

## SOLAR POWERED FLOATING SCHOOLS IN BANGLADESH

Solar powered floating schools, implemented by *Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha* organization of Bangladesh, are an example of [advanced technologies](#) used for solving people's basic problems. *Shidhulai*, with its 90 boats, is serving 90,000 families living in hundreds of riverside villages.

In Bangladesh 20 million people live in villages not reached by electricity network, and only accessible by boat. Thanks to solar panels installed on the roofs of the boats, it has been possible to provide villages with important services that have increased the population's life quality.



*Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha*, a non-profit organization created by the architect Mohammed Rezwan, has been working since 2002 to improve quality of life in northern Bangladesh river areas by bringing services to people by boats. These services include children's education, libraries, training on sustainable agriculture and waste management, computer education and Internet access. New services include solar powered early flood warning devices, floating flood shelters and floating gardens. The boats are all built in the region, using locally available materials.

The solar powered floating schools of *Shidhulai* won prestigious international prizes. In particular, in 2007 the experience was awarded with the [Ashden Prize](#), in 2007 with the [UNEP Sasakawa Prize](#) and in 2012 with the [WISE Prize](#).

Solar technology for small size boats, for everyday electricity needs and productive purposes of local population is still not enough spread. *Shidhulai* experience shows its potential and is a stimulus for strengthening applied research and divulgation in this field.

### To know more

<http://www.shidhulai.org>

<http://www.shidhulai.org/ourwork.html>

[Article in Designboom](#)



[Article in Inhabitat](#)

[Article in Irin News](#)

[Article in Pulitzer Center](#)

[Article in Eco Business](#)

