


ANANDALOK SCHOOL

A Centre for Child-Friendly Quality Education





*"The art of education must become a service
to these powers inherent in all children. It must
be a help to life."*

- Maria Montessori





আনন্দলোক ট্রাস্ট
Anandalok Trust

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Join us in our heart-warming efforts



Bangladesh has immense potentials. Over the last decade the country has made tremendous progress in life expectancy, education and economic growth. The main strength of the country is in its younger generation. If a few percent of our children cannot make it to the schools which implies that a million children will have no access to education, and these children are definitely from the poor families in remote areas.

Since the Government cannot do it alone, it is important for the private organisations to extend their helping hand in education. One such initiative is our Anandalok School. I can declare proudly that the dream me and other members of Anandalok Trust have knitted, we have successfully fabricated them through these schools. The schools are named after the noble persons of this country, one of the schools is named after Jahanara Imam, whom we call as the mother of all martyrs in our liberation war.

In Anandalok school, the young children start the pre-primary education and continue till class five in a happy and joyful environment. Beside study, they also do different activities which are necessary for a child's growing up. I think if we see the methods of Anandalok schools as a small experiment, I can say that it is a successful experiment. I hope everyone will come forward to join us in our heart-warming efforts on education in a cheerful environment for the children of Bangladesh.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Md. Zuhair Iqbal'.

Yours sincerely,

Muhammed Zafar Iqbal

Author, physicist, academic & activist
Chairperson, Anandalok Trust for Education and Development

Anandalok Trust

Anandalok Trust for Education and Development (Anandalok Trust), a national non-profit organisation was established with an aim to create opportunities of child-friendly quality education for out-of-school children in Bangladesh. Anandalok Trust also strives to the poverty alleviation and the benefit of the grassroots by imparting new technologies, ideas, research, dissemination and the application contributing towards social and economic development. Major objectives of the organisation include:

Anandalok Trust aims to develop enlightened, critically aware and skilled human resources for more humane, equitable and just society in Bangladesh.

To facilitate education institutions all over the country for children who has less access to education, particularly from marginalised communities and in geographically remote places.

To convey non-discriminatory values and to sustainably foster inclusive and equitable quality education to all children in Bangladesh and also promote the concept at national and international level.

To achieve positive changes in the education policy of Bangladesh to become people-driven and friendly to underprivileged children.

To promote arts and science and advancements of knowledge on literature and other areas which will promote the well-being

To conduct research on environment, economy, education, science and technology, art and culture, literature, human rights including indigenous community, women, children, health & population and various important issues to serve public interest

Until now, Anandalok Trust facilitated the establishment and operation of 34 Anandalok schools in close cooperation with local communities and NGOs by the support of international funding. AT is comprised of diverse people who commonly have a passion for education and have become Trustees with very strong professional backgrounds. Since 2008, before being formally registered as an organisation in 2017, AT members have been providing technical supports for improvements in different areas, e.g. teaching-learning methods, capacity building of teachers and staff members to strengthen the operation of Anandalok schools. Currently, Anandalok Trust is also working actively to mobilise local communities, volunteers and private supporters, regular donors for ensuring the sustainability of all Anandalok Schools.

Many children are yet to be reached!



Ratna is a class 5 student at Kabi Sufia Kamal Anandalok School in Gaibandha. Ratna lives with her parents. She is very happy to be in this school. Ratna says "Every year we practice and participate in March-past and Display competition at upazila (sub-district) and district level and win awards. Besides we also practice singing and dancing along with our studies. Our teachers also love us very much".

"I want my children to have a chance for a better education", says Ratna's mother. "I attend parents' meetings regularly. Furthermore, I go to the school almost every week to talk to the teachers, students and other parents. The students of this school make the best result in both academic and extra-curricular activities in this community."

Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete primary and secondary school by 2030. Unfortunately, 20.5% (2018-2019, BBS estimation of poverty rates) of people in our country are still in poverty. More than 3 million school-age children do not have the access to education. Half of all girls and boys who join a primary school drop out before completing primary education. The poorer the family, the more likely the child will not continue school or will even not get enrolled. Still there is a lack of thousands of schools and qualified teachers.

In addition, 'Equal Access to Quality and Relevant Primary Education' is often missing at the remotest part of the country where children get deprived of their right to education due to reasons including poverty, geographical remoteness, gender discrimination and lack of quality education in existing institutions. Focus should be given to the efficient delivery of quality primary education to children living in challenging contexts so that the youngest generation of poor and ultra-poor families can prepare themselves to become the change makers of their families and thus contribute to nation building. The Government of Bangladesh has also committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." But this big task takes time and the NGOs can also contribute in achieving this goal.

Anandalok Trust have been observing the educational situation closely for many years while working in the projects in Education. Assessment in brief follows:

There are not enough schools in remote and inaccessible areas:

Children living with their families in remote areas often have to cross rough terrain by foot to reach the next school. One hour per way is very common. Parents feel very uneasy because of this. Therefore especially girls are often not allowed to go to school. The national average of literate people is 57.5%. In the chosen project region it is merely 31% up to 41.1%

Children of religious minorities and indigenous groups are marginalised:

Children of vulnerable groups, e.g. Dalits or children of indigenous groups like Santals or Oraon, are often discriminated by classmates and teachers. Although they formally have access to schooling they often drop out due to being stigmatised by teachers and peer students.



Children of poor families get enrolled rarely and dropout more often:

Children, who are suffering from malnutrition or undernourished, cannot follow the lessons with full concentration. The parents cannot bear the costs of school materials. As a result, drop-out rate is high in these locations.



Children with special needs are left out:

Exclusion happens for children with special needs (mental and/ or physical), which is 10% of all school-age girls and boys. If they attend schools, they appear only irregularly. Most schools are not equipped with material, technical and personnel facilities to provide support to them. Furthermore, pedagogical skills for comprehensive student-oriented teaching methods are rather underdeveloped. The number of students with special needs (physical and/ or mental) in remote rural areas is well above average because of malnourishment and the lack of proper medical infrastructure.

Lack of professional supervision: Primary education in Bangladesh covers six school years including the pre-primary class. But only 55% of all children reach grade 5. A high number of children has to repeat classes. Lacking is there for the professional supervision of teachers. The school's equipment is deficient and the classes are too large of 60-100 children. In some locations, it is not possible to maintain the ideal teacher-student ratio. This tremendously hampers effective schooling.

Quality Education for a brighter future!



"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence."
Rabindranath Tagore

Anandalok School

The objective of Anandalok School is to set an example of value-based child-centered quality primary education to all children – irrespective of the economic status, religious background and perceived social status of their families. It is educating the next generation of nation builders from rural Bangladesh. Anandalok School strives to be the best institution for rural children, particularly from ultra-poor families. It provides them with a platform to develop themselves as progressive and creative members of an open and tolerant society. Thus, they will be able to contribute to the further development of our society.

The concept is inspired by the outstanding Bengali poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore. Apart from his creative pieces in the world of literature and artistry, Tagore was a pioneer in out-of-classroom education and creating learning atmosphere open and enjoyable. Anandalok, the common name for all schools is also coined from Tagore's diction— meaning "world of joy".

Anandalok believes in -

01

Providing every student an unrestricted opportunity to develop academically, physically and socially to their full potential.

02

Encouraging students to enjoy their process of learning.

03

The enjoyment of quality education, taught by qualified, trained and supervised teachers, offers an important chance for children to complete the cycle of primary education and to obtain required competencies for their future.

Cheerful learning environment to unleash potentials!

Operations and Methodology

Anandalok School is a dream of Anandalok Trust, initiated with its local NGOs and the international funding support which enables children particularly from poor families of remote areas to enjoy quality primary education. The schools are established, run and sustained in close cooperation with the local community.



Tasmin Akter is a Graduate student of Anandalok School and now studying in G a i b a n d h a Government Girls' College. One of the memorable event of Tasmin's life is the educational tour to Germany from Anandalok school.



Tasmin says "This tour has been so inspiring for me and I have learned so many things. I realised that the teaching style at Anandalok School is very similar to Germany. We had the opportunity to study in the same way as the children study in a happy environment in Germany. However, the teaching materials and school environment in Germany are better. But despite the limited resources we do a lot of activities and enjoy our school time."

■ Students

Anandalok School students generally come from poor, particularly ultra-poor families of rural communities. However, any girl and boy for whom Anandalok School is the only educational institution within at least one kilometre distance from their home is also encouraged to enroll as well. The spirit which drives the schools is not leaving any child without education. With its comprehensive approach, Anandalok School ensures inclusive education for children with special needs and Adivasi students in the catchment area. A full-fledged Anandalok School has a total of 180 students enrolled from pre-primary to class 5 with 30 students in each class. Furthermore, close contact with parents of children with special needs is also kept. (e.g. children with hearing and visual impairment, speech impediment, blindness, polio or mentally impaired children). School motivates all these families to enroll their children in school and try to overcome the obstacles.







■ Teachers

Each Anandalok School has four qualified full-time teachers. In addition to that, there is one supervisor to oversee every three schools. Most of the Anandalok School teachers have a Bachelor degree. The Teacher-students-ratio in each grade is 1:30. Here, teachers are easy-to reach, jovial and creative in thinking. They are the nearest friends of students outside of their family and personal life.



■ Teaching model and curriculum

Anandalok School follows a child-centred interactive teaching approach. By putting children at the centre of the learning process, teachers play the role of a facilitator. The curriculum of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) is followed to keep the students in the mainstream education system. Furthermore, Anandalok School curriculum promotes the intellectual, social, physical and personal development of the students by providing opportunities for creative projects, sports and cultural activities. After one year of pre-primary education and five years of primary education, the children participate in the final examinations. Following the successful passing of the exams, the students are supported to enroll at secondary school. After the enrollment at secondary, students are also followed-up for 6 months to one year. A national-level board of advisers, comprised of different experts in education, review the teaching model and curriculum of the school regularly.

■ Parents

Anandalok School involves parents or guardians of students from the very beginning of the school establishment. Teachers meet parents every month to discuss the progress of the students. They also discuss operational issues of the school. Furthermore, parents receive orientation on issues like education-supportive interaction with students at home. As parents care most about their children's education they are ideal school supervisors.



■ Local Community

For Anandalok School, the local community is the owner, initiator and guardian of the institution. School Management Committee (SMC) is established at each school to ensure the smooth operation of the school. The community helps teachers in conducting annual surveys to identify all school-age children in the locality. They also raise local funds for the school.



Insanul Haque is the chairperson of SMC at Kazi Nazrul Islam Anandalok school in Nilphamari.

Mr. Insanul says, "our first work is to survey the children. After that, we get them admitted into our schools. Along with regular monthly meeting, we also raise funds, collect seasonal crops and do other works for the development of our school. I belong to the SMC since the school was established. Today we see our students in high schools or colleges that makes us very happy."

Mr. Insanul is a college teacher in profession. Therefore, he is also a responsible person for facilitating the health camps which takes place at school twice a year. He is a very committed person. "Many other people would expect to get paid for the work but he does it voluntarily," says one of the school's teacher.

■ Location

Anandalok schools are located at the remote areas in the northern part of Bangladesh. Most of them are situated in the embankment and char areas; a landscape shaped by the Teesta, Padma, Gorai and Jamuna rivers. During the monsoon of every year, sudden floods appear which often go along with land loss.

The main risk to the successful intervention of Anandalok is serious flooding. To avoid damages at the school buildings, the lands are elevated to a level of at least 30 cm above the previous highest water level. Seasonal income crisis period occurs during the flood. Many people suffer from food insecurity, because they cannot produce enough and the purchase of additional food is too expensive. During this period, Anandalok's children receive a warm meal for at least 30 school days. This also ensures regular attendance in school and endure the difficult time.

Gaibandha

কবি সুফিয়া কামাল আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Kobi Sufia Kamal Anandalok School

বীর প্রতীক তারামনবিবি আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Bir Protik Taramon Bibi Anandalok School

শাহ আব্দুল হামিদ আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Shah Abdul Hamid Anandalok School

খঞ্চাপাড়া আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Khonchapara Anandalok School

সাহিত্যিক দৌলতনব্বা খাতুন আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Sahittik Doulatannesa Khatun Anandalok School

ডা: মফিজার রহমান আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Dr. Mafizar Rahman Anandalok School

চর কাবিলপুর আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Char Kabilpur Anandalok School

ফজলুল করিম আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Fazlul Karim Anandalok School

বেগম রোকেয়া আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Begum Rokeya Anandalok School

পূর্ব বেলকা আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Purbo Belka Anandalok School

চরখোঁর্দা আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Char Khorda Anandalok School

Kushtia

শহীদ মুরারীমোহন আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Shahid Murari Mohon Anandalok School

লালন শাহ আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Lalonsa Anandalok School

রবীন্দ্রনাথ আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Rabindranath Anandalok School



Rangpur

মোস্তফা কামাল আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Mostafa Kamal Anandalok School

মাস্টারদা সূর্য সেন আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Masterda Surja Sen Anandalok School

কাকন বিবি আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Kakon Bibi Anandalok School

মোনাজাত উদ্দিন আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Monajat Uddin Anandalok School

কাসিম উদ্দিন আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Kasim Uddin Anandalok School

ওয়ালিদাদ মুহাম্মদ আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Walidad Mohammad Anandalok School

নায়েক জাফর আলী খান আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Nayek Zafar Ali Khan Anandalok School

আসাদ-মতিউর আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Asad-Motiur Anandalok School

আফতাবুন নাহার আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Aftabun Nahar Anandalok School

LIST OF 34 ANANDALOK SCHOOLS

Nilphamari

মাটিয়া দাস আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Matia Das Anandalok Schools

জাহানারা ইমাম আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Jahanara Imam Anandalok School

হরলাল রায় আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Haralal Roy Anandalok School

পন্ডিত রবিশংকর আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Pundit Ravi Shankar Anandalok School

কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Kazi Nazrul Islam Anandalok School

ওয়াহিদুল হক আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Wahidul Haque Anandalok School

Panchagarh

প্রীতিলতা ওয়াদেদার আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Preetilata Waddedar Anandalok School

ভাষা শহীদ আবুল বরকত আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Bhasha Shahid Abul Barkat Anandalok School

ইলা মিত্র আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Ila Mitra Anandalok School

নুরুলদীন আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Nuruldin Anandalok School

ফেরদৌসী প্রিয়ভাষিনী আনন্দলোক বিদ্যালয়
Ferdousi Priyabhashini Anandalok school



■ Construction and equipment

Every school site has the size of 0.33 acres. In most cases, the land is donated by people from the community. Each Anandalok School is constructed cost-efficiently. The buildings have a ramp for children with physical disabilities, four classrooms, a teacher's office with an attached library and three toilets. Every classroom is 30m² in size and receives sufficient natural light. One room is particularly designed for pre-school students.

Currently, Anandalok schools have three types of building structures. Steel sheet building are used at the chars for shifting during river erosion at emergency. One the other areas, schools are full concrete building or corrugated tin on top. All schools are equipped with learning and teaching materials. These are complemented with self-made materials over time, e.g. seeds or jute sticks for Maths lessons or simple toys made out of coconut leaves.

Every Anandalok School has an open space where students assemble at the beginning of the school and play outdoor games in leisure time. The school campus is beautified with a small garden of flowers and other plants.



Students are performing at the Display competition on National Independence day



■ Successful completion of primary education

Since 2011, Anandalok School students of class 5 have been participating in the official examination for primary schools. All Anandalok students who took part in the exams so far, have passed successfully with 100% pass rate. More than 80% of the graduates achieved “good” or even “excellent” grades. Given the difficult conditions in remote areas of Bangladesh, these results are a great success. A total of 11 batches have completed primary with 3350 students since 2011. Among them, 85% of the students score within A+, A and A-. 100% students get enrolled to secondary schools each year. At higher level, two students have got the chance at Government Medical college at the year 2021



■ Training of teachers and school managers

- 12-days comprehensive training for newly recruited teachers and school managers on basic pedagogical aspects, course's content, the school concepts and child-oriented teaching and learning methods and the creation of a joyful learning environment
- Six times a year, follow-up trainings: i) 1-day refresher training for teachers of pre-school classes, class 1 and 2; ii) 2-days refreshers training for classes 3, 4 and 5 for sharing practical experiences, discussing problems and best practices and drawing up the lessons plans for the following months
- Yearly subject-specific trainings on Math, Bengali, English and Science
- Training on child rights, on peace, conflict transformation and on ICT
- 5 days basic training for the teachers of pre-class along with a special material development training
- Yearly educational trips and exposure visits for gaining more experience



Madhobi Rani, is a teacher of Bir MuktiJoddha Matia Das Anandalok School.

Madhobi says "When I graduated from high school I always have this wish to do somethings for my community. Then, I decided to become a teacher. Back then, many parents did not understand why education is important for their children. There were many drop out students. Also in our community, many girls were taken out of school and were married off. But after putting a lot of efforts in parents' meetings and involving the community, we created the awareness for the importance of education."

She also added that, "Because of the excellent academic result of the students and regular participation of the school in different sub-district events, a huge demand has created for our school. I am really overwhelmed with joy by seeing the progress today."



■ Creative learning environment

Different activities as student's project work, sports and cultural events are organised to foster the creativity of the students. Students are encouraged to learn singing, dancing, recitation and outdoor sports. The students are also actively involved in creative activities, planning and facilitation of these school events.

■ Bratachari

'Bratachari' movement is an integrated system of following and practicing principles on knowledge and discipline in life. A Bratachari basically nurtures 5 principles. Knowledge, labor, truth, unity and joy. Students of Anandalok schools practice Bratachari on a regular basis and it motivates them to learn and involve themselves in the service of their community and country.

■ Health camps

Health camps with preventive and curative measures are organized in schools twice in a year. Support of Government health officers and paramedics are mobilized for the events. The camps include basic treatment, de-worming as well as immunization for the students, their family members and the children from the community who might in need. In case of urgency and intensity of disease, students are supported to hospitalize and for better treatment.



■ Library at each school

Each Anandalok school has small library located within the office room. Consultation of library is compulsory for students through a weekly class where books can also be borrowed for individual reading. The library is enriched with books of different including biographies, dictionaries, fables and stories.

■ Observe significant national and international days

National significant days are observed at each school, e.g. by arranging essay competitions, debate competitions, publishing wall magazines etc. Schools also participate at March-past and display events at sub-district and district level and win prizes. The SMC members jointly manage these events. These events contribute to building awareness of the students and the community on relevant issues.

■ Student council Election

Student Council Election is arranged in every year where students get the opportunity to practice democratic norms from their childhood. Students by themselves arrange and took part in all process of the election and also cast their votes to elect the council members spontaneously. 7 candidates get elected finally who work and involve others for the development of the school.

■ Shompriti- Alumni of Anandalok

An alumni association named as “Shompriti” has been established by the former students of Anandalok schools. Alumni members help the schools to organize different events, mobilise local resources, raise funds and connect themselves for the academic benefits of the existing students.



Artwork by Students

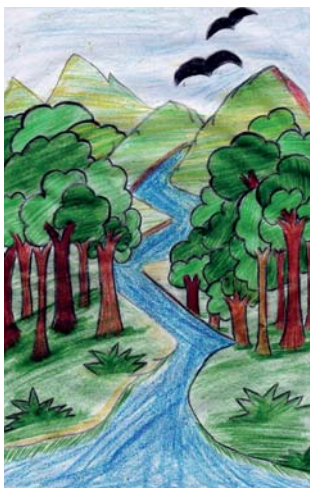
Tulshi Rani, Class 5, Class 5, Harlal Roy AS



Elin Akhter, Class 5, Kazi Narzul Islam AS



Nadira Akhter, Class 5, Kazi Nazrul Islam AS



Kawshik Roy, Class 5, Harlal Roy AS

Growing together for a sustainable solution!

Financial Sustainability

For ensuring the financial sustainability of Anandalok school, an endowment fund is set up and in progress at each school. The students pay a very nominal fee and there is little scope to significantly increase that amount. The communities that the schools are serving are not yet at such an economic status where they can pay adequate fee to sustain their respective schools. So, the options for these schools and the trust to mobilize adequate finance resource is not simple and may need multiple strategy to mobilize adequate resources. A professional team is also working with a long term business plan for ensuring financial sustainability of these schools. All parents of Anandalok School students who can financially afford, pay money into this fund. Anandalok schools also have supporters from abroad and Bangladesh who are continuously supporting in the journey. At the initial stage, foreign funding has been mobilised from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and donations from private persons, foundations or companies for establishing all the Anandalok Schools. For the continuous success of Anandalok School support from all the sectors is very important! People and institutions from various backgrounds can directly contribute to the improvement of these schools and get involved in this initiative.

Transparency

“Does my donation really reach the children in the remotest part?” People supporting Anandalok School want to make sure that their contribution benefits the children effectively and brings about sustainable changes. Therefore, Anandalok Trust is committed to clear principles. Trust has responsibilities towards both the individual donors and institutions providing grants, and the children we are working with. All financial resources entrusted to Anandalok Trust are utilised in a cost-effective way. Along with this, Anandalok Trust is also audited annually by third-party auditors to ensure transparency of the organization.

Be a part of the change, help children to help themselves!

We request you to provide your important support to the children from underprivileged families! Your financial contribution gives the children an opportunity to develop their talents and to become tomorrow's nation builders. The scope for a better future! A direct partnership with a school is possible.

Donate

BDT
5000

One child will get education
for a year!

One child will get education
every year, lifetime of the school!

BDT
**0.1
million**

BDT
**0.8
million**

All 180 children of a school
will get education for a year!

One school will become
fully self-sustained!

BDT
**10
million**

Please issue cheque in the name of "Anandalok Trust" and post your contribution to Anandalok Trust office. Or you can directly deposit your donation to the following bank account:

Account Name: **Anandalok Trust**

Account No: **2816010000598**

Bank: **BASIC Bank Limited**

Routing Number: 055261186, SWIFT Code: BKSIBDDH002
Dhanmondi Branch, Bangladesh

bKash  at +88 01318 485440

 **গরম** at +88 01318 485440

Anandalok School: At a glance

Anandalok school is a teaching and learning concept for pre-primary and primary level in remote areas of Bangladesh. 34 Anandalok Schools, have been built and equipped since 2008. In 2022, about 6000 girls and boys are studying here and half of them are from extremely poor families. Each year, 30 children are newly admitted to each school. Doctors are visiting each school twice a year for health check-ups. The quality of the lessons is enhanced through intensive training and professional supervision of the teachers. The national curriculum is followed and complemented by child-friendly learning materials.



আনন্দলোক ট্রাস্ট
Anandalok Trust

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