

Samakal Madhyamik Biddyapith

MOVING AHEAD

ANNUAL REPORT
2013



Samakal Madhyamik Bidhyapith
(Samakal Secondary School)

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Annual Report 2013

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CONGRATULATORY GREETING

*“I felt a true
education model
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I found that the
school was filled
with a spirit of joy
of learning and
equity among the
children.”*

I together with my wife would congratulate Samakal School on its great progress and achievement. It was early 1986 when I first visited Jatpur and found the school at the very early stage. I was a bit surprised to see its very simple and poor looking building. After looking inside, however, I was impressed with the enthusiastic atmosphere of learning inside the class rooms with many eye-shining children and teachers. I felt a true education model there against so poor rooms. I found that the school was filled with a spirit of joy of learning and equity among the children. Moreover I was impressed to learn that the school was started by the local people’s initiative, not by government or any foreigner. People collected old wood, bamboo and bricks and made the roof and wall by themselves. I felt that something was shining. I remember I sang a song; ‘if we feel happy, let’s clap our hands’, with the children in a class room. Their voices were so loud and lively. I talked about this experience at Sumidagawa branch of Lions Club in Tokyo and received a small donation from them. Since then, the school has been a symbol of light to me in Bangladesh.

I am sure that primary education should be available for every child as a basic human right, and man

making education is a basis of development of the society. In this sense, I am very pleased and proud that the school has achieved a really ideal enterprise, so essential to the real development of the society. And I am very happy that I could be a partner though so tiny, of this great enterprise. I hope that the school should continuously seek and commit to the ideology for this man making work by fighting against the inequity and injustice in the society and financial difficulties as well.

I and my wife pray for Samakal School, pupils and teachers to be blessed and guided always by the Almighty God.



Dr. N. Ishikawa

Director,
The Research Institute of Tuberculosis,
Tokyo, Japan



MESSAGE

“I do really feel happy when I see that ten students have got GPA 5 (A+) and sixty one students have passed out of sixty three students appeared at SSC Examination in 2014. This is a result of consistent progress in last thirty years.”

I do feel fortunate for being Head Master of Samakal Secondary School since its inception to January 2013. In order to ensure education for children who are from nearby villages where there was no School in that time, Samakal School started its formal journey in 1985, getting approval of Secondary and Higher Education Department. Samakal Secondary School is located beside Atharomile-Paikgasa Road at Jatpur village of *Tala Upazila* (sub-district) under Satkhira district. Most of the students of this School are from poor, extreme poor and schedule caste families. After passing a long way of around thirty years, now the School has been established as one of the best and prominent School in this region.

Now if I could try to comprehend the differences that have been possible to make in last thirty years, it is remarkable. When the School was started there was no building, classes were holding in a hut like house and now the School is having almost all facilities of a modern School. It has two buildings including nineteen rooms, library and Science laboratory. It also has a big playground. I do really feel happy when I see that ten students have got GPA 5 (A+) and sixty one students have passed out of sixty three students appeared at SSC Examination in 2014. This is a result of consistent progress in last thirty years.

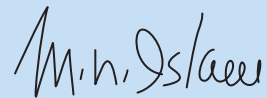
I do acknowledge that we received different sort of support from government department, different NGOs and donor organizations for overall development of the School. It is worth mentioning that besides government support, in particular, we received financial support from community people, Japanese citizen Dr. N. Ishikawa, Sumidagawa Lions Club of Japan, Canada Fund, World Vision and also received time to time guidance and financial support from Uttaran’s director Mr. Shahidul Islam. Since establishment of the School,

“Looking at the School, now my heart is full of with happiness and I do feel to some extent successful in my life in a sense that I was able to be part of establishing an exemplary School through which light of education is thinning out in remote village areas.”

Uttaran had been supporting us continuously for the consistent development of this School. I also must take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and special thanks to the people living surrounding this School, in Jatpur, Aladipur, Patchrokhi, Danganlota, and Tetulia villages for their heartfelt consistent support in establishing this School. It is also obvious to mention about my colleagues' efforts, caring, sincerity, dedication and honesty towards establishing this School. I am really grateful to them for their heartfelt support and cooperation at every stage.

Looking at the School, now my heart is full of with happiness and I do feel to some extent successful in my life in a sense that I was able to be part of establishing an exemplary School through which light of education is thinning out in remote village areas.

I must congratulate the present team for School management for taking this initiative of publishing Annual Report first time. I also pray for Samakal School for its uninterrupted success in future and to be able to serve the poor people of this region more and more by ensuring quality education.



Md. Nazrul Islam
Head Master (1985-2013)



MESSAGE

Getting approval of Secondary and Higher Education Department, Samakal Secondary School started its formal journey in 1985 with Class-I to Class VIII. Meanwhile, this school has been able to be known as one of the best and prominent school at secondary level within the *Tala* sub-district. Students of this school usually are from nearby villages and most of them are from poor , extreme poor and schedule caste families. Among these students, dropped out rate is very high and it has also been observed that quality of education is also very poor.

A special programme has been taken since 2013 to overcome the floundering status of students. The program includes special stipend scheme for students who are from poorest and schedule caste families, creation of a special fund to support extreme poor students, organize mothers' gathering, special teaching arrangements for underachieving children, arrange tutorial classes, taking weekly and monthly examinations, parents gathering, formation of School Development Committee and Former Students' Council and set up a digital library. These series of initiatives aim to improve learning achievements (quality of education) for the poorest, underperforming and out of school children; to increase the enrolment and retention rate and to engage community people in School development planning and interventions. We do believe that due to collective engagement and sincerity of students, teachers, parents and School Management Committee; the improvements in quality of education and increase in rate of enrolment have become possible. Since 2014, the programs are being implemented with a new dimension. Our aim to make this School as a model for others and this idea has been well presented in Annual Report for 2013.

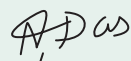
We do acknowledge that we have received different sort of support from government department,

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Year-2014 as one of
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for the School.”*

different NGOs and donor organizations for overall development of the School and to implement these programs. It is obvious to mention that besides government support, in particular, we have received financial support from community people and alongside from Japanese citizen Dr. N. Ishikawa, Sumidagawa Lions Club of Japan, Canada Fund, World Vision and also received time to time guidance and financial support from Uttaran’s director Mr. Shahidul Islam. Since establishment of the School, Uttaran has been supporting us continuously for the consistent development of this School.

I must take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and special thanks to the people living surrounding this School, in Jatpur, Aladipur, Patchrokhi, Danganlota, and Tetulia villages for their heartfelt consistent support in establishing this School. I would also like to place my earnest thanks to Mr Nazrul Islam who served as Head Master for this School from its inception to January 2013 and contributed a lot with his sincerity, dedication and honesty. Due to his unconditional leadership and hardwork for a long, the School has now become accepted by all as one of the best and prominent School in this region. We all related to this School are really grateful to him.

The teachers and School Management Committee have been working hard restively to objectively achieve its goal. We do hope that with collective efforts and cooperation, we shall be able to establish the **Year-2014** as one of the prosperous year for the School.



Nimay Chandra Das
Head Master (In-charge)
Samakal Secondary School

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
SDC	School Development Committee
SMC	School Management Committee
PTA	Parents Teachers Association
Uttaran	A National NGO

PHOTO DESCRIPTION

- 01 Dr. N. Ishikawa and his wife
- 02 Primary initiative to establish 'Samakal Madhyamik Biddyapith'
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- 31 Shabnur Khatun with her mother
- 32 Jannatul Ferdous with her step mother



1. Establishment of the School

A School named as “Samakal Madhyamik Biddyapith” was established at Jatpur village of *Tala* sub-district under Satkhira district at the time of mid 80s. With earnest efforts, strategic guidance and cordial support of Uttaran’s director Mr. Shahidul Islam and with the overall cooperation and care of people living in the village, late Mr. Shahajuddin, an education paramour lived in Jatpur village, established this School. Since its establishment to January 2013, Mr. Nazrul Islam served as Head Master for this School. It started its journey with class I to class VIII and was known as “Primary & Lower Secondary School”. It got formal approval in 1985 from Secondary and Higher Education Department of Khulna region. Subsequently, in 1990, it got approval to course class IX and class X from Jessore Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board. Now the School is aged of 32 years.

2. Objectives of establishment of the School

Those who were involved in establishing the School in a different way so that the students can be up to the mark in quality to adapt with globalized world and can be grown up as qualified citizen of the country. The School was established with the following specific objectives:

- To improve the learning achievements (quality of education) of students so that they can be fit for the contemporary world and lead their lives smoothly.
- To inspire students coming from schedule castses and marginalized groups of people and to ensure different facilities for them to make them able to continue their education.





- To provide proactive support and different facilities for students from extreme poor families for ensuring quality education for them.
- To take extra-care for female students so that they could be able to overcoming barriers of access to education.
- To reduce the social inequality and injustice using School centric social programs and interventions.

3. Background of establishment of the School

The traditional education system in Bangladesh is not properly being able to taking care of maintaining quality of education, ensuring inclusion of up to date science and technology into course curriculum and arranging special support for those who are underperforming children or disadvantaged groups of children. Despite having the mandate in our constitution about to ensure education for all and arrange special support for disadvantage groups of children, in reality, it is not properly being followed. So, the schedule castes and extreme poor people are staying out of

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mainstreaming discourse of education and development which are being facilitated by mainstreaming society and state itself. This ultimately causes harm to person, society and state itself.

Samakal Secondary School is located beside Atharomile-Paikgasa Road at Jatpur village of Tala Upazila (sub-district) under

Satkhira district. A large number of schedule castes and extreme poor people live in this area and these people are the bottom most segment in the society. Many groups among these Schedule castes and

extreme poor people are out of the mainstreaming society. They are the underprivileged groups in different aspects including financial and social aspects and deprived of getting their due worth. A survey conducted by Uttaran found that these groups covered 28% of total population of this area.

It is found that the literacy rate is very low among poor , extreme poor and the schedule castes groups of people due to lack of awareness and financial capacity. According to our constitution, education is one of the fundamental rights and these segments of population are entitled to avail special package of additional support. The society itself also has the duty to help them to improve their fate and status. On contrary, these poor families are deprived of

getting this special support from state as well as from the society. It is already recognized by all that without being successful in engaging women, the 50% of total population into mainstreaming development process, sustainable and expected development, and social stability will never be possible.

It is observed from different survey conducted by government department, UNICEF and different NGOs that the literacy rate is lower among these groups than mainstreaming society and the dropped out rate is also very high among these groups. Without ensuring quality education for these large number of population, the comprehensive development, social cohesion and peaceful society can not be guaranteed. Raising awareness, facilitating peoples' engagement with School, providing modern-day education and arranging special arrangements for these groups, ensuring responsiveness of public departments and creating responsible society, it could onle be possible to ensure access to education and quality of education for all these groups of people.

At present, there is significant progress in Bangladesh in ensuring enrolment of children (above 5 years old) to School. According to government statistics, the enrolment to primary School is about 100% . But the retention rate is comparatively low and many of these students dropped out before completing primary level of education due to many reasons including social barriers and income poverty of parents. On contrary, it is evident that it is possible to overcome this situation by taking extra-care of these students, extending community peoples' hands towards them as well as towards school development process. The dropped out rate is more higher at secondary level. Samakal Secondary School is not an exception on this. Considering this worse dropped out condition, in 2013, a series of initiatives have been taken in Samakal School. All members of School Management Committee believe that this

Samakal School will be established as one of the quality ensuring educational institute by next three-four years and all children will get equal opportunities to be exposed using their potentials. All activities in 2013 can be divided into five broad categories which are as follows:

- Academic deeds
- Special programs to improve learning achievements (quality of education) and to reduce dropped out rate.
- Extra--curriculum activities
- Institute and institutional activities and
- Other activities



4. Academic deeds

The goal and objectives of primary and secondary education in Bangladesh has been fixed by Ministry of Education and its Education Board and Text Board. Samakal School used to follow the syllabus and textbooks published by Text Board and the School timing set by the Board. The details about academic activities in 2013 are unfolded below:

4.1 Number of students and their attendance

At present, a total of 521 students are studying in this School. Out of this, 327 are male and 194 are female students. In 2013, 233 days were class days . School management authority used to do regular monitoring, take appropriate measures and provide essential support to ensure that all students come to School regularly and be present in the classes. The students' number and attendance rate are given below:



Table-1: Students' number and attendance rate

Level of Education	Total number of students	Attendance rate (%)	Remarks
Primary (Class: I- V)	117	84.66	The rate of attendance is less at primary level than the secondary level.
Secondary (Class: VI-X)	404	86.40	

The attendance rate at primary and secondary level in this School is higher than the national average rate of attendance at both levels. We do believe that this rate will be increased by next three-four years and the results in different public examinations are getting improved and will be improved more.

4.2 Examinations of the School

The achievements of students in Bangladesh usually being determined by the results of the different examinations. Students of Samakal School are to face two types of examinations through which their competency and achievements are being determined.





Firstly, School management used to arrange Tutorial, Half-yearly and Annual examinations on a regular basis. Half-yearly and Annual examinations are being held according to the instructions providing by Education Board. Through these series of examinations, students are now being accomplished and capable of answering to the questions appropriately. Their writing skills are also getting improved day by day.

Secondly, from government side, Education Board used to arrange different public examinations including Primary School Certificate (P S C) examination, Junior School Certificate (J S C) examination and Secondary School Certificate (S S C) examination. Based on the results of these public examinations, students get certificate from Education Board.

4.2.1 School organized examinations in 2013

4.2.1 (a) Tutorial examination

To ensure the continuation of the study of students in this School, to be corrected and be prepared in appearing at half-yearly, annual and public examinations; weekly and monthly basis examinations are being taken which contributing to make students attentive in

study. Besides, it also helps students in getting prepared, being able to answering questions and to be confident in appearing at examinations. The results of the tutorial examinations are sent to parents for their review about progress of their children and the issues are being discussed while organizing parents' gathering. Before 2013, there was no provision of tutorial examinations in this School and it has been started since 2013. About 90% students of Class V, VIII, IX and X usually take part in the tutorial examinations.

4.2.1 (b) Half-yearly examination

According to the rules and instructions of Ministry of Education and Education Board, in the month of July in every year, Half-yearly examination is being taken for students of all classes. In 2013, the results of 448 students out 521 students were satisfactory though there were scope of improvements. It means, the results of the rest 73 students were not satisfactory. They didn't able to get pass marks in the examination. Considering these gaps, School management authority takes necessary steps on subject basis to improve quality of education.

4.2.1 (c) Annual examination

All activities of the School are being followed according to English Calendar Year. At the end of the month of December in every year, the result of annual examination is published. While publishing result, a gathering of SMC, SDC, PTA, Former Students Council



members, well-known and respected persons in those areas is organized and in presence of all of them the result is published. In 2013, 521 students took part in annual examination and 502 students out of 521 have passed in the examination which was better result than was in the Half-yearly examination. The pass rate was 96.35%

which is better than the national average pass rate in annual examination in different School. In the Half yearly examination, out of 521 students 448 students passed the examination where as 502 students passed in the annual examination. This improvement has been possible due to taking series of interventions like arranging special teaching for underperforming students, giving emphasis on tutorial class, holding monthly examination, organizing parents gathering and sharing information about their childrens' status and monitoring progress in a coordinated way. And thus ultimately, the progress in results happened and the pass rate increased from 85.99% to 96.35%.



5. Results of public examinations

In addition to the examinations organized by School itself, from government side Ministry of Education and Education Board used to arrange different public examinations including Primary School Certificate (P S C) examination at the end of class V, Junior School Certificate (J S C) examination at the end of class VIII and Secondary School Certificate (S S C) examination at the end of class X. Certificate

examinations at class V and class VIII have recently been introduced. Students of Samakal School have been appearing at the SSC examination since 1988 and PSC and JSC since 2010.

5.1 Result of Secondary School Certificate (S S C) examination

Students of Samakal School appeared at SSC examination first in 1988 and all students passed in the examination and since then every year students of this School are appearing at the SSC public examination. The result in SSC examination of this School is comparatively better than other Schools surrounding this School and the pass rate is higher than the average pass rate under the Education Board. Since its establishment to till date, 798 students have passed the SSC examination and already many of them are in different services including government service and service in NGOs. The last three-years results of Samakal School in SSC examination are tabulated below:

Table-2: Results of Samakal School in SSC in 2012, 2013 and in 2014

Year	# of students appeared at SSC xamination	Results					Pass rate (%)
		# of students passed in SSC examination	Grades				
			A+	A	A-	B	
2012	42	40	1	16	22	1	95.23
2013	41	41	----	18	19	4	100
2014	63	61	10	30	13	8	96.82

Though the results in SSC examination of students of Samakal School is comparatively better than surrounding other Schools, but it is not as better as the results of 1st class level Schools in urban areas. The School management has been working hard and restively to improve its quality and does hope that this School will be as like as the 1st class School in urban areas by next three-four years.

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5.2 Result of Junior School Certificate (JSC) examination

Students of Samakal School started appearing at JSC examination first in 2010 since Education Board started arranging JSC examination in the same year. In the year 2010, likewise other Schools under *Tala* upazila (sub-district), it did very good results. The last two-year results of Samakal School in JSC examination are tabulated below:

Table-3: Results of Samakal School in JSC in 2012 and in 2013

Year	# of students appeared at JSC examination	Results				Pass rate (%)	
		# of students passed in JSC examination	Grades				
			A+	A	A-		B
2012	77	69		28	37	4	89.61
2013	63	62	6	25	19	12	98.41

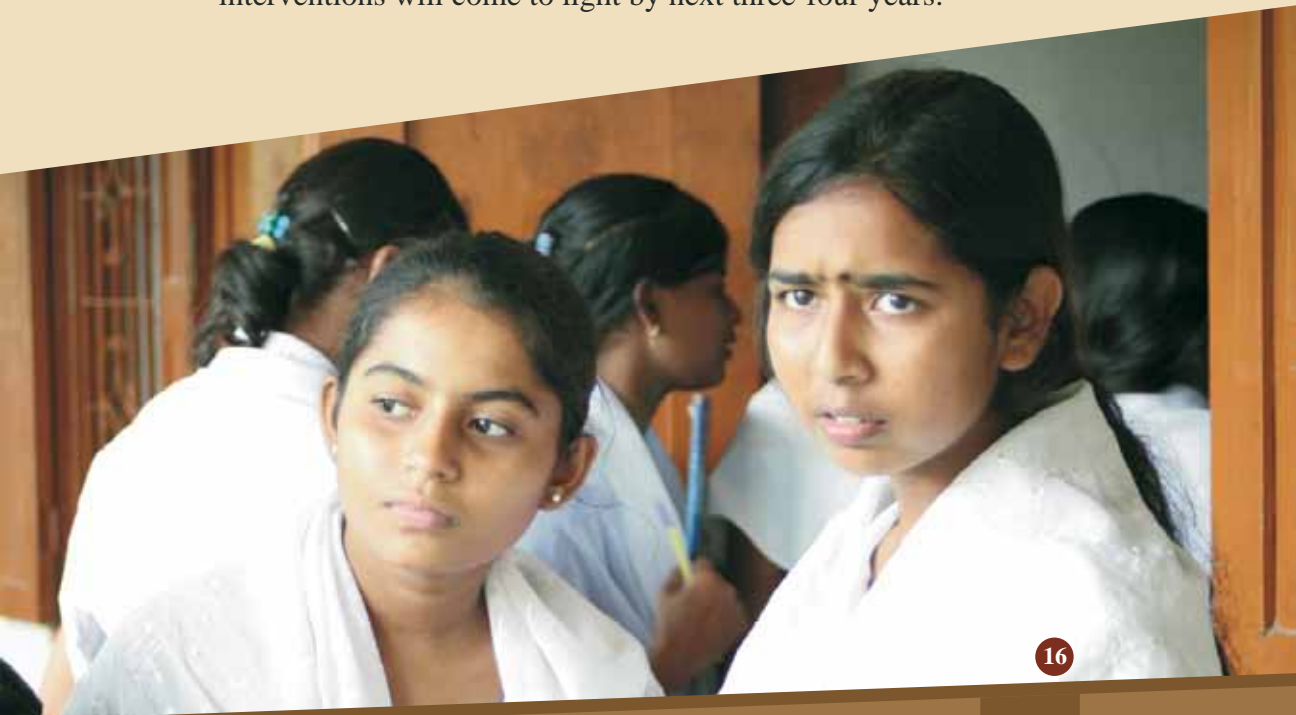


Since 2014, to further improve the quality of education of this School, special teaching for underperforming students, tutorial class and weekly and monthly examinations are being taken, and parents gathering are being organized.

5.3 Result of Primary School Certificate (PSC) examination

Students of Samakal School started appearing at PSC examination first in 2010 since Education Board started arranging PSC examination in the same year. 100% students passed in consecutive four years ie in 2010, 2011, 2012 and in 2013. The result of PSC examination is also better in comparison to surroundings other Schools. A series of extra-caring initiatives like special teaching for underperforming students, tutorial class, weekly and monthly examinations are being taken, and parents gathering are being organized with a view to further improving the quality of education of this School.

Considering the results of this School in different public examinations, at local level, it has already been recognized as one of the best Schools. But in comparison to different secondary Schools at national level, still there is long way to improve its quality. The main reason behind it is that most of the students of this School are from poor, extreme poor and schedule castes families in particular from Dalit class. And the financing is required for now-a-days to maintain quality of education is not possible to provide by these poor groups of people. Besides, most of the good quality Schools are centralized in capital city or in other big cities where students are being guided and financed by both from government and parents. Secondary level Schools in rural areas are to some extent neglected by government agencies. Without providing only a portion of the salary of teachers, there is no any other support from government level. Considering the overall situation like above, Samakal School management authority has taken a series of interventions to take forward the School to reach to the level of quality of recognized good Schools at national level and hope that the result of all these interventions will come to light by next three-four years.



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6. Science Laboratory

Many people think that without keeping science, education is not fulfilled. At present, studying science is related to studying hard, arranging eligible teachers, private coaching, and lot of financing and that is why studying science is not being possible for students who are from poor and extreme poor families. For this reason, in rural schools, number of students studying in science group are decreasing day by day, in comparison to Schools in urban areas and there is no initiative to defend this situation. Considering this, Samakal School management authority has set up a lab to attract students to study science and already recruited three teachers for teaching science, arranged necessary equipments for laboratory and used to arrange regular practical class. For this initiative, the

number of students studying science are increasing day by day. At present, there are 15 students in class IX and 12 students in class X are studying in science group. Due to taking practical class on a regular basis, the fear of studying science has been reduced and students' class attendance has been increased. But to attract students for studying science, an extra room and some other necessary equipments are needed.

7. Special program to improve learning achievements (quality of education) and to reduce dropped out rate

At present, in the areas surrounding this Samakal School, about hundred percent students get enrolled into School but most of them usually dropped out before completing student life. Due to financial and social causes, they become compelled to be dropped out. Besides regular attendance rate is also very low. As a result, most of the students do not be able to achieve quality level of education and thus the objectives of academic education are not being achieved. It means, the students are not reaching at an equal stage of learning and they are being compelled to be dropped out before completing full circle of education life. With this situation, Samakal School has initiated a bundle of programs since 2013 which are elaborated below:

7.1 Survey for identifying students' family

With the objectives of identifying the root causes of dropping out and to improve the quality of education, Samakal School management authority conducted a comprehensive survey. Getting findings of the survey, it is found that about 74.86% students came from poor families, out of which 23% are from schedule caste (*Dalit* class) families. These groups of students become compelled to be dropped due to their families' income poverty and other social

barriers. Due to poverty, regular attendance in to the class is not being possible for those students. Besides, no additional support like attending private coaching is possible to provide for those students who are underperforming in different subjects. For these, day by day they become compelled to be dropped out without completing their full circle of education.

7.2 Formation of School Development Committee

After presenting the survey findings before the parents, SMC and local people; SMC proposed to engage community people in order to improve quality of education and to reduce dropped out rate. SMC discussed a lot about how to engage community people in ensuring quality of education and decided to form a School Development Committee (SDC). At last ensuring mass participation in a gathering, SMC facilitated the process of forming a SDC and finally the SDC has been formed by community people themselves. Taking members from fifteen villages surrounding this School and ensuring at least one member from each village, twenty five members SDC has been formed. Many of the Union Ward members including women Ward members –the local elected representatives at union level are the members of this committee. Out of twenty five members in SDC, one-third is female members. SDC used to sit together once in every three months and organize an annual meetings for holistic planning for School development and reviewing the progress against the plan. Till the date, three meetings have been held. Mr, Md Abdul High Morol of Shumojdipur village, who is also a former Principal Officer of state owned largest bank-Sonali Bank, is now the president of the SDC while Mr. S. M. Kamal Uddin who is former headmaster of a primary School is secretary of the SDC. An Assistant Teacher of the School, Mr. Md Alamgir Hossain is serving as the treasurer of the School Development Committee.

The main tasks of this committee is to collect financial support from the community, establish and maintain communication with parents, ensure support to poor students' families and take part in School development planning and implementation. SDC has successfully collect eighty six thousand taka from community people in last six months. With these collected money they have already distributed cloths and necessary things except books to forty five poor students, since at primary level books are free and providing by government.

7.3 Special stipend scheme

The number of extreme poor people, landless people, disdvantged groups and destutues is much higher in this area than any other area. Among those, the rate of illiteracy and dropped out is also high. To make them adaptable with mainstreaming society and modern days, the extendable support is required. In this regards, with the assistance of *Uttaran*, Samakal School started a special stipend scheme in 2013. In 2013, sixty five students received stipend and other supports while in 2014, a total of one hundred and seventy seven students will receive financial support as stipend. Under this special scheme, each student is getting two-hundred taka per month. The students are spending this amount for buying education materails, School dress and for tution fees. A total of two lacs and twenty four thousand taka has been given to students in 2013; while it is almost doubled ie four lacs and fourty thousand taka will be given in 2014.

The social and economic conditions of the students who are eligible for getting this stipend under the special stipend scheme are described below:

- People who belong to lower economic class families and schedule castes people like *Rishi, Kaora, Dome, Behara, Nikaree, Shikaree, Bhagobane* and fisherfolk.
- Women headed destitute families in particular widow headed and divorced women headed families
- Families who totally based on agriculture and having land at best fifty decimal.
- Rickshaw and Van puller families
- Small businessmen families who are only dependent on small business
- If the family lead person or more than one members of families are disabled
- Families those two or more children are students can get stipend in special consideration
- Freedom fighter families
- Families who are members of primary groups of *Uttaran*

In order to get the stipend support the followings are essential criteria that need to follow:

- At least eighty five days need to be present in the class
- Need to appear at all examinations of the School and have to pass in all examinations
- Demonstrate equal respect to all students and willing to contribute in reducing gender inequality
- Proactive in eliminating all sorts of discrimination
- Believes in ideology of independence war and hold the stick of independence
- Believes and demonstrate equal respect to all who are from different religions.
- Active participator in different social events, national and international day observations
- Active participator in cultural programs, games and education related programs

- Loyal to the rules and regulations of the School
- Parents are agreed to sign a deed ensuring that their children will continue education, will not be dropped out and they are willing to take responsibility for this.

7.4 Additional time teaching

Samakal School management has arranged extra-time teaching options for underperforming students. Analyzing the results of different examinations, teachers used to identify the underperforming students and arrange extra-time teaching for those. It is contributing a lot in reducing dropped out and improving quality of education. In 2013, a total of sixty five students were brought under this scheme of additional time teaching support on eight different subjects, while in 2014 a total of one hundred and seventy seven students are brought under this scheme based on the analysis made in December 2013. The School management authority bears all the costs associated with ensuring this support. This program has been started in April 2013. School management does hope that through this intervention, underperforming students will be able to overcome their gaps in understanding and the School as a whole will be reaching towards achieving its goal and objectives of ensuring quality education.

7.5 Allocate cloths and warm cloths

Though School management has distributed cloths to forty five poor students and warm cloths in winter season to two hundred and seventy students, but the demand is higher than the support provided since most of the students are from extreme poor and schedule casts families. In order to meet the real need of other students, School management focused on local resources mobilization and was successful in 2013 to manage cloths and warm cloths for additional

three hundred and fifteen students. This support was provided by *Uttaran*. As a results, in 2013, most of the students got realease from winter seasonal diseases and severe cold wave.

7.6 Parents' gathering

School management believes that parents of students have a vital role in ensuring quality of education and reducing dropped out rate. Without active engagement and proper monitoring by parents, it is next to impossible to reach to the target goal of completing quality education. On contrary, since most of the parents are also illiterate and extreme poor and due to their engagement in ensuring livelihoods through hardship, they are not capable enough to properly monitoring the students' progress. With a view to overcoming this situation, School management started arranging parents' gathering since 2013. The objectives of this gathering are as follows:



- To reduce the dropped out rate.
- To ensure that students are coming School timely and regularly
- To make students more attentive to education
- To ensure that parents are in touch with their students and reviewing progress.
- To engage the parents in other activities of the School

In 2013, four parents gathering events have been held. A series of issues to ensure attendance in extra-time coaching, to ensure that students are taking part in all tutorial examinations and doing home tasks on time, making them aware about negative consequences of drug addiction etc. have been discussed in parents gatherings. About sixty eight percent parents attended the events regularly. Hope that it will increase in future.

8. Extra-curriculum activities

Inorder to ensure proper learning and grown up of students, the importance of extra-curriculum activities is now a days recognized by all actors related to childhood development and education. Believing in that spirit, School management used to facilitate few extra-curriculum activities which are illustrated below:





8.1 National and international day observation

In order to ensure proper learning and grown up of students and to make them informed about national history, culture , development and international issues, School management used to organize different day observation event by ensuring active participation of students, parents, SMC, SDC, Former Stdents' Council members and community people. The following mentoned days usually being observed in the School:

- International Mother Language Day
- National Independence Day
- National Victory Day
- Birth Day of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Michael Madhusudan Dutta and father of our nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- International Women Day

- International Labour Day
- World Environment Day
- Eid-E-Milad un Nabi (Birth and Death day of Prophet Mohammed)
- Hindu Religious Day (Sharashati festival)

8.2 Library activities

A library is the part and parcel of an educational institute. Without having a library, educational institute can not be contented.



Samakal School has a dedicated library where computers, television, and newspapers are kept. Computer is to provide training on MS Word and using internet to let them know about how to explore information and relevant knowledge. Using television, students used to watch education related programs. Daily newspapers, Weekly magazines, Monthly newspapers are also there. In every month School management used to facilitate study circle and discussion on different rights and development issues. BRAC and Uttaran are providing support for library. In the library,

there are 1,035 books, four computers and one television. More books are needed for the library for which School management has already taken initiatives.

8.3 Educational tour, games and cultural programs

In the history of Independence war of Bangladesh, Mujibnagar under Meherpur district is one of the historical places where the first temporary government of Bangladesh was formed. School management organized annual education tour to that place in 2013. There is an open field in the School for playing games. Students used to play football, cricket over there. This field is also used for different events. There are “Scouts Groups” and “Girls Guide Groups” under this School. For playing games, the School has necessary things like football, volleyball, cricket set, carrom board, ludo, and chess set. Annual event for games and annual cultural program have been organized for two days in 2013. Students took part in different cultural events spontaneously. Representatives from local administration, education department, SMC, parents, former students and local community were attended the event. Prize has also been given to winner in different competitions. We do think that through these games and cultural events, peoples’ engagement with the School has been more active and effective.

9. Institute and institutional activities

To reach to a target goal, an institution and its institutional functions have to be strengthened. Without institutionalizing, no institution can reach to its target goal. Samakal School management is very much aware about this and in this regards, several steps have been taken for institutionalizing the institution.

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9.1 Infrastructure of Samakal Secondary School

The Samakal School is established on two acres and forty seven decimal land. It has a two-storied building including 16 rooms. With the financial support of Sumidgawa Lions Club of Japan, SMC has constructed ground floor of the School in 1992. In 2001, again, getting support from Canada Fund and friends of Bangladesh for health & Development (Through Dr. N. Ishikawa), SMC constructed the 1st floor of the School. Further, with the aid of government of Bangladesh, a three-rooms administrative building has been constructed in 2011. There are thirteen classrooms out of total nineteen rooms but these are not sufficient enough to run the School smoothly. Already at secondary level, new section has been started due to increase number of students. So, the School is now having scarcity of class rooms. To meet this scarcity of class rooms, at least three more class rooms are needed. Other rooms are being used as science laboratory, library, teachers' common room and administrative rooms. In the Samakal School, there are four toilets for students and one for teachers and staffs, and a tubewell for drinking water. In addition, there is a place for keeping cycle of students and teachers.

9.2 School Management Committee (SMC)

The School Management Committee is comprised of ten members and the tenure of each SMC is for two years. The present SMC is approved by the Jessore Education Board on 7th October 2013. The details of the meeting of current SMC is tabulated below:

Table-4: Details of the meeting of current SMC

Sl no	Date	Total members of SMC	Present in the meeting	Decisions taken
01	24/07/2013	10	10	-Mr Shahidul Islam has been elected as president -Road construction from administrative building to academic building
02	19/10/2013	10	09	-Mr M. M Enamul Islam elected as member as Education paramour -Put efforts for resource mobilization from GO and NGO
03	24/10/2013	10	09	-Science teacher is to recruit - Annual event for games and annual cultural program will be organized for two days in 2013 and ensure participation of all stakeholders
04	29/10/2013	10	10	-Decision to give circular for recruiting Mathematics teacher and Assistant teacher for agriculture -Financial support will be provided by CRP project of <i>Uttaran</i> -Regular communication to activate Former Students Council
05	04/12/2013	10	10	-Re-circular for recruiting teachers -The result of Annual examination will be published on 25 th December 2013
06	13/12/2013	10	06	-For recruitment , written examination will be held -Need to formulate policy for stipend scheme
07	15/12/2013	10	10	-Approval of selected teacher to be recruited -Necessary steps need to take for increasing poor fund



On 28th December 2013, Ms Rahima khatun joined as Assistant Teacher (Agriculture). Mr Kesmat Ali and Mr Shahidullah Sardar went for retirement on 14th February 2013 and 31st December 2013 consecutively.

9.3 Names of School Management Committee members

The names of the members of SMC are given in the following table.

Table-5: Names of the members of SMC

Shahidul Islam	President
Nimay Chandra Das	Head Master (in charge)
S. M Enamul Haque	Education paramour
S. M Mominul Islam	Member (parent)
Md. Abu Bakkar	Member (parent)
A.K. M Farhad	Member (parent)
Parimal Sarkar	Member (parent)
Rehena Begum	Member (parent)
Ashutosh Kumar Ghosh	Member (Teacher)
Md. Alamgir Hossain	Member (teacher)

9.4 Names of Teachers and Staffs

The names of Teachers and Staffs are tabulated below:

Table-6: Names of Teachers and Staffs

Nimay Chandra Das	Head Master (In-charge)	
Ashutosh Kumar Ghosh	Assistant Teacher	Bengali
Shadesh Kumar Mollik	”	English
Md Shahidul Islam	”	Religion (Islam)
Uzzal Kumar Sarkar	”	Religion (Hindu)
Md Alamgir Hossain	”	Computer
Pranab Kumar Shadhu	”	Primary section
Md Jamal Uddin	”	Primary section
Md Shahidul Islam	Assistant Teacher	Primary section
Rahima Khatun	”	Agriculture
Helena Khatun	”	Mathematics
Mansura Khatun	”	Science
Jesmin Aktar	”	Primary section
Md Nazmul Hossain	”	Primary section
Md Shahinur Rahman	Office Assistant	
Md Abdul Ohab Ali	Pion	
Md Abdur Rashid	Laboratory Assistant	

10. Other activities

In addition to extra-curriculum activities and some institutional activities, School management since 2013 has been doing some other activities including development of environment, formation of formers’ students council and establish communication with former students. The other activities are elaborated below:

10.1 Former Students' Council

On 17th October 2013, former students council has been formed comprising former students of this School and a nine members committee has been formed. The objective of forming this council is to establish communication with former students of this School so that they could contribute to the overall development of the School and help students to get in to service or in any other means. The names of Former Students' Council members are tabulated below:

Table-7: Names of former students' council members

Bidyasagar Sarkar	President
Sohrab Hossain	Vice-president
Abul Hossain	”
Zakaria bin Sattar	”
Kamruzzaman	General Secretary
Nazmul Islam	Assistant Secretary
Nazmul Bashar	Organizng Secretary
Dipankar Ghosh	Treasurer
Jesmin Aktar	Departmental Secretary
Imdadul Islam	Campaign secretary
Shaikh Shavvoshachi Shuvro	Member
Faruk Hossain	”
Shariful Islam	”
Hafizur Rahman	”
Nazrul Islam	”

10.2 Environment improvement

Creating favorable environment is another activity of the School. School building, playing field, toilet and tube-well are regularly kept neat and clean and well maintained. A road has been constructed from Academic building to Administrative building. There are a large number of fruits and flowers trees in the School. Students used to take part spontaneously in cleaning and planting trees. It is mentionworthy that three students of this School took part in conducting research on climate adaptive agriculture which was conducted jointly by North South University and *Uttaran*.

11. Limitations and expectations of the School

Despite having lots of limitations, the Samakal School is moving ahead to serve the people of surrounding villages, to ensure quality of education and towards contributing to the process of overall development of this region. With the limited capacity, the SMC has been trying their level best to take the School forward. SMC has been successful in engaging community people , in mobilizing local level resources, arranging stipend for poor and extreme poor students, arranging special teaching support for underperforming stidents and reducing dropped out rate and in doing lots of other things. But still there are many scope of improvements in many aspects including providing more facilities, arranging more class rooms etc. There are specific urgent needs of this School which should be mentioned here to attract supporters. There is a need for a wall surrounding the School, an auditorim is essential for meetings, seminar and gatherings and more equipments for science laboratory are essential to meet the needs of the students. Poor fund that is for helping poor and extreme poor students need to be raised more. There are lack of three class rooms at present which are immediately

needed to construct. However, SMC acknowledge the extending hands of different people, government, Uttaran and many other organizations and expecting more and more support to make this School at a stage of achieving its goal ie to ensure quality education and through which ultimately contributing towards building an enlightened society and nation.



Mominur Rahman
 Class-VII
 Father's name:
 Md. Alimuddin Sardar
 Village: Tetulia
 Upazila: Tala,
 District-Satkhira

Mominur, a student of class VII of Samakal Secondary School, lives in Tetulia village under *Tala* Upazila. His father Md. Alimuddin Sardar is a Van puller and mother Parul Begum works in a paddy husking mill. Mominur's elder sister is also a student of class X in Samakal School. Together they used to go to School. The teachers of the School love them very much. Since Mominur is a meritorious student, teachers of the School always support him. In comparison to other students, he is very much attentive to his study.

Since Md. Alimuddin, father of Mominur, is a van puller, so he used to move around. He cannot do so much hard work since he is with different physical problems and that is why Mominur's mother is working in a rice mill to help the family economically. Mominur's parents wish to ensure continuation of their children's education. His father used to spend his income for daily food and other consumption purposes while his mother's income is being spent for children's education purposes.

Due to less income of his parents, School management helps Mominur and his sister financially so that they can smoothly continue their education. And the teachers of the School specially take care of him, provide him special guidance and support since he is a brilliant student. His father used to attend parents' gathering in the School. In the parents' gathering, School management applauded about Mominur in front of all other parents and thus his father is with full of joy and feels proud of his son. The teachers also feel proud of him.

Mominur aspires to continue his education, to be well established and to fulfill desire of his parents. The teachers and School management believe that Mominur will do well in future and glorify the face of his parents and bring fame for the School.



ShabnurKhatun, Class-VIII
Father's name : Mohammad Mollah
Mother's name: Laki Begum

Shabnur is a student of class-VIII. She is fourteen years old. She is a very meritorious and a regular student of Samakal Secondary School. She lives in Pachrokhi village. She used to come to School and go back to her village everyday on foot. Since she is very attentive to study, so all teachers in the School love her very much.

Her father Mohammad Mollah died about six years ago. Her mother used to work sometimes in rice mill and sometimes as house worker in other's house. Through this small income she used to run her family. Shabnur has a brother who is also a student of Samakal Secondary School. Her brother's name is Jahangir Hossain who is going to appear at Secondary School Certificate Examination in 2015. Laki Begum, mother of Shabnur lives with her two children in a small hut.

After sudden death of Shabnur's father, her mother used to run the family with a very low income. Laki Begum loves her children very much and wishes to ensure education for them. She understands the importance of education. Being a woman she understands well about the problems of female for not being educated. Laki Begum wants her children to be well educated and well established. So, she used to protect her children from any hard realities and tries to ensure environment for their smooth education. Her brother also loves her very much. Jahangir used to help her mother for small tasks so that his sister doesnot need to involve in house work and can get more dedicated time for her study.

Since Shabnur is a meritorious and also a poor student, so Samakal School does not take any fee from her. Teachers of the School provide special support and guidance to Shabnur so that she can do better result than before. She gets books, necessary materials and extra care from School teachers . She also used to help her mother without doing any harm to her study and listened to guidance and advice of teachers. Shabnur aspires to continue her education at any situation, to be well established and to fulfill desire of her mother. The teachers and School management believe that Shabnur will do well in future and glorify the face of his parents and bring fame for the School.



Jannatul Ferdous, class-VI

Father's name: Mofijul Biswas

Mother's name :Rizia Begum

Jannatul Ferdous is a student of class-VI in Samakal Secondary School. She is eleven years old and lives in Jatpur village where the School is also located in. Since the School is in the same village where she lives in, so she does not have to face any problem in going to School and coming back home. She is a very meritorious, studious and attentive to study and also a regular student, so all teachers love her very much.

Her father Mofijul Biswas is a Van puller. So he has to stay outside at most of the time. Her mother Rizia Begum died one and half years ago. Mofijul got married again to ensure take care of his daughter. At present, Jannatul stays with her step mother. Her step mother is also very caring and helps her in her study. Since her father is a very poor man, so he cannot meet all needs of her. Jannatul lives with her parents in a hut made with Tally.

After death of her mother, her step mother Parveen Begum takes care of the family. Parveen Begum loves Jannatul very much like her own daughter. She understands the importance of education. Being a woman she understands well about the problems of female for not being educated. So, she wants to ensure continuation of Jannatul's education and that is why keeps Jannatul away from all the hardship in the family.



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Since Jannatul is a meritorious student and came from poor family, so she studies in the Samakal School without any fee. Teachers of the School always extend their support and cooperation towards Jannatul. From her School, Jannatul gets all books and her teachers used to spend additional time teaching for her. Along with the study, Jannatul used to engage in her family works while her mother becomes sick, without hampering her study. Always, she used to follow the guidance and advice of her teachers. She wishes to continue up to completing higher education, to glorify the face of her parents and to contribute to the process of growing name and fame of the Samakal School.



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