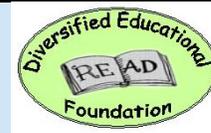


Diversified Educational Foundation

Education, Food and Shelter for Orphans & Poor

Tax ID 501(c)(3): 26-1265335 I.P.O. Box 1453, Novi, MI 48376, USA
(248) 660-9377, info@diversifiededucation.org, www.diversifiededucation.org



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Our Mission

DEF offers a comprehensive and effective approach towards helping orphans and impoverished children break the recurrent cycle of poverty and illiteracy through education. The effects of poverty and the deprivation of basic human needs on young children are devastating. We are dedicated to providing them with an unwavering, cherishing, and enriching environment to help create better futures. We provide opportunities for either education or vocational training so they can reclaim their human dignity and become productive members of society.

MKF Facility

The Bangladesh Government closed schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Manob Kalyan Foundation (MKF) closed their dormitory facility accordingly. All the students were sent back to their respective homes. The foundation kept up with the students and provided financial support for their basic necessities. Books and supplies were also provided and MKF made arrangements to submit their assignments to the schools.



MKF students

The return of students to MKF facilities were conducted in two batches: half on January 23rd and the other half on February 23rd. Upon arrival, quarantine procedures were followed which allowed

the students to live together as one big family. Most of their time is spent at the facilities, as the public school system has not resumed on-campus classes. In order to keep up with their studies, the teaching staff is providing the students with tutoring. Currently MKF boards 57 students, and Alhamdulillah, nobody has shown Coronavirus related symptoms.



MKF classrooms

The teaching staff consists of one permanent and five part-time teachers. In addition to tutoring, they assist the students with their studies, such as Mathematics, Science and Language Arts. Further, they also assist with Arabic and Islamic teachings.



Computer room

The students have access to five computers. These computers were recently connected to the internet, which allow for online assignments to be submitted. Internet connectivity will also be utilized for remote learning purposes.

Due to the pandemic, students are not allowed out of the premises. This also does

not allow for competitive sports and athletic events that were previously held at the schools. In present times, after Asr prayer, students have time to engage in sports and games. They enjoy playing table tennis, carom, and chess inside the compounds.



Table Tennis

Tale of Hamidul Islam

Hamid's life changed when he was 4 months old. After the loss of his father, his mother had a very difficult time maintaining her family's livelihood with the little income she earned. Initially, Hamid's mother became a seamstress and completed small jobs for neighbors within the village. After realizing this was barely enough for survival, she found a new labor-intensive job of manually digging dirt for local construction. Hamid and his elder brother observed their mother's sheer exhaustion day in and day out. As a single mother, she was determined to do whatever she could to provide for her family. The brothers were both in awe of their mother, but also knew they could not go on living this way. They wanted better for their lives and realized an education would be the best foundation for a change. Hamid's mother was unable to financially provide for their education. However, they were fortunate that an uncle of theirs came to learn about the foundation. The uncle brought them to the MKF facility, and thus a new life was born for the brothers.



Hamidul Islam

Hamid's brother (three years his elder) finished secondary school through MKF and is currently pursuing higher education elsewhere. Hamid is a brilliant student himself. He maintained a grade point average of 5.0 from elementary school to higher secondary school. His dream is to become a doctor. He is working on his studies to successfully pass the medical college entrance exam, which is highly competitive to say the least. No matter his ambitions, MKF will be providing full financial support of any public college or university he plans to attend. It is refreshing to see Hamid's excitement and the confidence he has built in himself at this facility. We wish you good luck, Hamid!

The Mercy of Allah and Current Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic started over a year ago now and our way of life has changed along with it. Humanity is facing new challenges like increased family abuse, high alcohol consumption, anxiety and depression, just to name a few. Many have even faced loss of loved ones and extreme financial difficulty.

It is understandable why so many people are losing hope and facing depression under the current circumstances. The cornerstone of our belief can save us from losing hope as we trust in Allah and know that everything is happening with His decree. It may be beyond us to comprehend Allah's decree, but we know

that Allah is merciful, and He is always commanding that which is good for us.

Allah's mercy embodies gentleness, consideration, love, and forgiveness which surrounds us at all times. Repenting for our sins is a way to get Allah's mercy. Allah has created us to worship Him alone and He will judge us based on our actions. However, His mercy is much more dominant than His wrath. Allah said in the Holy Quran: *"Whoever comes with a good deed will be rewarded tenfold. But whoever comes with a bad deed will be punished for only one. None will be wronged."* Al-An'am [6:160]

Please think about this for a moment. We will be rewarded tenfold for our good deeds, but we will face punishment for the equal amount of our bad deeds. Not only that, Allah will forgive us if we repent.

We learn from the Quran: *"But whoever repents after their wrongdoing and mends their ways, Allah will surely turn to them in forgiveness. Indeed, Allah is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful."* Al-Ma'idah [5:39]

His mercy does not stop there! Allah will change our bad deeds to good deeds if we truly repent with belief in Him and continue to do good deeds. The Quran teaches us: *"As for those who repent, believe, and do good deeds, they are the ones whose evil deeds Allah will change into good deeds. For Allah is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful"* Al-Furqan [25:70]

Our prophet (Peace be upon him, PBUH) taught us that Allah loves those who repent. Narrated by Anas ibn Malik that Prophet (PBUH) said, "Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His slave than anyone of you is pleased with finding his camel which he had lost in the desert." [Al-Bukhari]

We learn from our beloved Prophet (PBUH) that seeking Allah's mercy by repentance is a characteristic of Muslims. It was reported by Ibn `Umar that the Prophet (PBUH) said,

"O people, seek repentance from Allah. Verily, I seek repentance from Him a hundred times a day." [Muslim]

Obviously, we need to understand that a repentance by lip service is not good enough to get the reward that Allah has promised. We need to be sincere in our repentance; truly regret for our evil deeds; commit to give up sinning in general; make a firm resolution of avoiding the same sins in future; and we must repent while our door for repentance is still open. Belief in Allah and trust in Him will give us peace of mind and strength to face any difficulty in life including the current pandemic. All we need to remember is that *"Truly! To Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return"* [Al-Baqarah - 2:156] *"And that to your Lord (Allah) is the End (Return of everything)"* [An-Najm - 53:42].

The month of Ramadan is around the corner. It is the best of the times that comes with Allah's blessings, mercy and forgiveness. Let us plan to utilize this month to repent for our sins, seek Allah's forgiveness, and pray to Allah to put an end to this human suffering, Insha-Allah!

-By Ashiq M. Zaman

The Future of DEF

This year has been unusual to say the least. However, the children in Bangladesh face adversity regardless of a global pandemic. DEF has not faced a situation like this before, but by the grace of Allah, they sprang into action so no child will be left behind. DEF is committed to taking care of these underprivileged children, and providing them with everything they need. \$525 covers the expenses of one child for an entire year; however any amount of donation is greatly appreciated. We are determined to change the quality of life for as many children as we can as they are the hope of humanity's future.

May you and your loved ones enjoy a blessed Ramadan.

Please pay your Zakat/ Sadaqah/ Charity money to the Diversified Educational Foundation



Please Donate Your Zakat/ Sadaqah/ Charity

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