Amena Baki Residential Model School

A freedom fighter's laudable initiative to transform rural Bangladesh

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LITTLE has changed in the villages of Bangladesh in the past decades. Education and health care is still limited in their availability. Electricity supply is at best intermittent.

Yet, Bangladesh is in its villages. If Bangladesh as a nation has to progress, there is little doubt that villages of Bangladesh too have to progress.

Transforming Rural Bangladesh is a challenge that should focus the best of Bangladeshi minds it is perhaps the single biggest barrier to making Bangladesh a developed country. Schools play a major role in transforming Rural Bangladesh. Although schools have been built in rural areas, but many still lack teachers and appropriate teaching methods.





A freedom fighter with a vision to educate rural Bangladesh has come forward to bridge the gap. Prof Dr M Amjad Hossain, also a prominent orthopaedic surgeon, established the lone residential school in Dinajpur district. Naming after his parents, Prof Amjad founded Amena Baki Residential Model School at Chirir Bandar in the northern district back in 2000. Mother Alhaj Amena Khatun laid its foundation stone while former chief justice of Bangladesh Supreme Court ATM Afzal Hossain formally inaugurated. At that time, the noble man had left the city life to start the rural school for educating kids from villages around. Uncle Md Nurul Islam Mondol, also a freedom fighter, and younger brother Mozammel Hossain Mukul came to his aid. In course of time all of his family members got involved.

It is a fact that the veteran freedom fighter and celebrated orthopaedic surgeon of international repute was born at Chirir Bandar. Yet the actual village situated 10 miles off the district town of Dinajpur has had no improvement except the wonderful and serene school. This school now produces top rankers in country. This year the school secured third position in merit list of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination under Dinajpur education board. The school today has many facilities that were not heard in rural Bangladesh many years ago. Being run by A B Foundation, the school is trying to improve the roots of Bangladesh.

This school has no government grant and no expensive fees. It is yet to be included in the list of M. P. O. Still it provides standard education to students. It is one of the 15 T.Q.I model schools across the country. The school has a computer lab with several decent pentium class computers. 'Technology will play a vital role in transforming Rural Bangladesh,' said Prof Amjad, chief consultant of Lab Aid and former head of the Department of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). 'This is why my school mobilises science and modern technology to advance sustainable development.' 'The kids are just hard working. Many of them come from a very poor background and shine today just because they can. All they need is an opportunity', he added. Established on five acres of land in a serene atmosphere, the school has a mini children's park. The school stresses cross-disciplinary approaches to complex problems. It places special emphasis on the needs of poor students.

Started with only 134 students at the very inception of the school, its roll strength is now 1,150,