

Yoosuf Naib Foundation

Profile and Achievements

A readable copy of the foundation story prepared for public website download.

Shamsuddin Center for Islamic Studies and Yoosuf Naib Foundation

Education and awareness are integral to human existence. Therefore, providing continuing education, skills and awareness programs to young people who have completed their school education is a vital part of community development, and lifelong learning. A well-rounded society cannot be established without enhancing human learning. However, the greatest challenge in small island communities is to provide learning opportunities to local students, who are often too poor to travel to urban islands to study, or to find suitable programs of study which match rural, remote island community needs.

Shamsuddin Centre, focusing on an Islamic worldview and Islamic scholarship as the foundation of learning and human growth, provide an opportunity to students to engage in an active learning community. It is encouraging to see that our efforts over the last 14 years have enabled a group of academically gifted young people to obtain qualifications required for employment and to succeed in their careers. It is significant to mention that some of the students who have studied with us are now pursuing their aspirations in higher education, obtaining advanced professional qualifications.

Hence, we would like to express our gratitude to Allah Subuhanahu Wata'ala, for granting us the chance to witness this accomplishment. Our ability to reach this moment is also a testament to the commitment of many individuals, and we express our gratitude to the local, national, and international community who have supported us with funds, staffing, and other resources.

Overview of Yoosuf Naib Foundation

Yoosuf Naib Foundation (YNF) is registered as a civil society organization (CSO) at the Ministry of youth, sports, and community empowerment (Registration Number: 493-NGO/CERT/2024/27).

Although the Foundation was officially registered on 10th March 2024, as required by newly introduced law, it has been operating as a CSO, in Meedhoo, Addu City, since 2008, focusing on providing Islamic education, and skills development to youth, women and the elderly in the community. With investment from the community and the local council, we acquired land and constructed the Shamsuddin Centre with adequate facilities to meet national requirements. Currently, we work with higher education institutions to ensure that the training provided is accredited and students are working towards higher qualifications. At the same time, our facilities are also used for short-term courses such as one-off training workshops and awareness sessions. We also collaborate with CSOs and individuals to promote civil society engagement, and health and wellbeing of the community.

Our vision is to expand the facilities, raise funding and train our students, to meet the needs of a vibrant active, engaged, skilled and informed society, both in Addu City and elsewhere. Our immediate targets are to strengthen ongoing Qur'an and Hadith education, to equip the facilities for vocational training, and IT skills development, and to recruit enough students to create a vibrant learning community, as well as strengthen social ties within Meedhoo community

Yearly Progress Overview

2008 - Shamsuddin Center for Islamic Studies (SCIS)

Initially, we began by sponsoring a Quran teacher for a preschool, a support made possible by Razana Tsty Ahmed Mohamed. With the continued assistance of our colleagues at the foundation, we were able to sustain this effort until 2012.

2010 - Formation of the Foundation

On the night of February 19, 2010, a group of young people from Meedhoo living in Male' and in nearby resorts gathered in Malé City. That evening, the participants expressed a strong commitment to reviving the social, educational spirit that had long been present in Meedhoo, and to provide resources to make this venture meet modern expectations.

The Foundation was officially established in this meeting and various activities were subsequently carried out under its banner. The following list highlights the range of activities which the Foundation has engaged in the past 14 years.

Under the umbrella of the CSO, the social center in Meedhoo was repaired and maintained.

A volleyball competition and entertainment activities were held during the event.

In 2010, a festival called the Khithaan Festival was organized. As part of the initiative, 13 children received free circumcision, and a week-long hithaan festive camp was conducted. The event concluded with various weekend entertainment games. Khithaan camp provides same-age bonding for young boys, whilst celebrating an Islamic ritual, bringing family and community together in celebration.

That same year, we also organized public screenings of the local film Nauma on both islands, under the supervision of the film's distributors, to raise awareness within the community. Visual and Performing Arts are an area which needs strengthening in the community to engage youth in healthy social and leisure activities.

A six-month collaboration was carried out with the Island Office to manage and dispose of household waste. As a result, the island shores were cleaned, and greenery began to emerge along the coastline. We are proud that the movement, originally named Nalanala Meedhoo, continues today as Nalafehi Meedhoo, one of the most recognized CSOs in the Maldives, for civil society engagement and initiative in community development, led by a dedicated team of elders, men, women and youth

Environment Day 2010 was celebrated with vibrant and colorful events in Meedhoo. The social work we initiated that year laid the groundwork for the emergence of social movements and the establishment of additional civil society organizations in Meedhoo. We continue to contribute significantly-both directly and indirectly-to the organizations that have since been formed. We are proud of our collaboration to advance civil society organizations within our community, providing all

members of the society to contribute in meaningful ways for socio-cultural, political, economic, environmental and educational development of our community. Our target is to support health and wellbeing of all of our community, providing safe and meaningful opportunities to engage with each other.

With assistance from the Agriculture Ministry, we have worked diligently to transfer an Auto Pot system to the women's CSO, Cheynu in Meedhoo. Currently Meedhoo has a very vibrant farming community of young men and domestic farming by women, with a farming cooperative bringing farmers together. The Auto pot concept has been taken on and sustained, to grow cucumbers, marketed and sold elsewhere, including Male'. New concepts such as growing grapes and star fruit have been successfully sustained, whilst organic farming of a variety of health promoting, fast growing, fruits and vegetables remain the underlying goal.

With the generous support of Ustad Husn-Al Suood, we donated several books to a local library and a variety of teaching tools to a children's pre-school. At that time, our team estimated that the total cost of these items would exceed one hundred and twenty thousand rufiyaa. The library project wasn't successful due to the lack of library staff to maintain the facilities and provide library services. Establishment of a working library with online academic search facilities remains a long-term goal.

. In 2012, we brought a Hafiz from India and, with the assistance of a woman from the island. We organized Quran classes for both children and adults. Prior to this also, Meedhoo had produced many Hafizes and Hafiza, through the hard work and commitment of local Qaarees, Imams, Katheebbs, and existing Hafizes within the community. Currently, Islamic University of the Maldives conducts Hifz, Qiraa'ath and Arabic classes at the former Shamsuddhin school building.

Over 60 individuals completed certificate courses in two sessions of Qari Course Level 1 and one session of Level 2. The program was conducted in affiliation with National Quranic Center.

Since 2012, there have been annual Quran competitions held in the community, with prizes awarded to winners in both Hifz and Qiraath categories.

In 2019 we began formal affiliations with higher education institutions to provide accredited training at the newly completed Shamsuddin Centre.

Under the affiliation.

A three-year Sharia law program was conducted on the island by College. Since then, two of our students have gone on to complete their master's degrees in law.

A total of 32 students graduated from Avid College with a Diploma in Office Management. Approximately 16 of them have already obtained their first degree in the field. One of these graduates is the president of this foundation.

2020 - Universal Concept of Mental Arithmetic System (UCMAS) Program

UCMAS classes have been held for 2 years, for children aged four to fourteen.

2021 - Government Polytechnic Program

Out of 24 participants, 16 students, in collaboration with Maldives Polytechnic, have completed the Wiring Certificate Level 3. One of the students is an active member of the board of this foundation.

Acknowledgements

2024 - Registration of Yoosuf aib Foundation

Dr. Abdullah Shareef played a significant role in this effort, having proposed the creation of Yoosuf Naib Foundation to promote education and awareness, with a central focus on Quran and Hadith education. We are honored and filled with joy to recognize Dr. Shareef's contribution. Regardless of where he may be, Dr. Shareef remains a founding member of this foundation and also serves on the executive board of YNF.

Accordingly, the foundation will now act as the legal guardian of the Shamsuddin Centre for Islamic Studies.

Conclusion

Over the past 14 years, we have evolved from localized efforts to socially strengthen our community into a broader community movement for Islamic awareness and educational empowerment. Built on a strong foundation of scholarship, community engagement, and mutual trust, both institutions continue to work toward fostering a values-rooted and enlightened Islamic society.

Our prayer is to see Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo become a friendly, healthy, prosperous, and secure community. Ameen.

Contact Information

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