

Scholarships for 1500 in Mangalore
Maqbool Ahmed Siraj
Mangalore

Karnataka Zakat & Charitable Trust Gets into Action



Philanthropy and 'Community Social Responsibility' (CSR) were seen in bounteous camaraderie here on December 11, a Sunday, when over 1,500 students were given scholarships in a public function organized by Karnataka Zakat and Charitable Trust (KZCT).

The Loyola Hall of the St Aloysius Pre University College turned into a flowing ocean of black burqa-clad girls as nearly 75% scholarships went to girls studying in various professional courses in the Dakshina Kannada (Mangalore) district. The nearly 50 social workers who had done a meticulous screening of the nearly 5,000 applications and investigated the deserving cases, disbursed Rs. 75 lakh through cheques.

The entire Rs. 75 lakh was donated by Mr. Khalil Ahmed Khan, an industrialist and philanthropist from Hyderabad who hailed from Mangalore. Mr. Ahmed had made a fortune through a biotechnology firm that he set up in 1990s. Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Ahmed said he decided to invest in nurturing the young talents taking a cue from his own life. He said he had risen from a humble origin through hard work, constant struggle and by entrepreneurship. Ahmed said the work of Mr. Ghiyasuddin Babukhan inspired him to take up the scholarship scheme in several districts of Karnataka. Mr. Khalil Ahmed said India was a unique country as its democracy offers tremendous opportunities and secularism offers equality of opportunity. He said none of the Muslim countries he had visited was on par with India in matters of liberty, liberal ethos, and environment for research in science, technology and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Ghiyasuddin Babukhan, secretary of the Hyderabad Zakat and Charitable Trust (HZCT), who is funding the studies of nearly 15,000 students in Andhra Pradesh for the current year, said such philanthropy for promoting education brings dividends in geometrical proportions. He said there was no substitute for education. Only a generation of Muslims equipped with education, skills, discipline and character can bring about a change in the destiny of Muslims. Mr. Babukhan asked the students to build harmonious relationship with non-Muslims students.

Mr. S. M. Beary, another entrepreneur from DK district said only imaginative steps will alleviate the sufferings of the community. Mr. Feroze Abdullah from Bangalore spoke of Mr Ghiyasuddin Babukhan's work in Andhra Pradesh in glowing terms. Mr. Maqbool Ahmed Siraj, journalist from Bangalore urged the community to take up literacy for all, higher education for sizeable majority and attainment of knowledge all through one's life as the mission for future. Mr. A. S. Puthige, editor, Kannada daily Vaartha Bharthi said God helps only those who struggle and trust in Him. Social worker Umar wanted better coordination among investigators and inspectors in future for selection of applicants.

Sixteen ranki students who had scored more than 90 % marks were given certificates in recognition of their academic excellence. Among them was a lone boy and five non-Muslim girls.