

KHALIQUE foundation

UPDATE JANUARY 2017

The Khalique Foundation aims to directly improve the lives of impoverished people in Bangladesh by providing training, education and welfare support.

Working both in country and in the UK, the last year has seen the Khalique Foundation conduct field research, identify locations and personnel, build administrative structures, develop pilot phase programs, and raise funds.

Two of the trustees, Rounaque Khalique and Kal Khalique visited Bangladesh in January 2017 to launch two initiatives.

Skills Training for Employment and Development

The Khalique Foundation is working with a sewing teacher in Sylhet to provide training for local people. We have provided four sewing stations with machines and identified and selected individuals that would not have the opportunity otherwise to receive training.

The first four trainees started their three month courses in January 2017. We deliver welfare support to them and their families through a stipend.

The course already has an oversubscribed waiting list of students for the next three month course from April 2017.

After training the students have a number of options:

- Entering the garment industry as trained labour on contract.
- Working as freelancers.
- Setting up as cottage industries.
- Being able to simply make clothes for themselves and their families.

Next phase

- Evaluate effectiveness of program and training.
- Develop second phase training program.
- Evaluate, help, and guide participants to most appropriate outcome.
- We are considering microfinancing options to get machines into participants' communities.
- We are investigating the process of the servicing and repair of machines.



Educational Support

The Khalique Foundation chose to work in Jhalopara School, Sylhet. Rounaque went there as a child, and all are overjoyed that a former student has come back to support them after 50 years.

Working with teachers, we have identified 10 impoverished but talented students in their final year of primary school (aged 10-11): 7 girls and 3 boys.

Primary education tuition and text books are free in Bangladesh, but other essentials such as writing books, stationary, school uniforms, bags, water bottles, and lunch boxes are not. Many children from poorer backgrounds can struggle to buy these items and fit into school.

We are supporting the 10 students identified by providing these items to last the academic year.

The Khalique Foundation will continue to track the progress of the 10 children working with the school. The evaluation will identify those to be supported into secondary education – where tuition and text books are also no longer free. Consequently some capable children end up dropping out to work or be married rather than progress with education. We hope to ensure this doesn't happen.

Next phase

- Evaluate effectiveness of program.
- Develop second phase program, perhaps with additional tuition.
- Evaluate, help, and guide participants to most appropriate outcome.
- Identify new participants in light of this.
- We are in discussions with the school to set up a library.
- Extending support to some non-academic areas of talent such as art, music, sport.

