

Moanoghar Supravat Memorial Scholarship



Ms. Suprava Dewan and Mr. Pravat Ranjan Dewan



MOANOGHAR

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Founder: Shaddharmaditya Ven. Jnanasree Mahathera

Rangapani, Rangamati, P.O.Box 4500. Bangladesh

About the Scholarship

The Scholarship was created by **Ms. Nirupa Dewan** and her brother **Mr. Robin Dewan**, in memory of their late parents **Ms. Suprava Dewan and Mr. Pravat Ranjan Dewan**. The name of the scholarship '**Supravat**' is coined by combining the names of both. A special endowment fund is created by them for this purpose which is kept in a fixed deposit account. The interest from this account will be awarded annually to girls' students in VIII and Class IX from the indigenous minority communities studying in Moanoghar.

About Suprava Dewan and Pravat Ranjan Dewan and family

Suprava Dewan was born on 11 January 1922 in Rangamati. Her father, late Nagendranath Dewan was Deputy Magistrate in the then British Indian government and is one first educated persons from the Chittagong Hill Tracts. He was also one of the earliest champions of women's education among the region's indigenous minorities and made sure that his daughters also obtained education along with his son.

The elder sister of Suprava Dewan passed matriculation in 1940 from Aparnacharan Government High School, Chittagong. The studies were interrupted following the start of the Second World War when the family had to retreat to Rangamati following the imminent onslaught of the Japanese in Burma (present day Myanmar). In 1944, she was married with Pravat Ranjan Dewan.

Suprava Dewan is the youngest of the three siblings. The elder brother, late Pravat Kumar Dewan taught at the Rangamati Government High School and is fondly remembered as Pravat sir by his students. Her elder sister Manorama Dewan is first women to pass matriculation from CHT.

After her marriage, Ms. Dewan pursued a career in the teaching. When the Christian missionaries established the now well-reputed Saint Theresa's Convent in Rangamati in 1955-56, she was called there to teach and subsequently assumed the responsibility of Head Teacher of the school. In 1962, she moved to Chittagong with the transfer of her husband there and taught at Saint Mary's School and later, Saint Scholastica School. After a few years, she returned to Rangamati and started a kindergarten school – a first in Rangamati – named Hillside Kindergarten School which is currently known as Paharika High School. Following the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, she took retirement from active life due to ill health and died on 9 June 2003 in Rangamati.

The late **Pravat Ranjan Dewan** was born on 13 April 1919 in Bara Mahapuram, in Naniarchar upazila of Rangamati Hill District to Manoranjan Dewan and Adar Pudi Dewan. He was a brilliant student in the school and passed matriculation (SSC) in 1938 with distinction. He passed HSC from Chittagong Government College in 1941 and subsequently, took admission in Bachelor of Science (B. Sc.) in Calcutta University. However, his studies were abruptly interrupted with the start of the Second World War when he had to return home following the bombing of the town by the Japanese.

After his return from Kolkata, he took job as Food Inspector in the government's Food Department. In 1952, he resigned from this job and started a private business.

Throughout his life, Mr. Dewan was involved with various social, cultural, religious and political causes. He is the founding secretary of the Red Crescent Society in Rangamati when it was established immediately after the independence of Bangladesh. He died on 11 May 2004 in Rangamati at the home of his youngest daughter Nirupa Dewan and the endower of this scholarship.

Together Ms. Suprava Dewan and Pravat Ranjan Dewan had 4 daughters and 1 son. The only son and one of the endowers of this scholarship, currently lives in the USA with his family.

About the Endower: Nirupa Dewan

The endower **Nirupa Dewan** is the youngest daughter of Suprava Dewan and Pravat Ranjan Dewan. She is one of the pioneers and champions of women's education and their rights in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts. She passed SSC in 1968 from Chittagong Aparna Charan Girls High School Rangamati High School, HSC in 1970 from Chittagong Government College. After her B.A from Chittagong Government College in 1973, she obtained B.ed in 1978 from Dhaka Teacher's Training College and M.ed in 1991 from the same college. She started teaching in the Rangamati government Girls' School in 2005 from where she retired as Principal in 2009.

All through her life, Nirupa Dewan remains engaged with social and political causes. She was and still is an active member of the Rangamati Girls Guides Association. Since her student years, she is actively involved in cultural activism of the region's indigenous minorities and at one stage, was a regular singer/artist at Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television (BTV). She is a key voice on the defense of Human Rights in the CHT and recently, served as member with the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh. She continues to remain engaged with various social, cultural and religious associations and institutions, including with Moanoghar as Vice President in the Executive Committee.

For her contribution and activism, she has received numerous awards and recognition including from the Government of Bangladesh (Please mention a few examples.