



1<sup>st</sup> Addition  
Issue # 1, 2024

# BCSS Insight



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**"TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION AND COMPASSION"**

# DIRECTOR'S VOICE

**D**ear Friends, Well-wishers, and Supporters of BCSS, I am thrilled to share the latest updates and developments in our mission to create a brighter future for the children and communities we serve. Your unwavering support drives our efforts, and I am excited to introduce the BCSS Insight, our new quarterly newsletter.

Thanks to your generosity, we support over 6,500 children in Bangladesh, providing them with essential resources and opportunities. Your sponsorship goes beyond financial aid; it is a beacon of hope for children in need. Our dedicated team is committed to creating safe, nurturing environments for around 400 orphans, offering them not only basic necessities but also emotional and psychological support. Education is central to our mission. Our schools are safe havens where children can explore their potential and dream big. We continually improve our curriculum, invest in teacher training, and ensure high-quality education for every child. This year, we have launched several projects, from building new classrooms to providing vocational training, all aimed at creating sustainable pathways out of poverty. Your support is instrumental in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Life in the slums is challenging, but with your help, we are making significant strides in improving living conditions and providing essential services. Currently, we are serving around 1,000 slum children near the capital city, focusing on healthcare, sanitation, education, and community development.

Thank you for being a vital part of the BCSS family. Together, we are transforming lives and building a brighter future. Your generosity and compassion are the cornerstones of our success, and we look forward to continuing this incredible journey with you.

With heartfelt gratitude, Shohag Toton Boidya Director, BCSS role of a balanced diet, we now provide three eggs, three bananas, and three lemons weekly to each child. Twice a month, they enjoy special vegetable biriyani paired with you.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
**Shohag Toton Boidya**  
Director, BCSS



## BCSS OVERVIEW:

At Bangladesh Children's Sponsorship Services (BCSS), we are dedicated to transforming lives through the power of education and compassion. Our mission extends beyond providing sponsorships to underprivileged children; we are also deeply committed to community development projects that uplift and empower entire communities across Bangladesh. BCSS is a unique department of Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Bangladesh, which gives HOPE for the poor and needy children of Bangladesh. It helps disadvantaged children to enhance in physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually growth.

**BCSS Goal:** BCSS would like to see sponsored children be self-reliant in the future after finishing their education and contribute to the development of the community and the country as a whole. Thus, strengthen the social and economic status of the society

**BCSS SLOGAN:** Serve to Save

**BCSS IS SERVING WITH:** Eight Boarding Schools (BASC & BANC College, AHTSS, KMMS, GAPS, SAMS, MAS, JASS), and Four Missions (SBM – 29 Villag Schools, WBM – 21 Villag Schools, NBM – 21 Village Schools and EBM – 2 Village Schools), and project works in respective community– as of June 2024.

### CORE WORKING COMPONENTS OF BCSS:

\* **SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM** – Tuitions, Text-books, Notebooks, Uniforms, Food, Accommodation, Medical care, Sports, Annual Gift, Others services.

\* **PROJECTS** –

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS** – Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) - (Mohanoil, Dholapani, Makulia - Masi Fook); Child Focused School Development (CFSD)- (Bisharkandi, Dharabashail, Suagram and Monosapara); Bangla Help – Rajbari Community Outreach Program (RCOP) Projects at Daulatdia and Rajbari and Transitional Safe & Care Home for brothel children.

**SCHOOL EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS** – Infrastructure Development & Renovation, Furniture & Equipment for Classroom & Dormitories, Building Project, Library, Science Lab, Computer Lab and Water Projects, and Other Children's Benefits Related Projects.



**\* CHOOOL OPERATIONS – AIMS Bogura, AIMS Ibrahimpur, Bangla Help- 5 Light (Slum) Schools Project (Bonorupa, Pager, Konabari, Kornopara, Keranigonj) and Adults School program**

**\* CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION (CRP) - CRP Training Program, Code of Conduct Signing Program, CRP Promotion & Awareness Program, Child Rights Day Observation, and Others.**

**In this issue, we are excited to share with you the impactful work we have accomplished so far this year. From significant projects and events to inspiring human-interest stories, this newsletter is a testament to the collective efforts of our team and the generosity of our donors and partners.**

**Thank you for being a part of the BCSS journey. Together, we are making a difference.**

### **Nourishing Growth: BCSS Enhances Children's Nutrition with an Improved Meal Plan**

BCSS, deeply committed to the wellbeing and healthy growth of children, launched the Food Improvement Project in July 2022 to ensure our students receive the necessary nutrition for their development. Recognizing the critical role of a balanced diet, we now provide three eggs, three bananas, and three lemons weekly to each child. Twice a month, they enjoy special vegetable biriyani paired with a full glass of milk, adding essential variety and nutrients to their diet. On Sabbath days, the children are treated to special meals featuring bread, semolina dessert, and beans for lunch, making these days even more delightful. These dietary improvements have significantly boosted the children's happiness and overall health. Included in this newsletter are photos capturing the joy and satisfaction of the children as they enjoy their nutritious meals, showcasing the tangible positive impact of this initiative on their lives.



### **Breaking Barriers: The Inspirational Story of Nittanondo Sircar**



**M**et Nittanondo Sircar, a former BCSS-sponsored child who has transformed his life through sheer determination and hard work. Today, Nittanondo is a full-time Science Teacher at Ibrahimpur AIMS School and recently began his own family through marriage. His journey, however, was far from easy.

Nittanondo hails from Borobaria Village in Bagerhat, a beautiful place surrounded by rivers, ponds, and lush green lands. He grew up in a small family with his parents and younger brother. Financial hardship was a constant struggle for the family, as his father Binoy Sircar, worked laborious jobs in other people's fields to make ends meet.

Nittanondo started his schooling in his village and studied until class 6. However, severe financial difficulties forced him to leave school. He moved to Gopalganj to live with his uncle and began helping at his uncle's confectionery shop. One day, Nittanondo caught the attention of Peter Panday, a teacher at Gopalganj Adventist Pre-Seminary (GAPS) at that time. With his uncle's help, Nittanondo was admitted to GAPS and resumed his education in class 7. This marked a turning point in his life.

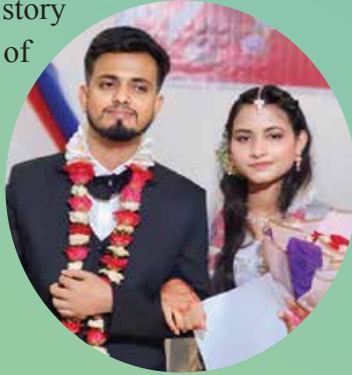
Initially, adjusting to boarding school life was challenging, but Nittanondo persevered. After completing class 7, he transferred to KMMS, another boarding school. During vacations, he worked as a construction laborer to earn money for his studies. In class 10, he received his first sponsorship, which was a significant boost.

Nittanondo completed his SSC and HSC successfully from KMMS. He then enrolled at Madaripur Government College to study Physics. To support himself and his younger brother, he worked as a part-time tutor. In his third year, the principal of KMMS offered him a part-time teaching position for science subjects, which he eagerly accepted. By his fourth year, he became a full-time teacher at KMMS, where he worked for nearly a year.

During this period, Nittanondo faced the heartbreaking loss of his father to a heart attack. Despite the grief, his family slowly recovered. While working at KMMS, Nittanondo received an offer to become a science teacher at Ibrahimpur AIMS School. He accepted the opportunity, aiming to pursue his Master's degree in Dhaka.

Now, Nittanondo is a full-time science teacher at Ibrahimpur AIMS School and has started his own family by marrying the love of his life. His life story

is a testament to the power of hard work and determination. Nittanondo expresses his deep gratitude to BCSS and his sponsor for their unwavering support, which played a crucial role in his journey to success.



By focusing on Nittanondo's unwavering determination and the pivotal support from BCSS, this revised story encapsulates his inspiring journey from hardship to success.

**“Hard work and perseverance  
can turn dreams into reality”**

### **Dolon Malo's Journey: Empowered by the ICDP Project**

**D**olon Malo is a full-time student living in Mamura village, Makulia. At a young age, she already feels the weight of financial responsibility and is determined to become independent. Her father, Lokhon Malo, is currently abroad, while her mother, Rita Rani Malo, is a dedicated housewife who married early due to societal expectations. However, Rita is determined to provide a different future for her daughter.

On a sunny morning in June 2024, Dolon and her mother participated in a courtyard meeting organized by the ICDP project in Mamura village. The session focused on human rights and fundamental rights in Bangladesh, with a particular emphasis on women's rights. Konika Rani Malo, a key speaker, stressed the importance of making these sessions accessible to women by allowing them to bring their children, ensuring they don't have to worry about child-care. Dolon expressed her admiration for her mother, Rita, who is her idol for happiness, self-love, and mental peace. Rita's wisdom,

"Nothing in life matters if you aren't happy," has profoundly influenced Dolon. This belief, coupled with the knowledge gained from the ICDP meetings, has reinforced Rita's decision to ensure that Dolon completes her education before considering marriage.

Rita shared her reflections, saying, "I have learned a lot about the impact of child marriage from this group. I am lucky to have my family and my mother involved in this group. I know now that I can stand up for my rights. It will be different for my daughter Dolon. I will do everything I can to make sure that she stays in school and gets an education. We cannot change the past, but we can change the future."

The courtyard meetings have not only impacted individual families but also the broader community. Sonali Rani, another participant, noted the positive changes: "I can see a lot of changes in the community. Many school-going and college-going boys and girls have wanted to join the youth group of this project. They are saying, 'It is a very good initiative and these orientations are very helpful for us. From now on, we are firmly committed that we won't give and take a dowry, we won't marry at an early age, and we will try to stop others from doing this crime.' Change is happening slowly, but surely. But we still have a long way to go to achieve gender equality."

The ICDP project has been instrumental in educating and empowering women like Rita and Dolon Malo. By providing a platform for discussing human rights and the detrimental effects of early marriage and pregnancy, the project is fostering a community that values education and gender equality. Dolon's story is a testament to the transformative power of awareness and the potential for a brighter future when women are empowered to make informed decisions about their lives.



*Dolon Malo Says "I want to convey the message that women are a part of society, and they can accomplish anything. If women can make decisions at home and manage their households, they have the capacity and capability to make decisions everywhere."*



# Pathway to Brighter Futures: Bangla Help Light School for Slum Children



## Overview of Bangla Help Light School Project

The Bangla Help Light School is an inspiring initiative led by a group of dedicated and compassionate individuals committed to supporting poor, deprived, and underprivileged children. This project aims to alleviate hunger and provide education to children who lack the privilege of schooling and struggle for daily sustenance. By operating feeding schools in slum areas, Bangla Help Light School seeks to ensure that these children receive both education and a nutritious meal. The vision of Bangla Help Light School is to empower underprivileged children by securing their basic rights and educational opportunities. With the generous donations from Bangla Help organization, facilitated through BCSS in Bangladesh, the project has made significant strides since its inception. In the year 2000, the first school was established in Bonorupa, Uttara Dhaka, with the support of donors. Subsequent schools were opened in Konabari (2002), Kornopara (2010), Pagar (2013), and Keranigonj (2016). Today, a total of five schools receives financial support from donors and are managed by BCSS. These schools are successfully providing quality education to underprivileged children, along with one proper meal each day.

BCSS oversees the operations of all five schools, which collectively serve 960 students, with each school registering 192 students this year 2024. The Bangla Help Light School Project prides itself on its non-discriminatory approach, offering equal opportunities to every child regardless of race, group, caste, family background, or religion.

The project employs a total of 41 faculty and staff members, including 30 teaching staff and 10 supportive staff. Each school is staffed by 6 teachers and 2 cooks who work diligently every day from 7:45 am to 5:00 pm to ensure the smooth running of the schools and the well-being of the children.

These schools are running successfully, providing vital support and opportunities to those in need. The dedication of the staff and the generosity of the donors have made a significant impact, ensuring that underprivileged children receive the education and nourishment they deserve. This project stands as a testament to what can be achieved when compassionate individuals come together to support a worthy cause.





# Community Empowerment through CFSD Project

## Project Overview of Child Focused School Development (CFSD) at NBM

**Project Goal:** To improve the economic and health outcomes for children and their families in the Northern Bangladesh Adventist School (NBAS) community.

### Project Objectives:

- Engage the Monosapara community in creating economic opportunities.
- Increase understanding of healthy living among women and children.
- Enhance academic and holistic learning for 230 young children (ages 5-16).

**Project Location:** Monosapara, Charuapara, Dhobaura, Mymensingh

**Students Information:** Total of 230 students: 140 Child Representative (CR) students from community schools, 30 community students receiving financial support, and 60 students enjoying good facilities at a village school.

### Major Activities in the Community:

- Conduct vocational skills training (handicraft, shopping bag/tailoring).
- Provide livelihood skills training on livestock (cow, goat, poultry).
- Offer advanced farming techniques skills training (paddy, corn, various vegetables).
- Promoting and Implement tree plantation in the community in every year.
- Operate four SHG (Self Help Group) groups with monthly activities, each with 20 members.
- Deliver health services to children and women (annual health seminar, neonatal baby kits distribution, healthy cooking training, first aid training and tool kits, safe drinking water tanks, medical health camps, and emergency medical financial support).
- Run five child clubs in community to promote awareness, continuous study, leadership training, social work, and educational supplies distribution.
- Facilitate monthly activities in 16 Community Cell Groups (CCG) to raise awareness on women's and children's rights, health, and other issues.



## Project Overview of Child Focused School Development (CFSD) at SBM

**Project Goal:** Children and their families in the target communities are educated, accessing economic opportunities and living healthy, holistic lives.

**Project Objectives:** To empower children and their families in the target communities through quality education and training to be aware of their rights, access economic opportunities and live a healthy lifestyle

**Project Location:** Bisharkandi, Barisal District, Dharabashail and Suagram, Gopalganj District

**Students Information:** The project serves a total of 220 students, with 80 in Bisharkandi, 70 in Dharabashail, and 70 in Suagram.

### Major Activities in the Community:

1. Regular School Program: Conducting regular school programs from playgroup to Class Three.
2. Mid-Day Meal Program: Providing mid-day meals at three schools.
3. Child Clubs: Operating three child clubs in three schools to raise awareness, promote continued education, provide leadership training, and encourage social work.
4. Community Cell Group (CCG) Activities: Conducting monthly activities in 12 CCG groups to raise awareness on women and child rights, health, and other issues through courtyard meetings.
5. Self-Help Group (SHG) Activities: Monthly activities are conducted in three SHG groups Akota in Bisharkandi, Satota in Dharabashail, and Niramoy in Suagram to support community development and empower members through various initiatives.
6. Teachers and Staff Meetings: Conducting monthly child-friendly meetings for teachers and staff.
7. Additional Activities:
  - Ensuring regular school attendance and participation in co-curricular activities.
  - Providing educational supplies, organizing sports programs, celebrating children's birthdays, and distributing annual gifts.
  - Conducting the SMC & Parents meetings and developing school facilities.
  - Offering skilled training for teachers, child rights awareness seminars, and observing national rights days.
  - Providing livelihood skills training on livestock, farming, and vegetable cultivation.
  - Promoting and Implement tree plantation in the community in every year.
  - Offering medical health services, conducting health awareness seminars, first aid training, setting up first aid kits in schools and providing special medical health support.
  - Sanitary hygiene toilet's supplies distribution in the community.



# Destitute Women and Children's Empowerment

## Project overview of Rajbari Community Outreach Program (RCOP)

**Project Goal:** To create positive life impacts for destitute women and their children in the Daulatdia and Rajbari communities.

**Project Location:** Daulatdia and Rajbari, Bangladesh.

**Objectives of RCOP Projects:**

1. **Rehabilitation of Girls:** Transition 19 girls from a brothel lifestyle to a standard social life.
2. **Skill Development:** Provide sewing machine training to 60 destitute women and girls (30 in the first batch and 30 in the second batch) to create economic opportunities and improve their quality of life.
3. **Childcare:** Provide safe residential care and holistic development (physical, mental, social, and spiritual) for 30 infants from the brothels (15 boys and 15 girls).
4. **Adult Education:** Offer adult education to 30 destitute brothel women, introducing them to the values of the Seventh-day Adventist education system.
5. **Children's Education:** Improve education opportunities for 60 underprivileged children, introducing them to the values of the Seventh-day Adventist education system.



## Project Overview of the BCSS Transitional Safe Home

BCSS has initiated the opening of Transitional Safe Homes in Daulatdia and KMMS for brothel girls to provide them with a safe and nurturing environment. Here, they can leave the brothel and stay in a transitional safe home where they receive opportunities to study and thrive. The children will experience Christian love, parental care, mental support, safety, nutritious food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, supplies, sports and fun, a violence-free living environment, and harmonious development. They will feel the love of Jesus and receive support from dedicated project staff who understand their complex situations and needs.

**Goal:** To bring positive changes in the lives of destitute children through holistic development, ensuring their protection and well-being.

**Project Location:** Daulatdia and Jalirpar (KMMS), Bangladesh.

**Project Objectives are:**

1. **Safe Residence:** Provide a safe residence for 20 brothel girls.
2. **Holistic Development:** Support the physical, mental, and spiritual development of the girls through Christian love and parental care.
3. **Violence-Free Environment:** Ensure the girls live in a violence-free environment, enabling them to lead a normal social life in the near future.
4. **Educational Opportunities:** Offer better access to education for 20 brothel girls.
5. **Enhanced Education:** Provide improved education opportunities at KMMS for 5 destitute girls (maximum up to 20 girls), introducing them to the Seventh-day Adventist education system for a positive outlook on life.
6. **Christian Growth:** Foster a Christian environment where all girls can grow and build a better future.

**Key Achievements of the Transitional Safe Home:**

1. **Safe Environment and Education:** 10 destitute girls are growing up in a safe environment and studying at the BCSS Transitional Safe Home in Daulatdia.
2. **Higher Education:** 3 girls have been admitted to HSC at KMMS and have joined the Transitional Safe Home at the BCSS Girls Care Home in KMMS.

## Key Achievements of the RCOP Project:

1. **Rehabilitation Success:** 19 destitute girls are thriving at KKS Safe Home; 2 of the 3 girls who took the SSC exam in 2024 passed and have joined the Transitional Safe Home at BCSS Girls Care Home at KMMS.
2. **Skill Development Success:** 18 destitute women successfully completed the first batch of sewing machine training at the TVET Center, with 8 of them already employed. 28 women completed the second batch of training, with 5 of them already employed.
3. **Childcare Success:** 30 infants (15 boys and 15 girls) from the brothels are receiving care and development at Ruth Childcare Center, Puravita. They are benefiting from a nurturing environment that promotes their physical, mental, social, and spiritual growth.
4. **Adult Education Success:** 30 brothel women are learning basic education at the BH-adult light school in Daulatdia. One woman has already secured employment in the garment industry after attending adult and moral education classes.
5. **Employment Success:** Three women have secured jobs in the garment sector in Dhaka, one woman is employed at the Pabna Jute Mill Company, another is working in the Faridpur garment sector, and two women have found employment abroad. These women are now becoming self-sufficient and leading normal lives.
6. **Children's Education Success:** 60 underprivileged children (24 boys and 36 girls) are receiving education in a positive environment at a school located in the sweeper colony. Initially, most parents were not supportive of their children's education, but within a year, the school's efforts have raised awareness among parents about the importance of education. The number of students has increased from 40 to 60, with more children wanting to join. These children are now studying well and starting to dream of a better future.

**Additional Notes:**

- **Community Impact:** The project has not only improved the lives of the direct beneficiaries but also positively influenced the wider community. Awareness about the importance of education and skill development is spreading, leading to a gradual transformation in attitudes and opportunities.

- **Sustainability and Future Plans:** The RCOP project aims to continue its efforts in skill development, education, and rehabilitation. Future plans include expanding the reach of the training programs, increasing the capacity of the childcare center, and further enhancing adult education initiatives to support more women and children in the community.

**Conclusion:** The Rajbari Community Outreach Program (RCOP) is making significant strides in transforming the lives of destitute women and their children in Daulatdia and Rajbari. Through targeted interventions in education, skill development, and holistic care, the project is fostering hope, resilience, and self-sufficiency among the most vulnerable members of the community.



## EMPLOYEE OVERVIEW

Cashier/Errand at BCSS. Mr. Indro works closely with the treasurer and chief accountant, managing financial tasks such as bank vouchers, petty cash, and financial statements. He also oversees office supplies and manages debt and credit notes. Known for his humor, Mr. Indro Kishor Hazra brings a fun and positive atmosphere to the office, making him a cherished member of the BCSS team.



*Mr. Indro Kishor Hazra*

Let's Put a Smile  
in Every Child's Future



**JOIN  
NOW**

in transforming the lives  
of children through our  
sponsorship program. Your  
generous donation can  
provide essential  
education, healthcare,  
and nourishment to  
children who  
desperately need it.

By Sponsoring a Child, you not only help them achieve their dreams but also bring joy and hope to their lives. Together, we can make a lasting impact and put smiles on the faces of these deserving children. Let's give them the future they deserve. Sponsor a child today and be the beacon of hope in their journey toward a brighter tomorrow. For those who may not be able to donate, your prayers and positive thoughts for these children are equally valued. Your support in any form makes a significant difference.

## Signature Initiatives by BCSS



A project proposal was submitted to BCSS for development at Jouthokhamar SDA Primary School in EBM village. In response, BCSS initiated a project to construct a combined kitchen and cafeteria, along with separate toilet facilities for the children.

The completion of this project was made possible through the generous financial contributions of many donors. Despite facing several challenges, BCSS remained committed to the project, overcoming obstacles along the way. BCSS believes that every challenge presents an opportunity for learning and growth.



On March 13, 2024, a grand groundbreaking ceremony took place at Maise Fook Primary School. The event was attended by the BCSS director, three officers from the Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM), and the children of Maise Fook School. Together, they broke ground to begin the construction of a security wall on the newly acquired land.

In February, BCSS (Bangladesh Children Sponsorship Services) had the privilege of purchasing 31.80 decimals of land for Maise Fook Memorial Primary School, located in Makhula, Savar, Dhaka. This acquisition was made possible with the financial support of Asian Aid Australia (AAO). To protect the property, a security wall was deemed necessary. AAO again provided the major funds needed for constructing a 321-foot-long security wall. Additionally, BAUM President Pr. Wong Sang Kim and BAUM contributed the remaining funds required for the construction.



Several years ago, the Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM) began constructing a five-story building to provide a safe residence for its retired employees. Due to funding issues, construction halted after the second floor. In 2019, Bangladesh Children Sponsorship Services (BCSS) stepped in, using its operational funds to build the third floor. Despite delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the third floor was completed in nearly five years. On April 9, 2024, BCSS officially inaugurated and handed over the third floor to BAUM. The ceremony, attended by BAUM officers, departmental directors, and Mission Presidents, featured a ribbon-cutting by Pr. Won Sang Kim and a blessing prayer by Pr. Timothy Roy. BCSS extends heartfelt thanks to all contributors and workers involved in the project.



**Bangladesh Children's Sponsorship Services (BCSS)**

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