We at the Agami News have been mercilessly screaming around, “Agami’s winging it”. Since starting Agami News, we have witnessed an upward trajectory of Agami’s activities and its presence across social media channels especially the years 2020 and 2021, have been challenging and equally gratifying. The pandemic closed down school doors, impacting adversely the very crux of Agami’s mission. Agami was quick to react and in the last 24 months, Agami nurtured several initiatives to keep delivering quality education amidst school closures, strict government directives to stay safe from COVID and limited resources from being a non-profit.

Nevertheless, Agami continued to reach out to volunteers and donors and they responded by helping the students from our Agami-supporting schools and their families for basic necessities to survive at the onset of COVID. By mid of 2020, Agami was already exploring opportunities to continue schooling through Home room and Learning Loss Recovery. We went digital with Agami EdTech, preparing subject lessons online to deliver education. In 2021, we expanded to three new PPIs: Agami Chess Guild (ACG), Adommo Nari and Improving English Teaching. We branched out to two offices in Dhaka and built an executive leadership team of industry players and education advocates. We had many firsts annual events stapled to our future Agami calendar like ACG Competition, Agami Charity Hike and Agami Townhall. All these were possible because of Agami’s donor and stakeholders coming forward in support of Agami.

Evidently in the last two years, a significant change to the Agami infrastructure was the increasing number of donors and volunteers as a result of our outreach activities. Read more about it in “Agami Outreach.” In addition, Agami motivated their employees to build communication bridges across Agami Education Foundation and Agami Inc.. Read more in the Agami Community section.

Agami is actively running the virtual Year-end Fundraiser (YEFR) until January 14th, 2022 and will be ending with a virtual show, “Little Kids, Big Dreams” with our little ambassadors. Stay tuned to Agami’s social media, www.facebook.com/agami.org to know more about the show. You can donate to the event from our website.

On behalf of the Agami News team, wishing all our readers a Happy New Year and hope you start the next year on a high note!

Farhana Zaman
Centreville, Virginia
Agami has kicked off its Year-end Annual Fundraiser (YEFR) with the message, “Give Today for a better Tomorrow.” The YEFR is targeting to raise $65,000 until January 15, 2022. On January 14th, 2022, Agami will be hosting the virtual grand finale.

Agami Chess Guild (ACG) Calendar

January 2022
ACG students will participate in the Youth Chess Championship, organized by Bangladesh Chess Federation

February 2022
ACG students will participate in the Second Division League, organized by Bangladesh Chess Federation

March 2022
ACG Workshop at Agami-supporting schools

Tahmed Adnan, one of our Associate Marketing Director, led a very successful Agami Charity Hike in December. He was pivotal in planning and executing the event. With his efforts, at least 30 hiking enthusiasts turned up to our very first hiking expedition in Northern Virginia.

Shout outs

Somiron Gregory and Maksuda Mahtab (Agami Operations) and B. M. Fazley Rabbi, Rashedul Haque Rifat Sakib Sarwar Ahmed and Dilruba Choudhury from Agami EdTech were pivotal in planning, setting up and opening Agami Education Foundation's second office.
Three-day long Interactive Science Training

Perspective
AEF hosted a meeting between the new Executive Committee (EC) and the outgoing EC. The event appreciated praise-worthy efforts and contribution of the outgoing EC and congratulated the new EC.

Agami Education Foundation Activities This Quarter

Agami Education Foundation Annual General Meeting 2020

AEF held its 6th Annual AGM and the AEF Election to build a seven-member leadership front.

School Program grant application submissions have been closed and reviewed. As a result, several new schools have been screened and selected to be funded for 2022. A total of 20 schools will be funded for following year.

Improving English Teaching (IET) Calendar

January 2022
Online sessions to be conducted on interactive English Lesson Plan for classes three
Establish English Club in the Agami-supporting schools
Collaboration with TutorsInc. English online classes in collaboration with Youth Promise

February 2022
Remote class monitoring Classes in collaboration with TutorsInc. for classes five
English online classes in collaboration with Youth Promise

March 2022
Remote class monitoring Classes in collaboration with TutorsInc. for classes five
English online classes in collaboration with Youth Promise

Teachers Training (TT) Calendar

January 2022
Three-day long Interactive Science Training Teaching Science group students of selected Agami-supporting schools - Introduction to Engineering

February 2022
Science and Math content development for Second Term syllabus of Class Three Science and Math Class Monitoring Teaching Science group students of selected Agami-supporting schools - Introduction to Engineering

March 2022
Science and Math content development for Second Term syllabus of Class Three Science and Math Class Monitoring

Education not only makes one successful but teaches civil duties, right verses wrong and the right attitude. Who will you be?
Rakibul’s Story: Hardship to Happiness

Rakibul Hasan has been a source of inspiration. He has joined as an assistant teacher at Doshgram High School, one of the Agami sponsored schools located in Sylhet Sadar and has been providing education to the kids of the poor community since March 2020.

His journey wasn’t at all. He had to struggle since childhood. His father was a farmer and the only earning member of their family. Rakibul had to constantly choose between attending school or contributing to his family’s earnings. Income for the family was always insufficient for a family of six.

Rakibul’s dream was to become a teacher and serve the underprivileged children in the community. To pursue his dream, he motivated himself to study. He says to Agami, “As a child, I thought if I study well, the path would pave itself for me.”

Rakibul completed SSC in 2012 securing a GPA of 4.50. In 2014, he completed HSC, securing a GPA of 4.40. Subsequently, in 2018, Rakibul completed his graduation in Accounting from the Modon Mohon College of Sylhet. While pursuing a bachelor degree, he attended various co-curricular activities and received awards from several Government grants. He worked and completed masters at the same time.

Fast forward, today, Rakibul is earning for his family and also teaching the underprivileged children. His determination to work hard and achieve his dream has been an inspiration for the children in his community. He urged generous people to stand beside the underprivileged children and give them hope for a better future through education.

Md. Nayim Uddin
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Gifted and Talented Scholarships

Not only we have successful stories in “Diamonds in the rough”, we try to recognize students that are gifted and talented. Here is a student, Faisal from one of out Agami-supporting schools - Switch Tahmina Banu Bidyaniketan! Faisal has a natural talent for singing and we would love to help Faisal become a successful singer. All they need is the opportunity and a little help. You can help by donating to Agami’s Gifted & Talented (GnT) scholarship for children like Faysal. If interested please get in touch with us at education@agami.org
Due to COVID restrictions, the fair was organized virtually. Despite virtual, we witnessed the enthusiasm of the participants. The speeches from the invited women scientist and the incredible messages from distinguished judges motivated the students. Special acknowledgement was made for the Women scientists of Bangladesh and their contributions in STEM. The project winners of the science fair were fifth graders from Switch Tahmina Banu Bidyaniketon, fourth graders from Shohag Shopnodhara and third graders from Alok Sikkhaloy. Winners of extempore speech and wall magazine were from Switch Tahmina Banu Bidyaniketon.

Prize distribution ceremony was organized at the AEF office and prizes were distributed by the President of Agami Inc., Dr. Sabir Majumder. All the participants of the science fair were gifted with consolation prizes for their participation. Notable projects included producing electricity from wind turbine, blender machine, greenhouse effect, sanitizer machine, solar system, rain water harvesting, using household waste for irrigation, vacuum cleaner, water dispenser, water filter and many more. A huge applaud to the young scientists and to Agami for motivating such young minds to explore and experiment.

Nehreen Majed & Zinnia Afrin
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Improving English Teaching and Teachers’ Training: Prize Giving Ceremony

Improving English Teaching (IET) in collaboration with Teachers’ Training (TT) organized an award ceremony for the Olympiad winners and the volunteers on 25 November 2021 at the AEF office. 36 students who attended the online Math, Science, and English Olympiad in February and March of 2021, were the event’s star quotient. The competitions were held online and were streamed live on Facebook.

AEF arranged the Olympiad event to help students develop their ability to think outside the box, boost their analytical skills, give them exposure and challenge them to put theory into practice.

Evidently, the Olympiad helped to improve aptitude and competitive spirit among students and develop their self-confidence. Agami believes that this type of intervention is essential for the marginalized schools and in the future plans to include similar approach in all Agami-supporting schools.

The fundamental driving force of this intervention was the eight AEF Olympiad volunteers. The program started with a welcome note from Ms. Nafisa Khanam, Lead for TT program. Following that, students took part in fun activities where they participated on-the-spot competitions in Math, Science and English.

Ms. Khanam handed over awards along with the certificates to the winners, participants, volunteers, and participating schools. The event was broadcasted live on Agami and Agami Education Foundation Facebook page. The event ended in a positive note. AEF is proactively working for more frequent Olympiad events.

Israt Sharmin
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Improving English Teaching: Online Training Sessions for Teachers

IET has started online training sessions on English assessment and interactive lessons since November 2021. Ten teachers from 7 Agami supported schools from all over Bangladesh have enrolled in the training.

During these online training sessions, attendance is mandatory, and teachers are asked to answer questions pre- and post- training. This helps to assess not only the development of the teacher undertaking the training, but the quality and effectiveness of such IET trainings to teachers.

Earlier, IET developed 19 interactive lessons, 25 assessment grids and lots of practice worksheets on the first thirteen units of third grade [EFT] book. IET will record the sessions to their YouTube channel, so that it can also be used in future to reach out more teachers. IET will provide portfolios so that teachers would be able to keep the records of each student in the individual portfolio. After completing the first term syllabus, IET will gradually develop other 26 units, related worksheets and assessment grids on class three, EFT book.

Israt Sharmin
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Giving Back

You can also contribute from your purchases at Amazon Smile.

Select 'Agami' as your favorite charity.

Thank you for contributing to Agami.

Conditions apply.

Please visit the AMAZON FAQ page for more information.

Write to us at news@agami.org
You can read our news archive on www.agami.org/take-action
Agami has definitely made progress through the pandemic and has successfully reopened schools, expanded its operational activities and consistently implemented actions necessary to keep students and teachers safe. Initially, Agami was following government directives to reopen all Agami-supporting schools after the 18-month COVID shutdown. Students started joining schools wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing.

Agami continued to work with school authorities to ensure schools are safe and students, teachers and staff are aware of the risks of COVID. As a result, teachers reminded students about hand-washing, physical distancing and wearing a mask at all times. Eventually, temperature checks were integrated into most of the Agami-supporting schools. Agami distributed 5000 masks, 6000 bars of soap, hand sanitizers and toiletries to 2,562 students in six districts. In addition, teachers encouraged parents to take the COVID vaccine.

Earlier, Agami’s Health for Education (HfE) program in association with the Doctor’s Platform and school authorities assisted schools to open safely. This began with an online awareness session, dissemination of information about COVID-19 from reliable sources like UNICEF, WHO and the health authorities in Bangladesh.

However, Agami was particularly concerned about the uncertainty that if schools closed again, and hence decided to bring practical working solutions to continue teaching uninterrupted. Agami implemented the Homeroom initiative, a hybrid learning model to ensure learning continues. Fast forward, the SP team has been assessing and reviewing the effectiveness of the Homeroom initiative, which led to the implementation of the Learning Loss project. This approach addresses learning loss and accelerates recovery by using low-cost study materials to support students and engage teachers. Students of grades three, four, five and six are attending project interventions regularly, taking part in the weekly assessment test following a customized syllabus.

People involved with the schools including teachers, students, parents, members of the school managing committee are very happy with the reopening and recovery approaches taken so far and expect more in the coming future.

Md. Nayim Uddin
Dhaka, Bangladesh

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**School Program: Celebrating Victory Day**

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**School Program: Agami—supporting Schools Going Strong**
Post the pandemic, Agami EdTech is planning activities for 2022 ad beyond. One of them is Agami EdTech school implementation project, which will be enabled in 10 Agami Schools and in 16 schools from SERVE Foundation. The EdTech team is busy visiting the schools and doing requirement analysis. The team is brainstorming and planning several activities throughout 2022 to address ways to improve teaching and learning in schools, to diminish the learning gap, and engage more students in math and science.

The goal was to do some of the following activities:
- Conduct survey for teachers and a pilot baseline survey for students
- Check the technology infrastructure and feasibility for training opportunities
- Identify key factors causing Students’ Learning Gap
- Orientation of Agami EdTech platform and MMC to the students

Considering the ongoing school policy of the government and available infrastructure in these schools, Agami EdTech team has set up a calendar of activities for the upcoming year.

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Rashedul Haque Rifat
Dhaka, Bangladesh
**Agami Chess Guild - Carnival Chess Festival 2021**

Agami’s after-school experience with chess has been very well received and appreciated by our stakeholders. A year back it was an unlikely proposal to have a competitive chess program for children in slum schools. And a year later since it was first conceived, the young trailblazers from Agami-supporting schools are already participating in chess tournaments and playing against chess grandmasters.

Agami Chess Guild courses took off in two Agami-supporting schools since October 2021. The courses were curated by Bangladesh Grandmaster and International Master and are conducted by chess instructors with International Chess ratings. Within a short period of time, our students have showed significant development and interest in chess.

Recently, 25 Agami Chess Guild students (14 Girls and 11 boys) took part in the Carnival Chess Festival 2021 organized by Dotlines Group at the Police Lines, Mirpur, Dhaka. Grandmasters Reefat Bin Sattar, Ziaur Rahman, and Enamul Hossain Rajib were present as guests at the Carnival. It was a privilege to play with the three chess Grandmasters and a golden opportunity to compete and learn from the best in the field of chess.

The students are now preparing themselves to take part in the Female Second Division League in December 2021 and in the Youth Chess Championship in January 2022 to be organized by Bangladesh Chess Federation. Agami has a plan to expand this course to other schools and bring out the talents from among the disadvantaged children and take them to the international level.

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**Somiron Gregory**
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Agami’s Library Project is looking for volunteers for the year 2022. The scope of work and duties of a volunteer is detailed in this [link](#).

If interested, click to "Apply Online"
Library Project volunteers held a small seminar on "Waste Management, Segregation and 3R" for 30 students of class five. The seminar was about the pollution caused by different types of waste and the current situation of waste management in Dhaka. Students were taught about the need of waste segregation and the 3R and how they can contribute in making the environment less polluted.

President of Agami Inc., Dr. Sabir Majumder visited Agami-supporting schools during his visit to Bangladesh. This is a picture from Empyrean Hope School with volunteers - Elma Khan & Kathleen Poushaly Dhar. His visit to Agami not only initiated important conversations between Agami Inc. and Agami Education Foundation, but also promoted important conversations about Agami’s 3.0 vision. Watch on this link the conversation between Dr. Sabir Majumder and academician Ramendu Majumdar.

The Trachers' Training (TT) team monitored a Science class at PSD Nandipara School. Shirin Akter conducted the class on "Hygiene" with 19 students of class three. She successfully engaged the students by 'Role Play' method and group activity. The learning outcomes of the students were assessed by the teacher by group assessment. The students gave feedback that the learning outcome with fun.

TT completed 13 online sessions in "Introduction to Engineering Curriculum" in collaboration with Youth Promise. Students and teachers of Aalok Shikkhaloy, Sohag Swapnadhra and Chatpara Ideal Academy have enrolled in "Promote Science Group Students" project. The TT team is will introduce practical sessions as well with the support of Youth Promise.

The Adommo Nari project is one of Agami’s newest PPI. It is a sewing training program in collaboration with Switch foundation for stay-at-home mothers of Agami-supporting school children. The program's focus is socioeconomic development by training family members and creating a platform for their product placement. The amazing quality of beautiful Nakshi Katha, bedcovers, Panjabees, Sarres and jute handicrafts are being made by the mothers of students from Agami-supporting schools. Agami has been helping sell these products and help the families do better.

Sadia Sharmin Mim from Chatpara Ideal Academy (CIA) and many other science students from the same school are making wonderful science research projects that are both informative and innovative. Agami applauds such out of the box ideas and appreciates CIA's continuous effort to deliver quality education.
The 6th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Agami Education Foundation (AEF) was successfully held at a city hotel in Dhaka on October 30, 2021.

The program started with a welcome note by the Vice President, Shawkat Hossain. It was followed by a virtual message from the Agami Inc., president, Dr Sabir Majumder. The executive director in AEF, Nafisa Khanam, also delivered a presentation on the overall update of AEF activities.

Maksuda Mahtab, Finance Manager, gave highlights on the financial report and budget and where importance was given to transparency and accountability.

During the AGM, the attendees were reminded that the goal of reaching out to Bangladesh's underprivileged children with quality education is the key focus of AEF and that Agami believes in the uniqueness of every child. M Abdur Rahman Khan, AEF director of administration, moderated the meeting.

All the attendees shared their conviction – which included around 39 people from AEF executive committee members, lifetime members, general members, staff as well as volunteers – had contributed to the success of the meeting.

In the end, the newly elected executive committee was announced that to be functioning for the next three consecutive years, 2021-2023.

The vice president of AEF, Shawkat Hossain, passed along the vote of thanks. In the concluding speech, he urged all to work together and extend necessary support to fulfill the dream of AEF for the wellbeing of underprivileged children, particularly for their education.

A workshop on ‘Agami on the 3rd Decade: Challenges and Way Forward.’ was hosted in November at the AEF office. Dr. Sabir Majumder, President of Agami Inc. was the keynote speaker. The workshop was attended by about 34 participants that included the AEF Executive Committee members, PPIs Leads and Managers, members, guests, representatives from partner organizations, and reporters from Ekattor TV Channel.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Agami Expressions** - The podcasts are available on Spotify, Apple and Google channels. The podcast aims to promote awareness about several philanthropy missions and volunteering opportunities.
**AGAMI TOWNHALL**

Agami’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a much awaited event for all Agamites. It is that time when Agami gets to celebrate the impacts of its PPIs and operations that ran through out the year. While an AGM is very result-oriented, Agami’s AGM 2020 marked the beginning of Agami Townhall. The AGM paired with Agami Townhall was well received and will be repeated in the years to come.

Agami Townhall is an opportunity for all involved in an organization to come together to analyze, plan, ask questions and build for the year past and years ahead. All Board members, Agami current and previous volunteers, Agami employees were invited. For the first time in Agami history, AGM and Agami Townhall 2020 had the highest attendance from not just North America but also from Bangladesh-AEF. Agami Townhall opened with a look back at the year 2020 and celebrated the impact we were able to make as an organization! We watched a video that summed up all the campaigns and progress from Agami’s active PPIs. We shared success stories of our Agami students and planned for upcoming fundraisers and events in the new year. As Agami goes through an Agile transformation, pre-planning and sharing timeliness company wide is a practice we will continue. Agamites watched videos from our two newest PPIs and all the while, adding to a treasure hunt check list that qualified them for a lottery!

The event moved forward with introducing the IDEA POD, so every idea gets captured and prioritized in a jam board which will be available all year round. We played a team building game “Scenarios”. The game triggered a healthy discussion amongst Agamites and we promised to be back next year with more scenarios!

The event ended on a high note as Nusrat Tuli from AEF won the lottery and a 100$ gift card! Congratulations Nusrat! The AGM provided crucial reports for Agamites and the Agami Townhall provided the zeal to take in further in the years to come. We hope to see you in the next Townhall, scheduled for April 2022!

**Mehreen Munawar**  
Charlotte, North Carolina

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**AGAMI NEW TASK FORCE TO PROMOTE MULTI-CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

Agami has formed a new task team that will be focusing on cultural diversity and improving languages and communication across Agami stakeholders. The team will be exploring issues and finding opportunities across Agami Education Foundation and Agami Inc. to promote cultural diversity. The team aims to break down communication barriers between Agami employees and volunteers engaged in local and global operations to create Agami global ambassadors.

![Multi-cultural Diversity Taskforce members from left to right: Monika Biswas, Md. Mustafijur Rahman (Parvez), Sabir Majumder, Somiron Gregory and Tania Ashraf](image)

**Farhana Zaman**  
Centreville, Virginia

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**Agami News**  
Agami Inc. has been working on several exciting projects, including Agami EdTech. Agami News team is continuously working to communicate and be transparent with donors and volunteers. To know more about any specific project, please email the Agami News team at news@agami.org and visit www.agami.org

**Agami Volunteers**  
Across North America, Agami’s volunteer outreach has been phenomenal. We have two established chapters, one in New York-New Jersey area and one registered in DC-Maryland-Virginia area. If you are interested in bringing Agami's cause home, please reach out to info@agami.org

**Agami Influencers**  
We are continuously looking for Agami ambassadors who could help bring the cause forward and promote vocally. If you are interested in spreading through social media, Agami’s foreword, email marketing@agami.org

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**Agami Corporate Ambassador Program**

If you believe in Agami’s values and can avail employee benefits like company matching or volunteer grants, you can contact marketing@agami.org

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**Little Kids, Big Dreams**

Keeping up with the theme of 2021 - "Give Today For a Better Tomorrow", we have invited little friends who will inspire our Agami school children to dream big. Further details in the website www.agami.org

SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 14TH
Agami being a non-profit organization, all our efforts, projects and resources often boil down to funds. However, what sets Agami apart is outreach as a goal, which is just as important as the financial target. In the past years, Agami has been focused much more on outreach strategies; bringing some innovative and amazing ideas on the table.

We have partnered with other non profit organizations used social media outreach techniques and focused on other communities and found what speaks to them. But nothing compared in impact for outreach with real human connection and interaction. In the COVID days, that crucial bit of outreach has not been easy - but here at Agami, we LOVE a challenge!

COLLABORATING WITH THE BEST

In the last two years, Agami has strengthened its outreach strategies by collaborating with credible partners. Today, we have ten ongoing partnerships, that are helping us reach a wider crowd and a share vision to make a difference in the world. Teachers’ Training making constructive online learning classes with Youth Promise, students' families being empowered through skilled learning to sell apparels in partnership with Switch Foundation under Agami Knitting Project, taking Agami-supporting students into a creative trip by practicing arts and interacting with puppets organized by Jolputul to name a few.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

During every event, fundraiser and project initiative, Agami plans meticulously about increasing outreach by including various communities. 2021 marks the inaugural year for Agami Charity Hike which allowed us to spread the cause to a new group of people with very different interests but the same resonance towards education for children. The new PPI - Agami Chess Guild organized a virtual chess tournament which was a huge success as well! Children and adults from North America and Bangladesh participated and even played a friendly simultaneous match against Bangladesh's grandmaster! Nothing binds people together than a common goal!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Every year, during Agami’s Annual, year end and chapter led events, we include communities from various wakes of life. We have kept up this outreach even through Agami ’s Podcast - Agami Expressions, Agami News and Agami Volunteer Event. Focusing on a smaller group of people helped us find common ground with them and we were able to include them in our mission. Not only does this spread the word about the wonderful cause we work towards, it increases our goodwill and spiritual network across the world! We have started to conduct year-round virtual appreciation seminars for our donors so they can see the impact of their generosity first-hand.

Outreach is usually defined as just the external supporters. At Agami, just as always, we take things a step further. We didn't just increase our outreach to our supporters, we increased our "In"Reach to the Agami family as well. We asked our teachers for what they need, We prioritized the issues faced by families of Agami school students and created projects to solve those problems - Once again proving, that the best outreach happens with human connections! To end the year 2021 with a bang! Agami organized appreciation sessions for all of our supporters, donors and sponsors. We wanted to extend our gratitude to them because their support means everything to us. We hope to continue our outreach journey until Agami becomes a common household name. Together, we can make a difference and we all know that more equals merrier!

Mehreen Munawar
Charlotte, North Carolina