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## Under Construction Tuthamandra Sarajubala Girls' High School Probini Dorm ; Gopalganj District, Bangladesh: 2010–2011

### 7th ANNUAL SUBCONTINENT CONFERENCE, 2011; BANGLADESH



Conference Participants, Headmaster-Monk Dayamoy speaking;

Pratip Dasgupta [I] of NY & Dr. Ananta Roy

The meeting was held on Friday January 7, 2011 at 10.30 am at the Dhakeswari National Temple in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was presided over by Mr. Pratip Dasgupta, a Probini Trustee from New York while Chairman of the Conference was Dr. Ananta Roy with Subir Mazumdar, Chair and Secretary respectively of Probini Sub continental Committee . (see p 3)

### OUR MOST RECENT BENEFACTORS: [November 1, 2010—MARCH 15, 2011]

**Sponsor:** The Pfizer Foundation, Prabal & Swapna Mukherji, Drs Pinaki & Kavita Bali Mukherji

**Patron:** Prof Dr Santanu & Nisha Datta, Prof Dr Uwe Gielen, Drs Prof Eloise Linger & Ernest Harsch, Gopal & Daksha Patel in memory of Gopal's father P. J. Patel, Drs Profs Tom Angotti & Emma Matos, Dr Rudranath & Mumu De Talukdar, Drs Prof Sachi G & Shefali S Dastidar

**Donor:** Capital One Bank, Udayan Chattopadhyay, Sailendra N & Shree Chatterjee, Swapan & Dr Rekha Gangopadhyay, Prabhanshu & Sibani Ghoshal, GoodSearch Co., Dr Rajinder & Jyoti Gandhi, Donald & Christine Mahoney, Ms Shanti Nandi (via Facebook)

**Contributor:** Mita Banerjee, Ratan Barua, Lorne & Candida Birch, Dr Ranajit Datta (NY), Dr Samir Datta, Suman Kalyan Debroy (India, via PayPal), Dr Binode Das, Ms Milita Chanda Das, Shuvo G. Dastidar, Mrs Ira Ganguly, Dr Prithiraj Guha & Ms Kathrine Intac & Ms Sunita Datta & Ms Rachel Julia Rear & Ms Lisa Schiavone & Ms Penney Vachirapapun (via Facebook Probini Cause), Prof Jill Hamberg, Prof Dr Becke Kalmans, Arnab Karmakar, Drs Sudhangshu & Ratna Karmakar, Prof Dr Larry & Joyce Krause, Marianne McKenna (in memory of Maryknoll Priest Rev. Jacob Esselborn who worked in Bangladesh for over 20 years), Prof Dr Mahatapa Palit, Steve & Susila Reinart, Prof Richard Rubino, Mrs. Sarah Sawyer, Profs Sashi and Sumitra Shah, Dr Neil & Louise Vichinsky, Stephen & Linette Waters

**Letters:** An orphaned girl wrote to Shuvo (son of Sachi and Shefali) the following letter when Shuvo visited Dhaka Orphanage Society as a representative of the Probini.

**Respected Dada (Elder Brother):** Have my regards. I have seen you (from behind the crowd) and I feel so good about it. I have not seen my parents\*\*, but would like to meet them. I could not (approach you and) speak to you because I felt shy. .... I am in second grade. .... Affectionate, Archana (She is addressing Shuvo as the "Elder Brother." "Parent" here means Sachi and his wife Shefali - the Orphan girl has lost her biological parents long ago.)

**Venerable Baba & Ma (Dad and Mom):**

Have my regards. When my brother visited (the Orphanage) I was away on vacation. But he left a coin for me. I think of you at all times. I am in third grade. When are you coming here?

Your affectionate, ,  
Basanti

(She is referring to Shuvo as "my brother" and "Dad and Mom" here means Sachi and Shefali.)

(Letters translated from original Bengali by Prabangshu Ghoshal)

**In the News:**

Probini news appeared in the *The Alumni Spectator* of the Stuyvesant High school, December 2010, on page 15. The news was supplied to them by Shuvo

**Remember!**

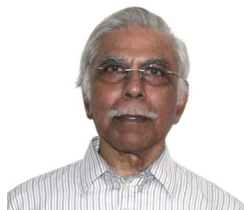
Your donations to Probini are fully tax deductible

**Durgapur, India, Schools:** Probini has kindly extended the financial assistance for our education program. Presently our **Swami Vivekananda Bani Prachar Samity** is running 11 (eleven) education centers - 3 in slum areas inside Durgapur Steel Township and 8 in rural areas (tribal villages). Rural centers are set up for advancement of Santhal tribal community. **The Centers are :** 1.



2. Ramakrishna Vidyalaya at Vidyasagar Avenue, Steel Township, 3. Sarada Vidyamandir at Mahishkapur Road slum, Steel Township, 4. Vivekananda Vidyapith at Tilok Road slum, Steel Township, 5. Nive-dita Vidyaniketan at Mohonto Bagan Village, 6. Gadadhar Path Bhawan at DhowaDanga Village, 7. Vivek Vidyalaya at DVC Para Village, 8. Bharati at Akandara Village, 9. Binapani at Adibasipara village, 10. Bidyadham at Bauripara village, 11. Mahavir Sikshalaya at Dasir Bandh village, and 11. Mangaldeep at Dampara village,

First 3 centers are for oppressed caste and tribes community and 8 centers for Santhal tribes. The Samity is having 797 students. Probini is giving support our 12 teachers in the form of their Salary. This is helping our education system more effectively. **The teachers are:** Smt. (Srimati or Ms) Jharna Das, Smt. Kalyani Kha, Smt. Mani Dasgupta, Smt. Pranati Garai, Smt. Chhanda Chakraborty, Smt. Monideepa Bhowmick, Smt Anima Das, Smt Dipika Nag, Smt. Gauri Guru, Smt. Priya Show, Smt. Monika Mukherjee' and Smt. Manashi Banerjee. Probini funds are kept in Fixed Deposit Scheme in State Bank of India. Above teachers are getting their salary through this scheme. By Nirmal Mondal, Secretary of Samity



**Prabangshu Ghoshal, Architect of New York**

Anath Bandhu (Friend of the Orphaned) honoree, PrabDa or Older Brother Prab, is an architect and a true friend of the Probini Foundation. Once Prab—as he is popularly known—heard of Probini he came forward in lending his service to Probini, especially translating from Bengali to English and vice versa, as many of the

mails, poems and stories Probini receives from Bangladesh and India are in Bengali. Through his help Probini is building a girl's dorm at Gopalganj, Bangladesh. Every few months he never forgets to send Probini a check for \$108; 108 being an auspicious number in Hinduism. **Thanks a lot, PrabDa!!!!**

**PROBINI PROJECTS**

**Assam Buddhist Vihar Orphanage, Dibrugarh, India** - Probini is providing teachers' salary.

**Bagerhat-Khulna AndharManik Girls' High School:** Probini has built a girls' dormitory.

**Bankura, India**—Probini provides teachers at Purokonda Ashram school for the poor.

**Barisal Poor College Student Scholarship** - at Ramakrishna Mission, Bangladesh.

**Calcutta Sishu Kalyan Parishad [Children's Welfare] Orphanage, India** - Probini gives scholarships to girls.

**Chirar Bandar Khochna School, Bangladesh** - Probini is providing teachers' salary.

**Comilla Ramakrishna Orphanage, Bangladesh** - Probini is providing scholarships to several boys.

**Dhaka Girls Orphanage Society, 1908, Bangladesh** - Probini is providing scores of scholarships to girls for school education.

**Dinajpur Harijan Palli Sri RamaKrishna Bidyalaya [Free School of the Sweeper's Colony], Bangladesh** - Probini is providing salaries for teachers.

**Dhowa Danaga Santhali Tribal Village School, Bardhaman, India**—Probini is providing teachers at primary school.

**Doihari Sahid Smriti (Martyr's Memorial) Girl's High School, Swarupkathi, Bangladesh:** Probini has

rebuilt the cyclone-destroyed school and dorm.

**Durgapur Schools at [1] Vivekananda Samiti's Office, [2] Tilak Road Slum, & [3] Mahiskapur Road Slum, India** - Probini is providing salaries for teachers.

**Gandhi Ashram Trust, Noakhali, Bangladesh** - Probini is providing scholarships for school children.

**Jagatpur Ashram Orphanage (1898), Chittagong, Bangladesh** - Probini is supporting several boys' & girls' education.

**Madaripur Pranab Ashram, Bangladesh** - Probini is providing salaries for teachers and has built a boys' dormitory.

**Mahilara Ashram School, Barisal, Bangladesh** - Probini is providing teachers and built a school.

**Nandigram, Medinipur, India**— Probini is providing teachers at Kasturba Gandhi Memorial School.

**Netrokona Manab Kalyan Kami [Improvement of Mankind] Orphanage, Bangladesh** - Probini is providing student scholarships, has created agricultural projects for self-sufficiency in food and has built a girls' dorm.

**Pirojpur SriRamKathi Pranav Shishu BidyaNiketan School, Bangladesh** - Probini is providing salaries for teachers and has built a school building.



## 2011 Annual Conference

by Ananta Roy (cont from p 1)

The conference was started with recitation from holy Gita by Swami Satyapriyananda and by garlanding of President, Chairman and delegates from abroad by Sri Ranjit Roy of Surjya Sen Anath Shishu Sadan.(Orphanage) of Ujirpur, Bangladesh.

Some of the representatives of projects included: Mr. Pratip Dasgupta, Probini Foundation USA, Mr. Arindom Banerjee of Purbachal Ananda Foundation, India, Mr. C. R Mazumder, Dhaka, Dr. Ananta Kumar Roy, Chair, and Mr. Subir Mazumder, Secretary, respectively of Sub-continental Committee, Mr. Achyutananda Gharami, Andharmanik Girls High School, Bagerhat, Mr. Ranjit Kumar Roy, Surjya Sen Orphanage, Ujirpur, Mr. Pabitra Kumar Chowdhury, Dhaka Girls Orphanage Society (Hindu), Ms. Kalpana Mandal, Gandhi Ashram Trust, Noakhali, Swami Satyapriyananda, Pronab Mott Ashram, Madaripur, Mr. Sudhir Kumar Das, Niharkana Bhaktabas, Mahilara, Swami Gitatmananda Maharaj, Pranabananda Shishu Vidyaniketan (Children's School), Sri Ramkathi, Pirojpur, Mr. Arobindo Roy, Headmaster, Tuthamandra Girls High School, Gopalganj, Mr. Krishna Prashad Mandal, Tuthamandra Girls High School, Gopalganj, Chaitanya Dayamay Brahmachari, Mahilara Mott Shishu Shiksha (Children's School) Niketan. Mr. Ripon Kumar Biswas, Principal, Kadambari Union College, Rajoir, Ms. Dipika Mony Roy, Endeavour, Dhaka.



### The agenda:

01. Annual Report to be presented by all Probini-aided organizations;
02. Next year's plan of all Probini-aided organizations;
03. Ways and means for the Probini-aided organizations to be economically self-sufficient in order to avoid dependency and to help other needy organizations;
04. How fund can be saved, raised and mobilized for repair and maintenance of the dormitories and schools built by Probini in different ashrams and villages;
05. Checking of fixed deposit accounts;
05. Evaluating new applicants for Probini support;
06. Other issues.

### Some of the important decisions taken at the session:

**1.Funding of Kadambari Union College (school):** Upon a long discussion regarding delay in starting construction works it has been decided that they will not be given any further fund until they completely use the cashed amount of TK. 650,000 + their own contribution of equivalent amount of 650,000 taka. So a new check of US\$ 4500 will not be handed over. Since they got their own funds ready it may be possible for them to complete the dormitory as estimated. As such from this amount a fund may be sent to Tuthamandra if Probini, USA, deems fit.

### 2. Fixed Deposit of Mahilara:

Upon a long discussion it has been decided and they have agreed that within January 31, 2011 they will make a Fixed Deposit of Tk. 100,000 and will send copy of FDR to Dhaka ( With both page) in order to send the same to Probini HQ USA.

### 3. Check to Netrokona Drom:

Since Monk Nayan Sadhu could not attend the session timely it has not been possible to assess his present status regarding Probini funds given to his organization so far. However he arrived at

Dhakeswari temple when the session was over. As such he was advised to contact and meet with Mr. Pratip Dasgupta at his hotel in order to proceed further.

### 4. Probini help to new organization:

Since Ms. Dipika Mony Roy an attendee representing ENDEAVOUR did not submit any written proposal she was advised to submit a proposal in writing which will be sent to Probini HQ USA for assessment and onward decision.

### Speeches:

**Monk Swami Satyapriyananda**, headmaster Pranab Mott Ashram, Madaripur, made a very nice speech at the conference expressing his gratitude and thanks to Probini for their kind support to them. He added with pride that he got funds from Probini both for dorm construction and for school teachers. He informed that he has kept a fund with most profitable fixed deposit account in Bank and he meets up the monthly remuneration of the teachers from the amount incurred from this fixed deposit. With the help of Probini and with his own funds he has completed a student dormitory at his ashram where more than 20 poor students are residing.

**Mr. Krishna Proshad Mandal** Assistant Headmaster, Tuthamandra Girls High School, Gopalganj made his speech expressing his heartiest thanks to Probini for their kind help to their School in respect of constructing a Girls Dormitory at the school campus.

**Mr. Achyutananda Gharami** made his speech on behalf of AndharManik Girls High School expressing his heartiest thanks to Probini for their kind help to the Girls High School in establishing a Girls Dormitory at the school campus which is running well and about 20 students are living there. He also informed the session that they have undertaken the construction of dinning room at the dormitory with their own capacity and getting financial support from some local donors which has been appreciated by all. (See p 4)

## I'd like to help!

Yes, I/We/Our organization would like to help

Please make checks payable to **The Probini Foundation**

**Sponsor \$500**

**Patron \$250**

**Donor \$100**

**Contributor (any amt) \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and mail to: **The Probini Foundation, 80-56 251<sup>st</sup> Street, Bellerose, NY 11426**

(Conference Speech, Cont. From p 3)

**Mr. Pratip Dasgupta** made his presidential speech stating how Probini came into being with the initiative of Drs. Sachi and Sherali Ghosh Dastidar including his family members and a few other kind hearted people. During his speech he informed how Probini has reached up to the present status and how Probini is working at the moment in providing support to the needy and orphaned for the purpose of education. While his speech he advised all the organizations to obtain fund from other organization whenever it is possible. He also suggests all the representatives of attending organizations to try their level best to implement the decisions what ever are to be taken in this conference.

**Mr. Arindom Banerjee** from Purbachal Ananda Foundation, India made a nice speech mentioning their own experience how to appeal to the donors of mass people asking help for their organization in India which was noted by all the participating organization as a guide line.

Headmaster **Monk Chaitanya Dayamoy Brahmachari**, head of Mahilara Mott Shishu Shiksha Niketan school informed that they have still kept Probini-aided fund of TK. 115,140 with a savings account despite last year's decision of keeping the amount with fixed deposit. They have apologized agreed to keep in fixed deposit of Tk. 100,000 within 31 January 2011 and will send copy of FDR to Dhaka in order to send the same to Probini HQ in USA.

**Mr. Ripon Kumar Biswas** . Principal , Kadambari Union College expressed his heartiest thanks to Probini for their kind help to their college in respect of constructing a girls dormitory at the college campus (equivalent U.S. 11 & 12 grades). During his speech he expressed that they have cashed the Probini fund so far given to them having an amount of 650,000 taka, about more than one year back. But due to their internal problems they could not start the construction work earlier. However now they have started their work. Such delay in starting construction work seems to be disappointing to the session because of cost overrun.

#### Why people help? By Shuvo G. Dastidar

The simplest answer would be that many, not all, care to help others. Another problem is that they do not have the means to help others, as they themselves are in need of help. The final answer is that they are unaware of the global poverty and/or the means to provide assistance.

Indifference to poverty, while it holds true for some, is far from the case for the majority of people around the world. The unawareness of some people of just how many are in desperate need of help across the globe comes not as much from genuine apathy but, instead, a reliance upon the headlines for their knowledge. If the troubles of a society, foreign or domestic, is not found on the front page of *The New York Times*, in a segment on a televised news program, or as the focal point of satire on "The Daily Show" most people will know nothing about it. A recent example of this is the devastation Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh: immediately after the damages and death of Sidr's landfall in 2007 the news was full of articles, pictures, video of both the suffering & pledges for assistance. It took a category 5 cyclone to bring Bangladeshi people into the forefront of the media & the next global disaster all but erased this extremely destitute population from the eye of the media. What people did not see was that the people of this region had been in need of assistance before Sidr and continue to need assistance well after the cyclone has passed and the monies allocated by various countries and organizations to "repair the damages" has expired.

It is fantastic that large amounts of money were donated in 2007, but it was a super cyclonic storm Sidr that was the impetus for the influx of aid. The Probini Foundation recognizes and emphasizes that foreign aid must not be relied upon as the backbone of the growth, it uses all funds to bring about self-perpetuating growth through education. Foreign assistance is not simply relief but a means to an end, that end being the lack of a need for foreign aid.

**Loss:** Purushottamdas Jethabhai Patel, a Probini supporter and father of Probini Samaj Bandhu honoree Gopal Patel, passed away on November 7, 2010. Probini will miss him a lot.

#### Note on Probini friends:

On December 11, 2010 friends celebrated Sachi and Shefali's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at an Indian restaurant in Queens, New York City. They joined in song and dance with a bit of reminiscing of their life with their son Shuvo and friend Swapna acting as M.C. Overruling their request attendees donated about \$6,000 (six thousands) dollars to two non-profit organizations—the Probini Foundation and ISPAD: Indian Subcontinent Partition Documentation Project—with which they are associated.

**Pranavananda Shishu (Children's) Bidyaniketan (School), SriRamKathi, Proojpur, Bangladesh:** The following students received scholarship in the nationwide Britti Pariksha (scholarship exam): Kindergarten – Chinton Haldar; Class 1: Diganta Haldar, Ms. Anjana Islam, Ms. Smita Sikdar, Ms. Faria Marfud; Class 2: Aniruddha Majumdar, Soukhit Sikdar, Soumen Mitra, Shouvik Beypari; Class 3: Ms. Puja Gayne; and Class 4: Ms. Rita Mishtri. Bidyaniketan's director is Swami Gitatmananda, popularly known as Sunil Maharaj.

**ITV of New York broadcast** an interview of Sachi G. Dastidar covering his works with ISPAD (Indian Subcontinent Partition Documentation Project) and Probini on Channels 77 & 503 of the Time Warner Cable and Channel 244 of Cable Vision on January 12, 2011. Later part of that interview was broadcast by Vision of Asia TV broadcast from New York which they posted on YouTube on January of 2011. The link is <http://www.youtube.com/watch>

Wishing you  
**Happy Holidays**  
**Happy Baisakh New Year**  
**1418**  
**Probini**  
**Foundation**

**The Probini Foundation**  
**80-56 251<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**Bellerose, NY 11426**  
 718-343-0189  
 probini@hotmail.com