



**CRESCENT  
FOUNDATION**

## **PROPOSAL FOR RESTORATION OF CRESCENT SCHOOL**

### **Crescent Foundation**

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## **Objective**

The objective of establishing the Crescent Foundation is to provide a stable source of affordable funding for an educational institution, catering to a marginalized community in the society, for its sustainability and save futures of many students.

## **Mission**

The mission of the Crescent Foundation is to convert a private school “Crescent School” (formerly Ababeel School) to provide free and high-quality education along with personality development, positive attitudes and enrichment opportunities, while maintaining Islamic standards.

## **Why Muslim community prefers private schools?**

Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic society in which Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and others have coexisted for centuries. The Muslim population of Sri Lanka has been between 8-10% of the total population over the years and considered as minorities.

Most of the schools (Public schools) in Sri Lanka are maintained by the government as a part of the free education. Currently there are over 9,800 government schools with a student population of 3.8 million and over 212,000 teachers.

There are 824 Muslim schools in the country and this number is insufficient compared to the population of Muslim children of the country to accommodate them all. The percentage of Muslims gaining admission to Non Islamic Government schools is also based on Quota and Provincial allocations by the government.

The students undergo thorough background checks before they are admitted to government schools. The criterion to enroll students to government schools, such as producing proof of documents for permanent residency and fixed/ permanent income of parents, etc. is a bottleneck for parents who do not have permanent residence and/ or fixed income. Other factors including non-availability of schools within easy reach, absence of Islamic dress code, cultural aggression by the dominant community, biasness in religious curriculum, etc. also found to be operative.

Due to this reason the Muslim community has less enrolment to government schools and seeks out for education at private Islamic schools where education is provided according to Shariah law.

## Background

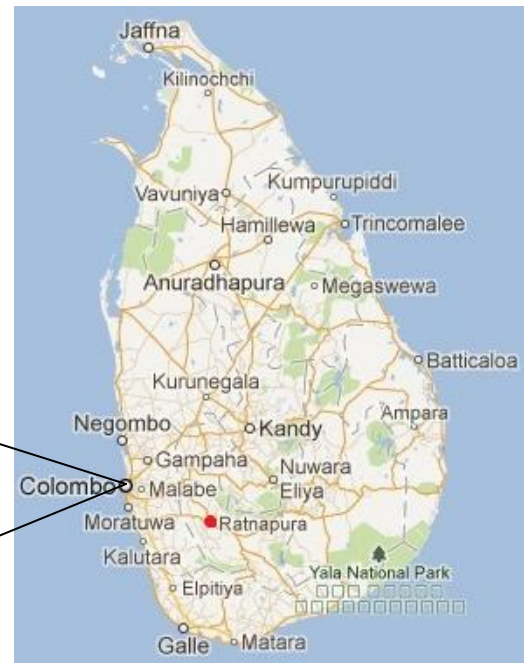
Ababeel School was founded in 2001 with just 8 students and continued its journey with a view to establish an educational institution. The school catered to the curriculum given by the Educational Department of the country in English medium, while preserving the Islamic identity and values of Muslim children.

In 2011, the school was re-branded as Crescent School. Currently it has a student population of over 1400 and 80 academic staff in its branches.

### Branches

- Dematagoda (Colombo 09)
- Mattakuliya (Colombo 15)
- Wellampitiya
- Ratnapura

### Geographical location



It enrolls students from LKG to Grade 11 G.C.E. O/L's in two separate sections, for male and female students and operates as an independent, co-educational institution that provides high quality and college preparatory, balanced education for students within Islamic values. It also has an extensive extracurricular activities program aimed at building leaders with positive attitudes, groomed with self-confidence to face the world.

The main school is located in Colombo 10, Sri Lanka with separate sections for Boys and Girls.

Montessori Section (LKG& UKG)

Primary Section (Grade I - 4)

Senior Section (Grade 5- 11)

These students are merely from a background whose parents have a very poor income. Most of their parents are three wheel drivers, market traders, laborers and housemaids and are unable to afford their children's school fees due to soaring cost of living.

Due to this reason the management was compelled to adjust the fee structure as per their affordability. Nevertheless nearly 100 students obtain education for free of charge.

This situation for over twelve years constantly, has now affected the schools revenue severely, from which it cannot meet at least one third of the total overhead and is now experiencing lack of necessary fund to meet the overheads and to fulfill learning requirements to the students, resulting to increase number of investors. But still the real demand for financing has not been increased as expected.

Despite the huge funding need, school is lacking the resources and facilities that their students are exposed to on a daily basis. For example, comfortable desks and chairs, ventilation and technological improvements such as computers and internet access, that usually government schools have.

The following images will represent the real status of the school.

A) A class room of girls senior section



B) Benches used by students (girls senior section)







C) The school passage used as a playground by boys senior section



#### D) Lack of Sanitary facilities



Due to geographical division such as primary classes, senior classes of the school, force them to use more effort in order to network with students-teachers and to get the materials and resources needed.

It also has stagnated in development and even deteriorated. Some of these buildings are already dilapidated with the passing of time making them too weak which is even a danger to the students and their teachers in case they bulge in or collapse altogether. These Crumbled buildings, makes the learning environment unsafe and not motivating for the students.

Since the school does not have sufficient funding and with continuous deficit, they are not able to tailor facilities to the student's needs. As a result the school is currently facing a dire situation and a state of closure.



## **Expected accomplishment**

As a solution to this serious matter, the Crescent Foundation decided to call out funds from generous and potential donors in order to keep the school up running and convert the school to a charitable school from where the students from very poor families enjoy free education.

## **Expected outcome**

This will in turn give many children from middle class families to receive a better education, good learning conditions and facilities and prolong the existence of the school saving lives of over 1400 Muslim students.

This will root them to improve their social status and employment opportunities to support themselves and enables them to become good future leaders to serve various sectors of the economy and improve the economy of Sri Lanka.