



# KHARAGPUR COLLEGE

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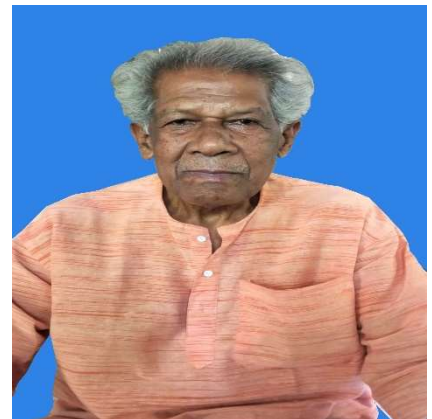
Estd.: 1949

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## "Celebrating the Legacy of Excellence: Kharagpur College Alumni Appreciation"

### Shri Gour Hari Mondal: A Lifelong Commitment to Education and Empowerment

Shri Gour Hari Mondal's life and career illustrate a perfect blend of **academic achievement** and **social service**. His journey from a **pioneer student** at **Kharagpur College (1958-1962)** to a **passionate educator** and then to a **leader of grassroots empowerment** in fisheries shows his dedication to improving the lives of others. His work continues to inspire those who believe in the power of education and community development as tools for real social change.



#### Beginnings and Early Influences

**Shri Gour Hari Mondal** was born on **January 2, 1938**, in a time when India was transitioning through the post-independence period. Raised in a period of significant social and political change, he was driven by the value of education and the opportunity it provided to change one's destiny. His academic journey led him to **Kharagpur College**, an institution that was still in the early stages of offering specialized programs.

#### Educational Journey

- **B.A. (History):** Shri Mondal was one of the pioneering students enrolled in the newly introduced History Honours program at **Kharagpur College** in **1958**. Out of the 13 students in the program, only **he** and **Himangshu Sekhar Bera** successfully completed the course in **1962**.
- **M.A. in History:** Completed a Master's degree in History, further enhancing his academic qualifications.
- **B.Ed. (Bachelor of Education):** Obtained a B.Ed. degree, which allowed him to enter the field of education and further shaped his career as a teacher.
- **Notable Faculty and Influence:** During his years at **Kharagpur College**, he studied under distinguished faculty, including **B.B. Chatterjee** and **Saroj Bhattacharjya**, who had a profound influence on his intellectual development. Saroj Bhattacharjya was the maternal uncle of renowned poet **Sukanta Bhattacharjya**.

## Career in Education

- *Teaching at Various Schools:*

- Asda Primary School
- Arjuni Primary School
- Arjuni High School
- Baramohanpur High School (Khakurda)

- *Lecturer at Belda College:* From **1967 to 1983**, Shri Mondal served as a **Lecturer in History** at **Belda College**, where he imparted knowledge of history to numerous students. His lectures focused on cultivating critical thinking and historical awareness.

## Transition from Education to Grassroots Empowerment

- *Concerns to generate Youth employment:* Shri Mondal believed that with the right support and guidance, every young person could become a catalyst for change—not only improving their own lives but also uplifting their communities. He dedicated himself wholeheartedly to empowering the youth by creating pathways that nurtured their talents, encouraged skill development, and opened doors to purposeful and sustainable livelihoods. Through education, vocational training, and community-based initiatives, he aimed to transform their energy and aspirations into meaningful contributions to society.
- *Decision to Leave Academia:* In response to these societal issues, he made the courageous decision to leave his teaching career to focus on grassroots empowerment and provide sustainable solutions for local youth.
- *Focus on Fisheries as a Livelihood:*
  - Recognizing the potential of the **fisheries sector** in the region, he decided to dedicate himself to training local youth in sustainable fishery practices.
  - He encouraged and mentored young people to take up fishery as a livelihood, which not only provided an income source but also promoted self-reliance.
  - Shri Mondal's initiative in **fisheries** helped numerous youths create their own sustainable fishery operations and reduced their reliance on government jobs or other unstable employment options.
- *Education as a Tool for Transformation:*

Shri Mondal believed in the transformative power of education, not only in the classroom but also in the real world. He believed that knowledge should be applied practically to create lasting changes in society. Shri Gour Hari Mondal's life serves as a model of how individuals can make a meaningful impact in their communities through education and empowerment. He is remembered as a visionary who not only educated young minds in the classroom but also helped them secure their future through practical skills in fisheries.

In honouring **Shri Gour Hari Mondal**, Kharagpur College acknowledges not only his academic and professional contributions but also his deep commitment to the values of service, empowerment, and community development. His life remains an inspiration for future generations, both in education and in the broader fields of social service and grassroots empowerment.