

Moanoghar Girindra Bijoy Dewan and Madhuri Dewan Memorial Scholarship



MOANO GHAR

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

About the Scholarship

The Moanoghar Girindra Bijoy Dewan and Madhuri Dewan Memorial Scholarship is set up by their children: Manimoy Dewan, Hemal Dewan and Ranan Dewan. From the donation they've provided to Moanoghar, the Scholarship shall be awarded annually to 4 (four) poor and meritorious student from the CHT indigenous communities for a period of 5 years at a monthly amount of 2,500 taka each.

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*).

About Girindra Bijoy Dewan, Madhuri Dewan and family

Mr. Girindra Bijoy Dewan was born in 1924 in Jibtali Bara Adam village in Rangamati sadar Upazila. Among the three brothers, he is the eldest. The other brothers are Barendra Kumar Dewan and Kalyan Moy Dewan. All are deceased now. Mr. Dewan went to the local school in the village for initial level studies. He passed class V with a government scholarship and meritorius distinction. However, due to family hardships, the studies could not proceed further and he had to stop school at class VIII. Subsequently, he worked as teacher in Bonjogichara Middle School in Jurachari upazila. Afterward, he took a job in Rangamati in a local printing press as proof reader. In the later part of his life, we pursued a career as "petition writer" in the Rangamati District Court.



Ms. Madhuri Dewan

Notwithstanding his lack of long formal schooling, Mr. Dewan had a sensitive and poetic mind. He published poems, pastiches, essays on the culture and heritage of the CHT peoples in various little mazazines including in Parbatya Bani, the leading literary magazine of his time, published by the Rangamati Tribal Cultural Institute.

Mr. Dewan passed away on 17 January in 1998 in Rangamati.

Ms. Madhuri Dewan was born in 1937 in the same village as her spouse in Rangamati. She is the only sister among 8 siblings. Given prevailing condition of the time and absence of any school in the vicinity of the village, she did not receive formal schooling. However, she learnt reading and writing in Bangla by herself and later, was continuously supported and encouraged by her husband. Indeed, she became very proficient in the language that she used

to study the classics of Bangla literature by eminent authors such as Tagore, Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

Ms. Dewan was deeply committed to social causes and throughout her life, supported poor children, particularly girls, for their studies. In the later part of her life, she used to make traditional waist-loom based textiles and from the sales proceeds, she would pay for education of young girls from poor families.

Ms. Dewan died at the home of her sons Heman Dewan and Ranan Dewan in Rangamati on 1 December 2020.



Madhuri Dewan with families of her 3 (three) sons, spouses and grand children

Mr. and Ms. Dewan had three sons. The eldest Manimoy Dewan is currently on leave prior to retirement (LPR) after serving the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General, Bangladesh more than 3 decades. He has 2 children, a son and a daughter. His son, Dripta Dewan Bappi is a popular singer in the CHTs and the daughter, Uditā Dewan, currently lives abroad.

Hemal Dewan is an officer in the National Board of Revenue, Government of Bangladesh, currently posted in Chittagong. He is married and has 2 daughters. The youngest son, Ranā Dewan, lives in Bangladesh and works in a donor supported project of the Government of Bangladesh.

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.
