

# AGAMI NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2023

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### Editorial Note

Welcome to another enlightening edition of the Agami Education Foundation's Quarterly Newsletter, "AGAMI NEWS." Within these pages, you will encounter more than just stories; you will immerse yourself in the heartbeat of a movement that firmly believes in the transformative power of education.

In this quarter's issue, we are thrilled to share heartwarming tales of resilience, dedication, and accomplishment from our students. With your unwavering support, we have not only provided education but also essential resources, mentorship, and a nurturing environment where these children can truly flourish. Together, we are dismantling barriers and unlocking doors to opportunities that were once out of their grasp.

This edition covers the latest updates on Agami Inc. Fundraiser 2023, the election results of the Board of Directors at Agami Inc., and the forthcoming schedule for AEF's 8th AGM (2022-2023). We also offer a concise summary of our recent activities, including the English Demonstration class - IET, Agami Chess Guild International Rating Tournaments, the EdTech initiative: Tablets and Kolibri Bringing Joy to Learning, the Health Campaign - Health for Education, Agami's 'Adommo Nari': A Beacon of Hope and Women's Empowerment through the Agami Knitting Project, as well as insights from the Voice of LiF beneficiaries. We also delve into our Library Project and partnerships with other organizations. Additionally, the Agami Library Project has commenced operations in Netrokona, and we highlight the Teachers Training programs for 'Interactive Science Training' and 'Interactive Math Training.'

We express our heartfelt gratitude for being an integral part of this journey. As you peruse these pages, please remember that you are not merely a reader; you are a person of influence, a catalyst for change, and a symbol of hope. Together, let us continue to rewrite the futures of these deserving children, one story at a time.

- **Md. Hanif, Administration Director of AEF**

Please continue to provide your feedback to [news@agami.org](mailto:news@agami.org) as they matter most to the Agami News team. If you wish to receive quarterly Agami News updates, please sign up at the [link here](#).

You can also visit [www.agami.org/news](http://www.agami.org/news) to read more blogs and news on Agami activities.



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### Agami Inc Calendar

#### October

- Annual General Meeting
- Global Seminar: Agami's Marketing Journey, Progress, and Impacts

#### October-November

- Year-End Fundraising of Agami Inc.

### School Program Calendar

#### October

- Facilitate New School Solicitation
- Conduct School Monitoring
- Budgetary Planning & Approval

#### November

- Conduct School Monitoring
- Baseline Survey on the Schools Selected in 2023
- Prepare School Monitoring Reports

#### December

- School Project Evaluation
- Budgetary Planning & Approval
- Review SP Annual Reports

### Agami EdTech

#### October

- Classroom observations in Agami schools for SCILLS program.
- Endline survey in Agami schools for SCILLS program.

#### November

- Execute the E-learning center project in the first school.

#### December

- Establish E-learning centers in two other schools.
- Completion of producing the high-priority Grade VI math video list, which includes over 50 new videos for the new curriculum.



## Agami Inc. Activities this quarter

Agami Inc. successfully hosted an Annual Fundraising Event at the Holiday Inn Express in Springfield, Virginia, on July 21st. The event raised **\$137,000** surpassing the initial goal of **\$125,000** and those will be utilized to improve the education of underprivileged children in Bangladesh.



### AGAMI ANNUAL FUNDRAISER 2023

Agami annual fundraiser 2023 presents "Educate. Elevate. Empower."



We had Agami Elections this quarter to elect Agami Board of Directors for the new term **2023-2026**. The election was conducted by Imtiaz Choudhury. Four nominees were in the run for the election, but three withdrew from the election. While the Board decides how to fill the one open position, we would like to congratulate Dr. Sabir Majumder as Board of Director 2023-2026.



## October AGM of Agami Inc

The annual general meeting (AGM) of Agami Inc (also known as Agami Central) was held virtually on October 1st, 2023 for 2.5 hours using the Zoom platform and Agamites attended from both the USA and Bangladesh. The session emcee was Tonmoy, an Agami volunteer from Virginia.

The AGM presenters were Dr. Abu Mahmudul Hassan - Board's message, Dr. Sabir Majumder - president's message, Dr. Zahangir Kabir - 2022 financial overview, Imtiaz Chowdhury - 2023 Board election update, Dilruba Chowdhury - Agami EdTech, Sarah Rahman - School Program, Tahsin Rouf (for Nafisa Khanam) - Teachers' Training, and Zinnia Afrin - Life is Fun along with pre-recorded videos on Math, Science & English Olympiad program and Agami Chess Guild highlights.

The AGM was interactive with lively discussions on various organizational and year-round service/PPI activities including the future growth potentials with appeals of additional participation from all Agamites. Dr. Hassan concluded the session with a vote of thanks.



**Agami Expressions** - The podcasts are available on Spotify, Apple and Google channels. The podcast aims to promote awareness about several philanthropy missions and volunteering opportunities.



Agami Inc is planning to arrange a Year-End Fundraising Event.

# Agami Education Foundation

## 8th Annual General Meeting of AEF



Agami Education Foundation's, 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) (2022-2023) will be held tentatively on Saturday, 4th November 2023

### OPERATIONS TEAM

Agami's Operation team has been building to supervise and organize Events, and marketing activities with Procurement activities of AEF.

### POLICIES

Several new organizational policies, including Travel/School visit related policies have been finalized and after some modifications those will be shared with all.



## Recruitments

### In person staff meeting



The Agami Education Office is expanding and recruitment is open in most teams. In the last three months, some new staff members and interns were hired



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## AEF PROFILE BOOK

AEF Profile Book , published in October,2022 .

It highlights the significant happenings in Agami, achievements, and partnerships. Besides, there are success stories of the underprivileged children we are working for and many more.

**UPDATED PROFILE BOOK**



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**click here!**

**Library Project**

**October**

- Finish 3rd visit to each school.
- Hold Dhaka Comics Session.
- Summarize HerStory sessions.

**November**

- Hold HerStory Sessions.
- Hold Library Fest in schools.

**December**

- Arrange Volunteer Appreciation Party.
- Make a booklist and prepare books for next year.

**Agami Knitting Project**

Agami's 'Adommo Nari': A Beacon of Hope and Women's Empowerment

In 2020, Agami Inc. launched the 'Agami Sewing Project,' also known as 'Adommo Nari,' to create a second income for Agami students' families, preventing child labor. In the pilot phase, 25 unemployed stays at home mothers near Gabtoli slum underwent a six-month training in sewing, cutting, and dressmaking. Switch Bangladesh Foundation, one of the implementing partners of Agami, started this project with just 3 machines and now operates 12 at full capacity.



The targeted women began their journey by attending sewing workshops led by experienced trainers. They learned to thread needles, cut fabric, and stitch intricate patterns. Till September 2023, this project trained and empowered more than 100 hundred women from the Dipnagor slum and nearby marginalized communities. The project beneficiaries' women proved that with determination, support, and a vision for a better future, they could break the chains of poverty. They not only empowered themselves but also paved the way for a brighter and more equitable future for their families and generations to come. Their **sewing project** became a symbol of hope, resilience, and the transformative power of community women empowerment.

These skilled women now contribute significantly to their family's finances, achieving financial independence and economic control. Their expertise has opened doors to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. In 2023, they produced around 600 uniforms by a cheaper rate, for three Agami-sponsored schools, receiving praise for quality, timely delivery, and commitment. **'Adommo Nari' aims to expand its reach to more Agami schools, having already demonstrated its capacity and established a solid reputation in uniform production.**

Md. Nayim Uddin  
Dhaka, Bangladesh.



**Improving English Teaching**

**October**

- Online training for the teacher on Olympiad Technique: 8 sessions  
2 quizzes
- English Teachers' Competition on Spoken English
- Remote Monitoring in 7 schools
- English video recordings: 5 videos

**November**

- Final Agami English, Math, and Science Olympiad Competition 2023
- Remote Monitoring in 7 schools
- English video recordings: 5 videos
- Olympiad Winners' Award giving Ceremony in the AEF office

**December**

- Spoken English Competition Winners' Award Giving in the AEF office
- Completing Video recordings and providing the Lesson plans and videos to the schools
- Meeting with the Head Teachers of Agami supported schools about setting English Club in every Agami supported schools

**English Demonstration class - IET**



IET organized a three-hour long session targeting as a follow up session on Speaking English training which was a four-month long course (December 2022- March 2023). 10mstudents from different Dhaka based Agami supported schools were the participants. The session was recorded and the recording will be sent to the teachers who could not join the session but are regular during online session.

Every month during regular remote monitoring their improvement will be assessed and based on the performance three best teachers will be selected as winners for the prize.

There was a session where Israt Sharmin, Manager, IET demonstrated Muktopath, and how to register in Muktopath for availing free courses and trainings in that website. Muktopath is an E-platform, where teachers and students could easily learn on different topics and avail free training courses. The platform is made in Bangla and it is a free Bangla E-learning platform. Therefore, teachers get mass benefit from this platform.



## Library Project

## Partnerships with other organizations



This year, the Agami Library Project reached another milestone by creating new partnerships with organizations like Cholpori and VBD Netrokona.

Cholpori, a sister organization of HerStory specializes in creating visually appealing digital content targeting to improve children’s reading tendency and imagination. The partnership with Cholpori is providing our schools with kid-friendly webbooks that are visually appealing and contain enjoyable auditory elements.



## Agami Library Project started the operation in Netrokona

Another new partner of the Agami Library Project is Volunteers of Bangladesh, **VBD Netrokona** which is a wing of the JAAGO foundation. VBD has a huge volunteer pool that has come forward to start the operation of LP in the schools of Netrokona. This way, the Library Project has finally expanded its operation outside Dhaka. The volunteers of VBD already conducted an ice-breaking session in the Lyceum Child School of Netrokona where they interacted with the students and assessed their reading fluency. They will continue to conduct further operations of LP in the schools of Netrokona.

## Health Campaign - Health for Education

HfE conducted five general health camps in five schools during July–September 2023.



List of health camps (completed)

Name of schools	Date	Total Beneficiaries
1. Empyrean Hope School, Dhaka	16.07.23	40
2. School of 10, Dhaka	20.07.23	91
3. Laxmipur Simanto Bazar Primary School, Jhenaidah	24.07.23	150
4. Solaiman-Mostafa Smrity High School, Cumilla	13.08.23	51
5. The Lyceum Child School, Netrokona	22.09.2023	130

HfE Impact

Health camps raise awareness about various health issues among students, helping them understand the importance of maintaining good health. Who may not have regular access to healthcare can receive medical attention and advice at health camps. Overall, health camps play a crucial role in promoting the health and well-being of students, both in the short term and throughout their lives.



International Rating Tournaments - Agami Chess Guild

From July to September Our Students Participated in various International Rating Tournaments



Manha's Castle 20th FIDE Rapid Rating Chess Tournament

This was an International Rapid Rating Chess Tournament which was held on 8th July and this was a 7-round Swiss league tournament. In This Tournament, one of our students participated in Sohag Swapnadhara Pathshala. A total of 88 Players Participated in this one-day rapid tournament. Mim Akter started as the 80th player and finished at 81st place with 1 point out of 7 rounds.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy Chess Tournament

In this tournament, Mim Akter, Juthi Moni, and Shekh Ripon participated in Sohag Swapnadhara Pathshala. Mim Akter became Champion in session 2022, Juthi Moni became Champion in session 2023 and Shekh Ripon became Runner's in session 2023 from Mirpur Zone.



**More tournaments :**

- **Elegant 38th FIDE Standard Rating Chess Tournament**
- **Switch Inter School Rapid Chess Tournament - 2023**
- **Agami Interschool Chess Tournament - 2023**
- **Sheikh Kamal National Youth Chess Championship-2023**
- **Elegant 39th FIDE Standard Rating Chess Tournament - 2023**



**EdTech: Tablets and Kolibri bring joy to learning**

In the heart of Dhaka's Mirpur area, Shohag Shwapnodhara Pathshala is a haven for underprivileged children, where education thrives despite limited resources. Among its dedicated teachers is Dinara Islam Lucky, a math educator for 12 years with an inspiring journey. Lucky faced financial constraints growing up but persevered to continue her education in Dhaka. She began teaching pre-primary students and gradually advanced to primary levels while pursuing her own education, currently working towards her Higher Secondary degree.

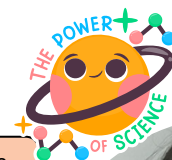


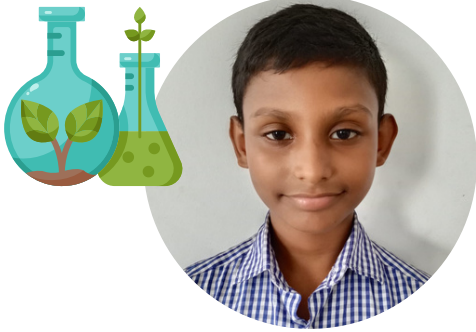
During her tenure, Lucky observed students approaching math with apprehension. Her mission became clear: make math fun and fearless. A turning point arrived when the school received tablets and access to the Kolibri platform through the SCILLS grant, a collaboration between Agami and Learning Equality. With tablets and Kolibri, classrooms transformed. Students eagerly embraced math as they watched engaging video solutions and actively tackled exercises on their tablets. Lucky noted, "Students are more attentive and participative than ever." The innovative approach enabled Lucky to connect more with her students, fostering personal growth. One remarkable story is a previously shy student who now excels in math and assists peers with their exercises.

This story isn't unique. More than 500 students from Grades 3 to 6, across seven Agami-directed schools nationwide, along with 25 dedicated teachers, have embraced tablets and the Kolibri platform. Math education has evolved into a wellspring of joy, confidence, and empowerment for all involved. With tablets and Kolibri, learning math has become an exciting journey, transforming classrooms into hubs of exploration and discovery.

**Voice of LiF (Life is Fun) beneficiaries**

"I've gained knowledge on a lot of important topics from the **Life is Fun** sessions. For instance, I learned the causes and consequences of air pollution, which is one of the most discussed issues in the world right now. Through various experiments, I've gained knowledge about interesting topics such as the components of air, and the use of information and communication technology in our lives. Learning about all these has been very beneficial for me. I enjoyed taking in information from educational videos and also interacting with the session conductors. Our science book in school has chapters on soil, the environment, and the greenhouse effect. At the Life is Fun sessions, we learned about it through physical experiments, which has increased my interest in these topics."





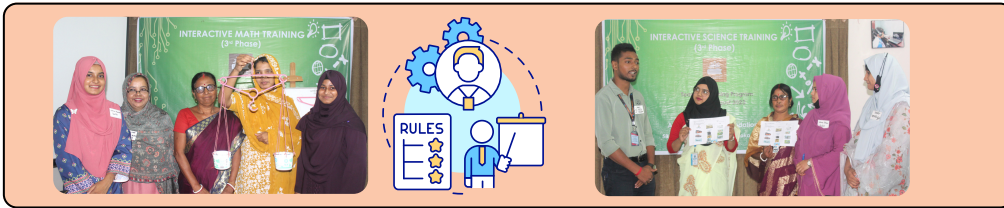
"Through the **Life is Fun** sessions my interest in science has increased as I've seen and helped create several projects, which has also improved my concepts on those. Conducting practical experiments, watching videos, and taking part in quizzes have been among my favorite activities in the Life is Fun sessions. Through participating in these sessions, I was able to take part in science competitions, which has greatly increased my knowledge as well, as I saw different types of projects and experiments. Due to the knowledge, I've gained at the Life is Fun sessions, it is now easier for me to understand tougher concepts such as the greenhouse effect; moreover, I am now also able to take part in science fairs on my own."

Zihad Khan, Grade V | Aalok Shikkhaloy

## Teachers Training 'INTERACTIVE SCIENCE TRAINING AND INTERACTIVE MATH TRAINING'

Teachers' Training Program arranged a 2-day long titled "**Interactive Science Training (3rd Phase)**" on Simulation Class and Formative assessment of Class III Math. This residential training was conducted from the 26th and 27th of August 2023 at the AEF office. 8 teachers from 9 Agami-supported schools attended the training with great enthusiasm and support.

They also arranged a 3-day long titled "Interactive Math Training (3rd Phase)" on Simulation Class and Formative assessment of Class III Math from 05 to 07 September 2023 at the AEF office. 9 teachers from 9 Agami-supported schools attended this training to brush up on their skills and expertise.



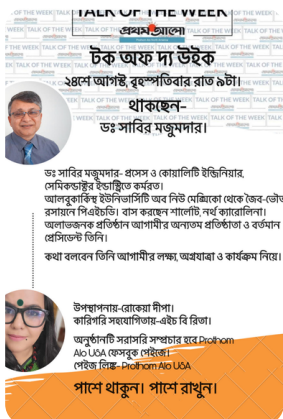
They published training manuals for both trainings and distributed them to every school along with relevant worksheets and evaluation sheets for every student. At the training, the teachers participated in a pre-assessment test and a post-assessment test. Every teacher took a simulation class according to their assigned lesson plans. The teachers expressed gratitude toward Agami for arranging such constructive training.



## KUDOS!

### TALK OF THE WEEK - ProthomAlo

On Thursday, August 24th, he participated as a guest in Prothom Alo North America's popular broadcast "Talk of the Week". Dr. Sabir Majumdar spoke about the background, activities and future of the non-profit organization 'Agami'.



READ MORE

## NUHA IFTEKHAR - AN AMERICAN INTERN



Nuha Iftekhar, a high school intern visiting from California, U.S.A., observed this initiative in action alongside the Library Project; at Switch Bidyaniketan School in Mohammadpur, Nuha received a warm welcome from the students, who were enthusiastic to share their reading journeys and favorite books with her.

READ MORE



**Marketing Activities and Website Developments**



Agami Education Foundation's social media is growing gradually with new followers. Facebook has received STAR monetization feature.

Agami's website is updated with upcoming Global Seminars, upcoming events and we have rearranged the homepage of the website.

So constantly improving the information and items for the Agami website is also a part of the progress of Agami.

CHECK



**Agami Library Project school visit**

The Agami Library project (LP) for this year commenced in April across seven schools in Dhaka. As of now, the team of LP has successfully made two visits to the following schools - Aalok Sikkhaloy, Switch Tahmina Banu Bidyaniketon, PSD Pearabag, PSD Nandipara, Sohag Swapnodhara Pathshala, Emyrean Hope and School of Ten.

**"Up cycle and Recycle" - Knitting Project**

The knitting project has been going well so far. There are more new trainees who are learning sewing, knitting, and crafting. They are developing skills and making strong positions in society. We are extending our area of work. In this project, we are making Home decor items like- Table Runner, different kinds of accessories, craft items, etc. We are focusing on the "Upcycle and Recycle" project more.

**Math Project Session by Teachers' Training Program**



With the students of Grade III of Switch Tahmina Banu Bidyaniketon a math project session was arranged by Agami Education Foundation. Nusrat Tuli from AEF went to the school and spent time with students. They learned how to make watches with paper and board. It was indeed a productive and educative lesson for the students.



**Entrepreneurship Alongside Education - Nuha Iftekhar**

Around the world and in Bangladesh especially, women are the key to economic advancement in their communities; yet they face a multitude of limiting factors such as credit, health, education, and employment opportunities, which are exacerbated by global and national economic crises. For that reason, when Agami delves into a community, we implement employment for women alongside children's education.



With the ability to generate income through transferable skills and innovation, female economic independence gained through the Knitting Project has uplifted entire households and ensured improving standards of living through increased access to education, healthcare, and further resources. At Agami, we strive to create socio-economic opportunities that can change the lives of underprivileged Bangladeshis, and the impact of the Knitting Project and female-oriented entrepreneurship projects beyond will play a lasting role in that essential mission.

**Tasmia Jahan**, a valued teammate of the Agami EdTech program, recently signed off in August 2023 after dedicating her talents to our team since March 2019. Over the course of four years and five months, she enriched the team with her exceptional performance, leaving behind some excellent examples for us to follow. Tasmia was a young education professional with a strong ambition to contribute to the field of education, and she wholeheartedly embraced the opportunity to work with the team, making commendable contributions. As a core team member focused on content creation, she consistently set high standards with her professional attitude.

Tasmia Jahan will always be cherished as a valuable member of our Agami family.

**Thank you, Tasmia, for your dedication to Agami.**

**GOODBYE TASMIA: A remarkable journey with Agami EdTech**



Wishing in advance



Happy Durga Puja!

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