

# School inside university



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**I**N a significant step to educate poor children, the students of East West University (EWU) have opened up a school for underprivileged children to teach them without any fees. Moreover, they are even providing them with necessary books and other stationary stuff for free.

The name of the school is "Poruader Ashor". The school officially started its journey on October 17, 2012 and holds classes three days (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday) a week. The school runs from 10:00am to 12:00pm and has KG sections to class V.

Poruader Ashor is fully supported by EWU Social Club moderator S.S.M. Sadrul and the student counsellor Nahid Hasan Khan. The main objective of this school is to motivate the children to join the school and study.

At present there are almost 28 regular teachers of the school who are studying in different semesters of this university and making time in between their classes. They say they are teaching these children out of realisation that it is their own social responsibility.

One of the teachers, Rabi, who is from the BBA department, said: "Teaching these kids feel really awesome. It feels like making pottery from mud."

He went on to say that when he met the kids for first time, they could hardly identify any alphabet and had little interest in study, but now they want their class to be held every day.

Rabi also said he always had a passion to do social activities. So getting an opportunity to serve society on his own campus influenced him to teach the children.

Currently there are a total of 50 students

in various classes. Most of the students have never been to school before and some of them were dropped out. And they are largely from the local Aftabnagar area. These disadvantaged children have potential and they desire to be educated, but poverty is the main obstacle to their dream.

From this school, they are not only gaining bookish knowledge, rather they are learning about the country's roots and history. So far the school has arranged functions to celebrate the Victory Day, the International Mother Language Day and the Independence Day to familiar students with these important national and international days. In addition to this, the children have visited the National Museum to enrich and enhance their knowledge about our country.

For now, the future plan of these visionary youth is to continue the school and to achieve 100% literacy rate in the Aftabnagar area, and according them the goal is very much achievable.

The state proclaims that primary education is mandatory for all. But a large number of children, mostly underprivileged, are still out of the education net. Against such a backdrop, EWU student's initiative is a glaring example of how students can come forward to spread the light of education. Sure enough, this kind of social initiative, alongside the public and private initiatives, is crucial in achieving a breakthrough in education.

However, facilitating education for a child up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade is not enough. But this initiative can at least sow a seed in these children's mind that they have to study in order to fulfil their dreams, as well as of their parents. And, that is certainly the invaluable first step to contribute to building a better Bangladesh.