

GLP Foundation Annual Report 2015



Who we are

Gulshan Literacy Programme (GLP) Foundation (commonly known as “GLP”) was established by expatriates in 1985. GLP as a charity concern provided education to underprivileged children in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Foundation integrally relies on private donations to ensure funds go where they are the most needed. The mission of the foundation and its schools is to provide education as a life changing opportunity for under-privileged street children living in slum areas. GLP is registered with Social Welfare under the Joint Stock Company Act.

GLP operates two schools: one in Badda (GLP-1) with 226 students and the other in Gabtoli, Mirpur (GLP-2) which has 215 students. The schools run double shifts (8:00 to 11:30 and 12.30 to 4:30) and provide education from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

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2015: Key highlights and activities

GLP academic year usually starts off with the **annual planning session** where all teachers meet and develop activity plans that include issues related to setting quarterly and annual targets, preparing the syllabi, fixing examination dates etc. Moreover, the teachers discuss as to how to improve the teaching-learning process and grades. This plan essentially steers the year long activity of the GLP schools.



Another key activity that marks the beginning of any year is **book distribution** where all students receive free govt. books. This is arguably one of the happiest occasions for the children where they are able to smell fresh new books. Aside from govt. books, certain grades require additional books which the school authority provides. It may be mentioned that GLP follows the Bangladeshi national curriculum with an emphasis on English language.

GLP aims to **instill knowledge** among the students through various innovative means beyond typical classroom settings. For instance, at GLP the **school assembly** serves as a platform for learning and sharing. School assembly is held every day. However, given the lack of space not all classes can be gathered together each day. So they gather by turn. Normally students are required to make presentations on various socio-economic and cultural issues e.g. education, health, human rights, food and nutrition, first aid, traffic rules, pollution, special days, renowned cultural/literary figures and so forth. Such exercise help students learn about various contemporary issues and develop essential skills like making a formal presentation before an audience.

At GLP, all students are required to spend a certain amount of time at the **school library**. Moreover, students receive **computer training** and girl students get sewing classes. Weekly computer classes are regularly held for students from Grade III to master the basic computer operating skills in Windows environment with a particular focus on MS-Word, MS-Excel and MS-PowerPoint. GLP volunteers also teach students how to draw, sing, make greetings cards and do other creative things. As to indoor games, once a week students play games under the supervision of their respective teachers.

Apart from underlining good results, grades and extra-curricular activities GLP also stresses on improving the moral standards of students. As part of that, a motivational session on 'What makes a good human being' was organized by Ms. Milia Ali, a US based singer and social worker. She focused on being honest, responsible, truthful and sincere in order to foster individual as well as societal wellbeing. It was a very interactive session with the students of grade eight.

GLP has always been warm and welcoming to **visitors** and regularly welcome students, teachers and other officials from different educational



institutions. For instance, on 24 October, two groups representing Aga Khan and Sun Beams School visited GLP-I. GLP students had this unique opportunity to interact with the students and teachers from schools that can be considered 'privileged'. Such interactions certainly ensure a two-way learning process; help boost the level of confidence among the GLP students who are predominantly from very poor families.



As a school GLP always strives to stand out. Students here receive tiffin free of charge. For each student the usual allocation is one banana per day and milk thrice a week. In order to keep things transparent, a register is strictly maintained.

Given the teen/adolescence of many students, GLP believes it is imperative to provide them with **basic health education**. For GLP-2 there is one designated health educator paying several visits to the school each month while GLP-I female teachers conduct health sessions on various issues. Often, Family Welfare Visitor from the govt. pay visits to the school and offer free medicine/vaccination and health tips. Occasionally, female teachers organize special health and hygiene sessions with the adolescent girls.

Throughout 2015, both GLP-I and GLP-2 have taken utmost care of the students keeping in mind the term end exams and the **public examinations for Grade V and VIII** known as PSC and JSC exams¹.

In order for students to do better at the public exams, the schools take **special classes for Grade V and VIII**. Such initiatives taking place for the past couple of years have been lauded by the parents. The efforts have positively contributed towards achieving good results of the public exams. For instance, out of all students combined, around 95% students got A in both the PSC and the JSC examination.



We are happy to share that one of the students from GLP-2 named **Sumon** got A+ in 2015 JSC Examination. A+ means straight A in all subjects.

It may be mentioned that normally after graduating i.e. completing Grade VIII from the GLP schools, most students continue with their studies in different govt. and non-govt. schools. One such student, Rozina Akter from GLP-2 got A+ in the **SSC Examination**².



¹ Public exams after completing Grade V and VIII respectively.

² Public exam after completing Grade X.



GLP constantly strive to **improve the teaching quality** and help teachers attain higher standards. As part of that, **capacity building sessions** are organized in-house where usually the previously trained Headmasters play the role of teacher-trainer. Experienced resource persons are also invited to train the teachers. For instance, Ms. Rubina Karim, a highly trained educator, offered training to GLP faculties in February 2015. She also serves as the GLP Board Member.

Other than **in-house training**, teachers regularly attend **trainings outside** e.g. by International School Dhaka (ISD). Moreover, on May 15, GLP-2 Headmaster Jashu Mia attended a training session on child and adolescent issues. The training, organized by an NGO *Surjer Hashi*, aimed for people who work with slum dwellers. It covered issues related to child rights, positive and negative punishment of children, stopping child marriage, menstrual hygiene etc.



In order to constantly improve the teaching standards, GLP teachers regularly meet and review academic progress; often the **teachers' meetings** are held prior to school and public examinations. The teachers in general discuss as to how they can improve their teaching methods and help improve the grades of some weaker students. The teachers also discuss issues like positive and negative punishment and why none should physically punish any student and so forth.

GLP believes parents could play a critical role in improving the academic and overall standards of each child. Therefore, **parent-teacher meetings** are regularly organized where parents are briefed about their child's progress, what needs to be done to maintain certain academic standards. Parents also take the opportunity to explore as to how they can contribute further as to their child's academic performance. The meetings by and large focus on how to collaborate and improve the results and competency of the students, especially the ones preparing for public examinations at Grade V and



VIII. On top of that, often health and hygiene related sessions are conducted to inform and educate parents. Other issues like good parenting, early marriage, cleanliness etc. are also discussed during these meetings.

In order to teach students the importance of preserving and respecting our own culture and heritage, GLP schools celebrate all major national occasions and important days. For instance, the International Mother Language Day, Bengali New Year, International Women's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Environment Day and others.

On the occasion of Bengali New Year know as *Pohela Boishakh* the children in colourful attires performed song, dance and drama. Along with proud parents, GLP Co-Chair, a number of board members and GLP volunteer Karin and her family attended this programme.



The **Mother's Day** was observed on the second Sunday in May where the issue of respecting mothers and grandmothers was discussed who contribute tremendously to the society in various forms. Students prepared gift cards with flower and pictures drawn. They also inserted personalized messages for their mothers.

The critical role of fathers was also discussed on the **Father's Day** and student were urged to respect their fathers and give due honor for their contribution. Everyone was urged to take positive actions in order to protect nature and the earth.



Students also observed the **World Environment Day** as part of generating awareness on environment and climate change. On this occasion, an exhibition was organized where one group of students displayed natural forest and social forest and explained why we need social forest to protect our environment. Another group of students focused on social environment development and displayed ideal house and ideal school and focused on how to take care of our surroundings taking into account the environment issue.

In order to nurture latent potential of the students GLP regularly organizes different types of competitions. During the last week of February, a **cricket tournament** was organized at GLP-2. Class V became Champion and Class VIII team clinched the second position.



On the other hand, GLP-I students took part in an **art competition** on 27 March at Central Public Library. Out of the 10 student participants, three students won the prizes. The rest had honorable mentions as well.

Children's smiling faces are all that counts at the end of the day. For this a year end party is organized every year where students perform song, dance, drama and what not! They also receive gift packs from the school. Children also receive their result cards on this day. Year end party is often attended by GLP officials e.g. GLP Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, Board Members, and sometime donors. Aside from the year end party, often GLP donors sponsor special meals and gift for the kids. Annual outdoor picnics are also organized.



Donors of 2015: A BIG THANK YOU

- **A.I.M.E.R**
- **Bank Alfalah Ltd**
- **Brunhilde**
- **Coffee In House**
- **Creon Promotion AB**
- **Currimbhoy Family**
- **Edcon Ltd.**
- **Henbury Ltd.**
- **Jumani Family**
- **Javed Hossain**
- **Kaneta Islam**
- **Karin Passe**
- **Lamia and Rizwan Rahman**
- **Matin Chowdhury**
- **Milia Ali**
- **Mutual Trust Bank**
- **Parveen and Mehboob Ariff**
- **Nasreen Sattar**
- **Rex Holm**
- **Sal Imam &**
- **Individual donations and sponsorships**

GLP School Teacher: The Force Behind



GLP-I Teachers: (L-R): Khaleda Yasmin, Jotsna Khanum, Maksuda Khan, Hashi Talukder (Principal), Momena Afroz, Md. Nuruzzaman, Anthony Modhu, and Solaiman Kabir.



GLP-2 Teachers (L-R): Samsun Nahar, Zamir Hossain, Sharmin Jahan Popi, Md. Jashu Miah (Principal), Rabeya Bosri, Urmi Khanam and Tarana Afroze.

Challenges

Ensuring a secure fund for a year appears to be the greatest challenge every year. For 2016 GLP would require about 6.5 million taka or about 60 thousand Euros to run the two schools.

Nevertheless, with some corporate and individual donors by our side we manage to overcome this challenge each year. GLP would like to thank our regular donors for keeping GLP alive. We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the 'surprise' donors. As GLP is entirely reliant on donations, every contribution from every agency/individual is precious.

Given this unpredictability of fund flow, we still struggle on a day-to-day basis to meet all expenditures. For instance, we need more computers which we don't have, we need a strong power back up system in place which we don't have and by which we could provide free school uniform every year! For some kids this uniform is their best dress they wear on any important occasions. We also need a health educator for one of the school. We are not in a position yet to offer the children a real meal each day other than light food/tiffin. The school running cost is constantly rising. We regularly struggle to ensure that all salaries, rents and bills are paid on time.

An Appeal to you....

As you may know already the GLP Foundation integrally relies on private donations to ensure funds go where they are the most needed – investing in children. The mission of the foundation and its schools is to provide education as a life changing opportunity for under-privileged children living in slum areas. In order to continue supporting these children GLP needs YOUR SUPPORT.

How you can help:

1. **SPONSOR A CHILD:** Only with 250 dollars/20,000 taka we can meet the educational expenses of a child for a year.
2. **BECOME A VOLUNTEER:** You may come and teach at GLP schools, anything related to the curriculum and/or something extra-curricular including painting, singing, photography etc;
3. **DONATE GOODS:** You may sponsor stationery, books, computers and the like for the schools.
5. **SCHOOL MAINTENANCE:** You may partly contribute to the school rents, maintenance, utilities, teachers' salaries and training, uniforms and bags, school feeding programs and, funds permitting, scholarships to over 50 GLP high school students.
6. Any other contributions – in cash and in kind - would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely
GLP Foundation Management

We need your support...we need more funds...any contribution is welcome...

Thank you, donors and friends, for being part of the children's future!

Please donate to GLP...help bring smile to more than 400 disadvantaged children...

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!