

## Valgoti Kishan

### Excellence in Education

Parents and teachers are next only to God, it is said. Valgoti Kishan of Bilawarpur village in Khanapur mandal, epitomises this adage. Kishan teaches at the government primary school in Patillapur. Among the distinctive features of his approach to teaching and learning are the earnestness and passion he brings to his job.

It is popularly believed that a government school teacher's job entails no responsibility. It takes one visit to a school where Valgoti Kishan had taught to dispel this misconception.

Valgoti Kishan goes beyond treating classroom teaching as a chore. He is deeply concerned about the dwindling strength of students in government schools, drop-out rate and related issues. He fervently believes that government schools can be cradles of rich education. His emphasis on hygiene in the school premises, his personal interest in bringing back students who have dropped out of school to the classroom by persuading their parents and paying essential expenses from his pocket, are qualities which mark Valgoti Kishan out as an exemplary teacher. He helps poor students aspiring to join Navodaya and Gurukuls by providing them books and other educational material. Kishan not only identifies students from an impoverished background who can earn scholarships but ensures that they apply and then takes up their case with the government authorities so that the deserving are not denied their due.

Kishan's commitment to his students can be gauged by the fact that he acquired books meant for SSC students published by Sakshi in large numbers and provided them to needy SC/ST students free of cost.

Kishan hopes to accomplish the goal of curbing drop-out rate completely over the next five years. For his sincerity and commitment to the cause of school education, he has bagged many awards including the prestigious Best teacher award given by the government of India in 2016. For his devotion to the cause of education, his focus on excellence in classroom teaching and learning and his dedication to the objective of changing the educational landscape of the state, Sakshi honours Valgoti Kishan with the Sakshi Award of Excellence 2017 in the category of education.