



Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB)

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VAB Annual Report: 2016

For more than a decade and a half VAB has empowered impoverished rural youths in Bangladesh to achieve a better life through education and, sustained by vast experience in the education sector, developed a low-cost Program to ensure an innovative quality education Model in an integrative and cohesive framework. This Model Program fosters academic performance, competence and good citizenship among students, objectives highlighted in Bangladesh's National Education Policy. For VAB, 2016 was a transition year to bring most of our current and future new schools under the VAB Model Program.

The VAB Model focuses on empowering four major groups of stakeholders in rural education; students, teachers, schools and communities, for improved education environment, for better learning, better teaching and better school-community interaction.



Mr. Zahir Iqbal, Chairman of Michael Madhusudan Debate Federation is conducting the debate Workshop at Zobeda Sohrab Model Secondary School on August 17, 2016.

Student Empowerment Measures in 2016

Name of Program	No. of students	No. of Schools
Scholarships	1,171	54
Grade VI Tutoring	950	20
Students' Clubs		
Debating	405	28
Sports	250	10
Volunteer Squad	200	10
Participation		
Computer Training	3,500	54
Science Fairs	195	12
Math Olympiads	352	33
Reading	2,860	40

The Model combines conventional and innovative measures to enable all stakeholders achieve and benefit from improved education system. It has been tested and found effective in 3 clusters of schools, 5 schools in each, during 2012-2016.

For students, new measures are added, such as students' clubs and students' participation in various academic endeavors. These measures nurture self-confidence, dynamism and social responsibility and buttress traditional measures of scholarships and tutoring. For teachers, the traditional measure of training is strengthened by measures for computer literacy, English conversational skills, and learning from peer groups and accomplished teachers through workshops and seminars. For schools, traditional measures of improving school facilities are combined with establishing endowment funds and organizing Education Fairs. Finally, communities have benefited from parent-teacher meetings and discussion groups. (A detailed description of the VAB's Model Program along with a graphic representation is available in VAB Newsletters of 2016.)

Teacher Empowerment Measures in 2016

Name of Program	No. of Teachers	No. of Schools
Training		
English	21	21
Science	18	18
Math	24	24
Computers	52	33
Teachers' Workshops-7	81	27
Headmasters' Seminars	52	52

Education fairs are distinctive events, bringing together all four groups of stakeholders along with local government officials and certain corporations. The Fairs showcase stalls featuring science, culture and local agriculture. Students gain a unique learning experience, schools benefit from a bolstered community-school relationship and communities can interact with different education subjects in an informal yet supported environment. VAB took part in 2 Education Fairs in 2016.

From 2017, VAB's plans are to fully apply the VAB Model Program with new schools in clusters of five. Organizing the schools in geographical proximity in clusters streamlines monitoring costs, promotes inter-school cooperation and competition, illustrates the VAB Model's efficacy and upholds the value of education to the community.



The VAB Model will, as far as practicable, be applied in current stand-alone schools, eventually bringing them into the full VAB Model Program and in clusters. For sponsored stand-alone schools, negotiations will continue to that end.

School Empowerment Measures in 2016

Name of Program	Quantity	No. of Schools
Library Books	1,300	33
Science Lab Equip	230	7
Computers	9	9
Education Fair	2,500	2
Endowment Fund	6	6

VAB's funding may enable it to go forward, but is definitely in need of enhancement. VAB usually has one year's reserve for the execution of programs in the next year. VAB Bangladesh executes the VAB programs in the rural schools in Bangladesh. In 2016, for VAB programs and related activities remittance from VAB USA to VAB Bangladesh was \$79,800. The transfer to the VAB Bangladesh Endowment Fund was \$97,500. In 2016, fund raised by VAB USA for programs (from 134 individual philanthropists) was \$106,103. Total expenses of VAB USA were \$6,148, including \$2,500 for a fundraising dinner under the auspices of Bangladesh Heritage, Inc.

Community Empowerment Measures in 2016

Name of Program	No. of Participants	No. of Schools
Parent-Teacher Mtgs.	2,650	50
Discussion Groups	1,348	40

This dinner contributed a net amount of \$81,988 for the VAB USA Endowment Fund. VAB expresses its gratitude to BHI for its tangible support. Other endowment receipt from 4 donors amounted to \$9,085. As of December 31, 2016, VAB's balance in the Program Account was \$115,873, and in the Endowment Account, \$425.

Fundraising and fund availability determine how many schools can implement the VAB Model Program. A sustainable funding foundation for future expansion is vital. VAB requests that all VAB Family members actively participate in fundraising activities. Fundraising in Bangladesh will be vigorously pursued. VAB has a plan to initiate a Global Five Year Campaign for its Endowment Fund with a minimum target of one million dollars and is intensifying its plea to its Patrons, donors and well-wishers.

VAB Bangladesh has prepared a 2017 draft budget of about \$125,540. Apart from remittance from VAB USA, two other sources of funding for VAB Bangladesh are income from Endowment Fund/Trust Fund and donations raised in Bangladesh.



Mr. S.M Jaglul Haider, Honorable MP is Inaugurating Education fair at Shyamnagar, Satkhira on 19 April, 2016.

In 2017, 54 schools will be served by VAB. 7 clusters of 5 schools (35 in all) and one school funded by American & Efidr (A&E) will implement the VAB Model Program, fully or nearly fully. Five schools funded by Bangladesh Bank, 11 sponsored schools and 2 others currently are stand-alone. These schools will implement the Model Program partially.

VAB Math Olympiad Participants (Rangpur Zone) along with Mr. Munir Hasan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee, on 26 December, 2016.