

How do other people travel?

Bangladesh

Boat Schools Bring Education to Girls in Flood-Prone Bangladesh

By [Tadej Znidarcic](#) for [Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha](#)

Many children in rural areas of Bangladesh, particularly girls, do not have access to education. Often, the nearest school is miles away and parents are reluctant to send girls to distant locations due to the risk of kidnapping and because the travel takes away too many hours from housework. Furthermore, during the monsoon season many schools find themselves under water and children can go for months without classroom instructions. After the waters recede, many never return and drop out indefinitely.



These issues prompted Mohammed Rezwan, a native of flood-prone Chalanbeel region in north-

school, the school should go to them in the form of boats! An architect by profession, he founded the non-profit Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha, and instead of designing houses, designed boats. Boats have been a traditional feature of these river areas, and Rezwan converted them to schools. The