



Rubi Tudu

Date of Birth:

Father's Name:

Mother' Name:

Residence:

Date of entry to Binapani Ashram:

Pass High School

Pass Higher Secondary

Higher Education: B.Mus Sangeet Bhavan, Viswa Bharati University

College: Sangeet Bhavan Viswa Bharati University

Current Status: Ph.D scholar at Viswa Bharati doing research in Progress of tribal dance in India.

In her own words

Ashram Comments

RUBY TUDU

The girl who dreams to dance

The school going Santhal tribal girls of Binapani Ashram staged Rabindra Nath Tagore's scripted dance drama, *Chandalika* at Kalamandir theatre hall in Kolkata in the summer of 2003. The Chief guest for the occasion, the honorable Governor of West Bengal, Shri Biren J Shah at the end of the show expressed his profound surprise with joy, the superb choreographic skill of the girls on the stage which completely mesmerised the audience for 75 minutes of performance. Of the two main characters in the drama, one was Rubi Tudu, who portrayed Prakriti (the dalit girl) and the other was her mother, played by Moyna Maddi. In fact, Ruby was only a class nine standard school girl in 2003 and since then there was no looking back for her to become an accomplished dancer. She is at present a PhD student of Visva-Bharati Central University and pursuing research on *Tribal Dance and its Development in India*.

It was almost two decades back on a rainy morning, a little girl was escorted by an elderly woman entered **Binapani** Ashram. The little girl Ruby, just became an orphan, a week back. Her parents separated, mother left the house leaving Ruby in her father's care. What follows, next morning, was painful and cruel, Ruby's father went out for work, so an eight years old girl is left alone in the house **all day**. One of Ruby's aunts took pity for the little Ruby and came to discover Manjusree and her ashram which earned a name and fame as a safe haven and a second home for more than half a dozen of such hapless girls.

Since then Ruby became a regular resident of Binapani Ashram. And I believe she is the only girl who is staying in Ashram for last twenty years or more. Manjusree was watching Ruby since her childhood and foretold that she will be a dancer in future. From a very early stage Ruby showed her talents and aptitude in artistry in dancing through perfect choreography, appropriately garnished with her own style and smile. By the time, she passed Higher Secondary examination; she was welcome by more than one teachers of Music department of **Viswa Bharati**, asking her to appear for the faculty admission test. She did quite well in the admission test, entered Sangeet Bhavan (Music Faculty) as an undergraduate student of Indian Dances. Ruby secured first class in both the U.G and P.G. examinations. After obtaining her Masters in Music from Viswa Bharati, She further took the test for securing a scholarship for doing research leading to PhD degree from Visva-Bharati.

Ruby Tudu, once orphaned, now a UGC paid scholar enabling her to sustain herself independently as free educated girl in the society. She now stays in University's girls' hostel and not only visits Binapani Ashram regularly but also offered to teach the resident girls, dance, as a cultural activity

as a guest teacher. This is how Binapani Ashram is changing lives for those who once almost reached at the end of the tunnel. The Ashram authority congratulates the donors and sponsors, who selflessly supported our views and objectives and gave us a chance to serve the poor.

Knowledge and skill infuse power which gives independence and leadership

Written by

Dr. S. Bhattacharya

Chairman, Binapani Ashram Trust



*Ruby in the title role of Chandalika
2009 at Gitanjali auditorium Bolep*



Ruby in a dance sequence



Ruby in Varshamangal 2010



Ruby in Varshamangal 2010



Ruby with Barka Saren



Ruby rehearsing for Chitrangada



Ruby talking to trustee Sibabrata Bhattacharya



Ruby in a dance sequence

In Ruby's own words:

"So far my memory serves; I could recollect that long back my aunt brought me at Binapani Ashram. Marango (Manjusree Saren) was inside the tin roofed mud house, talking to the children. We were told to wait till Marango came out to talk to us. My aunt spoke something in low and in pleading gesture, which I could not understand at all. And in response Marago only said, well leave her here with us. That was how my life's journey took a turn. From darkness to light. I could realise only after some few years that why I was brought here at Binapani Ashram by my aunt.

I may say that Binapani Ashram is everything to me and my life. I do not feel my identity or existence beyond the canopy of the Ashram, where I grew up and unfurled gradually to womanhood. I sincerely promise, I shall never dissociate from Binapani Ashram and its objectives. I remain deeply indebted to Babulmama (Sibabrata Bhattacharya), Malakiba mashi (Malabika Ghosh) and Rosane mashi (Rosane Dasgupta) for their wise counselling and financial help they extended to me for my education and cultural up lift.

I shall be ever happy, if I get an opportunity to serve this great institution in any meaningful capacity. Marango and Maramba (Barka Saren), I feel them in my heart, their presence in my mind will continue to resonate for a long time to come."

Ruby Tudu
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