ARCHITECTURAL ACTIVISM
Role: Movement Coordinator + Architect
Client: School committee of respective schools

PROJECT BRIEF
The Government of Bangladesh has given utmost importance to improve overall education scenario in the country, allocation of funding (13.3%) for the education sector in the annual national budget reflects that. We have witnessed significant improvement for sure; unfortunately we have still quite a few issues to worry about. One of the prevailing problems is lack of adequate infrastructure in educational institutions. Government primary schools are the main victims here. Our team has been following such news published in national newspapers in recent years. The Study shows that, thousands of primary schools do not have the minimum infrastructure to run school activity. Poor construction technique and materials, natural calamities like cyclone, northwesterly, river erosion, tidal surge, and earthquake are the reasons for such circumstances. In many cases, students have to sit on the ground under the open sky bearing harsh natural events like rains, storms, sun, heat, etc. The Government has shown its limitations to act providing due support to rebuild or retrofit the vulnerable school buildings. Prime Minister has already appealed to the well-off people and organizations to offer their help and support to rebuild the schools in poor conditions. To contribute mitigating the problem, our team has already visited quite a few such schools to understand the context and conditions and helped rebuild a few by providing design aids for low-cost and climatically more resilient structures and raising necessary funds from various organizations and individuals who are willing to help. Our designed responsive prototype structures would involve local material and local technology to provide the bare minimum, yet safe and sound infrastructure for schools. We are aware about the fact that proposed initiative wouldn’t solve the problem as a whole, but would create a vital example or catalyst in the scenario. Hoping to inspire others to contribute rebuilding numerous children’s dream through rebuilding their learning environment.

PROJECT TYPE: EDUCATIONAL BUILDING
LOCATION: DIFFERENT VILLAGES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF BANGLADESH

PROJECT TEAM
Architect and initiator: Ahammad-Al-Muhaymin
Management: Respective school committee

PROJECT YEAR : 2014- TILL DATE

School Rebuilding Initiative
Ahammad-Al-Muhaymin
SUCCESS STORIES
BEFORE & AFTER SITUATIONS

Name: Bamundi Govt. High school
Location: Shujanagar, Pabna
Year: November, 2016

Name: Kanchantola Government Primary School
Location: Kanchantola, Damurhuda, Chuadanga
Year: October, 2015

Name: Kutubpur Government Primary School
Location: Kutubpur, Damurhuda, Chuadanga
Year: June, 2016

Name: Kandulia Government Primary School
Location: Kandulia, Gauripur, Mymensingh
Year: 2015

SCHOOL REBUILDING INITIATIVE

School Rebuilding Initiative
Ahammad-Al-Muhaymin
The Hasselt Charter 2. Foster the socially responsible role of built environment professionals by stimulating social modes of practice before speculative economic profitability:

-School Rebuilding Initiative has been lead by a group of architects; who believe to serve the society as a whole as a volunteer; to reach and serve those who wouldn’t be able to give commission to get the architectural services. This initiative has been rebuilding schools which are the most vital institution to have a better society. This initiative has been using social media like Facebook to let people know about the vulnerable schools around the country and inspires people to come forward to do something about it; also letting people know about the successful school rebuilding works of the initiative. So we can define us as “Architectural Activist”.

The Hasselt Charter 6. Facilitate the use of appropriate technologies, materials and labor adequate to local values, to the cultural specificity and responsive to the natural environment;

-School Rebuilding Initiative has completed 3 primary schools, 1 junior high school and a post school activity center. This initiative has only involved local masons and craftsmen and adopted their techniques and materials to construct the buildings; also upholding the spirit of the vernacular architecture. We have collected all the materials from the community bamboo/wood orchards and community markets. This construction process has made our architecture contextual in nature; culturally and environmentally responsive.

The Hasselt Charter 10. Support participatory, democratic, multicultural and interdisciplinary processes and approaches in strengthening community solidarity as a factor of rural and urban social development;

Completed all 5 projects have been designed, managed, constructed in a participatory process involving donors, schools committee members, teachers, parents, local masons, community members, students and all. As architects we have produced models and drawings to share the initial idea and generate the dialogue among the stakeholders’. Eventually all have become co designers in the process. Each school rebuilding work has been a platform to share profound community solidarity to work for the development of the community as a whole.