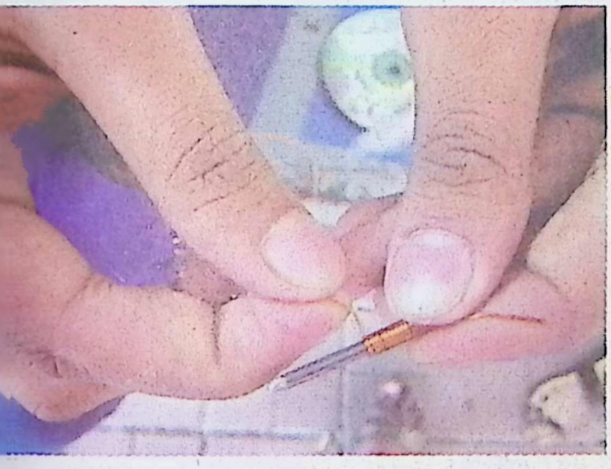
our students that without expensive chemistry sets, equipment or kits, still they can enter into the wonderland of science."

"Investigating and experimenting are great ways for children to learn science and increase their understanding of scientific theories", opines Dhrubo. "There is no doubt that experimenting with different tools can help children think critically and gain confidence in their own ability to solve problems. But if I ask a student from a lower middle class background to bring expensive scientific materials that would be a little too much to ask. Keeping that in mind we started working on the toolbox."





Shikkha Desher Jonno has developed some instruments or teaching aids which will allow students to learn through a practical approach.

Shikkha Desher Jonno believes that learning science does not require expensive equipment and complicated experiments. With these volunteers children learn science not only by flipping through science books, but also by trying out new ideas in a supportive atmosphere.

"Our first step was to prepare a scientific tool box which should have materials that we get easily at our home," Dhrubo elaborates. "For example we collected materials from our kitchen, or my mother's sewing kit, even from the junk that our elder siblings dispose in their drawers." Things like glass, plastic lids, pins, paper, bulbs, batteries – these were the initial contents of the toolbox. In a few days, by collecting these kind of simple materials the toolbox was ready for 10-12 experiments that they carried out before the children. "With time and determination, we started preparing a list of experiments from class six to ten science books," says Fatima Amin Lubna, a student of Shahid Suhrawardy Medical College. "When students from Dhaka University and Dhaka Medical College joined this venture, the toolbox became enriched chemistry and biology experiment setup."

The most basic rule of scientific study is not to memorise the material but to understand it and apply it. But unfortunately our traditional education encourages students to memorise every fact and figure from text books. Even though Shikkha Desher Jonno started its journey in order to popularize science, it has had to also expand its range to geography and history, focusing on text books. Even here there is innovation – the members of the organisation are trying to write different historical events in the form of a comic strip following a story telling manner, so that the students could easily identify with the characters and timeline.

"Unlike a commercial guide book or a note book which stifles a student's creativity, our articles will help a student to expand his/her creativity", explains Usha. "This text is being written in an easy and comprehensive language, so that while reading their text books they can always refer back to this text rather than memorising every little fact from the history and geography books."

The benefits of a consistent and a well-rounded education for children cannot be overstated. Keeping that in mind, by the end of their very first year, Shikkha Desher Jonno has initiated another project called Shikkha: Night School Unit, where they have designed an educational programme for the children working in BUET canteen with an end goal of giving them access to quality education to

"Though it is called Night School, this school runs both at noon and night according to the convenience of the students", adds Imtiaz Ahmed, another volunteer of this youth organisation. "By providing necessary practical knowledge along with the introduction to the alphabets and also study materials we attempt to transform these children into a potent social force so that they too could get a better life. Right now this unit is educating around 20 students working in different canteens"

Shikkha Desher Jonno is trying to take their materials to every division of our country. "We are yet to celebrate our second birthday, and so far we have covered around 20 schools of around 10 districts," says Dhrubo excitedly.

Studying ceases to be scary when you make it fun and Shikkha Desher Jonno does just that. Their goal is to educate rather than feeding what is already in the text. These university students have truly shown us that education is all about enjoying what you learn.