

All activities of Shishu Neer Bangladesh are centred around the children from extremely poor households who are living in slums or on the streets, to attain the following objectives—

- 1 To provide these children three to four years of quality primary education and pave the way for mainstream education (in formal schools).
- 2 To continue to support the children with all of the preceding facilities after getting them admitted to formal schools. To continue to tutor them and provide trainings in computer and ICT. To incorporate schoolgoing struggling learners from outside of Shishu Neer Bangladesh into this programme.
- 3 To raise their awareness of health and cleanliness. To give them necessary medical care and improve their physical health. To provide them a well nutritional lunch and by creating a good eating habit, enable them to study with a sound body.
- 4 To improve their mental health so that they can grow up with a healthy mind and sharp sense of ethics and moral values. This also helps them to realise their own potential and develop a positive outlook towards life. To coordinate extracurricular activities (such as dance, theatre, music) and child-appropriate entertainment that nurture their mind and body.
- 5 To make them aware of their rights by discussing those in the classroom so that they can take steps to protect themselves from violence. If any violence against them takes place, Shishu Neer Bangladesh will address it and, if needed, get help from professionals and/or pertinent organisations.
- 6 To provide them with direct and effective help in a calamity — difficult diseases, accidents, or fires — and during insufferable times (such as providing warm clothes and blankets during spells of cold wave).
- 7 To plan and realise with the children and their families about receiving technical and higher education so that they can break free from the vicious cycle of poverty, stand on their own feet, and find a better life.



Shishu Neer Bangladesh



Your support means the world to our children

With your help, Shishu Neer Bangladesh can continue to provide life-changing opportunities to children in dire straits.

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Shishu Neer Bangladesh

A non-formal school for underprivileged children

NGO Bureau Registration no. 2444





**Shishu Neer Bangladesh started off as a private initiative in 2007. It has since been working with the under-privileged children of Malibagh and its adjacent areas.**

The idea was to actualise several facilities to provide formal and vocational education to these children by which they would be able to break the vicious cycle of poverty. After undertaking a number of pilot projects, the non-formal school of Shishu Neer Bangladesh began its journey on 3 August 2007 with ten students. By 2008, the school was able to expand its services to 32 students. During this period, Shishu Neer Bangladesh was funded through grants and donations from its members. 'Shishu Neer Germany' was subsequently established as the principal donor organisation to fund the growing number of activities of Shishu Neer Bangladesh. In 2009, the number of students was increased from 32 to 70 through a series of projects approved by the NGO Affairs Bureau.

Either from extremely poor households or without a home, the children at Shishu Neer practice personal hygiene habits: brushing teeth in the morning, laundering clothes and taking a bath at noon; and are provided with a nutritious wholesome lunch. If any of the children becomes ill, a registered physician tends to him/her. The children regularly receive necessary learning instruments such as stationeries. They can also take part in child-appropriate entertainment activities. And every year during Eid, they get new dresses as presents. These services are provided to them for free.

We put a lot of focus to raise awareness among the parents of these children. Regular meetings are held every month with the parents where several topics are discussed: social issues, child rights and child education, positive attitude towards children, importance of cleanliness in habitation and lifestyle, the need for special care for female children, and suchlike matters.

A large number of impoverished and landless families with children have been migrating from rural areas to big cities like Dhaka in search for livelihood, to make their ends meet. What is more, a number of children migrate to Dhaka or other big cities by themselves. Most of these children take shelter in slums, railway stations, footpaths or open fields. Little by little they lose their childhood to the toxicity of a dog-eat-dog life. Extreme poverty loosens or breaks up their family bonds. In this adverse and inhuman atmosphere, all their colourful dreams fade away. Deprived of the rights of education, they are compelled to work in unhealthy environment or get into risky and dangerous professions, some of which often involves crime. This unending struggle with the adults for existence snatches away their tenderness, turning them cold, cynical and weary. Life becomes but a burden without food, shelter, security, and love. They do not get any access to education, or vocational training, for they were born in poor families. It becomes their fate to gyrate in this insuperable cycle of poverty.

One of the primal impediments to the development of our country can be attributed to mass illiteracy and the poverty resulting from that illiteracy. On the other hand, the existing national education facilities are not always adequate to serve the growing population. Informal and non-formal education can play a very significant and effective role to resolve this predicament.



**Shishu Neer Bangladesh is creating scopes for no less than 70 children to advance beyond primary education and receive secondary as well as higher education or vocational training. In other words, at least 70 families will be able to break out of poverty and contribute to the development of the country.**



**Shishu Neer Bangladesh provides specialised vocational training to homeless or slum-dwelling children with hitherto no access to education, essentially presenting them with a possibility to integrate into the mainstream society. Through this initiative, no less than 40 children are achieving vocational literacy.**

Poverty and exploitative practices force many children to quit education and get into work for pay to help provide for their families. To alleviate some of their unbearable and childhood-depriving conditions, Shishu Neer Bangladesh has put together the following training and supporting programmes:

- tailoring
- embroidery
- block-batik
- basic education for working children
- supporting the training programmes with teaching-learning aids and instruments