

Moanoghar Arabinda Chakma & Parul Chakma Memorial Scholarship



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 **Mr. Arabinda Chakma** and his wife **Ms. Parul Chakma** to be awarded annually to a meritorious student in the field of medicine and engineering from the CHT indigenous communities for tertiary level studies. The initial endowment donated by them will be kept in a fixed deposit account under the custodianship of Moanoghar. Only the interest from this endowment will be spent for the scholarship.

Administration of the Scholarship

The scholarship will be administered as part of Moanoghar 'Higher Education Loan Programme' (HELP) and the overall terms and conditions of the HELP will be applicable to the recipient of the scholarship. Consequently, the recipient of the scholarship will have obligation to refund to Moanoghar the amount s/he has received once s/he enters into income generating employment after the studies. The recovered amount will be used for disbursing further loans to future candidates. 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).



Arabinda Chakma and Parul Chakma

About Arabinda Chakma & Paul Chakma and family

Arabinda Chakma was born in 1931 in the Putikhali village of Toimidung *mouza* in the Rangamati district. Mr. Chakma was the youngest among the 3 brothers and sisters. His parents, Mr. Buddhamoni Chakma and Mrs. Manpati Chakma were relatively affluent in the village and used to own a significant amount of landholdings. Following the construction of the Kaptai hydroelectric dam in the 1960s, the reservoir lake created by the dam submerged the entire village forever and along with, their ancestral homesteads and other lands.

Mr. Chakma went first to the Putikhali Primary School. After the completion of primary school, he subsequently enrolled in class VI in the nearby Mahaprum Junior High School. However, in the following year, he took admission in class VII in the Rangamati Government High School. It was in 1947.



Mr. & Mrs. Chakma with their sons; Manash Mukur Chakma, Mani Mukur Chakma & their spouses and grand-children

The time was a tumultuous period, socially and politically for CHT and the wider Indian sub-continent. From his young age, Mr. Chakma was always politically conscious. In 1947, barely in his teen, he participated in the agitation of the partition of the sub-continent in favour of the CHT joining with India (which was a popular demand at that time given its

overwhelmingly non-Muslim population). As a result of his involvement in the agitations, he was expelled from the Rangamati High School. So, in the following year, he took admission in Sir Ashutosh School & College in Chittagong from where he completed Matriculation (currently SSC) and HSC, respectively in 1951 and 1953. Subsequently, he took admission for BA in Jagannath University, Dhaka but he could complete graduation due to various personal and family reasons.

His friends during school, college and university times went to become some of the luminaries of the CHT and with whom, even at this old age, he remains close.



*Arabinda Chakma and Parul Chakma
with their daughters and grand-children*

After his studies, he took job as teacher at his native Mahapuram High School where he was a student a few decades ago. He still cherishes his times of teaching in the school. Among the many illustrious students he taught include the present Chairman of the CHT Regional Council, Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma.

He left his teaching job after a few years and embarked upon a successful business career. All though his active professional life – in teaching or in business – he remained committed to his roots and through philanthropy, actively sought to promote and strengthen fellow-feeling between communities and peoples in the region.

He is a life member of the Chakma Buddhist Society in India and made a donation for the construction of a room in the Buddhist Temple in Bodh Gaya, India. The room is dedicated to the memory of him and his wife, Parul Chakma.

Parul Chakma was born in 1934 in Ramgar, situated in the present day Khagrachari district. She is the 3rd among the 3 daughters and 4 sons of late Tejedra Lal Dewan and Jyotirmoyee Dewan.

She passed SSC in 1954 and took admission in Senior (B.Sc.) Nursing in the same year on full scholarship. She is, indeed, one of the first educated women from the entire CHT region.

Subsequently, she also did further studies in midwifery. She took up government service as a nurse and later, assumed senior position in the Nursing Training Centre, Rangamati. In 1977, the Government of Bangladesh awarded her Gold Medal for Nursing in recognition of her distinguished service.

She was married with Arabinda Chakma around 1957-58 and together they have 2 daughters and 2 sons; Ms. Kumkum Chakma, Mr. Manash Mukur Chakma, Mr. Mani Mukur Chakma and Ms. Munmun Chakma.
