

Cricket is a religion in India. People go insane when any national or international cricket event is organized in India or telecasted. We all complete our work and then get ready to stick to the television to enjoy every second of an important match. The long-lasting debates of the fans can be witnessed in public places. The huge popularity that our country's cricket team got is because of an excellent captain named Mahendra Singh Dhoni. This essay on Dhoni will tell us how a simple boy from Jharkhand got the chance to captain India's cricket team, the most formidable team in the world.

Dhoni was born on 7th July 1981. His parents are Pan Singh and Devaki Dev. They stayed in Ranchi (Jharkhand). He has two siblings. His father was a junior manager in Mecon. Dhoni showed immense interest in playing football and badminton. Even at the school level, he excelled in both the sports and was selected for the district-level competitions. He studied at DAV Jawahar Vidya Mandir School located in Ranchi. He was an excellent goalkeeper. Watching his eye-catching skills, his football coach sent him to a local cricket club to play cricket. He never played cricket before but he managed to grab the concept perfectly. His wicket-keeping skills amazed everyone in the club. He was appointed as the wicketkeeper for the local team on a regular basis. Later, he started to focus primarily on cricket and left his glory days of football and badminton behind. It was a drastic change in his life. He started to take professional coaching after Class X. He was also a meritorious student and teachers respected him for his versatile nature. He used to manage his studies and sports sessions perfectly. His family was very supportive of his ambitions.

He was selected as the U-19 Bihar cricket squad member in 1998-99. When he was 18 years old, he played the first match in Ranji Trophy for Bihar and scored a half-century. Just after 5 years, his skills caught the eyes of team selectors of the Indian national cricket team. His excellent performance and a century for the East Zone helped the team to clinch the Deodhar Trophy. His 60 runs also helped his team to clinch the Duleep Trophy.

As time passed, he joined Indian Railways as a Train Ticket Examiner (TTE) in Midnapore District, West Bengal in 2000. He was very honest. He also had a

mischievous side. He once dressed as ghosts with his friends and scared the night guards patrolling the railway quarters.

He eventually became better in his cricketing skills. His performance in the Triangular Tournament held in Kenya against Pakistan. This christened him with a new name 'clinical destroyer' of commendable bowling attacks. PC Poddar, the Bengal captain back in the 60s, identified his skills and immediately called the National Cricket Academy.

His remarkable score of 148 against Pakistan in Visakhapatnam and 183 against Sri Lanka in Jaipur shadowed the performance of Adam Gilchrist, the Australian wicket keeper he worshipped. He hit 10 6s, the highest an Indian has hit in a Test inning. He eventually became the captain of the Indian international cricket team and clinched the World Cup in 2011. His outstanding performances in all types of cricket made him one of the best captains we have seen in Indian cricket history. He has bagged the LG's People's Choice Award in 2013. He was awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, the highest honour for a sportsperson. His sense of responsibility and decision-making capabilities are appreciated by the entire world.