

IITians choose to teach poor village kids

Runa Mukherjee Parikh | TNN

Ahmedabad: Born to a carpenter in a dusty village called Jobner in Rajasthan, this boy never thought he could crack IIT. Now that he has done that, electrical engineer Rajesh Jangid has decided to sell his metaphorical Ferrari and become a teacher in his village. His dream; to have more IITians in his homeland.

Jangid, a Hindi medium student since childhood, has completed electrical engineering in IIT-Gandhinagar with good grades. And here



Sanjay Gill and Rajesh Jangid

lies the twist; instead of a high flying career as an IITian, Jangid has opted to open a coaching centre in his village. "Along with classmate Sanjay Gill, we are setting up a centre for poor students in my vil-

lage. We will start with improving their language skills," he said.

They have subsidized tuition fees for those who can pay and made it completely free for those who can't.

Jangid's father, a daily wage worker since 18, has been earning just Rs 8000. He studied in a government school in village Kodi and secured 89% in class 8. That ensured a place in a better school at Jobner, where he topped in class 10. Getting a scholarship, Jangid hit a home run by coming sixth in the entire state with a 95% in class 12.

However, everytime the carpenter's boy did well academically, destiny wanted something else. "I had a fire burning in my belly but had no idea about entrance exams. It was my physics teacher who asked me to go to Kota and prepare for IIT. I cried, made a scene, didn't eat for weeks, but there was no way my father agreed. An year's tuition fee at a Kota coaching centre comes at Rs 70,000, and my father put his foot down," he said.

Like a guardian angel, Jangid's uncle agreed to fund his tuition fee.