



BRAC Education Programme Bangladesh

BRAC Education Programme has over 30 years of experience in working with governments and running schools in conflict-prone and post-disaster settings across 5 countries. We prepare children and young people for fulfilling futures through early childhood development, primary and secondary schools, adolescent programmes and support at the tertiary level. Outside classrooms, we operate libraries, adult education programmes and scholarship programmes. To date, more than 12 million children have graduated from our pre-primary and primary schools.

Big facts

- **3.17 million** students and members, over half of them girls, enrolled in **35,957 schools and centres**.
- **485,518 children** between the ages of 3-5 years accessed early childhood development and pre-primary programmes.
- **114,886 students**, who would not have enrolled or finished their education, have accessed primary education through our non-formal primary education programme.
- **74,580 children** accessed primary education through our fee-based school system.
- **1.44 million** children and young people across Bangladesh engaged in reading, socialising and activity-based learning in our adolescent development clubs, travelling libraries and multi-purpose community learning centres.
- **117,192 children** supported through their secondary educational journey through our Advancing BRAC Graduates programme.
- **26,137 children** with disabilities enrolled in our schools and centres.

About BRAC

BRAC is a global leader in developing and implementing cost-effective, evidence-based programmes to assist the most marginalised people in extremely poor, conflict-prone and post-disaster settings. BRAC uses an integrated model to change systems of inequity, through social development programmes in areas such as healthcare, microfinance, and women's empowerment, as well as humanitarian response, social enterprises, socially responsible investments and a university.



BRAC reaches **3.17 million** students
and members
with educational opportunities across
Bangladesh.

What we do

Early childhood development



Our ECD centres, also known as *khelar jogot* (universe of play), are spaces that work with parents to promote **the importance of learning through play**. Children as young as one month to as old as five years old play with age-appropriate toys, sing songs, and indulge in nap time, all supervised by a play leader and volunteering mothers. Monthly meetings bring the local community together, creating a strong support system

100 early childhood development centres

2,288 students

51.44% are girls

Pre-primary schools



For children over 5, our pre-primary schools **enable a smooth transition into mainstream primary schools**, and increases the retention rates by taking parents and students through the first steps of learning. We focus on joyful learning so students develop a love for learning. Teachers are all female, and are recruited from the local community. After completing the one-year course, all graduates are enrolled in the nearest government schools. Our education programmes are also delivered through other NGO-run schools.

16,962 pre-primary schools

483,230 students enrolled

52.79% are girls

Primary schools



Our primary schools provide a second chance at education, addressing the needs of children who have dropped out from the mainstream education system. Schools are operated by the same teacher for the same cohort of children for four years. School hours are flexible. We develop textbooks and other materials till Class 3. Government textbooks are used in Classes 4 and 5. Students are tracked after graduation to ensure enrollment and progress in public schools. We also operate **boat schools** in the wetland regions and hard-to-reach areas in Bangladesh.

6,377 primary schools

189,466 students enrolled

51.75% are girls

Secondary schools



Our secondary schools deliver a **values-based education through trained teachers and interactive digital content, and groom students to become responsible citizens**. These are multi-classroom schools with an average of 10 rooms with 8-12 teachers.

13 secondary schools

2,598 students enrolled

44.69% are girls

Adolescent development programme



Our clubs provide **safe spaces where young people can learn sports, life skills, social confidence and entrepreneurship**. They share experiences, receive training and build networks. Research has shown that adolescent clubs help girls to stay in school, become more financially literate and communicate more confidently. BRAC has set up nearly 1,700 adolescent clubs in 5 other countries; Uganda, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nepal.

5,735 adolescent clubs

195,775 members

73.29% are girls

What we do

Community learning centres



Our multi-purpose community learning centres **promote lifelong learning**. They increase access to learning and encourage reading habits in communities in remote regions. All librarians are women from the community. They are self-financed, run by a trust. Centres operate 6 hours a day for 6 days a week. They host educational, socio-cultural, and sporting activities, skills development training for members and the wider community.

2,900 centres

1,265,601 readership created

52% female members

265,723 received ICT training

Education support programme



We provide **access to quality pre-primary and primary education opportunities** for children of underprivileged backgrounds in the most remote areas including *char* (riverine islands), *haor* (wetlands), tea garden areas and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. **We partner with local NGOs and provide them with technical and financial support.**

1,500 pre-primary schools
42,168 pre-primary students
53.91% are girls

1,360 primary schools
38,374 primary students
52.43% girls

Social enterprise



Our social enterprise models address the growing demand for quality education in Bangladesh. **Shishu Niketon (SN)**, our cost-sharing model, offers both single and multi-room classrooms with qualified, trained teachers. Our latest pilot, **BRAC Academy**, is a child-centred school providing world class education with the commitment to address the aspirations of parents by offering modern teaching and learning methods, and rich contents at an affordable price.

2,317 Shishu Niketon schools

2,236 single-room SN schools

81 multi-room SN schools

1 BRAC Academy

Education in emergencies



Among the million Rohingya who are living in the camps of Cox's Bazar, more than half are children.

We are working to expand and strengthen immediate access to equitable learning opportunities for children and young people in aged 4-14 years in camps and host communities. We work to ensure a safe and protective environment, and continually improve the quality of teaching and learning and teaching-related professional development opportunities.

752 learning centres

57,973 learners enrolled

51.59% are girls

Disability inclusion



We adapt curriculums and learning methods to ensure education is accessible to all children, including children living with disabilities.

We raise awareness in communities about the natures of disabilities, provide appropriate materials and trained teachers, medical assistance and supportive devices. Dedicated **neurodevelopmental disability (NDD) centres** offer learning through play and appropriate therapy for children and young people with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

26,137 children with disabilities served

11 NDD centres with **200** students enrolled

What we do

Debate and performing arts



We offer platforms for students and members of our adolescent clubs to take part in debates and learn a variety of arts. **Our debate programme enhances their skills in public speaking.** We organise competitions from local to national level for academically gifted students to hone their critical thinking and leadership skills. We also provide diverse opportunities to learn music, dance, drama, poetry, art, etc. **Tarai Tarai Deepshikha is a national level competition** we organise for performers to gain recognition, with many winners now studying the arts at reputed universities and institutes.

176,491 participants in debate, school theatre, music and english language camp

Education for children of ethnic communities



We adapt curriculums and learning methods to ensure education is accessible to all children, including children from ethnic backgrounds. Materials are created to promote the scripts, culture and history of ethnic communities in Bangladesh, ensuring children begin learning in their own language and find familiarity in the classroom.

27,375 students from ethnic communities

54.08% are girls

300,000 students from ethnic communities have graduated till date

ICT in education



We partnered with the ICT division of Government of Bangladesh to develop **interactive multimedia digital content** for 21 primary textbooks. Content for secondary schools was also developed in 2004. Content is available for free: <http://e-education.brac.net>. A modular web-based MIS is connected and synchronised with all digital interventions within BEP. An android app for school supervision, and an SMS-based attendance collection system - all linked to our web MIS, helps to record attendance and complete checklists, **digitally in real-time.**

11,854,620 downloads

265,723 people provided with ICT basic training

1,500 primary schools are using digital content

Gender equity



Gender equity is a cross-cutting issue throughout our programme.

Almost 100% of our teachers are women, especially in our schools in hard-to-reach areas. More than 50% of our students are girls. We raise awareness in communities about sexual harassment and how to prevent it. Our curriculum is reviewed with gender lens. We trained and developed youth advocates who are carrying out advocacy initiatives that raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health rights, and violence against women and children, across eight divisions.

Scholarships



Our **scholarship scheme**, Medhabikash Udyog (Promoting talent), enables access to post-secondary and tertiary education for meritorious students from low-income households. Students not only receive financial support for college/university expenses but also capacity building training. Almost 50% of scholarship holders are girls. Students receive monthly monetary support covering their admission fees, books, and other educational and daily expenses.

469 students have received scholarships

Quality, curriculum and material development

Our school curriculum comprises of **values education** which helps students understand how to be active citizens and create a harmonious society.

Material on **climate change education** and interactive activities enable students to understand how they can contribute in issues related to the adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

Teachers sit for yearly **assessments**, and an integrated school supervision checklist tracks the quality of schools. A comprehensive student assessment helps to achieve the learning outcomes and track learning progress.

Where we work



Urban slums



Wetlands
(haors)



Riverine
islands (chars)

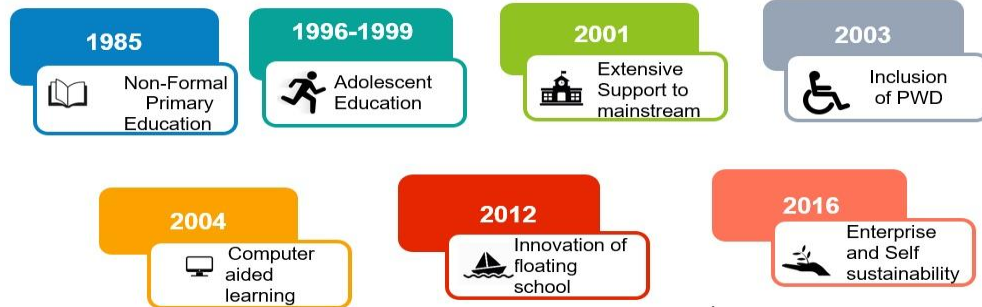


Coastal areas



Hill tracts

A brief timeline



REPRESENTING BANGLADESH IN INDIA

“The magic of folk music had me spellbound from when I was a child. Music has always been in my veins. When you grow up in poverty you usually dream of a well-to-do job – one that pays your rent, bills and groceries. It is not usual to dream of becoming a singer. My family, like most, expected girls to only do chores and raise children. They threatened to ostracise me if I kept singing.”



“I participated in SAUFEST, a South Asian cultural festival held in Gujrat, India. It is one thing to sing the national anthem in a school assembly, but completely different when you do it in a foreign land in front of thousands of people. One of the judges said that I was the Bangladeshi bomb that blew their minds. I still remember the booming of the microphone when the host shouted “BANGLADESH!” and how I was crying as I got up on the stage.”

Kaniz Khondokar Mitu, 22 years, is a member of our adolescent club. Mymensingh, Bangladesh

A photograph of a female teacher with dark hair, wearing a colorful sari, sitting on the floor and playing a wooden harmonium. She is surrounded by a group of school children, both boys and girls, who are sitting on the floor around her. The children are wearing school uniforms; the girls have colorful flower clips in their hair. Some children are looking at the harmonium, while others are looking at the teacher. The background is a red and white striped wall.

Schools that build confidence

“It’s not enough that you have learned something today. Share your knowledge with the world. Tell your siblings and parents. Tell your friends who cannot come to school,” Munni tells her class.

In a country where more than half of girls are married before their 18th birthday, Munni fought to take control of her life.

Her conservative brothers wanted her to marry at an early age. Munni went on to stop three early marriages as a member of our adolescent clubs. She has come a long way from being a student in BRAC’s one-classroom school to being the headteacher of Shishu Niketan, one of BRAC’s multi-classroom schools in Rangpur, northern Bangladesh.

“I want every girl in my class to believe that she can achieve everything she wants.”



“He is only 12 years old and he already competed on a national level. He won first and second prizes in running and ball throwing in a national competition for persons with disabilities. I am so proud of him.”

“It was very hard for him growing up. As a mother, it was hard to watch. He was bullied by other children. No school accepted him. He could not even button his shirt. I felt helpless, but I stayed patient. It was incredible to see him grow confident and make friends. I am happy as long as he is happy and smiling.”

- Belal's mother

Belal is a star student of our neurodevelopmental disability centre in Korail, Dhaka

Our partners

[Full list: SPA (DFID & DFAT), EAC, UBS, Dubai Care, UNICEF, USAID, World Food Programme (WFP), APASEN International, Women Win, Standard Chartered Bank, Rutgers-The Netherlands through National consortium, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (bKash), Hilton Foundation, UNHCR, AGFund, British Council]



Strategic Partnership Arrangement - Delivering real results together

