



The founders of Kolpojontro Foundation.

PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

Kolpojontro Foundation: Aiming for a self-sufficient society

SHARMIN JOYA

Mashrur H Shurid, Tahmidul Abedin Anik and Rezaul Hassan, three graduates from AIUB, are the founders of Kolpojontro Foundation, where they run different non-profit social projects.

Their project, Pathshala, started in March 2016. This project aims to provide guidance to school dropouts, ensure quality education, develop skills of young people and eliminate gender disparities in education. "After intense research, we found out that most girls drop out of schools when they are in the fifth grade and most boys drop out when they are in the eighth grade," explains Mashrur, the president of the foundation. "This is because most parents are not aware of the importance of continuing education. In some cases, financial

problems push families to send their sons to work and get their daughters married. We faced many hassles when we talked to the parents about the physical changes girls and boys go through as they age and about the importance of education and scholarships. So far, we have received good responses from the parents."

Kolpojontro Foundation has successfully teamed up with Shelter Home and Talim Uddin Madrasa in Mohammadpur, Bauniabadh Model High School in Mirpur and Kalidas Kalim Uddin High School in Shakhipur, Tangail for this project, which has a total of 113 beneficiaries as of now.

In these schools, the team runs a library, scholarship and science and technology-based supplementary educational programmes. "Students do not always drop out due to family pressures. In many cases,

they just lose interest in their studies. "So, we hope to make studies interesting for them through technology and practical examples from the courses," says Rezaul, the general secretary of the organisation.

Probin Chhaya, another one of their projects, was initiated in December 2017. The objective of this project is to create an environment where senior citizens can exercise their rights and explore their full potential.

Kolpojontro hires volunteers under their Projonmo' programme. As of now, they have 137 volunteers from institutions including University of Dhaka, BUET, AIUB, NSU, BRAC and others. The volunteers from the Projonmo programmes are trained under the Unmesh programme, where they learn how to work in the different projects of the foundation.

Teachers, educationalists, service holders and other professionals assist the team of Kolpojontro Foundation as advocates in policy-making and strategy formation. "We believe in training people, helping them develop their businesses or completing their education so that they can make sustainable changes," says Anik, the vice-president of the foundation. Three projects of the foundation are currently under construction. They are: Angana, Bayanno and Vimrul. Angana focuses on raising awareness about women's health issues such as cervical cancer, PCOS and PCOD, while Bayanno aims to revive the language, Bangla, through online campaigning. The project, Vimrul, which is running experimentally at the moment, provides assistance in emergency cases such as fires, natural disasters and winter clothing drives.

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IV. INFINITY FAN!

HEY GUYS, I AM FINALLY WATCHING AVENGERS. I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT ALL MY LIFE. CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS IT. PRAY FOR ME AND MY BROTHER CAPTAIN STARK.

OH WOW MAN, MARVEL MOVIES MUST REALLY BE A BIG DEAL FOR YOU.

WHAT'S A MARVEL MOVIE?

GO! THANOS GO! THE WORLD NEEDS ANOTHER SNAP!



PHOTO: COURTESY

Mohammad Aman Ullah talks about World Orphans Day

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Worldwide Organization for Charity (WOC), established by Mohammad Aman Ullah, celebrated World Orphans Day on April 20, 2019, across 130 countries including Bangladesh, Germany, Ghana, Slovenia and others. With an aim of raising awareness and providing a global platform for activities for orphans and underprivileged children, WOC has been observing the day since 2014. "My father was an orphan. During his last days, he asked me what I wanted to do for orphan children. I shared that I wanted to open an orphanage, but he laughed it off saying that it is what everyone else does," said Aman, who has been involved with charity services for quite some time. "That is when I came up with the idea for celebrating this day." Aman is also the founder of English Olympiad (EO).

On April 20, 2014, the first World Orphans Day by WOC, people celebrated the day in different parts of the world in a number of ways. Katarina Tomsic, President, Adoptee's Society of Slovenia, in collaboration with the US Embassy in Slovenia and Ambassador Josef A Mouzemeli joined a programme for raising awareness about



Mohammad Aman Ullah

adoption schemes in the country. The ambassador himself adopted an Israeli boy on that day. Young students in Norway and London organised rallies to encourage people to take effective initiatives for orphans. Many young leaders, from their own areas, stepped forward to spread the message of happiness and kindness to mark the occasion. A group of Bangladeshis living in the USA marked

this day by feeding underprivileged children in their area. Since then, Aman and his team have been dedicated to the cause of improving the lives of children who have no guardians to rely upon.

"I have seen children sleep on footpaths and helplessly search garbage trucks for food. This initiative is our attempt to provide a good day to such children," shared Aman. "We still have a long way to go, but we are hopeful for a better tomorrow." Aman further spoke about the importance of eradicating hunger and poverty. "I believe that no child in this world should die of hunger and we need to step forward to help orphans and underprivileged children, in any way we can," he said.

WOC has a powerful young community that is driven by the common motive to serve the society. Their enthusiastic volunteers work actively in the different projects of the initiative. From organising cycle rallies across cities to conducting entertaining magic shows, the volunteers work on numerous programmes to promote their cause in different nations. A group of Global Ambassadors from different countries work with the organisation as well.

PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA