

Stories of REMARKABLE TEACHERS

Sarwar Basher
Ziaur Rahman Shipar



FIVDB Friends In Village Development Bangladesh

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REMARKABLE TEACHERS

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Ziaur Rahman Shipar

Save the Children's vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Save the Children's mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

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PREFACE

The original intent of this booklet was to compile stories of remarkable teachers as told by children. However the stories collected reflect the views of children and adults who remember the impact of their favorite teacher.

The booklet present stories of 14 Remarkable Teachers. Some stories are elaborate descriptions of teachers' going 'beyond the call of duty' and supporting children both inside and outside the classroom taking on additional roles as school managers, resource mobilisers, community comrades and friends.

From the stories we see almost all children appreciate loving teachers with enthusiastic teaching style and having a friendly approach. Students reflected that their favorite teachers used explanations with practical examples, games, jokes, stories, songs, quizzes and competitions to improve their learning. Children like punctual teachers who attend class regularly and are not distracted by mobile phones during class time.

Many teachers acted as role-models for children and community members and the values they demonstrate are internalised. We learn from these stories that all thoughtful, innovative, kind and compassionate efforts to improve children's lives and learning experience stays in children's hearts and minds, even into adulthood for some.

Increased privatisation of the education system has meant public schools receive little recognition of their accomplishments of committed staff. These are stories of teachers from public schools in Bangladesh. Each story highlights a teacher who has made a real difference and impact in children's lives. Every story brings to memory this saying "You have touched me; I have grown".

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FOREWORD

Teachers play an important facilitating role in the construction of knowledge among children. Teachers through their creativity and commitment, bring fresh air in our usually poorly-resourced and dull classroom environment. This study has been undertaken by FIVDB and Save the Children to identify and document an assortment of stories of teachers who according to students and communities make a difference in teaching-learning process.

We hope this collection of stories will inspire and encourage our policy planners in providing appropriate training and support to the teachers.

Zahin Ahmed
Executive Director
FIVDB

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SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

Primary education of Bangladesh has a glorious history of more than three centuries. Most significantly, primary education has had a distinguished social value in Bangladesh and primary schools are the most important social institutions of the rural community. Likewise, primary school teachers, the *Gurus*, were the wisest and the most respected men in the community. *Guru* however has a richer and wider meaning in comparison with the present definitions of a teacher. Growing commercialisation, as well as privatisation of the education system has greatly affected our value system and in the process teachers have lost the great image they once enjoyed.

Bangladesh has the biggest primary education system in the world with some 81,443 schools. Of them 37,672 (46%) are Government Primary Schools (Directorate of Primary Education, Government of Bangladesh, 2007). At present there are 1,82,374 Government Primary School teachers in the country (Directorate of Primary Education, Government of Bangladesh, 2007). M Nazmul Haq and M. Sajidul Islam (2005) in a study on “Teacher Motivation in Bangladesh: A situation Analysis”, show that primary teachers are facing many difficulties that hamper their motivation and performance as teachers. An additional barrier to quality teaching is that teachers receive a very low salary that is insufficient for living a decent life with modest social status. Government’s decision to involve Government Primary School teachers in non-academic programmes like the delivery of stipends (*upa-britty*) and food support packages also contribute to making their jobs more demanding.

As teachers are key to ensuring that children receive an education that is relevant, of good quality (Els Heijnen, 2009) and meeting their learning and emotional needs, there is an urgent need to invest more in teacher education and on-going professional development. Facing all these challenges, some teachers

still work with uncompromising commitment and dedication towards providing quality education. Teachers play the pivotal role working behind the scenes to ensure success. There are many stories of silent successes within the Government Primary School system even in the remotest villages, which very often go unnoticed by the public.

Considering the above context and present day hard realities of teaching profession, Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB) in association with Save the Children-Sweden took an action to bring back the glory of public schools by documenting the success stories of teachers through involving the students and other stakeholders in a participatory approach. This study aimed at contributing to an enhanced interest among teachers to replicate best teaching practices and this can be used as a training resource for Teacher Education Institutes in Bangladesh.

Objective

The main objective of this research was to document success stories of remarkable teachers as told by the students and community people so as to improve the quality of education and bring back the glory of public schools. This documentation encourages and promotes the efforts of such remarkable teachers.

Methodological Clarification

Stories are an easy way for children to communicate their experiences and are an innovative, interesting and engaging way for us to demonstrate and promote best practice. As the aim of the study was to collect and document real stories of remarkable teachers told by the students and community people, a participatory approach was applied to select the story tellers. The Methodological challenge was selecting the story tellers, students and the community people, not identifying the teachers. The process of getting stories about the best teachers was by involving students and community people to share their views and experiences. To do this, we fixed a participatory method to get the students and

community people involved. No indicators were set to identify teachers by the study team itself rather the team was more conscious to apply a participatory method through which students and community people can tell stories of real life teachers who have impacted on their lives.

The focus was on selecting students regardless of merit, gender, class and ethnicity. A three step method was applied to get the story tellers. At the first stage, a group of students were selected by interviewing the teachers and analyzing student's socio-economic backgrounds, so that students from all background were included in the study. At the second step, a Focus Group Discussion with the selected students was carried out to identify the key story tellers. At the final stage selected story tellers (students) were asked to write down individual experiences regarding a teacher whom they consider as their best and favourite teacher who has had a profound impact on their life. Likewise, Focus Group Discussions with selected community people helped to pick key story tellers from the community. A programme was arranged in each school where both students and community story tellers wrote stories of their best and favourite teachers. Totally there were 17 Focus Group Discussions with students and 17 Focus Group Discussions with community people in 17 Government Primary Schools. Name of the schools and their locations are provided in Annex-1 and particulars of the FGD participants are provided in Annex-2.

Limitations

This study deals with only 17 Government Primary Schools out of 37,672 existing and functioning in different geographical locations with dynamic histories and characters. Considering time, financial resources and need to keep sample representative 17 Government Primary Schools were selected in three different districts and the rationale for district selection as follows:

- ❑ The North Eastern Sylhet district was selected for its uniqueness and established Community-based Education Management Information System processes.
- ❑ Shirajganj district represents the disaster prone area with annual floods and natural disasters.
- ❑ Sunamganj is Haor (Wetland) area with livelihood challenges round the year.
- ❑ Manikganj is semi urban area and very close to Dhaka which reflects urban scenario.



SECTION TWO

BEHIND THE STORY: CONTEXT OF THE RURAL PRIMARY TEACHERS

From “Guru” to Class III Civil Servant

Formerly, primary teachers were considered as potent and respected in the rural areas as they were the only ones in a community with an education and therefore had substantial authority in the community acting as interpreters, letter-writers and census counters (Quddus, 2007). This situation changed since the nationalisation of primary education in 1973 and now the teachers working in the Government Primary Schools have become Class III government employees. Teachers no longer have the option to achieve higher educational qualifications and vocational training which could have made a significant difference in their status, both within the civil service system and in the society at large¹. Class hierarchy is very significant for the country which constructs one's social and economical status. In the civil service hierarchy, class III and IV ranked people do not receive good treatment and respect.²

Traditionally, the rural community considered the *Pathshala* (village school) teacher, the “guru”, to be wise and knowledgeable, while the modern Government Primary Schools teacher emerges more like a Class III employee on the bureaucratic ranking, simply following the instructions and regulations laid down by their superior, and who even does manual work such as distributing wheat to the school children³. For the low ranked Class III position, primary teachers even fear of taking seat in the presence of a higher officer like an UNO, unless explicitly instructed to do so. Throughout the process of modernising and bureaucratising primary education system of Bangladesh, the status of Government Primary School teachers in local community had generally been weakened (Quddus, 2007).

¹ For details please see Quddus S.M. Abdul, 2007-
https://bora.uib.no/bitstream/1956/2318/1/PhD_thesis_Abdul_Quddus.pdf

² *Ibid*

³ *Ibid*

Present Status of Motivation

M Nazmul Haq and M. Sajidul Islam (2005) in a study on *“Teacher Motivation in Bangladesh: A situation Analysis”* show that teacher’s job satisfaction and motivation are very low in primary schools and teachers are highly dissatisfied with their remuneration, lack of financial benefits and conditions of service. Some factors were revealed from that research on which teachers’ levels of job satisfaction and motivation depend-

- ❑ Remuneration
- ❑ School location
- ❑ Type of school
- ❑ Physical facilities of the school
- ❑ Opportunities for further teacher-training
- ❑ Service conditions
- ❑ Workload
- ❑ Promotion and career path
- ❑ Student behaviors
- ❑ Relationships with community
- ❑ Relationship with School Management Committees (SMCs)
- ❑ School quality factors (such as the availability of teaching and learning resources)

Many rural primary schools lack of communication and living facilities, so, teachers feel isolated and disinterested in teaching in such remote schools.

SECTION THREE

STUDY FINDINGS

Perceptions of Teachers

In the Focus Group Discussions, both students and community people expressed their perceptions of the teachers. We set some key points for discussion during FGDs to understand the levels of teacher's popularity and to discover teacher's good practices and qualities that make him/her favourite to pupils and community. These key issues are discussed below:

Extracurricular Activities of the Teacher

Some teachers have a good practice of arranging extracurricular activities like singing songs, dance, drawing and poetry reading on a regular basis either in the class or after the class hour. In the Focus Group Discussions, all of the students told that they enjoy these extracurricular activities very much.

'Good' Teacher's Characteristics

In the Focus Group Discussions students told some good practices of their teachers they like the most. This study finds that students are pleased with a minimum decent behaviour and concern demonstrated by teachers. Some of the good practices of teachers are:

- ❑ Singing song and other extracurricular activities
- ❑ Instead of giving punishment, cordially making students understand the lesson if they fail to prepare
- ❑ Speaking nicely
- ❑ Speaking with smile
- ❑ Equal care to all students
- ❑ Punctuality
- ❑ Friendly behaviour

Want to be a Teacher?

This study finds out that most students do not want to be a teacher. Rather would like to be doctors, engineers and other lucrative service holders. Some students however, told that they want to be a teacher. This is another important indicator that shows that teachers are not ideal or favourite person as well as teaching is not a desirable profession to the students.

Memorable Event With the Teacher

It is surprising that a very few students have a memorable event with the teacher. This indicates that students do not spend enjoyable time with the teachers. It is also important to mark that no student told any memorable event regarding teaching-learning process. Some memorable events include student's experiences of not being punished by the teacher in case of fail to answer questions or prepare lessons.

SECTION FOUR

STORIES OF “REMARKABLE TEACHERS”



SECTION FOUR

STORIES OF “REMARKABLE TEACHERS”

SHAHEDA AKHTER, *Darikhandi Govt. Primary School, Manikganj*

Shaheda apa is our favourite teacher. She is also the most prominent teacher in this school. She has a strong influence with the students. Her loving and caring attitude makes us feel her greatness. She always talks with us very charmingly. Under the light of her knowledge we feel better. She loves us very much. We are very fond of her. If we make mistakes, she tries to make us understand. She treats all students equally.

She teaches us Bangla. Her style of delivering lessons is so interesting that we all enjoy it in a happy mood. She explains lessons precisely. Therefore, learning becomes interesting. Along with regular lessons, she tells us stories. Even though she teaches a particular subject in the class, she tries to cover other aspects also.

She also teaches us different social skills. She always puts emphasis on manner and approach of the students. She always advises us to pay respect to elders and love our younger ones. She supports us to do good things and warns us from doing the bad things. She feels it very important to promote harmony in the school.

The teacher always advises us to do good and become good citizens. She wants us to behave well in all

situations. Apart from our religion, she also shares good things about other religions. She advises us to select good friends. She says that a person is best known by their friends. She always makes us cautious that bad company will misdirect us.

Our teacher once sang a song for us. We were amazed on this occasion. We came to know that she stood first in a competition among singers in Manikganj.

Her attitude is very modest. She always attempts to win over our hearts and minds. It also encourages us to follow her instruction. I try to avoid things unpleasant to my teacher. As I want to be counted among her favorite students, I always prepare lessons. She encourages us to do our homework. When we prepare homework, she becomes very happy. We also enjoy this.

She always maintains good communication with the guardian of the students. She reminds us about our duties to our parents. The teacher wants us to fulfill the dream of our parents.

She loves all the students and is concerned about their welfare. She wishes our success so that we attain name and fame. She motivates us to study properly so that we prosper in life. I want to be a teacher like her when I grow up.

My favourite teacher wishes me success to become a teacher. She also motivates other students in the class to set

a goal for the future. Some of the students want to be doctors while others want to choose different professions. Her blessings go with all her students.

Story Tellers

Tania Begum: Class FIVE

Darikhandi Shariful: Class FIVE

Liton Miah: Class FOUR

Toiyeba Akter: Class FIVE

Moli Akhter: Class FOUR

Mushuk Bisswas: Class FOUR

Darikandi Govt. Primary School, Manikganj



Students are writing about their favourite teacher

RUMA AKHTER, *Barongail Govt. Primary School, Manikganj*

Our favorite teacher is Ms. Ruma Akhter. She teaches us English. She takes good care of us. She is pretty and she invites us to her house during Eid celebrations. She treats us like her younger siblings. She is very polite and her delightful voice attracts us all. She not only sings English song for us in the class, but also narrates interesting stories in English.

In order to enrich our vocabulary, she arranges quiz competition. Often she jokes with us. She teaches from her soul. She does not believe in using corporal punishments. Instead, she advises students to be good and sincere. She encourages respecting elders and loving younger ones. She always gives honor to her colleagues. Outside the school she has a good relationship with all guardians and the local people. She wants us to greet elders on our way to school and be sympathetic towards them.

She is not only a teacher but also a friend to the students. When there is a quarrel between fellow students, she mediates. We can share our problems with her quite easily. When we lose a game and become sad, our teacher inspires us. She encourages us to try again and wishes us better luck for the future competitions.

Our teacher always values punctuality. She motivates us to follow a routine. If a student fails to answer a question, she spends additional time for the student the next day. She tries to make the weaker student understand the previous

lesson. She always takes care of us. If we feel sick she nurses us and if any of us misses school for 2/3 days, she visits our home.

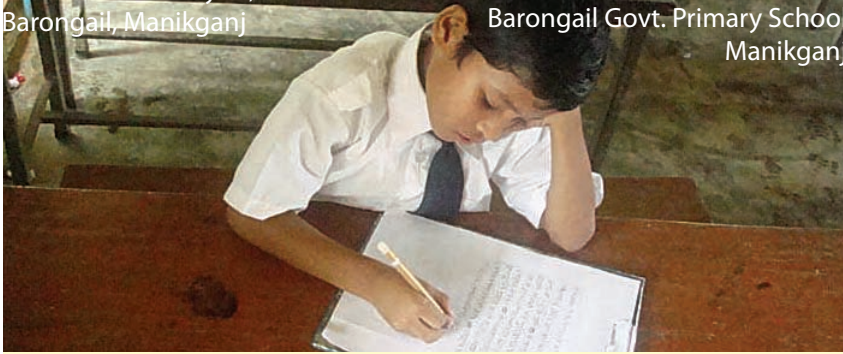
We love our favorite teacher. When we were in Class II, our teacher had to temporarily leave our school to attend a training and we were about to cry while she left us. We got promoted to class III when she returned. Our happiness knew no bounds when she came back.

Ruma akter is a very good teacher. She is very regular in her class. She loves teaching as well as her students. She is very dedicated to her profession and she always avoids school politics and other things that hamper teaching-learning. She never uses mobile phone in the class while this is a common practice in the school. She is gentle and she respects local people which makes her the community's favorite.

Story Tellers

Shantosh Karmakar, 54 Years
Khandokar Humayun, 45 Years
Barongail, Manikganj

Gita Karmaker: Class Four
Md. Shamsur Reza: Class Four
Israt Jahan Preety: Class Four
Barongail Govt. Primary School
Manikganj



MAKSUDA PARVIN, *Barongail Govt. Primary School, Manikganj*

The best teacher is Maksuda Parvin. She is the Head Teacher of Barongail Government Primary School. I have the opportunity to work with her as a guardian of the school. While the previous head teacher used to maintain communication only with the President of School Management Committee, Ms Parvin builds up rapport with the members of surrounding community and even with the children.

Guardians of the students living in the locality were reluctant to send their children to the government primary school previously. Students were instead sent to community schools. However, this teacher took all the initiative to renew community's interest in the school. As a result, enrolment in the government primary school increased.

Thanks to her continuous effort, quality of education improved in the school. Involvement of the community has contributed towards the development of the school. Students have been granted scholarships in increased numbers.

In my opinion, she is a great teacher as she took the following actions for development of the school:

- ❑ She arranged construction of the school gate for children's adequate protection in the school area.
- ❑ She encouraged and guided other teachers to display learning items in the classroom.

- ❑ She arranged different functions in the school so that children could develop their leadership skills.
- ❑ She is polite and encourages children to practice positive attitude towards fellow students.
- ❑ When a pupil is frequently absent, she inquires about the student and visits the families and encourages parents to send their children to school regularly.

She is from the neighbourhood and takes initiative to improve the school. Her children are admitted in the school. She treats other children like her own children.



Story Tellers

Khandaker Humayun
Member of the School Management Committee, 45 Years
Barongail, Manikganj

One Community People is writing about his favourite teacher

KAMAR UDDIN, *Bangram Govt. Primary School, Manikganj*

I am a former student of Bangram Government Primary School and now I am the President of the SMC of the school. I still recall the days when my favourite teacher used to teach me and fellow students. His name is Mr. Kamar Uddin. He was devoted to the school until he retired from the school as the head teacher in the year 1983.

He narrated fables before starting assembly in the morning. We were amazed by the story and his mode of delivery. The stories not only contained lots of laughter, but there were also moral lessons. We used to start our day with fun and encouragement. During our school days, Kamar Sir regularly organised cultural events and motivated every student to participate. Poetry recitation, songs and storytelling were the main focus of the cultural program. Sir knew numerous stories and we waited eagerly to listen to a story that he presented with his gentle voice often mixed with wit and humour. Sometimes I did not want to come to the school for not finishing the home work, but for the attraction of the cultural program, I could not prevent myself coming to school.

His smile, interaction with us about lessons, story books as well as inspiration for singing, recitation remain fresh in my mind even after 28 years. I myself being a college teacher now realise that Kamar Sir made a profound influence in developing my personality as I often motivate my students in the same way my favourite Kamar Sir did.

Story Teller

Md. Golam Moula, 37 Years

President of the School Management Committee, Shibalaya, Manikganj

ASMA AKTER, *Bangram Government Primary School, Manikganj*

My favorite teacher is Asma Akter. There are many reasons for her to be my favourite teacher. When she teaches she is always careful to make sure students understand the lessons. Her style of teaching differs from others. She makes lessons interesting. She promotes joyful learning environment in the school. She used to entertain the pupil with a song each Thursday. She motivates us to take part in extra-curricular activities.

She gets students' attention from the very first minutes after she enters the classroom. As a result, weaker students get an opportunity to learn. She is very liberal. She used to take free extra-care for poor but prospective students. She helped them to understand lessons after classes end. She taught them at home also. The School Management Committee as well as the parents respect her for her positive attitude and care for the students.

Mrs. Asma Akter is the most well-known teacher in our school. She is a good human being. She always puts emphasis on manner and approach of the students. She is very loving and caring. She always talks with us very gracefully. She always maintains good communication with the guardians of the students. She advises us to honor our elders and love the younger ones. She is very punctual and loves to see punctuality in us. She advises us to tell the truth. She is very beautiful and we love her very much.

Story Tellers

Md. Mizanur Rahman: School Management Committee Member

26 Years, Tepri, Shibalaya, Manikganj

Jesmin Akter Mim: Class Five

Shourov Islam: Class Three

Runa Akter. : Class Four

Bangram Govt. Primarya School, Manikganj



One student is writing about her favourite teacher

SHAHAJADI KHANOM, *Mogolgaon Govt. Primary School, Sylhet*

Our favourite teacher, Shahajadi Khanom, always takes care of us. She teaches us from her heart. We do not fear to ask her if we don't understand the lesson. She treats her students as her siblings.

She always gives special attention and care for the sick and weak students. She visits door to door to make students regular to school. She helps poor students if they fail to pay the examination fees. If students are ill, she visits their house.

She is sensitive to the disabled students. Anwar, a weak student who felt discomfort and fear and liked to stay alone in the class, gradually recovered himself with her extra care and attention. She always stresses on neatness and cleanliness. We feel pleasure when we see the smiling face of our teacher. She is the backbone of our locality. Her loving and caring attitude makes her our favourite teacher.

She is a very successful administrator. She has devoted herself for the betterment of the school. Her endless efforts increased the enrollment of the school. She made a sound environment of teaching-learning in the school. The school gained scholarships after her joining the school. She made an ideal example of community cooperation and contribution to school. She made a flower garden along with tree plantations in the school. Besides, the grill of school veranda, the play ground, chairs, tables, fans are collected, and the

boundary of the school was build with the help of the local people under her supervision. She convinced and inspired the local elites to donate to the school.

Shahajadi khanom is the most famous teacher in this locality. She has been serving the local people as a teacher for ten years. She has become role-model for the students, school and the local people. Under her direction the school has turned into a "B-grade" school from "C-grade".

Story Tellers

Mrs. Shamsunnesa: Housewife
39 Years

Mrs. Rokeya Begum: Housewife
30 Years


Sabia Jaman Dolly: Housewife
30 Years

Ruhel Ahmed, Farmer, 20 Years

Abdul Jalil: Farmer, 40 Years

Mahbubul Alam: Unemployed
50 Years

Sonaltala, Sylhet Sadar, Sylhet



Sabina Begum: Class Four
Rafsan: Class Four
Rasel Rana: Class Three
Nadia Akter Sumaiya: Class Three
Tamanna Ahmed: Class Three
Mogolgaon Govt. Primary School
Sylhet

Students are writing about their favourite teacher

A.H.M. TOUFIQUL ISLAM, *Basantapur Govt. Primary School, Sunamganj*

A.H.M. Toufiqul Islam is the best teacher for us. There are many words to say about him. He is not only a good teacher but also a famous figure in this locality. He is very punctual and does the right things in the right time. He always comes to school in time and inspires his students to come to school every day. If any student misses school for two or three days he contacts the guardian and takes initiatives to make the student regular in school.

His behavior is very polite and he holds everyone's attention. He treats us equally and takes care of all of us. He is more careful about the comparatively weak students. He offers free of cost coaching for the weaker students in the school after the school time. He has a clear idea and understanding of what he teaches. We enjoy his teaching as he makes the lesson interesting. He makes lesson easy and understandable. He tells stories in the class to make the class enjoyable. If any of us fail to understand the lesson he repeats it until we understand. His teaching goes beyond the text book and includes manner, approach and behavior.

He gives advice to respect the elder people and love the younger ones. He respects the guardians and local people which make him a favorite to all. He communicates with the guardians of the students and always discusses problems with them. Guardians are very pleased with his care and behavior. His names already spread to surrounding villages. We love our teacher very much. He always keeps

himself neat and clean and inspires us to do so. We want to be a good man like him. There is a rapid change in the performance of the school since his joining. Though he is young, he contributes a lot to enrich the result of the school. Many weaker students improve through his extra care and efforts.

Story Tellers

A.K.M Rafiqul Islam: Service holder, 44 Years

Amirul Islam: Carpenter, 45 Years

Abdul Hekim: Businessman
52 Years

Md. Shobuj: Unemployed
46 Years

Nurunnahar: Housewife, 30 Years

Abdus sattar: Businessman
35 Years

Shopna Akter: Housewife
30 Years

Altaf: Farmer, 85 Years
Badaghat, Bishwambarpur
Sunamganj

Ali Hossain: Class Three

Sultana Razia Toma: Class Five

Mahabuba Khanom Tania

Class Five

Mizanur Rahman

Class Four

Anar koli: Class Five

Ruma Akter: Class Four

Sanjida Akhter: Class Five

Basantapur Government
Primary School, Sunamganj



Two Community Women are writing about their favourite teacher

MD. MOBARAK HOSSAIN, *Dhupagol Govt. Primary School, Sylhet*

Md. Mobarak Hossain is the best teacher because he is a good and responsible person. He is a very honest and brave man. He is very punctual as well. He teaches the students like they are his own children. He makes the teaching-learning easy and joyful to the students. He uses different common examples while teaching mathematics and makes it a game to us. He tells stories in the class that we enjoy a lot.

He always puts emphasis on discipline and advises students to keep themselves neat and clean. He is like a family member to us. He gives us advice to try to be an honest and good man. We want to be a good man like him. He has a very good relation with the local people. He respect all guardians and SMC members and contacts them regularly.

He always thinks about the prosperity of the school. After the cyclone in 2000 the roof of the school building was badly damaged. At that time, Mr. Mobarak took some quick essential steps with the help of School Management Committee members and local people to rebuild the roof. His fabulous efforts increased student's enrollment in the school. He is an exemplary teacher.

Story Tellers

Md. Hafizuddin Munshi, 70 Years

Md. Mayna Miah, Farmer, 50 Years

Selina Begum, Housewife, 20 Years

Mujibor Rahman, Businessman, 45 Years

Sylhet Sadar, Sylhet

PAPIA BALA DAS, *Dhupagol Govt. Primary School, Sylhet*

Papia Bala Das is our favorite teacher. She teaches us science. While teaching something difficult, she gives practical examples. This makes the teaching- learning very attractive and clear and we easily understand the subjects. She also tells us stories. She is very sincere in her class. She always turns her cell phone off in the class. She arranges extracurricular activities like drawing, singing and storytelling.

She has regular communication with our guardians and School Management Committee members. She shares our status with our guardians. She makes special efforts to make her students regular. She visits our home when we are sick. She helps to build our character. She gives advice to learn good manners. We want to follow her and be a nice person like her. We love our teacher like our mother and she also loves us as her child.

Story Tellers

Jahangir Alam

Shirina Begum

Halima Akter Moni

Akhlima Begum

Students of Class V

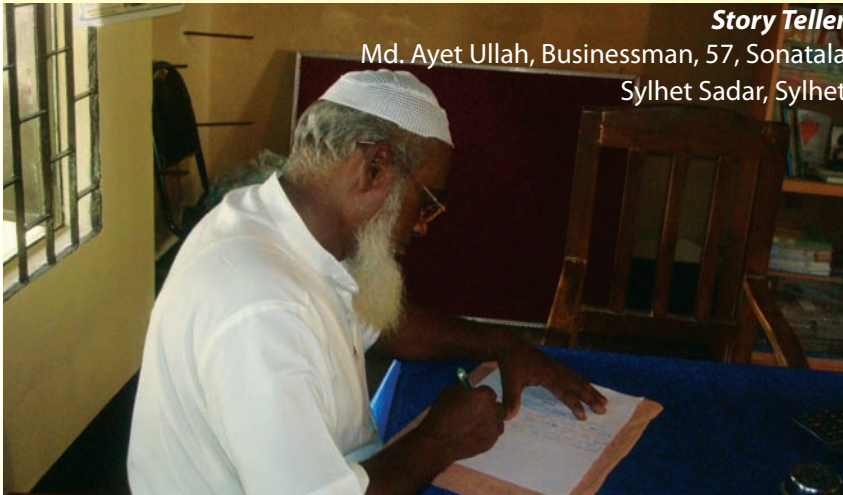
Dhupagol Government Primary School, Sylhet



SHILPI KARR, *Chatal Govt. Primary School, Sylhet*

Shilpi Karr is the best teacher to me. When I was in school, she always discussed about subjects, students and how they can do well in their studies. She discussed about improving school furniture and other facilities in the school. She inspired me to establish the school. She also gave me inspiration to make a boundary and build a "Shaheed Minar".

She was always regular to school. I like these qualities of Shilpi Karr. She always brought back those students who were not regular to school. When it comes to discipline, she takes right decisions. I was happy for the Fresher Welcome Function organised by her. She also arranged a 'farewell' party for the students who pass class 5. Her care for the students and the school makes her the best teacher to me.

**Story Teller**

Md. Ayet Ullah, Businessman, 57, Sonatala
Sylhet Sadar, Sylhet

One Community People is writing about his favourite teacher

SHIMA RANI SHEEL, *Chatal Govt. Primary School, Sylhet*

Shima Rani Sheel had all the qualities which made her a role-model for others. She was very polite and very attentive in teaching. Her magical tone attracted us all. She taught the students her lessons from her soul. These are reasons why she is the best teacher. She was not only a teacher but also a friend to the students. She never hit the students. Her friendly behavior and attractive voice made her one of the dearest persons to the students.

She always respected her colleagues. Outside the school she had a good relationship with all guardians and the local people. Her smiling face made her a beloved person to the local people.

She inspired the students in extra-curricular activities. She was also a good singer and poet. The saddest day of my life is the day she was transferred to another district. I was so shocked that I was crying like my mother left me forever.

Story Teller

Milad Hossain, 22 Years
Sorratala, Sylhet Sdar, Sylhet



SHAPLA BEGUM, *Sarkarpara-Moulvipara Government Primary School, Shirajganj*

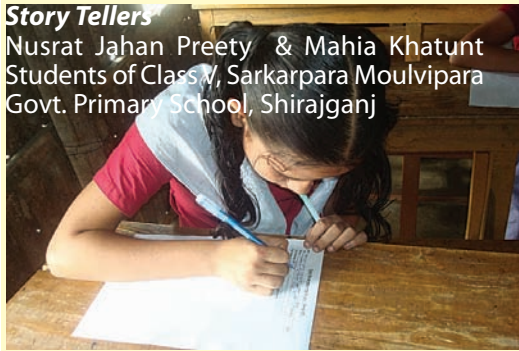
Shapla Begum is the most well-known teacher in our school. If any student feels any kind of problem she deals with it immediately. If any student is not regular to school, she discusses the matter with guardian and School Management Committee members and takes necessary action to bring them back.

She teaches the students not only from the text books but also she teaches them about behavior and manners. Gardening with the students is her hobby. She always thinks about the prosperity of the students and school. She is very aware of discipline in the school and in the case of any rowdiness she handles it by discussing the matter with the headmaster and School Management Committee members.

Her inspiration and morality not only helps the students, but also teaches them to be good human beings. That is why I think she is the best teacher I have ever seen.

Story Tellers

Nusrat Jahan Preety & Mahia Khatunt
Students of Class V, Sarkarpara Moulvipara
Govt. Primary School, Shirajganj



MAMONI AKTER POLY, *Sarishpur Govt. Primary School, Sylhet*

My favorite teacher is Mamoni Akter Poly. She is an honest and qualified teacher. Her hand writing is very beautiful. She always inspires us to be a good student. Often she jokes with us. She inspired us to do extracurricular activities besides studying. Every student is equal to her.

She is a very good human being. She never hurts anybody. If anybody hurts her she takes it lightly and forgives him/her.

When I was ill she visited me at the Hospital. It is the most memorable day of my life. She is my role-model and inspiration. I want to be a good teacher like her. I will remember and honor her forever.

**Story Teller**

Nahid Khan, Class-FIVE
Sarishpur Govt. Primary
School, Sylhet

SHEULY AKHTER, *Bangram Government Primary School, Manikganj*

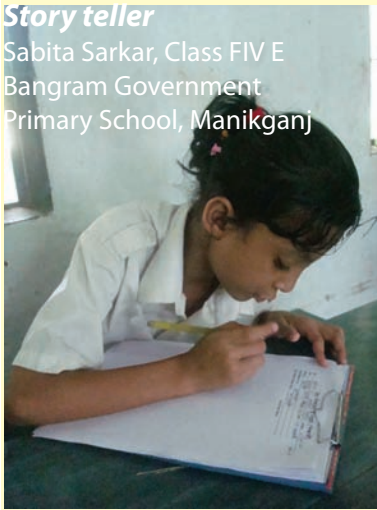
Sheuly Apa teaches us well. She presents lessons or a topic in a very interesting way.

Sheuly Apa always keeps herself and the surroundings clean and inspires us to do so. She teaches Mathematics and Bangla.

She advises us to respect elders and love younger ones. She advises us to respect our parents and always speak the truth. She gives us homework and reviews it in the next class. She makes Bangla lessons interesting through story-telling. She is always happy to help us with a smile, pursuing us to study more and achieve more scores in exams. Her attitude inspires us to prepare lessons regularly.

Story teller

Sabita Sarkar, Class FIV E
Bangram Government
Primary School, Manikganj



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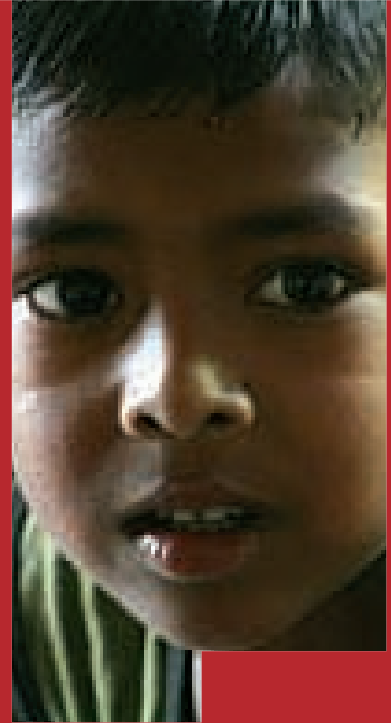
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ANNEX-1- STUDY AREA

Administrative Division	District	School
Sylhet	Sylhet	Dhupagol Government Primary School
Sylhet	Sylhet	Mogolgaon Government Primary School
Sylhet	Sylhet	Lakhura Government Primary School
Sylhet	Sylhet	Laogul Government Primary School
Sylhet	Sylhet	Purbavag Government Primary School
Sylhet	Sylhet	Jolarmukh Abadipara Government Primary School
Sylhet	Sylhet	Sarispur Government Primary School
Sylhet	Sylhet	Chatal Government Primary School
Sylhet	Sunamganaj	Basantapur Government Primary School
Sylhet	Sunamganaj	Dhanpur Government Primary School
Rajshahi	Shirajganj	Kashiahata Government Primary School
Rajshahi	Shirajganj	Sarkarpara-Moulvipara Government Primary School
Rajshahi	Shirajganj	Kandarapara Government Primary School
Rajshahi	Shirajganj	Tatulia Government Primary School
Dhaka	Manikganj	Bangram Government Primary School
Dhaka	Manikganj	Darikandhi Government Primary School
Dhaka	Manikganj	34No Barongail Government Primary School

ANNEX-2-PARTICULARS OF PARTICIPANTS

Method	Participant	Number	Number of Participant	Age
FGD	Community people	17	10-12	25 to 50
	Students	17	12	6 to 12



FIVDB

Friends In Village Development Bangladesh