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### Lessons in Gratitude: A Journey through Sohag Swapnadhara Pathshala

My experience at Sohag Swapnadhara Pathshala has taught and humbled me as a person today. Going to Sohag Swapnadhara Pathshala on January 5th, 2023 truly opened my eyes to the reality that I have been blinded from due to the drapes of privilege. The school was small, with narrow passageways from one classroom to another. They had limited access to computers and other sources. Despite these hardships that the students must face, they thrive in this community. The students had multiple accomplishments to talk about, such as their well-performing chess competitors, their Computer Class, also known as ICT, and their cultural programs. I was hit with the wave of understanding that although these students had not gotten as many opportunities, they still found their own unique and special way to thrive. They truly enjoy and are grateful for what they are given, and seeing the hard work they would put in, it helped me feel more grateful about the opportunities that I am given, and to give my greatest effort in all that I do.



To begin, I was welcomed by the principal of the school, Shagorika Das. After greeting us, she had given my mother and I a rundown of what the mission of Swapna Dhara and Agami was. They wanted to bring disadvantaged children of Swapndhara to participate in various educational activities, bring health awareness through health awareness programs, and give children an interest to come to school. Intrigued, my mother and I walked in the school. At first glance, I was surprised. The classrooms were small and the entryway to the school was narrow. We first arrived at the library, where numerous books would be stacked on shelves and tables. Iqbal 2



The books varied with a wide plethora of different genres. Shagorika Das talked about the interest on reading that the students have taken up, and how it helps them expand their vocabulary in both English and Bangla. Next, we walked to the computer room, where I was introduced to students within my age range. They talked about their interest in their typing courses, and how they enjoyed spending time learning MS office using the computers. They liked the idea of creation through typing alone. The last room we went to was the break room, where the students would engage in most of their socializing and extracurricular activities, such as chess. I first recognized the pictures around the room. There were posters and photos of students that played for chess tournaments, and their chess tournament rating. They began to talk about the pride they took in their students and their extensive skills with chess. There were students playing chess on the tables that I engaged in conversation with. They talked about how they enjoy playing the game and its intricacy and the strategizing aspect. Visiting Sohag Swapnadhara Pathshala has been a profound experience, one that has left a mark on my perspective. Witnessing the determination of the students in the face of adversity has inspired me to approach life with a feeling of gratitude and determination. Their passion for learning, whether it be through books, computers, or chess, displays their capacity for growth and creativity. As I leave this humble yet vibrant community, I hold appreciation for the opportunities given to me and to work harder with what I'm given. Sohag Swapnadhara Pathshala may be small in size, but its impact on those who study there immeasurable.

