



Cementing Futures is an educational development charity with a mission to bring education, hope and dignity to children who have no means of currently accessing state provided education in deprived countries.

We wish to provide general education and educational opportunities and assistance with the health needs of the children and their families who are living in poverty in Bangladesh.

Our Vision is a world in which the poorest and most marginalised people have equitable access to education and improved quality of life. Our purpose is to address unmet educational needs of people affected by poverty, discrimination and stigma by providing a learning environment that is stimulating and challenging for children whose families do not have the financial means to access education. This will enable them to develop knowledge and practical skills to reach their full potential which will create a wider range of choices for their futures.

Our Values focus to incorporate the following:

- **Equity:** we work to improve the education of some of the most disadvantaged people in Bangladesh
- **Respect and dignity:** we are a people-focused organisation, working to eliminate stigma and marginalisation caused by lack of education and poverty
- **Creativity:** we encourage innovation in the solutions we adopt
- **Efficacy and Quality:** we ensure that our resources are used in the most efficient and cost effective manner and that the quality of our services is uniformly high
- **Sustainability:** we believe that the principal responsibility for the provision of education rests with governments. We work to bring about structural changes which produce long lasting benefits

First Project

Our first project will be directed towards raising enough funds to build a school in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is envisaged that we will need to raise approx £300,000 to purchase the land, build and equip the school and provide enough capital to support the running of the school for at least one year. From year two the school will be self-funding as the shops are to be incorporated into the structure of the building for rental which will provide an annual income to cover ongoing revenue costs.

Cementing Futures Head Office is in Bournemouth but the charity will have voluntary field workers who will be based UK wide in order to promote the charity and raise funds.

Founders of the charity

Cementing Futures was established by members of Soroptimist International (SI) of Bournemouth who, as a club, have seventy years experience of fund-raising, lobbying and service to the community.

SI Bournemouth

This club is part of an International women's organisation who have a vast experience of setting up and managing projects of this magnitude; therefore we have a wealth of experience to draw upon.

The organisation strive to build a better future through lobbying, service to the community and by fund-raising to support existing charities. The range of activities is wide-ranging and each club works to support the International and National projects as well as their own local projects.

SI Bournemouth have had tremendous input into many local initiatives supporting the Women's Refuge, Vita Nova, a drink-spiking awareness project targeted at students and other young people.

SI Dhaka

Soroptimist International of Dhaka was chartered in 1983 and the members have worked tirelessly to provide educational and health opportunities for very poor people in Dhaka Region.

Bangladesh is one of the very poorest countries in the world which has suffered violence, genocide and suppression especially since the partition of India in 1947 and its subsequent fight for freedom and independence which was finally won in 1971.

The Dhaka Soroptimists run the following projects:

- a Literacy Project (begun in 1982 before formal chartering of the Club) for 63 underprivileged children to prepare them for formal school and also incorporates health education classes for their mothers;
- Link-up Education Project – Nijera Shikhi Pre-Primary and Primary Education Centre for 150 out-of-school slum children teaching literacy and life-orientated subjects;
- Childhood Tuberculosis Follow-up Programme;
- a women and child health clinic and a micro-credit programme - projects under the auspices of Project Five-O, a project begun in 1975 (1992 in Bangladesh) by five international women's organisations; these are Business and Professional Women International, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International.

Partners of *Cementing Futures*

SI Bournemouth and SI Dhaka, Bangladesh are now working in partnership with the Bangladesh NGO, 'Nijera Shikhi' to ensure the success of the Cementing Futures Charity. Nijera Shikhi was founded in 1993 to act as an organisation to tackle the problems of illiteracy in Bangladesh. It was founded by a Methodist Church Minister, late Revd. J P Hastings who had lengthy experience working with the poor and disadvantaged communities in the urban and rural areas of India and Bangladesh. He did this along with 20 eminent citizens of Bangladesh who were renowned educationalists, journalists, legal practitioners, social workers, doctors and retired government officers.

Nijera Shikhi is a well-established and experienced NGO which has established and still supports many educational projects throughout Bangladesh.