



DISTRESSED
CHILDREN &
INFANTS
INTERNATIONAL

Every
year,
22,000
children
die
in work-
related
acci-
dents

NEWSLETTER TEAM:
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DCI Newsletter

Seeking Justice for Shohagi



On November 1, 2010, a 10 year old child named Shohagi was found battered, burned and bewildered, unable to walk or talk, after neighbors responded to her cries for help. She was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where she received treatment. Shohagi, who is a domestic servant, was beaten by the family she works for.

More than 250 million children around the world are child laborers, and in Bangladesh alone, nearly six million children are forced to work for little or no pay. 70% of all household servants in the country are children, some as young as five years of age! These children are frequently victims of horrific exploitation and child abuse by **employers like Shohagi's**. There are many cases like hers, and they demand our urgent recognition and help. Please join us to protect these children.

What can be done?

Foremost, we want the Bangladeshi government to recognize the scale of the problem and create stronger laws to protect the rights of our children. At this time, we invite all stakeholders to take immediate action and strengthen the outcry against child labor in Bangladesh.

At DCI, we are dedicated to protecting the rights of children such as Shohagi: the right of a ten year-old child to have food, education and healthcare; the right to live free from labor and torture and pain; the right of a little girl to have a dream for her future. DCI creates opportunities for education, which is truly the only way to break this poverty cycle and to stop child labor. We have programs underway in Bangladesh that respond to these needs.

Our Bangladesh team, tried to meet Shohagi in the hospital and wanted to take the full responsibility of the girl, but the law enforcement officers did not allow our team to contact or meet her. After that we tried in many different ways to get in contact with her, but were unsuccessful. Now the story is no longer receiving attention in the media and we do not know where Shohagi is or anything about her condition. But we do not want to forget her story and, and we want to continue our fight for these underprivileged children.

Please join us to strengthen our network and provide a powerful voice of opposition to child labor, hunger and poverty. Together, we can ensure that stories like these are not forgotten.

www.distressedchildren.org

The Journey for Child Rights & Sight

The Journey for Child Rights & Sight benefit program is a call to action for our youth and the global community, to inspire them to service for underprivileged children and humanity. All proceeds from these events are to benefit the underprivileged children that DCI serves.

The aim of this journey is threefold:

1. To raise public awareness of child labor, child poverty and preventable blindness issues
2. To create a stronger network to fight against the exploitation of children, alleviate poverty and prevent treatable blindness
3. To promote the protection of child rights

The 2011 journey was lead by our Goodwill ambassador legendary film actress, BABITA. This year the journey began in Illinois, Chicago followed by Connecticut, New York, Texas, Georgia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, California and others.

CHICAGO



CONNECTICUT



ATLANTA



CHICAGO



PHILADELPHIA



The Journey for Child Rights & Sight

MARYLAND



TEXAS



MASSACHUSETTS



CALIFORNIA



MICHIGAN

Press Conference for “Journey for Child Rights & Sight”



I am delighted to be a part of this noble "Journey for Child Rights & Sight" of DCI. I highly admire the lifelong dedication and devotion of Dr. Ehsan Hoque for humanity, especially for the children who are our next generation. I know him from his childhood, I know his family and his background---I understand a person of his background is doing this only because of his desire to help the disadvantaged. I salute his dedication and hard work for the mission. His passion is viral and that is why so many people all over the states are involved. It particularly wonderful to see so many youths involved in DCI's work. **Personally, I have committed myself to DCI's mission.** The Weekly Bangalee is proud to be the media partner of DCI.

-Kowshik Ahmed, Editor, The Weekly Bangalee, NY, USA



As Goodwill Ambassador of DCI, I came to the USA on **the 1st of September, 2011, and I spoke at DCI's Conference on Child Rights & Sight at Yale University in New Haven, CT.** As a Goodwill Ambassador my job is to create awareness about the needs of the poor people of Bangladesh and encourage everybody to get involved in whatever capacity they can. With this purpose in mind, DCI arranged a series of programs in different U.S. states where it has chapters called the "Journey for Child Rights & Sight". **As part of this journey I am travelling to Chicago, New York, Maryland, Philadelphia, Michigan, California, and Canada.** It is truly heartwarming to see how people like those in DCI's programs are giving support, and are thinking of ways to help Bangladesh. Now I am an integral part of DCI and proud to serve in its mission. My resolve to work for the needy has been renewed and strengthened. Please let us forget our differences and focus on helping the needy. **Let's grow as nation together. I dedicate rest of my life for DCI's mission and will continue my effort to help children of Bangladesh and beyond.**

-Babita Akhter, DCI Goodwill Ambassador



Orphan Support Program

Tahera Takes Shelter at Sun Child Home for Orphans



Tahera is now 8 years old. She lived in a small village in the Nilphamari district. She told her life history at Sun Child Homes orphanage. Tahera is the third child of her parents with four brothers and sisters. Tahera was 3 years old when she lost her father. Her mother was sick. She grew up with her mother in extreme poverty and lost her mother when she was 7 years old. She then lived with her elder brothers who went out to work and returned at night. She had no opportunity to go to school regularly but had to take care of her younger sister and do housework. The family income was not insufficient and most of the time they did not get enough food. Day by day she became very thin and sick.

When Tahera's elder brother got married, she became a burden for them. At that **time her brothers decided to send Tahera away as a domestic servant.** RSC's field Supervisor in Nilphamari Project, Mr. Mozammel Hoque, heard about this family. He **contacted Tahera's elder brothers and told about our orphanage.** Finally, we took Tahera in at Sun Child Homes, Dhaka. Now she is very happy. She has started attending school and enjoys studying, playing, and dancing.



Tahera going to school



Tahera is dancing

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Join us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/DCI.International>

www.distressedchildren.org

Visitors at DCI projects in Bangladesh



I visited the Habigonj Sun Child area in Bangladesh personally and met all the children in the school there. DCI is doing an amazing job and doing it very efficiently. They are not just educating a child but touching the heart and soul of the entire family. I had a great experience with DCI. The feeling and attachment to work for the underprivileged children in Bangladesh shows in everything DCI does. There is a strong sense of belongingness with those children and communities the programs are reaching. DCI offers a really a nice way to **provide our services for the cause of fighting for children's rights and lasting improvement in the world Thank You DCI.**

—Dr. Mutahar Ahmed, MD, FACS,
Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology,
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey



We consider ourselves very fortunate to be a part of DCI. We'd like to congratulate DCI on the completion of another successful year of operation and continuing humanitarian work with the rural poor in Bangladesh. Many people think for the poor but to actually do something about it and in a sustainable manner are indeed evidence of trustworthiness. We have seen the way it not only changes a child's life, but entire communities as well.

We have been involved with DCI for over 4 years and met with our sponsor children (Sibling) and their families. We were overwhelmed with joy and pride to see that our participation was really making changes in the lives of distressed children in big way.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity and privileged to work with DCI. We wish their continue success and leadership to motivate others to bring about positive changes to people who are desperately in need. —Javed, Shaila & Zayan Rahman, Atlanta, GA



DCI is working hard to reach its goal of preventing the cycle of poverty through education and health care. Recently, I had an opportunity to visit our Hobiganj project under the Sun Child Sponsorship Program. It was an enlightening experience shared by each of us, making our visit to Bangladesh an unforgettable memory. My family and I have met various students from several different schools located within one area. They have been provided with suitable learning materials for school, and have access to the best form of education that they are able to receive. Seeing that they are placed under strong able hands promotes more determination from me to work with DCI. I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to

all the volunteers, sponsors, donors and well-wishers for their dedication and commitment to **DCI's mission and vision.**

—Saleh M Kibria Los Angeles, California