



Syeda Jahanara was born on 8th March, 1933 in Hawra District, Shibpur, India. She passed her early life in Bihar. She used to write in “Sattyajug” newspaper published from Kolkata during her early life. Later she used to write in “Mukul” magazine. She, along with her family migrated to Khulna, then East Pakistan in 1947. She became a regular contributor in Taput-Tupur magazine, published from Dhaka.

After marriage with Samsuzzoha Kader Baksh, she came to Thakurgaon in 1957. She did her bachelor degree in 1964 and Masters in 1969 in Bangla Literature.

She was one of the leaders during 1969 movement against Ayub Khan, Pakistani ruler during those days.

In 1975, she joined Unitarian Services of Canada (USC) as a Director which was based in North Bengal. She developed numerous “SHOMOBAYI” organisations, mainly involving women in rural areas of North Bengal. During this time she was awarded with “Shrestho Shomobayi” in whole Bangladesh.

She founded an orphanage for destitute children which is still running. Many local people and people from abroad contribute fund in this Orphanage. Shuchi and I used to collect fund from our friends in Sydney and send those to this orphanage. Whenever we went to Thakurgaon we used to visit the orphanage. I must mention this that we got a big amount of fund from a Puja Committee where our friend Ashis Bablu was a member. After hearing about the orphanage from us, they decided to cut short their events during their Durga Puja and donated a big amount to us for the orphanage. Also there are some people who donate a big amount every year in this charity.

After coming to Thakurgaon as a newly wed bride, she found that there was no women college in Thakurgaon. Students had to travel to Dinajpur, Rangpur or Rajshahi to study in collage. She started her ground work, arranged a land and fund, finally Thakurgaon Girls College was founded in 1977. She became a part-time teacher and Principal. She inspired other women of Thakurgaon to come forward. Gradually women came forward, joined the college.

- **Sirajus Salekin**