

AMITABH MEHROTRA: IF THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

The story of a young man, whom cerebral palsy could not hold back.



In 1965, a boy was born in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh, to a young medical doctor who was posted there. The doctor had to deliver his own son with very little medical infrastructure and no help at all. To his surprise the doctor found that there was an unusual delay in the delivery of the child due to the fact that the umbilical cord was entangled around the neck of the baby, causing a delay in the descent. It also led to the partial constriction of blood supply in the brain, which resulted in cerebral anoxaemia—and in his being born with cerebral palsy.

The doctor and his wife were distraught with this turn of events, but decided to give their precious son as normal a life as they could. In an effort to give Amitabh only the very best, the parents took him to a reputed convent school in Lucknow for admission, when he was in the third standard. However, the school rejected his application on the grounds of his disability. Amitabh and his parents braved on and viewed this as just a minor setback.

He continued his studies in another school with great difficulty, because the cerebral palsy made him a slow writer. He managed to keep up by borrowing class notes from his classmates. His mother and sister helped him complete his assignments. All through his school years, Amitabh tried to overcome whatever difficulties he encountered. His heart was set on studying at the prestigious convent school that had turned him down earlier,

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