

**Grameen Support Group Australia**  
**Annual General Meeting 2016**  
Sunday, 18 December 2016  
**General Secretary's Report**

Dear Members,

Thank you all for attending this Annual General Meeting of 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time and continued support for our organization.

Our focus for last year continued to be the scholarship program. Last year we received donations from many new donors and many of our old donors also continued their generous support. I would like to wholeheartedly thank them for their generosity.

We offered more than 200 scholarships in total since 2001 to HSC students, 104 of them have already passed HSC and continuing studies at higher level. Most of our scholarship recipients achieved very good results in HSC. Only in special circumstances or in some cases as per sponsor's desire, we have offered scholarships at higher level.

Although number of scholarship applications are increasing every year, our resources are very limited. Unfortunately, we can only offer limited scholarships every year from our ongoing available funds. Most of the applicants are very good students and deserving candidates. I would like to urge everyone to come forward generously, as you always do to extend helping hands to these students. You can sponsor yourself, if you haven't done so already or ask a friend or relative to sponsor and spread the word to the wider community to participate in the program. I would like to mention here that we have published a brochure for the scholarship program and we have distributed that in various community events to encourage participation.

We have plan to organize a fund-raising dinner in the very near future to boost our scholarship fund. We are hoping to have Dr Muhammad Yunus as the Chief Guest at the program. I would like to request all our members to participate in the event, when organized and extend their assistance to organize it.

We have requested all Grameen account holders to transfer their funds to our Scholarship account. Many of you have already signed the consent form and your deposits are now put in a 'fixed deposit scholarship account'. The accrued profits from this fund will be utilized to provide scholarships. The total amounts transferred was Tk 4,25000. Please let us know if you haven't yet signed the consent letter or have any queries regarding this matter.

Last year our President, Assistant General Secretary and I have met many of our scholarship holders personally in Bangladesh. They have expressed their gratitude for supporting their studies. Many of them have written us outlining how important role this scholarship has played in their life.

For the benefit of those who are not fully aware of our scholarship program, I would like to give a very brief outline on how the scholarship program works.

We transfer from Grameen Support Group (GSG) Scholarship account with an amount of Tk 20,700/ (including management fees) per head per year to Grameen Shikkha (GS) in four three-monthly installments.

Grameen Shikkha is managing these scholarships by monitoring, assessing & transferring money to the account of the recipients' own account with local village Banks. Grameen Shikkha regularly communicates with us and informs us the students' performances.

For one scholarship holder, we pay in total Tk 41,400 for two years' duration of the scholarship, which is equivalent to approximately A\$720.00; that means A\$30.00 per month.

You may already know that there are few ways to help these students to continue their studies:

a) Sponsor any one of them by paying A\$720.00 at a time or A\$360.00 per year or \$30 per month; the scholarship may be in your name or any name of your choosing if so wish.

b) You may contribute to our fund just by donating A\$50.00 or more.

Our bank account details as follows:

**Grameen Support Group Australia Inc**

BSB 032-273 Account No. 310828

Westpac Bank, St. Mary's Branch

Please send an email to us if you deposit any amount to facilitate sending prompt receipt.

I am confident that together we can take this program ahead.

I would also like to mention that some changes were made to our website and there is always need for ongoing improvement. Our site now provides enough information for Grameen supporters and Donors. We have created links to most of the Grameen related sites.

We are going to launch appeal to wider community for contribution to the Scholarship Fund through Facebook. Please provide us your feedback so that we can improve the Facebook page and website further and please don't forget to 'LIKE' us on Facebook.

Thank you once again for your continued support and hope we will be together in years to come.

Rafiq Hasan

General Secretary

Grameen Support Group Australia