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Like many countries, Bangladesh closes all the school and relevant activities since March 2020. Schools were closed throughout the entire pandemic until 12 September 2021, when they reopened again. Even now, as the world enters the last quarter of 2021, many children are facing an unprecedented second year of school closures as new variants of the coronavirus spread across the region. The associated consequences of such continuous school closures are staggering and include learning loss; mental distress; missed school meals and routine vaccinations; heightened risk of drop out of structured education; increased, child labor; and increased child marriage. Many of these dire consequences are already affecting countless children, and many will continue to be felt in the years to come.

The future of over 40 million children in Bangladesh is at risk with their education severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Existing evidence shows that the cost of addressing learning gaps are lower and more effective when they are tackled early in a crisis, and that ongoing investments made in education will support economic recovery, growth and prosperity.

The increased risk of dropping out of schools due to the pandemic, especially for girls and children in poor and already marginalized families, threatens to reverse progress made in school enrolment in recent decades. Special children are also

Pandemic (Covid 19)

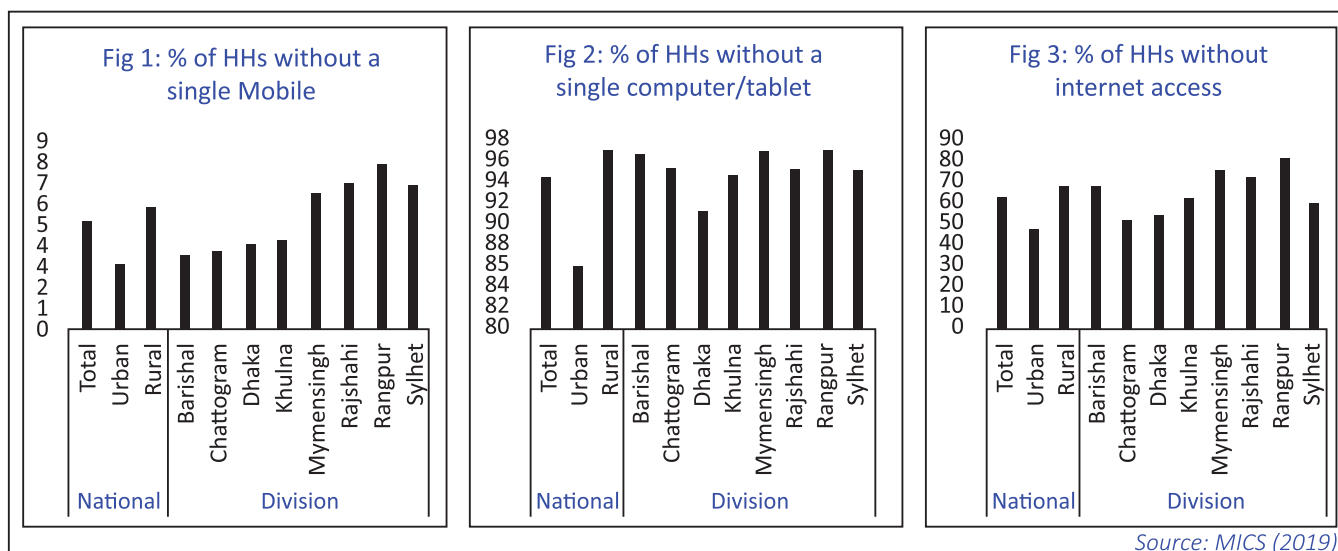
A Silent and Imbalanced Education Crisis

Farid (Pseudo Name), who lives in a remote village of Kurigram, Rangpur Bangladesh has found educating his child during COVID-19 to be a monumental challenge. As a farmer with a lack of electricity and no access to the internet or television, he has found it difficult to help his child with his lessons. Sometimes, teachers come to the children's homes so they can help the children with their learning, however, in many cases, they have difficulties finding the children because they are out with their parents in the rice fields.

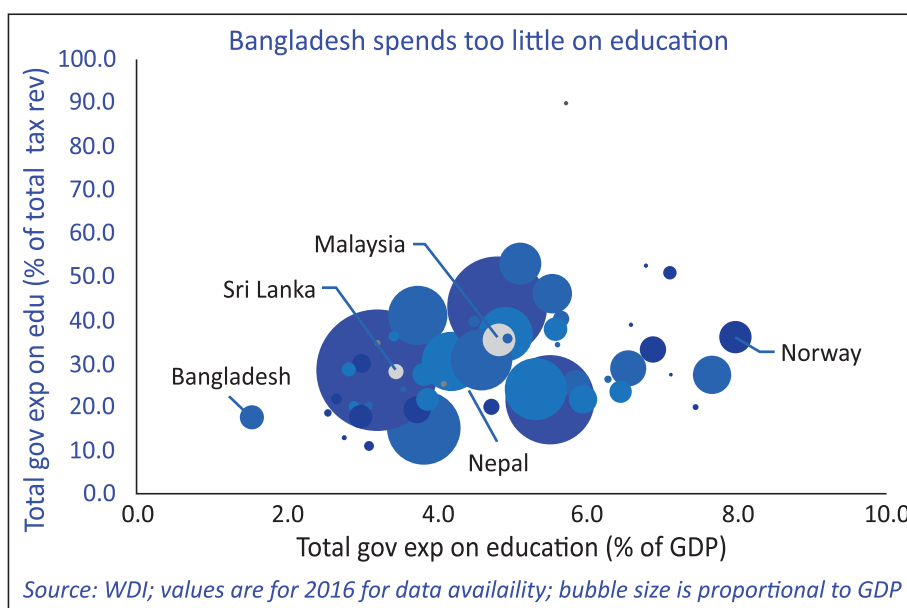
Fatema (Pseudo Name) is working in a sub-urban area for a local NGO of Bangladesh. Her daughter and son both attend a private school and is accessing online learning several hours a day. But she finds that juggling her job with family responsibilities, gadget crisis, electricity issues and the poor internet connectivity make teaching and learning so much harder during COVID-19.

As per World Bank, UNICEF, UNESCO, these challenging experiences are happening in countries across the world, and developing and under-developing countries are in vulnerable situations. Some of the most privileged students and teachers have been able to cope with the changes after schools closed, but not the majority.

In Frame: Rojina Akter
Angel of "Joy Shokol Shishur"
Photo: Fahad Arman



in trouble. According to UNICEF Report 2021, education budgets in the region will need to increase by an average of Ten percent to catch up with such losses if Asia is to reach the education targets of the UN 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals in the next nine years. Compare to many other countries since Bangladesh spends less on education, the challenges will be more in this regard. The data in the chart will give a clear picture about the real scenarios of Bangladesh present status.



This is well predicted that impacts stemming from Covid-19 will have long-term consequences. The lifetime income and productivity of the current age-cohort would be severely constrained if the government does not step in with bolstered short-term and long-term public policies as follows:

First, when opening up the schools, healthcare protocols should be strictly followed. **Second**, ensuring return to school for each student and numbers of programs need to be implemented specially for the special and distressed. **Third**, supplementary nutrition programs

such as the school feeding program and midday meal programs should be implemented nationally. **Fourth**, measures should be taken to reduce the digital divides across income groups as well as across regions. **Last**, but most importantly, the government must increase allocation in education in all possible ways.

Numbers of studies, economists and researcher has shown its importance and calculation in many of their researches. Otherwise the development regarding this sector was made in previous years will be unnoticed and will create huge negative impact about the success of SDG 4 that were done in previous year.

As the pandemic crisis is prolonging, such contraction in education expenditure contrasts with what this sector needs. Combating the challenges would require a stronger collaboration among all the relevant sectors along with the Government. If adequate actions are not taken now, it will be too late to mitigate it later.

Events & Activities

Child Rights Week 2021

Every year, child rights week is observed in KKF. This year the theme was **"Invest for Children, Build Prosperous World (Shishur Jonno Biniyog Kori, Somriddho Bishwo Gori)"**. Considering the theme foundation has designed its program in such a manner so that children of Joy Shokol Shishur program enjoyed the week through interesting activities and learning.

Study Tour

National Zoo, Mirpur, Dhaka



Quiz Competition

A quiz competition was held with children age group 3-7 years. Total participants were 30 and at the end of the competition, participants received prizes. **Meem** achieved the highest score, **Al-Amin** stood 2nd and **Nabila** obtained the 3rd position among the participants.



Meem



Al-Amin



Nabila



Debate Competition

On 10 October a debate competition was arranged with Azampur Govt. High School. The topic was 'Online Education Vs On Campus Education'.

Ms Sohagi Akter Meghla became the best speaker in debate competition. All the participants and audiences have enjoyed the debate competition.



Sohagi Akter Meghla
Best Speaker

T-Shirt Painting Competition

To encourage the creativity and skill foundation introduced numbers of vocational training for the children based on their age and interest. Foundation provided soft skill training on fabrics, hand and brush painting. To know their area of improvement a t-shirt competition was arranged on October 09, 2021. **Ms. Akhi** achieved 1st position, **Ms. Sohagi Akter Meghla** and **Ms. Bristy** obtained 2nd and 3rd position respectively.



Akhi



Meghla



Bristy

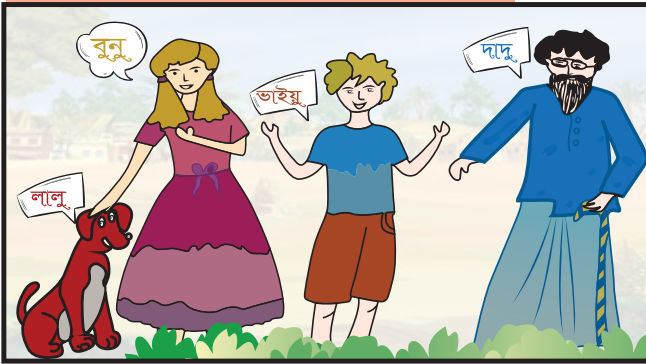
Project Shishupur

Foundation has a plan to publish awareness book for the children. As a part, it has introduced its new project named 'Project Shishupur'. Children were informed about the theme of the project and told to prepare the characters for the book series. The last day of the week was all about the shishupur workshop.



First Story of Shishupur

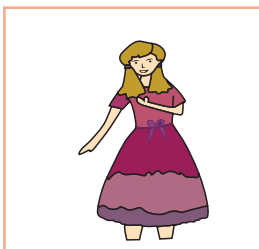
ডায়েরিয়া হলে যা করণীয়



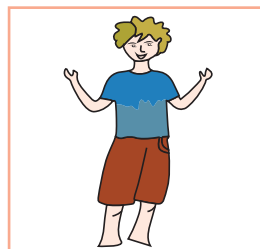
Shishupur Inauguration and Character Presentation



Dadu (Grand Father)
- The Mentor



Bunu- The Intelligent
and Caring Sister



Bhaiyun- The
Mischievous Brother



Lalu- The Friendly Pet

As a part of long-term awareness activities program foundation has planned to launch a program named Shishupur. The main objective of this program is to aware the children specially focusing on underprivileged children on various issues related to their daily lives. Under this, it has introduced a few characters and a short awareness story. On the occasion of Child Rights Week, they inaugurated the characters with a short play where the characters introduced themselves.

Four Characters were launched and introduced among the guests. For this awareness program children of Joy Shokol Shishur Program have introduced four main characters. **Dadu** (Grand Father), **Bhaiyun** (Brother), **Bunu** (Sister), and **Lalu** (the Dog). With the help of these characters basically a foundation as a plan to disseminate its awareness messages among the mass. Characters will be increased later on as per the demand of the stories.

Honorable Chief Advisor **Mr. Mahin Mazher** and Senior Advisor **Ms. Esha Mahin** grace the session as chief guest and special guest. The session was moderated by **Sifat-E-Azam**, Executive Director, KKF. The occasion was held in the foundation's program office on November 1, 2021.



Martyred Intellectuals Day

Observed by the Children of Joy Shokol Shishur Program



KKF Celebrates the 50th Victory Day



World Aids Day

Since 1988, 1 December, the world commemorates World AIDS Day. People around the world unite to show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses. This year the day was focused on a specific theme '**End inequalities. End AIDS. End pandemics.**'

Foundation organized a workshop and aware the children about the day along with coping up with the pandemic in a systematic manner.



Qard e Hasana

Project Swanirbhor - By the people for the people

প্রজেক্ট
স্বনির্ভর

Swanirbhor is a Bengali word that means self-dependent. **Qard e Hasana** is an Arabic word. Though all loans in Islam are interest-free and Qardh al-Hasana is that interest and collateral-free beautiful loan. The pandemic teaches us a lesson of a lifetime. Foundation from the year 2020 started a program named Folon through which it started helping the destitute farmers with this loan. While working with them it also discovered apart from the farmers there are some other professionals who also need this kind of loan.

In the Islamic community, Muslims are obliged to pay a percentage, annually under Islamic law on certain kinds of property and use it for charitable and religious purposes. But in Bangladesh, using Zakat's money, people tend to purchase clothing and distribute those to the poor. This

results in momentary happiness in the destitute family but doesn't bring much development in their lifestyles. To make appropriate use of Zakat money, we initiated to create a Sustainable Livelihood project titled "**Swanirbhor through Qardh e Hasana**".



Swanirbhor Journey

This was first implemented by KKF in 2019 at a very small scale involving only three families to see its results. Considering its positive outcome, we held it a bit larger scale in 2020, helping 18 destitute families. Since the pandemic strikes and people's income shrunken we observed the 18 families with proper training and guidelines.

This project involves raising Zakat money and using it to create an income-generating source for destitute families. We give the breadwinner of the destitute families, a chance to become an entrepreneur and thus improve their own living standards.

*A loan
without any
interest and
service
charge.*

As an NGO for the first time in the history of Bangladesh KKF has launched a program that was never implemented by any of the organizations before. This pandemic taught us in many ways.

The family who lost their everything during this pandemic their numbers are not very less. KKF launched an interest-free program named **Swanirbhor** under which it is going to help and provide people interest-free loan for sustainable livelihoods.

On the inaugural and launching day Chief Advisor Mr. Mahin Mazher, Senior Advisor Ms. Esha Mahin and Executive Director Ms. Sifat was present and distributed the money among the beneficiaries. The program officially started its journey from November 2021.

The projects are being implemented in: Dhaka, Erendabari, Jamalpur, Keraniganj, Tongi and Gazipur.





Project U-Turn

While aiding out marginalized communities affected by the COVID-19 foundation worked for an organization named 'Bachte Chai', which is operated by an ex-floating sex worker at present who is an activist and working dedicatedly for the struggling mobile sex workers of Dhaka City.

The growing concerns for floating sex workers made them rethink their profession, eventually being pulled back after superstitious hypes of risk factors and other perks. Here is the point where KK Foundation intervenes, driving them to quit the labyrinth to secure a brighter tomorrow for them and their children.

Our expertise team immediately formulated a 180-degree plan- and launched a project named **Project U-Turn** under its Qard e Hasana Program. The main objective of this program is to work with those sex workers who

desperately want to move out from the profession but because of the taboo or social circumstances or for the external forces failing to do so and incorporate them with respected livelihoods. Foundation is giving the priority more to those who have children or who are very new in the profession. It also has a plan to rehabilitate their children in its Joy Shokol Shishur Program and will train the mother in numbers of areas along with job opportunities.

Implementing Plan



We have conceptualized and planned a campaign of rehabilitating eight floating sex workers & managing a new profession for them, along with keeping their children in a shelter home and taking the full responsibility of their guardianship until they attain

the age of maturity. Foundation is also creating a cycle for floating sex worker mothers, through which the interested individuals shall be entertained with the gateway out of this profession and a better future for their children.

Project U-Turn through Tailoring Entrepreneurship



The course is for 2 months containing 40 classes and practical sessions. An assessment is also done at the end of the training. During the session, participants receive lunch

and transport facilities in required cases. Till date, fourteen participants received the training and work in their desired places.

We established a training center equipped with number of tailoring supports and facilities. The package includes sewing training and a particular workplace- for each of them. A professional trainer is training the participants and at the end of the training successful trainee receives job opportunity either in tailoring shop or in garments factories.

An equipped training center is set up. The plan includes creating every necessary support needed to smoothly operate the center- distributing lunch to beneficiaries in session days is one of the examples.

- **Time Frame (2 Months)**
- **Session -11am-4pm (1 Hour Break)/ 5 Days a Week**
- **Training Centre Location – Mugda Sabujbag**
- **Cost Detail (Both Fixed and Operating/ Session)**
- **Total Operating Cost per session (2 months) for 6-8 participants 80,000-85,000 BDT**
- **Fixed Cost One Centre (Once) 70,000-85,000 BDT (Based on area)**

Humanitarian Response

- 1 Emergency Response for Pirganj Fire Victim of 50 Families.
- 2 Health & Medical Camp Facilities Given to 300 Families.
- 3 Donation from X-Index Energy Limited.
- 4 Bringing Back Labiba.
- 5 Project Oxygen - Planted 1600 Eco-Friendly Trees in Coastal Area.
- 6 45 Food Packages Were Distributed among Middle Income Pandemic Affected Family.
- 7 65 Blankets Distributed among the Distress of Dhaka & Mymensingh.



Publications





Development Without Boundaries

Donate your

Zakat







01318-217020
(Merchant Account)



01318-217020
(Merchant Account)



01711-5066837
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