



The Father Who Fast-Trackd His Children's Education

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Standing before us with a warm smile is the proud father of two exceptionally talented boys. His sons, grounded and remarkably enthusiastic, stand right beside him. By profession, this father is a teacher and a social science researcher. His eldest son, Theekshana (Nikolai), achieved the remarkable feat of passing his London O/Level examinations at just 12 years old. By the age of 14, he sat for and passed the GCE Advanced Level (A/L) exams in the commerce stream as a private candidate. Today, he is immersing himself in the field of space studies.

The younger son, Deran (Nolasko), is equally brilliant; following in his brother's footsteps, he passed his London O/Level exams at the astonishing age of 10. Now 12 years old, he is already preparing to sit for his A/Level exams this upcoming January. Beyond their staggering academic milestones, both boys are multi-talented. They are proficient in cooking, housework, music, and art. Above all, they possess a deeply ingrained habit of treating everyone they meet with equality and genuine friendliness.

Intrigued by this unique dynamic, we sat down with the family to understand the daily practices and purposeful routines of a father and his two prodigy sons.

"My two children and I live like friends," Lasantha shares. "There are no divisions or distances between us. We dress alike and travel together. We even share the same bed. We talk openly about every problem. While I handle my responsibilities, they both fully understand theirs and execute them exceptionally well."

Lasantha's own story began in an ordinary family in Elakanda, where he grew up as the youngest of six children. Having weathered numerous upheavals throughout his life, he used those very challenges as the foundation to build an entirely new world for his family.

"Many of the unpleasant personal experiences I endured later became the foundation of my social science research," Lasantha explains. "Applying these experiences, I incorporated my own children into my research. It was a risky decision, but it worked. I pulled them out of the traditional school system and homeschooled them. I taught them myself, and they passed their exams!"

To fully grasp this unconventional success story, we must rewind to Lasantha's youth.

"I initially attended St. Anthony's College in Wattala before transferring to St. Joseph's College in Maradana," he recalls. "That's when the true value of education dawned on me. It happened because I met a friend who was preparing for his A/Levels while I was still doing my O/Levels."

During that period, Lasantha became deeply passionate about theater and cinema. "After watching a play, I would walk all the way home from Colombo late at night. I also developed a voracious reading habit, falling in love with Russian novels and short stories. Those experiences are why I turned out so different from the rest of my family."

Although he had never initially planned on pursuing higher education, a friend from the University of Kelaniya sparked a strong desire within him. "One day, I visited the University of Kelaniya with him, and I was absolutely mesmerized. From that moment on, I resolved that I would make it to a university campus somehow."

Fueled by this newfound determination, young Lasantha fought to pass his exams amid crushing economic hardship. "My father was a sales representative with a very limited income, and my mother was a homemaker. I knew I had to find a job. After finishing my O/Levels, I took on several physically demanding jobs while waiting for the results. After barely passing my O/Levels, I chose to study Arts for my A/Levels, but we simply didn't have the money to fund my education."

"I went back to doing domestic labor and working in local shops. I handed every cent I earned directly to my mother—it was a substantial amount of money for her at the time."

Keeping himself relentlessly busy to stay focused on his goals, Lasantha eventually sat for his A/Levels. Unfortunately, his marks fell short of the university entrance requirements.

"The following year, I decided to retake the exams," he says. "I asked my mother for permission to stop working so I could dedicate all my time to studying. My poor mother worked tirelessly to provide me with the financial support I needed."

Thanks to his mother's unwavering support, Lasantha ultimately succeeded, gaining admission to the Arts faculty at the University of Colombo. During his university years, he majored in three Arts subjects, alongside business studies.

"Afterward, my heart was set on teaching. However, I didn't want to rely on a government salary. At the same time, I had no desire to become a wealthy, hyper-commercialized tuition master."

Staying true to his principles, Lasantha began teaching business studies. It was during this era that he affectionately became known to his community as "Lasantha Sir."

"I simply taught the kids. If they could afford to pay, I accepted it, but I never harassed my students for money at the end of the month. I never turned a student away for being unable to pay tuition fees."

He maintains this ethos to this day. Currently, he also works as an English teacher and conducts field surveys as a social science researcher. "I have no interest in running massive, crowded tuition factories. The educational books I create are written and printed entirely at my own expense."

But there is another crucial chapter to Lasantha's story: the meeting of his former partner and the mother of his children.

"She was originally one of my students," he shares. "We eventually got married, and she became the mother of these two precious boys. Though she later stepped away from our lives, I hold a profound respect for her at all times. After all, she gave me two incredibly talented, virtuous, and disciplined children."

Following their separation, Lasantha shouldered the entire weight of the family. He guided his sons meticulously, cultivating an enriching and stable home environment.

"The boys never gave me any trouble. I only had one steadfast rule: no matter where you go, you must be home before nightfall. That's still how we operate today." Taking full responsibility for his sons, Lasantha poured his energy into their education to ensure they would have a beautiful future.

However, as the economic crisis deepened, Lasantha began to recognize the systemic flaws in the traditional schooling model. "It goes without saying that standard school education places a massive mental toll on both children and parents. My kids and I faced those exact pressures. Specifically, the constant financial demands from the school left me feeling a justifiable anger. It was deeply disheartening."

In this strained environment, Lasantha made a bold executive decision. He registered his sons for the London O/Level exams as private candidates, embracing the formidable challenge of navigating the curriculum independently.

"It was 2019, and my eldest was only in the 8th grade," Lasantha recalls. "I was preparing him for the exams, and as the dates approached, I asked his school for a leave of absence so he could focus, but they refused. Ironically, when the country went into lockdown due to the pandemic, it gave my son the uninterrupted time he needed to tackle the exams successfully. Once he passed, I personally tutored him for his A/Levels, which he took at just 14 years old. He achieved one 'B' and two 'C's in the commerce stream, entirely through my home instruction."

Inspired by his older brother's success on this alternative path, younger brother Deran (Nolasko) also left traditional schooling to prepare for his London O/Levels. Unsurprisingly, he too conquered the challenge with flying colors.

"Our dad taught us almost everything. I only needed outside tutoring for mathematics," explains eldest son Theekshana (Nikolai). "That personalized approach is how we reached our goals so quickly. Now, at 17, I am fully immersed in space studies. I actively collaborate online with astronomy specialists, international institutions, and professors." Already the author of several books on space science, Theekshana (Nikolai) is currently preparing to publish more resources for fellow astronomy enthusiasts.

Meanwhile, the younger son, Deran (Nolasko), is gearing up for his upcoming A/Level exams in the commerce stream. Yet, his true passion and ultimate career goal lie in the realm of anime and digital art. His dream is to launch a cutting-edge animation studio to create his own original animated series.

"I have a huge collection of teddy bears, and I've given them all names," Deran (Nolasko) says with quiet confidence. "I've even cast specific voices for each of them. Right now, it's just something I share with family and friends, but I want to develop these concepts into professional projects."

The bond between these two homeschooled brothers is remarkably tight. Mastering complex subjects under their father's guidance, they maintain a harmonious relationship; they claim to have never exchanged a single bitter word. Beyond their father's instruction, the older brother frequently steps in to mentor and teach the younger one.

In an era where many youths squander hours scrolling through social media on their parents' phones, these boys refuse to waste their time. Instead, they are driven by a love for innovation and creative discovery. Lasantha and his sons spend a mere 800 rupees a month on data packages, utilizing the internet almost exclusively for educational research. Aside from Google, they largely avoid social media platforms.

"Here in Sri Lanka, telecom companies offer special data packages and benefits for social media apps like YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp, and Viber," Theekshana (Nikolai) points out. "But for people like us, who primarily use Google for academic research, those customized data facilities don't exist."

"Our dad teaches us how to organize our lives efficiently," Deran (Nolasko) adds. "We don't waste a minute. We make sure to have fun—like going to the beach or watching a cricket match—but we don't spend our days sleeping. We use our remaining time to study, which is why we never fall behind on our work."

There is a profound amount to learn from Lasantha and his two like-minded, highly driven children. They are undeniably an unconventional family, yet they radiate positivity and live in perfect harmony with their community.

"My boys will politely converse with anyone; as a father, I am incredibly proud of them," Lasantha beams.

His family's journey is living proof that age is not a barrier to success. You do not need a privileged background or immense financial wealth to achieve your dreams. All that is truly required is efficient time management and a burning, genuine desire to succeed. By paving their own unique road to success, Lasantha and his sons offer a powerful, inspiring message to anyone struggling with a lack of willpower or direction.
