

Bangladesh Foundation

DR. FAZLUR R. KHAN

Dr. Fazlur R. Khan the world renowned American architectural engineer responsible for designing Sears Tower and John Hancock buildings in Chicago, among many others around the world, established Bangladesh Foundation (BF) as a tax exempt public charitable organization in America in 1971. Before the Foundation was accorded a tax deductible Public Charities status, it went through two stages of development.

In early 1971 it began as Bangladesh Defense League providing support to the Bangladesh Freedom Struggle by a two-pronged effort: supplying communication gears to Freedom Fighters in different guerrilla sectors within Bangladesh, mobilizing American public opinion for Bangladesh's Struggle for Freedom and lobbying in the US Congress against the then Nixon Administration's military assistance to Pakistan's military regime headed by General Yahya Khan, who was using the American military hardware to suppress the people of the then East Pakistan.

During the latter part of 1971 when the number of Bengali refugees fleeing across the border to escape the genocidal suppression of Pakistan's army, Bangladesh Defense League changed into Bangladesh Emergency Relief Fund.

Upon a successful completion of the Bengali struggle for freedom leading to the creation of the new nation of Bangladesh—a democratic secular Muslim majority nation and the eighth largest nation of the world, Bangladesh Relief Emergency Fund transformed into BANGLADESH FOUNDATION.

Dr. Zillur R. Khan, President of the Board of Trustees of the Bangladesh Foundation and Professor Emeritus of the University of Wisconsin (please see "About US" for more information on Dr. Zillur Khan), may be contacted at zillurrkhan@gmail.com for more information on the Bangladesh Foundation and its activities. Furthermore, please visit the "Fund Requests/Proposal Submissions" tab to submit proposal outlines for foundation funds for particular charitable projects in Bangladesh.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the organization was and still is to support worthy grass roots projects for adult education and skill building training for poor, illiterate and/or socially disadvantaged people in different areas of Bangladesh. Providing training to poor women in basic health care-cum-literacy, weaving, batik printing, pottery, handmade paper making, fish culture, animal husbandry, vegetables and fruit cultivation has been a special focus of BF Projects.

- Provide seed money to grassroots projects repayable upon completion or after stipulated time periods without interests. Future allocation of funds shall depend on successful completion of projects as evaluated by the Board of Trustees based on the merit of completion reports.
- Skill building-income generating training projects focused on disadvantaged women at the grassroots shall receive priority in funding decisions.
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- A unanimous vote of Trustees shall be required to change funding priorities.