

AGAMI NEWS



MARCH 2024 ISSUE

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Community

EDITORIAL NOTE

20 Years of Agami - A tapestry of hope and perseverance

As Agami commemorates two decades of unwavering service, we are filled with gratitude. What began as a modest initiative in 2003, has evolved into a powerful movement, transforming countless lives across underprivileged communities.

For 20 years, we have remained steadfast in our mission to provide quality education, and create ways to make education accessible to deprived communities. Fueled by the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and partners, our efforts have paved the way for remarkable change in quality and access of education across marginalized communities.

This remarkable milestone is a testament to the collective spirit of giving and the belief that education can change the future of a country. From 2003 until today, Agami has helped 48 underprivileged schools across Bangladesh with funding, resources, training, operational expertise, books and school supplies. Fast forward, Agami teams escalated their efforts to build libraries, provide after-school chess curriculum, build teacher training opportunities, capitalize learning on STEM education for schools, implement digital ways to reach and teach without boundaries. Through our such programs and initiatives, we have witnessed firsthand the power of hope and resilience, as families and communities have risen from adversity, empowered to shape their own destinies.

Reflecting on our journey, every success story strengthens our resolve for an equitable world. This anniversary reminds us of future challenges and our determination to find new ways to amplify impact. Together, we've created an enduring tapestry of hope, perseverance, and compassion.

Farhana Zaman



[LinkedIn](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Web](#)

Editorial Board

Executive Editor & Design -

Rahima Rima
rahima.rima@gmail.com

Associate Editor -

Farhana Zaman
farhana.zaman@agami.org

Agami EdTech

April

- Device distribution, baseline survey, orientation sessions for learners and teachers for the Learning in Tab (LiT) project.
- Donor-directed projects in Nilphamari and Bikrampur.
- Developing high-priority math videos and exercises for Grade 6 and 7 for Agami Learning Platform.

May

- Classroom monitoring visits for LiT.
- Potential visit from Sal Khan and the Khan Academy HQ team
- Developing high-priority math videos and exercises for Grade 6 and 7, for Agami Learning Platform.

June

- Classroom monitoring visits for LiT.
- Developing high-priority math videos and exercises for Grade 6 and 7, for Agami Learning Platform.
- Participating in the training of Khan Academy and starting to create local content for the KA platform.

Please continue to provide your feedback to news@agami.org. To receive quarterly Agami News updates, please sign up at the link here or visit www.agami.org/news.

Activities of Agami Inc.

Ramadan Fundraiser 2024

Agami Ramadan Fundraising is currently active with the goal of raising **\$30,000** for our underprivileged children in Agami-supported schools.



RAMADAN KAREEM

Agami has completed two decades of dedication and shared success. This incredible journey would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our valued members, partners, donors, and the entire Agami family.



Updates

WEBSITE



To celebrate the generosity of our donors, the determination of our founders, the hard work of our employees and the motivation from our volunteers, we have tried to document our journey from the inception of Agami in 2003 to this day. Dont miss our blog posts on the website.

2003 - THE BEGINNING



READ MORE



This year marks 20 years of Agami. Our flagship program - School Program (SP) has significantly expanded over the two decades. As of 2024, SP has funded 48 schools across Bangladesh, and disbursed BDT 9 crores towards school program and projects. Total students supported through SP is approximately 13,575.

Teachers' Training

April

- Ideal Class Initiative Sessions,
- Training Grade-III on Science and Math Projects.
- Class Monitoring Grade-III, VIII.

May

- Training Grade-III New Science Textbook and Teachers' Guide
- Ideal Class Initiative Session
- Class Monitoring Grade-III, VIII

June

- Ideal Class Initiative Session
- Class Monitoring Grade-III, VIII

Library Project

April

- Purchasing new books for schools and completing library processes
- Organize bookshelves at Perabag School.

May

- Book Distribution visit to schools
- Initiating a Recitation Club in two schools as a pilot initiative.

June

- CholPori storytelling session.
- Dhaka Comics cartoon workshop in school.

School Program

April

- Fund disbursement to existing and new selected Agami-supported schools
- Routine school monitoring visits.

May

- New school project orientation.
- Routine school monitoring visits.

June

- Routine school monitoring visits.
- Monitoring Data Analysis and Report Preparation
- Mid-Term Review of School Program

Activities of Agami Education Foundation

OPERATIONS TEAM HAS EXPANDED

Agami's Operation team has been expanding. The team will now supervise and organize local events, including marketing activities and procurement activities of AEF.



Agami Education Foundation is running the Zakat campaign until 10th April. The operational team and marketing officer is working relentlessly to make the campaign a success. Please contribute to the AEF team and make a difference to the lives of underprivileged children.

Upcoming Global Seminars

The Agami Global Seminar is a distinctive initiative aimed at fostering awareness about Agami's processes and facilitating strategic discussions on the organization's future growth trajectory. This endeavor encourages Agami employees and volunteers to deliver hour-long presentations on carefully curated topics every quarter. These thought-provoking sessions provide valuable insights and spark constructive dialogue, enabling Agami to continuously evolve and enhance its impact.

April Seminar

Enhancing Personalized Learning at Primary Education in Bangladesh

May Seminar

Agami's Journey: Adaptation to Educational Transformation in Bangladesh

June Seminar

IET : Progress, Impact, and Plans for 2024 & Beyond



Write to us at news@agami.org
You can read our news archive on www.agami.org/news

Agami EdTech adapting classroom tech-based approaches

Agami EdTech completed a comprehensive three-day teachers' training, held from March 14th to 16th at the Brac Learning Centre in Uttara. The initiative aimed to equip 30 teachers from 15 schools with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement the 'Learning in Tab' project effectively. This project will impact over 1,200 students across Grades 3 to 7, enabling them to leverage tablet devices for math learning.



The first half of the training was tailored to individual class demonstrations and simulation sessions. Primary and secondary level teachers delved into their respective curriculums, exploring innovative teaching methodologies that blend technology with new learning approaches. This hands-on approach empowered educators to envision and implement impactful teaching-learning experiences.

The second half was an extensive session on the evolving assessment system aligned with the national curriculum. Teachers gained insights into modern assessment practices, emphasizing student-centered approaches to evaluation and feedback.

In respect to Agami Inc's 20-year celebration, a panel discussion titled 'Future of Education in Bangladesh: Exploring New Curriculum, Technology Integration, and the Evolving Role of Teachers' took place. The culmination of the three-day training saw participant teachers being awarded certificates. Equipped with newfound knowledge and skills, these educators are poised to lead the charge towards a more innovative and student-centric approach to education in Bangladesh.

Agami hosts panel discussion on future of education in Bangladesh

During a three-day training, Agami celebrated its 20-year success at Brac Learning Centre, Uttara. A panel discussion titled 'Future of Education in Bangladesh: Exploring New Curriculum, Technology Integration, and the Evolving Role of Teachers' was hosted by Agami veteran members. The event delved into critical topics such as new curriculum exploration, technology integration, and the evolving role of teachers. This session provided a platform for participant teachers to engage in meaningful dialogue, exchanging insights and queries with esteemed panelists.



The discussion, moderated by Mr. Mohammad Wahid Hossain, Agami Inc.'s Country Director, brought together esteemed panelists from diverse backgrounds, including international development, policy advocacy, and educationist, Dr. Ahmad Ahsan, Director of the Policy Research Institute (PRI), Bangladesh. He emphasized the pivotal role of education in fostering development, stressing the importance of educators as change-makers. He highlighted the crucial role of technology in equipping and training teachers effectively.

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Teachers' Training organizes National Science Curriculum Dissemination

Jesmin Nahar, a master trainer from Govt. Teachers' Training College, facilitated sessions focusing on the characteristics of the new curriculum, along with changes and anticipated challenges.

The momentum continued as participants engaged in various activities aimed at deepening their understanding of the new science textbook. Finally, all participants conducted simulation classes according to the teachers' guide. Under the guidance of the trainer and the Teachers' Training (TT) team, these sessions were evaluated, with constructive feedback provided to enhance the teaching methodologies.



To judge the effectiveness of the training, teachers underwent both pre-assessment and post-assessment tests. At the closing ceremony, the teachers expressed gratitude toward the TT team for arranging such constructive training promptly to enhance their capabilities.

Fostering RID (Respectful, Inclusive and Diverse) Classroom

Agami Inc. arranged a day-long workshop titled 'Fostering RID (Respectful, Inclusive and Diverse) Classroom in Agami-supported Schools' on Wednesday, 17th January 2024. Dr. Nira Rahman, an academician at the University of Melbourne, Australia, facilitated the workshop. The workshop was held at the BACE Training Centre, Sonargaon, Narayanganj. The training was arranged for 24 teachers from 19 Agami-supported schools.

The workshop intended to develop dialogue on creating such environments in the classroom where respect among each other, inclusion of students from all backgrounds, and diversity is encouraged and ensured. The training session included pre and post-evaluations, hand notes, slide shows, group work, and group discussions.



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Stepping toward sustainability

The Library Project (LP) is striving to set up a sustainable library in Agami supporting schools. LP volunteers have taken the initiative to provide bookshelves in each school. As part of the pilot initiative, LP will start at PSD Pearabag School. LP members are also excited in their plans to set up a recitation club in Agami supporting schools to improve students' Bengali pronunciation and speaking skills.



Volunteer Appreciation by Library Project

LP is a volunteer-driven program. To honor the volunteers' dedication and relentless efforts all through the year, LP hosted a volunteer appreciation event at the Agami office. In their 2024 mission, 35 new volunteers joined the LP team.

Volunteers start this year's LP operations with icebreaking visits to schools. During these visits, volunteers get an opportunity to spend time with kids and learn about their passion and love for reading. As part of this process, the volunteers gather pre-evaluation data. This data helps the LP team to tailor the LP program and curate the right books to foster effective learning.



Under-16 Sports Talent Initiative by Agami Chess Guild team

The National Sports Council organized a 21-day training program in Bangladesh, attracting players from various districts. After a rigorous selection process, 10 players were chosen to participate. The program took place at a residential training camp, where participants enjoyed several amenities, including meals, transportation, jerseys, shoes, and kitbags. Additionally, they received chess books and certificates upon completion. This training camp was held in Mirpur Kira Polli, located beside the NSC Officers Quarter.

International Master Abu Sufian Shakil served as the coach, with International Arbiter Arafat Rahman Sumon as the assistant coach. Notably, two students from Switch Tahmina Banu Bidyaniketan, Jinnat Akter Shahnaz and Tanjila Akter, actively participated in the training program.



Elegant 43rd Fide Standard Rating Chess Tournament, Below-1850

This was an International Standard Rating Chess Tournament which was held on 8th April and was a 5-round Swiss league event. In the tournament, Jinnat Akter Shahnaz and Tanjila Akter participated from Switch Tahmina Banu Bidyaniketan (Agami-supporting school). A total of 43 Players among 147 players participated in this tournament from Agami-supporting schools across Bangladesh . Jinnat Akter Shahnaz started as the 22nd player and finished in 16th place with 3 points out of 5 rounds, Tanjila Akter started as the 35th player and finished in 32nd place with 2 points out of 5 rounds.

Jinnat Akter Shahnaz and Tanjila Akter were awarded for being the best female players and received prizes from IO Mahmuda Moly Mam.



“Life is Fun” session in Laxmipur Shimanto Bazar Primary School

On 30th January, Life is Fun team conducted a session on Pollution and Heating effects at Laxmipur Shimanto Bazar Primary School, Jhenaidha. A total of 61 students from the school’s third, fourth and fifth grades took part in the session. The AEF team travelled to the area on the 29th, and conducted a successful session on the following day.



The objective of this session was to educate the students about the concepts of heating and pollution with emphasize to demonstration and teamwork. Our interns used materials such balloons, candles, tissue papers and tea bags to help them demonstrate the topics to the children.

The class was concluded with a Q&A session to address any queries the students had. After their wonderful job, our interns received some very positive feedback from the school students and teachers.

The children requested for more sessions to be conducted for them to take part in, and the teachers stated that such sessions would be of great help to the community and would be very much appreciated.



Laxmipur Simanta Bazar Primary School Needs Immediate Renovation

For parents in Laxmipur Simanata bazar and three neighboring villages situated in the remotest upazila of Jhenaidha district were in need of a school where they could send their children. Their hopes were answered in 2003, when a group of local philanthropists established the Laxmipur Simanta Bazar Primary School.

Built upon a good stretch of donated land from the local community, the school currently serves 160 students under the guidance of four dedicated teachers. Despite its humble beginnings, the school has consistently achieved outstanding results, boasting a remarkable pass rate of over 95% each year, ensuring students are promoted to the next grade successfully.

Agami has been a proud supporter of this school since 2015. However, recent observations from our school monitoring team have revealed a pressing issue: the school's infrastructure is in dire need of renovation. The deteriorating conditions not only disrupt the teaching process but also compromise the quality of education provided.



In response to the urgent need for improved sanitation facilities, Agami's Life is Fun (LiF) program, in collaboration with Xylem Inc., recently constructed a double-chamber toilet. While this represents a significant step forward, it's essential to acknowledge that the renovation of the school building itself remains unresolved. The school authorities recognize the critical importance of providing a safe and conducive learning environment. Without immediate action, the education of nearly 160 underprivileged students hangs in the balance, risking their academic progress and future opportunities.

Thus, school authorities earnestly request to the generosity of our society to support the renovation efforts of Laxmipur Simanta Bazar Primary School. With your help, we can ensure that these children continue to receive quality education, fostering their enrollment, attendance, and overall participation in teaching-learning activities.

Let's join hands to ensure that every child has access to a safe and conducive learning environment. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these students and empower them to reach their full potential.

Md. Nayim Uddin
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**THIS SCHOOL NEEDS
YOUR ATTENTION:
DONATE NOW**



Health for Education- Dental Camps

Health for Education team conducted five general health camps in five schools during January-March 2024. In the last year (2023) it focused on general health camps but this year the team has been focusing on Dental Camps.

Agami organized in Netrokona Municipality School a General Health Camp and 48 patients received health care. Agami organized a Dental Camp in School of Ten and treated 108 students.



Agami emphasizes on Health for Education initiatives. Because health camps raise awareness about various health issues among students, helping them understand the importance of maintaining good health. They may not have regular access to healthcare and these health camps can at least help in giving primary medical attention and advice. Overall, health camps play a crucial role in promoting the health and well-being of students, both in the short term and throughout their lives.

Celebrating Excellence: Prize Giving Ceremony for the Olympiad Winners in Underprivileged Schools.

We (Improving English Teaching-IET) are delighted to announce a remarkable initiative that embodies the spirit of education, empowerment, and celebration. In a bid to recognize and honor academic excellence among underprivileged students, Improving English Teaching (IET) organized a series of prize giving ceremonies across seven schools, where the winners of Math, Science, and English Olympiads from grades 4 to 7 were celebrated.

Education is the cornerstone of progress, yet access to quality education remains uneven, particularly in underprivileged communities. In light of this, AEF is taking proactive steps to not only bridge this gap but also to celebrate the achievements of young minds who have demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication in the fields of Mathematics, Science, and English. The prize giving ceremonies will serve as a platform to acknowledge the hard work, perseverance, and academic prowess of these students.



Shagorika Das - we love you!!

It is with deep sorrow and a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of Shagorika Das (an educator, social worker, philanthropist, Cofounder of Swapnadhara Human Welfare Society, and Principal of Shohag Swapnadhara Patshala). She departed from us peacefully on Feb 28th, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to the betterment of underprivileged children of Duaripara slum in Mirpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

It is a huge loss for Agami. Across the world, volunteers from Agami who met her, was inspired and praised her relentless efforts that helped build the strong pillars of Shohag Swapnadhara Pathshala (school) and its positive impact on the Duaripara community.

In her selfless pursuit, she embodied the essence of kindness and resilience, inspiring us all to reach beyond our limits and make a meaningful difference in the world. Her impact extended far beyond the confines of our organization. Through her boundless enthusiasm and unwavering commitment, she instilled hope and confidence in countless young minds, empowering them to dream big and reach for the stars.



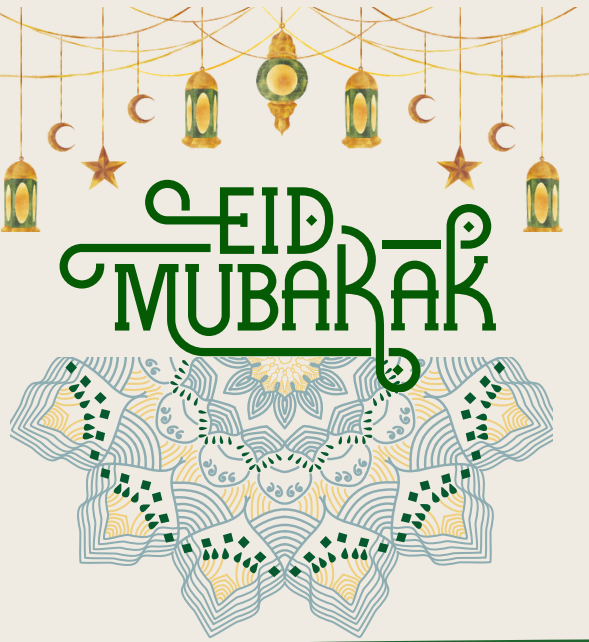
Navigating the Path to Leadership Excellence: Workshop Highlights



To enhance leadership skills among Agami staff, focusing on multicultural operations, strategic decision-making, effective communication, and conflict resolution Agami inc. arranged a full-day leadership workshop on March 11, 2024. The intensive nature of a whole-day leadership workshop led to lasting behavioral changes and habits. Participants got the opportunity to internalize key concepts, practice new skills, and receive feedback, which translated into sustained improvements in their leadership effectiveness over time.

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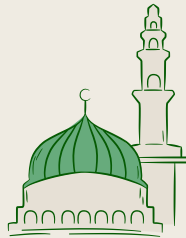


As we celebrate Eid,

let's extend our joy beyond our own families and communities. Let's reach out to those who are less fortunate, those who may be struggling, and those who need a helping hand. This Eid, let's make a commitment to support others in any way we can. Whether it's through donating to charity, volunteering at a local shelter, or simply lending a listening ear to someone in need, every act of kindness counts. Let's embody the spirit of Ramadan by spreading love, generosity, and empathy to all those around us.

Remember, the true beauty of Eid lies not just in our own celebrations, but in the smiles we bring to others' faces and the warmth we share with those who need it most.

Seasonal Giving
Ramadan Kareem.



Your generosity can empower come young minds, offering them a chance at a better future.

Send your Zakat or Sadaqah directly.

Donate Now - for underprivileged children access to quality education in Bangladesh.

"Give charity without delay, for it stands in the way of calamity."

[Click here to donate your ZAKAT](#)

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