

## Education for Development and Sustainability (EDS)

Khulna, Bangladesh & Norway

Collaborative action research & Living educational theory research

Website: [EDS – Education for Development and Sustainability](https://eds-research.net/) Email: [edsedubd@gmail.com](mailto:edsedubd@gmail.com)



### How EDS started

Due to Dr. Hafizur Rahman's experience of severe bullying and punishment in school in Bangladesh, which forced him to pause his education, he created a supportive learning environment for out of school children in 1988. He wanted to ensure the children felt safe and valued, free from the struggles Hafizur endured. He believed that relationships based on trust and empathy foster the best learning. In 2005, Hafizur, Md Alamin and Trine Lund established EDS.

### Who runs EDS?

EDS is run by vulnerable children and youth in Bangladesh who were previously out of school due to a mix of reasons like joining youth gangs, child labour, orphans, planned child marriage, negative social control, bullying, domestic violence, poverty



and lack of basic needs. Now they are leaders, teachers, change agents and social entrepreneurs who use their transformative experience to mentor other vulnerable children and youth for the same.

### Our aim and activities

EDS aims to empower young people to become change agents through love. The EDS change agents volunteer 3-8 h/day, 6 days/week to

- Teach and give 300 vulnerable children/youth grade 1-12 free education
- Use own experiences to mentor vulnerable children/youth for critical thinking, taking healthy decisions for their lives
- Cultivate an integrated fish, shrimp, rice, vegetables and fruit tree farm (6000 m<sup>2</sup>) and a roof garden (2000m<sup>2</sup>). They use these as interdisciplinary learning arenas.
- Teach ICT
- Conducts home visits and parent meetings to get out of school children back to school and join EDS
- Advocate for children's rights towards local authorities and educational institutions



### Guiding principle

Empathy is the base for Sustainable Development

[EDS Facebook](#)



### Research focus

- Collaborative action research
- Living educational theory
- Transformative learning
- Farm as a learning arena
- Critical thinking
- Lifelong learning
- Education for sustainable development



### Values driving our actions

In our educational practice, we strive for *social justice, democracy, love and freedom*. We create inclusive learning environments, ensuring every student's voice is heard and involved in decisions. We build relations based on trust and empathy, valuing each student's perspective, while empowering them to make their own choices and think critically. We continuously reflect on how we practice our values to enhance our impact on creating an equitable society.



### Publications

Our transformative journey to become action researchers (3) (PDF) [Our transformative journey to become action researchers](#)

Developing a transformative, cooperative living-educational theory <https://ejolts.net/files/379.pdf>

### Videos about EDS

BTV interview [BTV Alamin interview.wmv](#)

Mashranga TV <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQ29hpeBnDI>

Develop relations (2006) [EDS Bangladesh: Developing relation with children \(playing cricket 2006\)](#)

Develop relations (2022) [EDS Bangladesh: Building relation with children \(EDS cricket 2019 by Dr. Hafizur Rahman\)](#)

Farm as a learning arena <https://youtu.be/cNALx96N9yE>

EDS picnic 2023 [31 dec picnic 2023 in EDS: https://www.facebook.com/EDS2005](https://www.facebook.com/EDS2005)

Children get responsibilities [EDS Bangladesh: Children are positive change agents for the society](#)

Action research (44) [EDS holistic approach: Action Research – YouTube](#)

Empower students [EDS Picnic, 2024: Empowering Students Through Experiential Learning](#)