



SAMHATI

Bangladesh Women's Organization

35 Years of Accomplishments

In Support of Women & Children in Bangladesh

November 9, 2019

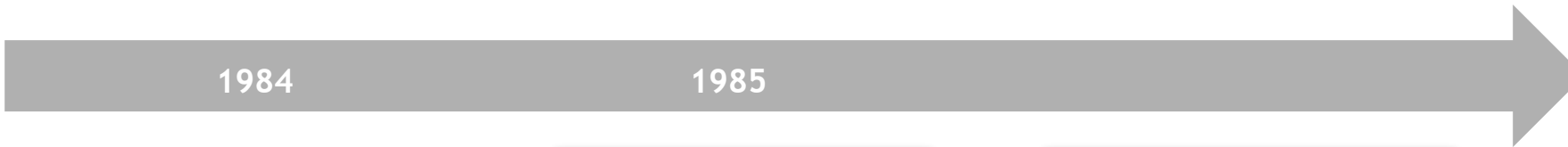
#Samhati35

Samhati: An Overview

- ♦ 35 years in operation, longest running organization of Bangladeshi women in US
- ♦ All-volunteer organization with 90% of your contributions going directly to needy families
- ♦ Thousands of women, children and families have benefited from our programs focused on literacy, education and leadership.



In the Very Beginning...



November

A small group of Bangladeshi women in Washington found Samhati - meaning unity or solidarity

January

First Board of Directors Elected

March

Received 501C(3) tax exempt status; registered as charity with Maryland

PRESIDENT: Noorjahan Bose
VICE PRESIDENT: Selima Faruquee
SECRETARY: Jahanara Ali
ASST SECRETARY: Sajeda Solaiman
TREASURER: Hosne Are Baten
PUBLICITY SECRETARY: Rana Faruk
EXEC MEMBERS: Zainab Jalil, Najma Noor
Mohsena Islam, Ismat Bahar Chowdhury, Nina Ahmed

The Early Days: Fundraising Events

- ◆ Fundraising plan formulated in April 1985 – focused on charity bazaars and other small events



The Early Days: First Annual Benefit

♦ April 1986: First benefit dinner at the Bannockburn Club House in Bethesda, MD with live music and fashion show – raised \$2500

April 12, 1986 Overseas Tribune

Community Affairs

Bangla Funds For The Needy

By Raghbir Goyal

The *Samhati* (solidarity), a non profit Bangladesh Women's Organization, held its first benefit dinner and cultural show on April 5, 1986 at the Bannockburn Club House in Bethesda, MD.

According to Mrs. Noor Jahan Bose, the president of the group, the Samhati was formed about fifteen months ago to help their unfortunate sisters in Bangladesh, who are rejected by society and forced to leave their home and have no one to turn to. Samhati also helps children, some of whom are with these unfortunate women and others who are homeless and parentless. What the group does here is to raise funds and build shelters back home in Bangladesh.

The group has already raised over \$4000. With that it has built a shelter and a medicare unit for these women and children.

More than 150 people attended the function, including the Ambassador



Photo by Raghbir Goyal

Bangladesh Ladies at fund raising dinner at Bannockburn club.

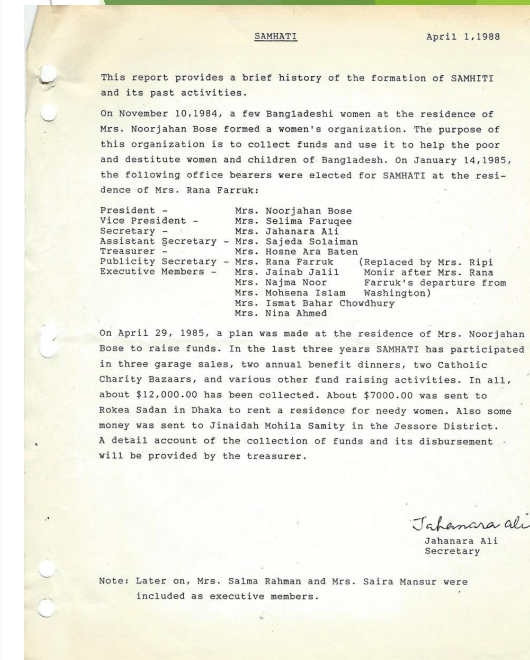
of Bangladesh, A. Obaidullah Khan, and Mrs. Mahjabeen Khan.

More than \$2500 were raised during the gathering.

A fashion show organized by Mrs. Mahjabeen Khan was also part of the program which ended with classical dances, songs and group dancing by Kanta Jamil, Rokeya Mir, Mita Sengupta and Mini Ray.



The Early Days: Fundraising Events



Our Work with Mahila Parishad

- ◆ Large portion of work efforts from 1985-2000 supported Mahila Parishad, the largest women's organization in Bangladesh
- ◆ Samhati was instrumental in creating the first shelter in Dhaka for survivors of violence against women, Rokeya Shadan
- ◆ Started in a rented facility in December 1985
- ◆ Samhati provided a total of \$160,000 to finance Rokeya Shadan over the years and to fund the construction of a new facility in 1997



BANGLADESH

UNITED

RELIEF





2000: Launching Our Regional Programs

2000

2005

2008

KATAKHALI



LAKSMICHAP



NATORE



- Adult Literacy + Women's Empowerment
- Childhood Education
- Healthcare + Nutrition
- Environmental Sustainability

2007 - 2011

Recipient of IMF Civic Program Grants

2007

2011



International Monetary Fund

Samhati received annual grants of \$10-15,000 from the IMF. All monies supported our rural programs.
We “graduated out” in 2011.



Samhati
Bangladesh Women's Organization

সংহতি

2018: Initiated the Jahanara Ali Memorial College Scholarship

YEAR 2

One recipient from each of our three regional program areas

- ♦ **Anwara Khatun finished secondary school last April and started higher secondary school last June**
- ♦ **Anwara's mother died five years ago and her father is taking care of her and her sister**
- ♦ **Anwara's father is a rickshaw puller but he is very determined to educate his daughters**
- ♦ **Anwara is a good student, attends Rani Bhavani Girls College in Natore town, and would like to go to nursing school in Rajshahi after this.**
- ♦ **Her father encourages her very much and has promised that he will not marry her off until she becomes a nurse.**





Beauty Aktar (Laksmichamp),
Nilphamari Government College



Asha Moni (Katakhali),
Patuakhali Mahila College

YEAR 2

- ◆ **Beauty completed HSC first year exam with a 3.5 result**
- ◆ **Staying in college hostel and working hard on her studies**
- ◆ **Asha Moni is also regularly staying in touch and excited about her studies**

Update on Key Initiatives

1

KATAKHALI



2

LAKSMICHAP



3

NATORE



KATAKHALI



- ◆ First holistic eco-empowerment project in this remote coastal area
- ◆ Focus on adult literacy, leadership building
- ◆ Healthcare and family planning
- ◆ Tremendous positive impact within this community

KATAKHALI



Samhati provides adult literacy classes and leadership and skills training to motivated villagers, mostly women

KATAKHALI

Village-wide trash clean up performance art action



KATAKHALI

30 scholarships awarded annually

- 85 high school graduates
- 7 working for the government
- 45 in the private sector



KATAKHALI

Samhati started the first pre-school in the community in 2013, run by local women



KATAKHALI



Samhati's Health Center - staffed by a doctor and assistant - provides medical services to Katakhal and the island's entire population of 27,000

- 2,700 patients were treated
- Our mini-lab allows for onsite diagnostic testing

KATAKHALI

The Medical Center served as a shelter during Cyclone Foni in 2019 and all villagers survived



Addressing Gender-based Violence

- Have helped prevent several child marriages in Katakhal
- Continuing to assist one teen sexual assault survivor
- Facilitating her legal case in a very difficult judicial environment where most perpetrators go free
- The assailant served two years in jail but is now free while his case is pending

LAKSMICHAP



- ◆ Multi-faceted program in Laksmichap Union, a diverse community
- ◆ Education, scholarships, school supplies
- ◆ Free health check ups and eye check up camps
- ◆ Small business training

LAKSMICHAP

Continuing program to distribute bicycles to girls to help them get to school



LAKSMICHAP

Free health check ups are provided for school children and others - 1,740 children and adults participated this year

LAKSMICHAP

We provided sewing, organic vegetable cultivation and other training to 75 women this year.

LAKSMICHAP

জৈব পদ্ধতিতে হাঁস, মুরগী পালন বিষয়ক
প্রশিক্ষণ-২০১৯
স্থান: ২নং কমিউনিটি খান বাগিক, সর্দেনেব বড়শাছা, লক্ষীচাপ, নীলফামারী
বাস্তবায়নে: ইউএসএস, নীলফামারী। সহযোগিতায়: সংহতি

জাতি
০২৭২৫২৬৫

Poultry rearing training in session!

LAKSMICHAP

We are providing a total of 80 high school scholarships in two high schools in Rangpur.



LAKSMICHAP

We also provide basic health and nutrition training, including pre- and post-natal care.



NATORE



- ♦ Strong program making positive change to these communities in Northern Bangladesh
- ♦ Education, literacy, scholarships
- ♦ Computer learning center is extremely popular
- ♦ Sewing, tailoring and other small business training

The image shows a group of young women, likely students, in a computer training environment. They are wearing hijabs and are seated at a wooden desk. In the foreground, a woman in a light green hijab is looking at a computer monitor. Another woman in a black hijab is looking at the same monitor. A third woman in a yellow hijab is visible in the background, also looking at the monitor. The monitor displays a spreadsheet application with a grid of cells. The women are holding papers and a calculator, suggesting they are working on a task. The overall atmosphere is focused and educational.

NATORE

We now have 6 desktop and 3 laptop computers for our 3-month training program

- 4 young women and 2 young men have found jobs
- 4 students were recruited to the police force

NATORE

We have 75 women in the sewing classes using 10 sewing machines. 9 graduates have started tailoring businesses from home and are making a good living.



NATORE

কা বাত্ত বিতরণ-২০১৮

সংহতি নারী উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র

হাতিয়ান্দহ, সিংড়া, নাটোর

রিচালনা : জাহানারা মান

তারিখ : ১০/১০/২০১৮

We provide scholarships to 30 girls and boys annually to ensure that they stay in school.

A group of girls wearing hijabs are standing in a grassy area with their bicycles. The girl in the foreground is wearing a pink and white hijab and a black dress with a gold patterned sleeve. She is smiling and looking towards the right. Next to her is another girl in a red and white hijab and a red patterned dress, who is also smiling and looking down at her bicycle. In the background, there are more girls and a man standing near a concrete wall and some trees. The bicycles are pink and white with black baskets on the handlebars. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a school or community area.

NATORE

We continue to provide bicycles to girls to help them get to school. The bicycle program is a very effective tool to empower girls and make sure they go to school.

A Reminder...

\$75 = *one-year scholarship to keep a child in school*

\$100 = *adult literacy or vocational classes*

\$500 = *our health clinic in Katakhalī village for one month,
providing care for the entire island*

\$1,000 = *funds climate adaptation training for 30 villagers*

2019 Host Committee

Joyeeta Anila, Mustafa & Naheed Chowdhury, Sabrina Choudhury Dona, Silmi Farah, Nabihah Hossain, Grace Kibue

Benefit Chairs: Cima Ali and Shamarukh Billah / Auction Chair: Jhinuk Hasan-Fulton

Platinum Level Donors

Jaseem
Ahmed

Azmat
Ali

Mustafa + Naheed
Chowdhury

Ronald
Creamer

Featured Performers

Performances by Alif Laila
& Mayur Dance Academy
Henna by Sabrina Choudhury Dona

Gold Level Donors

Cima Ali * Dale & Julie Bennett * Anita J Bose * Steve Escobar * William & Linda Goldman * Mastafa Haque * Melanie & Mark Jacobsen * Dr. Rumana Kazmi * Iqbal & Nasima Mansur * Susan & Patrick Nevins * Jennifer Rogers & Rogers Family Foundation * Sidney Schuler * Lonna Shafritz * Jiwantot Tulsi * Satwant Tulsi

Silver Level Donors

Farooq & Naszneed Akbar, Nellie Al-Saigh, Rachel Bayard, Blakes Biles, Shamarukh Billah, Michael Bennett & Monica Jahan Bose, Noorjahan Bose, Kathryn & Michael Caballero, Nancy Chang, Anadalib & Dilruba Chowdhury, Nazir G & Nasreen Dossani Charitable Fund, Roquia Haider, Jahanara Hasan, Jhinuk Hasan-Fulton, Razia Hashmi, Laneyse Hooks, Aftab & Jyotsna Jalil, Sangeeta Mookherji, Shaan Noman, Liz Wilcox & Eric Pan, Nam Atiqur Rahman & Nasima Nusrat, Mary & Tim Stahl



Samhati

Bangladesh Women's Organization

সংহতি

THANK YOU!

