



# Samhati

Bangladesh Women's Organization

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

[samhati.org](http://samhati.org)

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September 6, 2025

Dear Friends,

Please join us for Samhati's Annual Benefit Dinner on **Saturday, October 18, 2025, 6:00 to 9:00 pm**, at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. Despite political instability in Bangladesh, our work is continuing successfully. We look forward to your support again.

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 again providing 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. We also sponsored the formation of a new girls' soccer team. Please support our work and join us on October 18.

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

## **UPDATE ON SAMHATI'S WORK IN BANGLADESH**

### **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. The bikes for girls program is an incredible success, increasing female mobility, safety, and empowerment.

Our Computer Center (started in 2020) 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 now also have a music instructor who is teaching singing. Samhati's Health Center has continued to provide. Samhati maintains the only oxygen tank in the island, saving many lives every year. 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 18th year. Hatiandah is a Union of eight villages in northern Bangladesh, and our work has brought considerable positive change. In 2025, we gave out scholarships to 33 high school students (10 boys, 23 girls) and bikes/helmets to 20 girls, who are can now ride their bikes to school or other activities. Last year, 46 young people graduated from the computer course, and currently 18 girls and 4 boys are enrolled. Three adult literacy classes are being held in three villages in Hatiandah Union. We are distributing seeds and providing training on making compost from kitchen waste. A small library on our premises is used by participants and increases literacy skills. Sewing classes are going well, with 50 students taking classes in two shifts. The students are making garments and selling them at a profit. We have commenced a new environmental project, which provides home visits to set up composting and proper disposal of plastics and other waste.

### **Project in Laksmichap Union in Rangpur**

Our project in Laksmichap Union, Rangpur, in northern Bangladesh (commenced in 2011) is highly successful. This diverse community includes several religious minority groups. Our computer literacy program remains very popular, and the students are now teaching each other. Since 2024, we are providing internet in three high schools so that students have internet and computer access. We have expanded scholarships - 170 high school scholarships in four schools. In February 2025, Samhati gave bicycles to 15 girls. During a special 45-day session, we provided sewing classes and machines to 11 young women, who started tailoring businesses. We also provided training for rural women on local poultry farming. We are continuing our classes in literacy and vegetable cultivation. We supported a debate competition among high schools. We funded and started a new soccer club for girls. Despite pushback from religious extremists, the girls were thrilled to complete their soccer tournament in May 2025.

### **Jahanara Ali Memorial College Scholarship for Women**

The Jahanara Ali college scholarship program, honoring a founding board member, is now in its eighth year. We are giving out 15 scholarships in total. From Katakhali, Ashamoni (Economics, BA Honors final year) and Tamanna (Science, 3rd year) are attending Patuakhali Mahila College. Shoronika is now in Barisal Nursing College (1st year). Mithila graduated from Rangabali College in science and is applying for admission to B.A. programs. From Laksmichamp, Beauty Akhtar is at Rajshahi University, and Purnima Roy is second year at Chittagong University. Five 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 (graduating in November 2025 in midwifery/nursing) in Rajshahi. A new recipient, Keya Rani is in her final year in the same program. Sharmin Akhter and Arjina are also at Udayan Nursing College. Shuborna Yasmin has graduated from Rani Bhabani Government College. This scholarship program allows needy young women to continue higher education and avoid young marriage.

# Samhati's Annual Benefit Dinner

Saturday, October 18, 2025

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 Shristee Nrittyangon,  
choreographer: Rosemary Mitu Gonsalves

Also featuring: [Henna Art/Raffle/Mini Auction](#)

**Benefit Chairs: Rumana Kazmi & Shaan Noman**

Admission per person: \$75 (**early-bird until September 20**), \$100 (regular) or higher amounts if feasible, and \$40 for 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](mailto:info@samhati.org). PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECKS

NOW OR PAY ONLINE at <https://buytickets.at/samhati/1830510>

**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.**

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☐ 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](http://samhati.org) to reserve tickets/donate.