

Vidya Bhawan

Balika Vidyapith Lakhisarai

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Subject : English.

By: R.N.Singh

BASED ON NCERT

Chapter. 6

My Childhood

Read the story

continue.....

I used to collect the seeds and sell them to a provision shop on Mosque Street. A day's collection would fetch me the princely sum of one anna My brother-in-law Jallaluddin would tell me stories about the war which I would later attempt to trace in the headlines in Dinamani. Our area, being isolated, was completely unaffected by the war. But soon India was forced to the Allied Forces and something like a state of jif emergency was declared. The first casualty came in the form of the suspension of the train halt at Rameswaram station. The newspaper stories about the War which I would later attempt to trace in the headlines in Dinama road now had to be bundled and

thrown out from the moving train on the Rameswaram between Rameswaram and Dhanuskodi. That forced my cousin Samsuddin, who distributed newspapers in Rameswaram, to look for a helping hand to catch the bundles and. a naturally, I filled the slot. Samsuddin helped me earn my first wages. Half a century later I can still feel the surge of pride in earning my own money for the first time.

Every child is born, with some inherited characteristics, into a specific socio-economic and emotional environment, and trained in certain ways by figures of authority. I inherited honesty and self-discipline from my father; from my mother, I inherited faith in goodness and deep kindness and so did my three brothers and sister. I had three close friends in my childhood

Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan and Sivaprakasan. All these boys were from orthodox Hindu Brahmin families. As children, none of us ever felt any difference amongst ourselves because of our religious differences and upbringing. In fact, Ramanadha Sastry was the son of Paksn Lakshmana Sastry,

the high priest of the Rameswaram temple. Later, he took over the priesthood of the Rameswaram temple from his father; Aravindan went into the business of arranging transport for visiting pilgrims; and Sivaprakasan became a catering contractor for the Southern Railways.

. During the annual Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam ceremony, our family used to arrange with a special platform for carrying idols of the Lord from the temple to the mart from

Situated in the middle of the pond called Rama Tirtha which was near our house