



Samhati

Bangladesh Women's Organization

13107 Laneview Ct., Oak Hill, VA 20171, USA

samhati.org

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Noorjahan Bose

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August 24, 2024

Dear Friends,

Please join us for Samhati's 40th Anniversary Celebration on **Saturday, October 5, 2024, 6:00 to 9:00 pm**, at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. Our projects are continuing despite the recent political turmoil in Bangladesh. Samhati is a non-political organization and our projects need your support now more than ever.

Founded in 1984, Samhati is the longest-running organization of Bangladeshi women in the United States. We design and support small projects - focused on education, health, and environmental sustainability - to improve the lives of impoverished women and families in Bangladesh. Samhati is tax exempt (IRS ID Number 52-1390261). As an all-volunteer organization with negligible overhead, Samhati can direct approximately 95% of your contributions to needy families. This is what your contribution will do:

- *If you donate \$75, it will provide a one-year scholarship to ensure that a middle or high school child stays in school and does not have to work.*
- *A donation of \$100 provides adult literacy or vocational classes for a village woman.*
- *A donation of \$125 provides a bicycle and helmet for a girl to help her get to school.*
- *A donation of \$250 provides three months of college costs for a low-income young woman.*
- *A donation of \$500 funds our health clinic in Katakhal village for one month, providing care for the entire Barobaishdia Island of 27,000 people.*
- *Your gift of \$1000 supports a female college student for a whole year.*

This year we are providing more bicycles to girls and more high school and college scholarships. We are providing training and skills-building in eco-farming, computers, and leadership. Hundreds of women, children, and families have been transformed by Samhati's work. Our focus on literacy has created leadership from within to maintain and grow our projects. We are also supporting a new girls' soccer team. Your support is critical! Please support our work and join us on October 5.

With our best wishes and many thanks,
The Samhati Board and Advisors

UPDATE ON SAMHATI'S WORK IN BANGLADESH

Our work continues during the political transition. We are trying to ensure that our workers and students are safe. We are providing financial and other support to those harmed by violence. Schools have reopened for most of our students, and higher education should be reopening soon.

Katakhali Project in Patuakhali District (plus Modhukhali Project)

Since 2000, Samhati has been working to empower women and families in the remote Katakhali community, a village on an island off the southern coast of Bangladesh. Samhati provides adult literacy classes and leadership and skills training to women in Katakhali Village and neighboring Modhukhali Village. The villagers are particularly vulnerable to climate change, and we are providing climate adaptation and advocacy training. In 2024, scholarships were given to 60 students in Katakhali High School. We hired local women to make uniforms for all the primary school children. We gave bicycles/helmets to 29 girls; increasing the number due to huge demand. The bikes for girls program is an incredible success, increasing female mobility, safety, and empowerment. Our Computer Center (started during the pandemic) is a resource for students and adults. A youth center was inaugurated in 2023 providing an opportunity for making art (painting and drawing), reading books in our small library, and computer access and lessons. We plan to expand the program to hire a singing and music instructor. Samhati's Health Center has continued to provide medical services to the island's entire population of 27,000, which otherwise would have no medical care. We have a new doctor in the clinic, Sajal Chandra Das. Our two preschools in Katakhali and Modhukhali (started in 2022) are thriving with 43 enrolled. Samhati provided new matching clothes to all the children.

Eco-Village Project in Natore

Our project in Hatianda, Natore District is now in its 17th year. Hatiandah is a Union of eight villages in northern Bangladesh, and our work has brought considerable positive change. In 2024, we gave out scholarships to 30 high school students (10 boys, 20 girls) and bikes/helmets to 20 girls, who are happily riding bikes to schools, visiting friends, and going to local markets. We have 30 young people who graduated from the computer course, and currently 12 girls and 2 boys are enrolled. Three adult literacy classes are being held in three villages in Hatiandah Union. We are distributing seeds and giving them lessons on making compost from kitchen waste. We have added a small library on our premises and the young people are coming to read and borrow books. Sewing classes are going well, with 35 students taking classes in two shifts. The students are making garments and selling them at a profit.

Project in Laksmichap Union in Rangpur

Our project in Laksmichap Union, Rangpur, in northern Bangladesh (commenced in 2011) was expanded in 2024. This diverse community includes several religious minority groups. Our computer literacy program remains very popular, and the students are now teaching each other. Last year, we also started providing internet in three high schools so that students would have internet and computer access. We have doubled the number of scholarships - providing 170 high school scholarships in four schools. In 2024, Samhati gave bicycles to 15 girls. We provided sewing classes and machines to 10 young women, who started tailoring businesses. We are planning to fund and start a new soccer club for girls, because there is huge enthusiasm for this. We are continuing our classes in literacy, vegetable cultivation, and poultry rearing. Samhati's Laksmichap project is run by local leadership and a dedicated retired volunteer coordinator.

Jahanara Ali Memorial College Scholarship for Women

The Jahanara Ali college scholarship program, honoring a founding board member, is now in its seventh year. We have again increased the number of recipients. We are providing 15 scholarships in total (last year we gave out nine). From Katakhali, Ashamoni attends Patuakhali Mahila College (Economics, BA Honors final year), Tamanna has started at Patuakhali Government College (Mathematics, BA Honors, first year), and Shoronika and Mithila attend Rangabali College (both Intermediate 2nd year). From Laksmichamp, Beauty Akhtar is at Rajshahi University, and Purnima Roy just enrolled at Chittagong University. Five new students are at Nilphamari Government College: Dalima Rani Roy, Shikha Rani Roy, Ayesha Siddika, Juthi Akter, Joty Roy. From Natore, Mahmouda Khatun is excelling at Udayan Nursing College (final year) in Rajshahi. Two more—Sharmin Akhter and Arjuna—have also enrolled there. Shuborna Yasmin is at her final year at Rani Bhabani Government College. This scholarship program allows needy young women to continue higher education and avoid young marriage.

Samhati's 40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 5, 2024
6:00 to 9:00 pm

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation
6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817 (entrance @Whittier Blvd.)
Free parking in lot. Exit 39 from Beltway to River Road. Go towards
Bethesda/Washington, take left at Whittier Blvd and venue is
immediately on left. Public Transport: Bus T2.

Featuring:
Performance by Mayur Dance Academy

Also featuring: Henna Art/Raffle/Mini Auction

Benefit Chairs: Ismat Ahmed & Monica Jahan Bose

Admission per person: \$75 (early-bird until September 15),
\$100 (regular) and more (\$40 full-time students only). Includes
drinks, dinner, dessert. If you send in your check, we will reserve a
ticket for you and your name will be on the guest list at the door. You may also call to reserve tickets and bring
check or credit card to event. For information or reservations call **703-618-4618** or email info@samhati.org.
PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECKS NOW OR PAY ONLINE at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/samhati/1362571>



DONORS OF \$500 OR MORE WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN OUR PROGRAM AND WEBSITE. YOU MAY ALSO SPONSOR US AND PURCHASE A TABLE WITH YOUR NAME ON IT FOR \$1000.

I would like ___ tickets to the Benefit Dinner. I enclose a check for \$_____. The price per ticket is \$100 of which \$80 may be tax-deductible. (\$75 early-bird ticket before September 20). **Our costs have gone up and additional donations are very much appreciated.**

I enclose \$1000 as Sponsor of a table and will later send a list of my 8 guests. (Name on table and program.)

I am unable to attend the Benefit Dinner but would like to support Samhati's projects in Bangladesh. I enclose a check for: \$100 \$250 \$500 Silver \$1,000 Gold \$5,000 Platinum ____ Other amount (fill in)

Please send me a link to the online event (provide email below!!).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Your email helps us save postage and paper.

Please make your check payable to "Samhati" and mail with this form to
Samhati, 13107 Laneview Ct., Oak Hill, VA 20171, USA .

Or visit our website at samhati.org to reserve tickets/donate.