



Director's Letter

2019-2020

Jessore Sponsor Site, Bangladesh

One more year dedicated to people in need in our Bangladesh community. Many lessons have come from our experiences. With your support, we helped 1649 children in their pursuit of education, health and hygiene, nutrition, and family & community sustainable development. Bangladesh Govt has announced Sustainable Development Goals for the country and sponsorship for children education project is contributing for goal no. 3, and good health and wellbeing are goal no. 4. It is a wonderful contribution for our community that you, through Chalice, are helping us to improve our lives.

Sponsor Site Jessore is in the southwestern and northern part of Bangladesh. The site is committed to bring comprehensive socio-economic development of the underprivileged community towards building a just society where everybody will have mutual respect and full dignity, equality, justice, peace, and solidarity irrespective to all human being. To achieve the goal, we have set our activities accordingly.



Sponsored children with education materials

Education: This is the focus of child Development. Without education it is very difficult to bring positive change among the community. We have 1649 sponsored children and 80 elderly in our site. In which:

- 1% are studying in primary
- 53% are in secondary
- 25% are in higher secondary
- 16% are in graduate & post-graduate studies
- 5% are elderly

Targets

- 100% school enrollment for children
- ensure children attend school regularly
- arrange vocational studies for weaker students

Achievements

- 100% of sponsored children are enrolled
- parents enforce regular school attendance
- 31 are in vocational studies.
- 2 joined the army and navy as officers
- 6 children passed primary; 221 passed junior school; 187 passed secondary, and 92 passed higher secondary

All our children went to school regularly & performed well. Besides studying, they enjoyed extra curriculum activities, like sports, drawing contests, inter-school tournaments, school parades, etc.

For the weaker students, we have two community learning centers at our site which helped the children in their holistic development. Regular tests, checking school attendance, and assessing grades all helped the children improve in their studies.

This year, all sponsored children received admission fees, exam fees, monthly school & tuition fees, text books, school uniform, school bag, and supplies like notebooks, pens, pencil, eraser, scissors, geometric set, calculator, etc. as per their need. These are essential to studying well.



Home visit by community development staff

Health & Hygiene: Our sponsored children, elderly, and their family received training sessions on health and hygienic issues; it helped them keep neat and clean them and lead a healthier life. They each received a mosquito net, detergent powder, beauty soap, toothpaste and brush, hair oil, nail cutters, lotion, etc. By using all these hygiene supplies, they will protect themselves from many diseases. Most of our sponsored elders suffer from various diseases and received medicines and treatment for diseases like high blood pressure, eye problems, diabetics, etc. They can now maintain a peaceful life.

Achievements

- increased awareness of health and hygiene issues
- decreased mosquito-borne diseases
- elders have medical care for their diseases
- increased hygiene in our children
- children provided health care when needed

Nutrition: Nutrition provides the fuel that we all need to lead healthy, balanced lives. Elders face many challenges to meet their nutrition needs; they received nutrition packages which contain rice, flour, cooking oil, lentils, salt, sugar, etc.

Empowerment of women through circle groups: We have 102 Chalice circle groups. All members are a parent or guardian of a sponsored child. All groups are organized and led by women; and are empowered by their group and Chalice's family funding. They are more directly involved with their child's education and participate in family decision making. Being part of a group promotes leadership qualities among its members for their own development.

Achievements

- 102 circle groups have been formed
- circle groups conducted their own meetings, record minutes, prepare budgets, etc.
- leadership has come from among circle members
- collaboration and solidarity have been cultivated among circle families
- knowledge grew among groups on the proper utilization of sponsorship funds
- increase awareness among parents about early marriage, child labor, etc.

Special gift: These gifts are blessings for sponsored families who utilized their money, as follows: purchased a birthday dress, goats, a cow, desk and chair, set of dishes and glasses, vegetables for small business, sewing machine for a tailoring business, etc. By getting a special gift, families are benefit a lot. 396 sponsored children received a special gift this year.

Thank you, dear sponsor

Arun Sardar

Director, Jessore Sponsor Site, Bangladesh

