

Project Paper:
ORCA Homes - Gaibandha Girls' Wing
A Unique Home For Orphan/Distressed Girls

(A) INTRODUCTION

1. **ORCA**: Old Rajshahi Cadet Association (ORCA) proposes to establish ORCA Homes-Gaibandha Girls' Wing. ORCA is the alumni association of the ex-cadets of Rajshahi Cadet College. It has about 2,500 members who have joined its ranks since 1970. ORCA members serve in various government and semi-government organizations including the armed forces and in national and international non-governmental organizations as well as private enterprises. A sizable number of ORCA members are working overseas across five continents. ORCA is a global organization. During the six-year tenure, students of cadet colleges receive the best of education and training at huge cost to the country. ORCA members are consciously and constantly made aware of this fact and infused with a sense of reciprocity and payback to the country. Such reciprocity and payback are made not only through honest and dedicated service to the nation in different professional capacities, ORCA members also strive to do it more directly through compassionate engagement in various social welfare activities.

2. **Motto**: The motto of ORCA is: Let all of us prosper together.

ORCA will soar ever higher on the wings of brotherhood and service to society.

(B) CHARITABLE PROJECTS OF ORCA

The following are a sampling from among various ORCA projects:

3. **ORCA POLLI (Cluster Village)**: So far, ORCA has constructed six (6) ORCA Pollis where about 250 homeless families have been rehabilitated after natural disasters. The Pollis are located in various parts of the country from Ulipur, Rangpur to Mukhtarpur, Rajshahi to Kuakata, Patuakhali.

4. **ORCA Homes-Chittagong**: The first charity home was established in Chittagong in 1999 to accommodate orphans and distressed children of society. It was shifted to a newly constructed facility in 2011 at Patenga, Chittagong, where all facilities including playground, pond, and farmland exist. Thirty (30) orphans have been accommodated in this complex. Ten (10) of the beneficiaries are the children of victims of the dreaded RANA PLAZA disaster.

5. **ORCA Homes-Gaibandha**: Inspired by the success of ORCA HOMES-Chittagong, ORCA built a 20-seat Home at Gaibandha. It was inaugurated in December, 2014. Ten (10) of the children currently living here are orphan offspring of RANA PLAZA victims.

6. **ORCA Blood for Life (OBL)**: Through OBL, ORCA has organized and promoted about 230 voluntary blood donation programs since May 1982. As per Bangladesh Red Crescent

Society and SANDHANI, ORCA is in the forefront in promoting voluntary blood donation program in the country.

7. **Income Generating Projects:** ORCA has sponsored and supported a number of projects geared towards generating employment for disadvantaged women in depressed areas. ORCA has vocational training centers and has distributed a number of sewing machines and rickshaws as part of its income generating programs.

8. **Support During Disasters:** ORCA has always been pioneer in supporting the victims of natural disasters. ORCA has reconstructed hundreds of houses for poor families destroyed in various natural disasters. It has carried out a number of operations to help the affected people by providing food, clothing, medicine, clean drinking water, etc.

9. **Winter Cloth Distribution:** Every year ORCA distributes large number of blankets and winter clothes among poor people braving biting cold.

(C) ORCA HOMES

10. **The concept:** Cadets receive the best education, training, and facilities in the country. Cadet College education and training is very expensive. Cadets are hugely indebted to the nation. To repay our debt to the nation ORCA decided to build ORCA HOMES in which orphan/destitute children will receive quality education, training, and living environment, other essential facilities. Our goal is not to create another orphanage but to create a home where orphans can receive homely care and can dream big and make effort to contribute prominently to society. **ORCA has been operating model Homes that are examples for other orphanages to emulate.**

11. **Vision:** To provide Cadet College type learning environment and care for orphans/distressed children so that they grow up to be assets of society in due course of time. Our desire is to see them through until they are established as useful members of society.

12. **Difference Between a Typical Orphanage and ORCA HOMES:** The students of ORCA HOMES study in general schools. At the HOMES they are exposed to various care and curriculums that are designed to impart moral and ethical values so that they learn how to steer through life's often complex dilemmas. They are also provided with library and IT facilities and controlled access to TV befitting their age. For physical fitness, they get enough facilities to participate in regular games and sports. As a whole, ORCA HOMES aims at shaping destitute children into worthwhile assets for the society.

13. **Induction of Rana Plaza Victims at ORCA HOMES:** Rana Plaza accident is the most tragic industrial accidents in our country. The accident claimed lives of about 1,300 garments workers – men and women - and left more than 3,000 workers disabled or maimed. The children of these workers are going through unimaginable sufferings from loss of parents. Soon after the incident, ORCA was the first organization that offered shelter and full care for some of these homeless children. With support from Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' Association (BGMEA), ORCA took full responsibilities of ten (10) affected children at ORCA HOMES-Chittagong. Being impressed, in 2014, the Association inducted more affected children in ORCA Homes-Gaibandha and that became a big motivating factor for ORCA to expand our Homes facility.

(D) NEED FOR HOMES FOR GIRLS

14. **HOMES for Girls:** Disadvantaged women are among the most vulnerable groups in any society and more so in Bangladesh. Orphan girls are even more vulnerable. Rana Plaza incident has rendered many girls completely helpless and homeless. ORCA felt that it can play an important role here and as such, endeavors to build a secure HOMES for the affected girls in the same concept of our existing HOMES. Beside Rana Plaza victims, we shall include girls from other sources as well.

15. **Status of Women in Islam:** Islam gives the highest respect to women. As per the Holy Quran, women are to be protected and provided with security by men. Various Islamic Traditions accord great respect to women and direct parents to provide utmost care for girls. In the absence of an earning parent, it becomes the responsibility of near relatives and then the society in general.

(E) PROJECT PROFILE OF ORCA GIRLS' HOMES

16. **Aim of the Project:** The goal of the project is to accommodate 50 orphans/distressed girls in the long run. Primarily, these girls will be selected from among the female offspring of RANA PLAZA victims which will remain open to the underprivileged girls from all walks of life.

17. **Description of the Building:** A three (3) storied building will be constructed with all modern facilities like living room, dining hall, TV room, class room, IT facilities etc. Each floor of the proposed building will be 100 ft x 21 ft.

18. **Location of the Project:** The HOMES will be built at Village: Hosenpur, Thana: Fulchari, District: Gaibandha -- adjacent to the existing Homes for the boys.

19. **Additional Facilities within the Complex:** The proposed Homes will be developed in a compound which also houses Hosenpur Muslim Academy which is one of the best schools in Gaibandha. Orphan/distressed girls admitted in Homes will attend this school. The compound is walled to provide security and protection. The complex also houses ORCA Homes for boys, a Masjid, a Madrassah for boys, and a Cooperative Society for women of Hosenpur village. The proposed Homes for girls will be constructed on land donated by an ORCA member. The land is part of the compound. To create space for the girls' wing of ORCA Homes, a part of the school would be demolished and re-constructed.

20. **Policy:** The HOMES will be under overall supervision of Executive Committee (EC) of ORCA. A Managing Committee formed by the EC will prepare relevant policies and look after smooth functioning of the Homes on behalf ORCA EC.

21. **Administration and Care:** A retired military person will be the Cretaker of the children. He will be helped by the Vice Principal (VP) of Hosenpur Muslim Academy as Academic Coordinator. In addition there will be female attendants, cook, helpers, and guard in the management team.

22. **Facilities to be developed:** Proposed cost of facilities is:

a.	Construction of 3-Storeyed Homes Building and Kitchen	Tk.1.2 Crore
b.	Reconstruction of School Building	Tk.1.0 Crore.
c.	<u>Purchase of Farmland/Investment in Endowment Fund</u>	<u>Tk. 0.8 Crore.</u>
	Total	Tk 3.0 Crore

Taka Two crores and Seventy lakhs only (USD 346,153 (USD Three lakhs Forty Six thousand One hundred and Fifty Three))

23. **State of Fund:** So far we have received about Tk.15 Lakhs from various banks and corporate bodies. Our members have collected/contributed Tk 8.0 Lakhs. We have commitment of another Tk.5.0 Lakhs. In total, we have arrangement for Tk.28 Lakhs till date. The land for the premise has been donated by an ORCA member (the market value of which is about Tk. 3.5 lakhs).

24. **Facilities to be Provided:** We provide all basic facilities for the students. These include:

- a. Accommodation
- b. Food.
- c. Clothing
- d. Education and books/supplies
- e. Basic medical facilities.

25. **Major Fields of Growth of Beneficiaries:** ORCA Homes has beneficiaries who are in their most formative stage. If properly groomed, they will be assets for the country. At ORCA Homes, we emphasize on the following dimensions so that a student's intellectual, physical, and moral developments are well balanced and well grounded:

- a. Quality Liberal and Moral Education
- b. IT exposure befitting to age
- c. Games and Sports
- d. Extra-Curricular Activities
- e. Discipline
- f. Character Building

26. **Role of BGMEA:** Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers Association provides monthly fixed amount to support the expenses for some of the RANA PLAZA orphans/distressed children lodged at the Homes..

27. **Post ORCA Homes Lives:** We are in process of chalking out plans to support the girls to HSC level and beyond. We want to make them self-reliant and empowered so they can be useful members of society in their own right. We want to see them through their entry into self-reliant family life. We are actively considering various options to this end. The high academic performers are surely destined to the highest level of education in our country with the help of ORCA scholarship scheme.

28. **Appeal for Funds:** ORCA appeals for fund from various sources – corporate bodies and individuals – who are concerned about vulnerable orphan girls of society and their rehabilitation and training **so they can be useful and empowered members of society**. The reward for such a noble cause is with the Almighty – abundant and eternal. ORCA will duly acknowledge contributions at the entrance of the facility.

29. **Project Coordinator:** ORCA member, Captain S I M Zahanyar, Bangladesh Navy (Mobile: 0172-0056597) will act as the project coordinator. He is a dedicated social worker. Capt Zahanyar's will be supported by his two older brothers living in the village:

a. Mr. Makbul Hossain: ex-Teacher, Sadullapur High School; Director, Makbul Hossain Cadet Coaching Centre.

b. Zahedul Haq: ex-DGM, Uttara Bank Ltd.

They will be Project Managers/Organizers.

(F) CONCLUSION

Among all alumni associations of Bangladesh ORCA remains at the forefront of serving the disadvantaged groups of society for over three decades. It will Insha'Allah continue to do so. The construction cost and bulk of the operational expenses of two orphanages for boys – in Chittagong and Gaibandha – have been/are borne mostly by ORCA members. We appeal for support from outside ORCA for the construction of the girls' wing at Gaibandha. Together we can bring far-reaching difference in the lives of some helpless and homeless and/or distressed girls. Together we can empower them and make a difference to society.

(G) CONTRIBUTION METHOD

Contribution made in Bangladesh can be deposited to: Savings Bank Ac # **12695**, Ac Name: **ORCA HOMES-GAIBANDHA GIRLS' WING, UTTARA BANK LTD, GAIBANDHA BRANCH.**

In USA, contribution can be made as follows: (a) send check (payable to ORCA-USA) to: ORCA-USA Treasurer Naveed Ahmed, 4511 W Pearce Rd., Laveen, AZ 85339, or (b) make direct deposit/online transfer to: Bank of America, A/c: ORCA-USA, Branch Address: 20045 Ashbrook Commons Plaza, Ashburn, VA 20147-5027, Account No. 004129101983, Routing No. 051000017, SWIFT Code: BOFAUS3N, or (c) make credit card/Paypal contribution at orcausa.org ("Donate" button on right). **Contributions to ORCA-USA are tax deductible.**

Please inform Capt Zahanyar (zahanyar517@yahoo.com) so contribution is properly recorded.