not for the encouragement and support from the people of the Tea Estate."*"

Pollovi Das Panika who was home for the first time since she bagged the scholarship urged the children to study hard to get good marks which she said would take them ahead to jobs they want to pursue. Sharing her experiences she said, "Being a daughter of a tea worker it was a great opportunity for me to have got the chance to study overseas. Not everybody gets such an opportunity. We faced several problems while applying for the scholarship but the Tea Estate helped us out and I'm very thankful for that."

Pollovi Das Panika, an ex-student of Apeejay Tea's Hokunguri Tea Estate's L P School, was in 2018 selected by the Asian University for Women in Chittagong as a student for 5 years- the tuition and residency cost (US \$ 75,000) of which is being borne by the University. Pollovi is the eldest child of Ashok Das Panika, a daily rated worker in Apeejay Tea's Hokunguri Tea Estate.

Riju Raj Patra recently bagged the Gold medal at the Sultana Kamal KWFA 2nd Asia Kung-Fu-Wushu Championship 2019-20 under 14, 17 and above 19 for boys and girls held at the National Sports Council Stadium in Dhaka. Riju Raj is the son of Sushil Patra, a field staff of Apeejay Tea's Hokonguri Tea Estate of Assam and the grandson of Narayan Patra, a former Health Assistant in Apeejay Tea's Hokunguri Tea Estate.



Pollovi and Riju brought those present much joy with their initiative. Seeing their peers from the same place, the students present were able to relate to them and were quite excited to interact and follow their lead. The manager said that he hoped that the Estate would have many more Riju's and Pollovi's and he would sustain the motivation amongst the children.

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