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TO:





NARSINGDI, BANGLADESH

EDUCATING GIRLS IN BANGLADESH LEADS TO:

- EQUALITY & EMPOWERMENT
- BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY
- BETTER HEALTH & WELL-BEING
- SOCIAL PROGRESS & STABILITY
- REDUCED CHILD MARRIAGE
- ECONOMIC & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



ABOUT NARSINGDI

The village/city of Narsingdi is located on the northern bank of the Meghna River in the Dhaka division of Bangladesh, lying about 50 km northeast of Dhaka city. In comparison to metropolitan Dhaka, Narsingdi has a village-like atmosphere. Banana and sugar cane are widely grown here. The primary sources of income for the population is derived from agriculture. Narsingdi has a large gas field and Ghorashal, the largest power plant in Bangladesh and serves as an important center for the country's garment and textile industries.

Although there are a number of high schools and universities in Narsingdi, the average literacy rate remains below 30 percent.

HISTORY & BACKGROUND OF SCHOOL

The Founders: In this setting, the school was founded in Narsingdi by Professor Dr. Afia Dil and her brother Dr. Aminul Islam and bears the name of their mother Begum Safura Khatun, who was a school teacher in nearby Jinjira village.

Born in Narsingdi on October 19, 1926, Dr. Dil attended the local school and was an outstanding student placing first amongst all women in India at her matriculation. Dr. Dil received her B.A. Honours and M. A. degrees in English Literature from Dhaka University and Masters in English and Applied Linguistics from University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Stanford University in California. At the time of her death in 2016 Dr. Dil was Professor Emeritus at Alliant (formerly U.S.)

International University, San Diego, California. Over the years Dr. Dil has been an inspiration to multiple generations of students, and has authored numerous books on linguistics, culture, literature and the contemporary history of Bangladesh. Her book, *Bengali Language Movement and Creation of Bangladesh. (2000)*, is regarded as the seminal work of Bangladesh history and linguistics.

Founder Dr. A.K.M. Aminul Islam was born in Musar Char Bangladesh on Dec 21, 1933. He obtained a Masters degree from Dhaka University and City College of London, as well as a Ph.D. in Anthropology from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. In 1968 he joined Wright State University in Ohio (U.S.A.) and became chair of the Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work and has authored more than 25 books in the fields of cultural anthropology, social sciences and social work in both English and Bengali.

The School is Born: Returning to her village in the early 2000s, Dr. Afia Dil noticed the parents of girls in the village did not want their daughters to attend the local co-ed school. In fact, many of these young girls were married off after the 6th grade. She therefore decided to start a school exclusively for girls.

Starting with a 6th grade class of 60 students in 2003, the school added grades yearly, until by 2008 it covered grades 6-10. By 2019 the school had over 600 students

After the founders' passing, Dr. Dil's daughters assumed management of the trusts which provide additional funding for the school.