

Moanoghar Pingala Dewan and Bimalashwa Dewan Memorial Scholarship Fund



MOANOGHAR

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About the Memorial Fund

In loving memory of late Pingala and Bimalaswa Dewan of Majhir Bosti, Rangamati, a Memorial Scholarship Fund has been created by the family members of the late couple. The fund aims to support the educational needs of underprivileged students from the Chittagong Hill Tracts and to further the work of Moanoghar. This can take the form of annual scholarships for specific students or as part of a wider scholarship pool, or other projects undertaken by Moanoghar within the education sector. The selection of scholarship recipients or projects, and administration of the Memorial Fund shall be overseen and managed by the Moanoghar Management.

Administration of the Fund



The scholarship will be managed under the current 'Higher Education Loan Programme' (HELP) of Moanoghar and the overall terms and conditions of the HELP will be applicable to the recipient of the scholarship. As per the conditions, the recipient of the scholarship will be obliged to refund to Moanoghar the amount s/he receive after entering into income generating employment upon completion of his/her studies. The refunded amount will be used for future candidates for their tertiary level studies. The selection of the candidate will be carried out through a competitive process as laid down in Moanoghar's HELP Policy (*available at www.moanoghar.org*).

About Pingala Dewan and Bimalashwa Dewan, and family

Bimalaswa Dewan was born in a remote village of Nollua in 1922 and his wife, Pingala Dewan was born in Kerangachari of Longadu Police Station in 1927.

Bimalaswa Dewan joined the British Indian Army in 1943, and continued his service with East Pakistan police and later with Bangladesh police. In 1972, after liberation of Bangladesh, he was posted as the first Superintendent of Police of Chittagong Hill Tracts. While serving in Pabna district, Bimalaswa Dewan suffered a massive heart attack in 1978 and had partial paralysis for almost five years until on the 23rd March 1984 he departed his earthly life at the age of 61.



The daughter of a headman, Pingala Dewan raised her children with the ethos and principles that has guided her throughout her pious life. She took pride in completing her duties as a mother and a wife and remained a devout Buddhist follower engaged in philanthropic activities towards Buddha Bhikku Sangha. Till her very last day, she maintained a very simple and disciplined active life where she never seemed to skip her daily Buddha Vandana and had no other prayers to Buddha than the well-being, peace and happiness of her beloved family. On 5th April 2020 Pingala Dewan passed away at the age of 93 amidst the global pandemic lockdown with her eldest son beside her.

Both husband and wife knew the value of education; one being a woman deprived of any formal education and the other being educated and ambitious for his services in the defence and law-enforcement sector. From the very beginning it was their earnest goal to ensure education and a better secured life for their children.



Pingala Dewan and Bimalashwa Dewan with the children

Bimalswa and Pingala Dewan are survived by their four sons (Manish, Shusim, Otin, Sumedh), one daughter (Monalisha), many grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

About Moanoghar Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)

Moanoghar launched a Higher Education Programme in mid-1980s to provide students with stipends/scholarships to pursue tertiary level studies in universities or technical institutes. The initiative was a success with an estimated 400 students having completed their education under the scheme. All of these recipients are now professionally established both at home and abroad and currently lead the alumnae association "The Moanogharians".

The initiative was stopped in late 1990s when Moanoghar passed through a critical period with severe financial crisis. It was resumed from 2011, albeit with a revised name: HELP. The programme is run with contributions from the Moanogharians, various well-wishers from the CHT diaspora. But, the most important is a number of scholarships, set up by endowments from generous individuals such this scholarship, that pay for the education of a meritorious student.

The HELP, so far, has proved to be a very effective initiative. Currently, 120 students are studying with HELP's support and more than 80 have completed their studies and are engaged various professional career. All of them are members of the Moanogharians and contribute to HELP and other Moanoghar activities.

Further details on HELP are provided on the Moanoghar HELP Policy.
