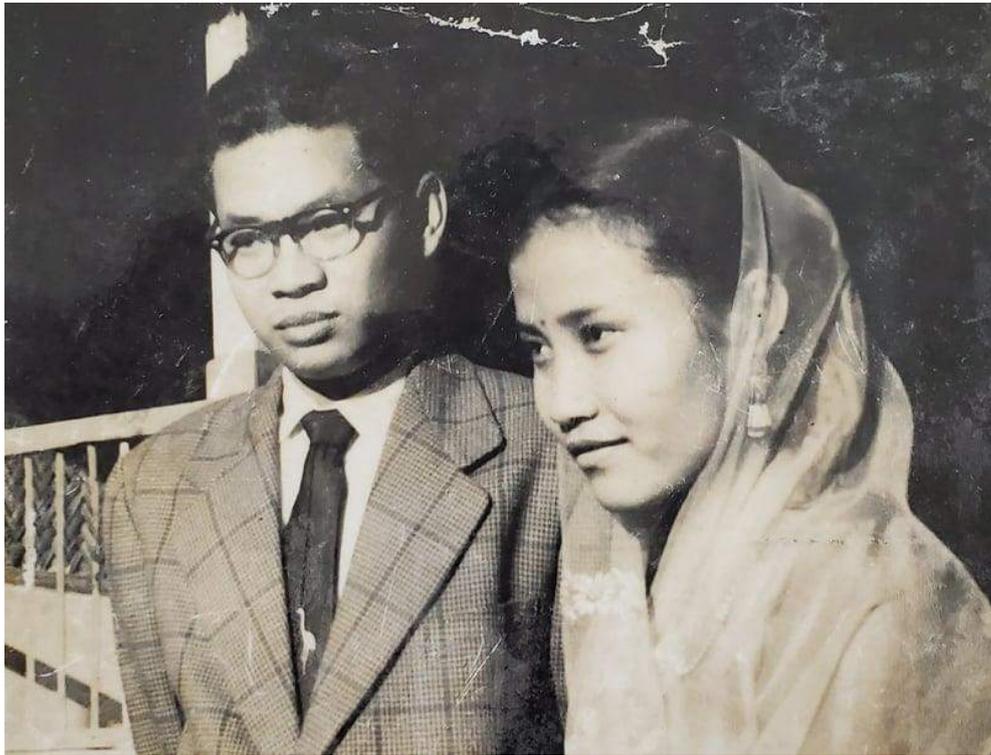


## Moanoghar Dr. Bhagadatta Khisa Memorial Scholarship



### **MOANOGHAR**

Rgd No. Ranga-18(871)/80 (9/12/1980)

NGO Affairs Bureau Reg: 1673 (14/04/2001)

Founder: Shaddharmaditya Ven. Jnanasree Mahathera  
Rangapani, Rangamati, P.O.Box 4500. Bangladesh

### **About the Scholarship**

The Scholarship is set up by Ms. Sabita Khisa, wife of late Dr. Bhagadatta Khisa. The endowment vested to Moanoghar by Ms. Khisa for the scholarship is made from her life-long savings from odd household expenses, and created in dedication to the memory of her husband. It will be called “Moanoghar Dr. Bhagadatta Khisa Memorial Scholarship” and shall be awarded annually to a poor and meritorious student from the CHT indigenous communities for tertiary level studies. The original amount of the endowment will be maintained in an interest bearing account by Moanoghar with a portion of the interest to be spent for the scholarship.

### **Administration of the Scholarship**

The scholarship will be managed under the current ‘Higher Education Loan Programme’ (HELP) of Moanoghar and the overall terms and conditions of the HELP will be applicable to the recipient of the scholarship. As per the conditions, the recipient of the scholarship will be obliged to refund to Moanoghar the amount s/he receive after entering into income generating employment upon completion of his/her studies. The refunded amount will be used for future candidates for their tertiary level studies. The selection of the candidate will be carried out through a competitive process as laid down in Moanoghar’s HELP Policy (available at [www.moanoghar.org](http://www.moanoghar.org)).



### **About Dr. Bhagadatta Khisa and family**

**Dr. Bhagadatta Khisa** is a well-known and widely respected name in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts including the diaspora both in Bangladesh and abroad. He was born on 1 September 1933 in the present day Sabekhyang village (the original village has long been submerged under the water of Kaptai lake) of Naniarchar Upazilla to family that has a long lineage of community leadership, creative writing and composition. His father, Krishna Mohan Khisa is one the first to be exposed to modern education in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts while her mother, Shoroshi Bala Khisa, is equally well-reputed as a strong woman providing life-long guidance to her children and most importantly, to others from the community to accept education.



Dr. Bhagadatta Khisa is the eldest of the 6 siblings of their parents: 5 brothers and 1 sister. His education started in 1942 in Sabekhyang Lower Primary School. In 1947, he took admission in Rangamati Government High School in class 6 but in less than 2 years, in 1949, was expelled with concocted and politically motivated false allegation by the then government of East Pakistan. Luckily for him, he could subsequently get admission in the J. M. Sen Institute in

Chittagong from where he passed his matriculate examination in 1951 with distinction. He passed HSC (college) from Jagannath College in Dhaka in 1953 and afterward obtained Bachelor of Science (BSc.) from Dhaka University in 1955. He continued with studies in medicine and obtained MBBS in 1963 from Dhaka Medical College.

One of the key decisions he took immediately after his medical studies was to return to his native place Rangamati and start practice. This, he did despite offers of studying abroad which was usually a secure pathway of greater professional career success and as well as a comfortable life in those era. Indeed, the lure of Western higher education for a professionally ambitious young person has changed little to this day.



*Dr. Bhagadatta Khisa and Ms. Sabita Khisa with the children, their spouses and grandchildren*

His pursuit of career in medical practice reflects his life-long commitment to serve the people and above all, his commitment to the community at large in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Dr. Khisa is the first medical doctor from the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts and the first to introduce clinical pathology in the entire region.

But above all, Dr. Khisa will be remembered for his creative mind. The *opus* of his creative writings comprise of essays, drama, researched articles and books and will remain as timeless testimony of his ever-curious mind, rooted in the search of new knowledge, and discovery of the traditions, culture and heritage of the CHT's indigenous peoples.

He composed a number of songs in Chakma which remain popular tune till date cutting across generations. He wrote drama which includes translation in Chakma the popular satiric piece of the eminent French writer Molière's "Le Médecin Malgré Lui" ("The doctor/physician in spite of himself"), and through this, depicted the contemporary CHT society with all its

bombast, pomp and also a quest for peace and harmony in society. He was deeply interested in the traditional medicine of the CHT's indigenous minorities, did in-depth research that produced a book and various articles published in journals and little magazines. In many ways, this was a life-long quest for him, to offer to the wider public the vast treasure of the indigenous knowledge of the region's minority indigenous people. It also reflects his quest for discovery of his roots and reconcile it with the advent of modernity. Later in his life, he led in setting up "Jumma Writers' Forum" and held the position of its founding Convenor.

Dr. Khisa had life-long association with Moanoghar since its establishment in 1974. He provided free medical treatment to all the children and residents of Moanoghar and encouraged his elder son, Dr. Parash Khisa, to join as resident medical officer upon the latter's completion of medical studies. He served in Moanoghar's board, the last time being as a member of the Management Committee in late 1990s when Moanoghar was overcoming a particularly critical period.

Ms. Sabita Khisa, endower of the scholarship and spouse of Dr. Khisa, was born in 1941 in Mahalchari, Rangamati, to Pulin Chandra Dewan and Nirupama Dewan. She is the second among 11 siblings: 3 brothers and 8 daughters. She completed Secondary School Certificate (SSC) from Rangamati Government High School and college (HSC) from Holy Cross College in Dhaka. She subsequently obtained her BA degree from Rangunia college.

Dr. Khisa and Ms. Khisa married in 1960. Together, they had 5 children: 2 sons and 3 daughters. All the children are well-established in their professional career and live in Bangladesh and abroad. The eldest son, Dr. Parash Khisa, is a well-known physician in Rangamati and Ms. Khisa live with him.

Dr. Khisa died on 2 December 2002 from cancer. His life and work remind the immortal message of the Lord Buddha "*Bohujono hitayo, bohujono sukhayo*" (*for the welfare of many, for the happiness of many*) and *attadipo biharatho* (*Be the Light for Thyself*), messages of wisdom that also equally embody his entire life. The memorial volume, published in 2012, in honour of his life and work sets the testimony of his genius.

### **About Moanoghar Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)**

Moanoghar launched a Higher Education Programme in mid-1980s to provide students with stipends/scholarships to pursue tertiary level studies in universities or technical institutes. The initiative was a success with an estimated 400 students having completed their education under the scheme. All of these recipients are now professionally established both at home and abroad and currently lead the alumnae association "The Moanogharians".

The initiative was stopped in late 1990s when Moanoghar passed through a critical period with severe financial crisis. It was resumed from 2011, albeit with a revised name: HELP. The programme is run with contributions from the Moanogharians, various well-wishers from the CHT diaspora. But, the most important is a number of scholarships, set up by endowments from generous individuals such this scholarship, that pay for the education of a meritorious student.

The HELP, so far, has proved to be a very effective initiative. Currently, 120 students are studying with HELP's support and more than 80 have completed their studies and are engaged various professional career. All of them are members of the Moanogharians and contribute to HELP and other Moanoghar activities.

Further details on HELP are provided on the Moanoghar HELP Policy.

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