

## Musammat Badrunnesha

*Girls' Education Advocate*

### SUBJECT, SCHOOL

English Teacher at Captain Academy

### CITY, COUNTRY

Sylhet, Bangladesh

### PROGRAM

Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

While in the United States Musammat visited many local municipality offices in Huntsville, Alabama. Inspired by the comprehensive community approach to tackling important education challenges, she used this experience to launch her own non-profit organization in Bangladesh upon returning home from the TEA program. Focused on improving girls' education and women's opportunities in the madrasas of rural Bangladesh, the Empowerment and Human Development Society NGO establishes school based girls clubs which serve to empower both students and teachers. Community-based camps, professional development trainings, and other various projects help participants gain confidence, encourage continued enrollment, and have directly resulted in improved teacher performance in the classroom. Due in part to her work after the TEA program, Musammat was awarded a highly competitive Echidna Global Scholars Fellowship at the Brookings Institution in the summer of 2015. Musammat continues to work towards improving quality and access to education for girls in rural Bangladesh, and to date has worked with over 300 madrasas. Musammat established Captain Academy in 2015.

**“ The TEA program laid the groundwork for me to start my girls' empowerment work. Before TEA, I was just a teacher in a rural school. All the components—working in real U.S. classrooms, leadership courses, networking —helped me realize my potential and the need to start my organization. ”**

**—Musammat**

