



Celebrating  
**50 years**  
of educating  
Ugandans

The origins of The Madhvani Foundation can be traced to Uganda's pre independence in the 1950's when the Madhvani Group started awarding individual scholarships to underprivileged Ugandans for high school education at leading schools across the country, including Kings College Buddo, Mwiri College, Kyambogo and Ntare High School.

The reason that the group started awarding these scholarships was to give an opportunity to bright and talented Ugandan students, who faced challenges paying their school fees, the chance to study and subsequently participate in the administration and running of the country once independence was achieved. This initial group of students included several prominent Ugandans who played a significant role in the lead up to and immediately after independence in 1962.



In 1961, with independence fast approaching, the Madhvani Group decided that they needed to acknowledge the historical significance of Uganda's independence in a major way by making a lasting contribution to Uganda's future prosperity. As a result an education trust was set up dedicated to the memory, business and life philosophy of the the founder of the Madhvani Group - Muljibhai Prabhudas Madhvani (1894 -1958).

Muljibhai had come to Uganda in 1912, a virtually penniless young man, aged just 14. Despite his lack of a formal higher education, through vision, courage and determination, he managed to hone his keen sense for business to create the largest industrial group in East Africa contributing about 10% of Uganda's GDP annually by the time of his death. He achieved his success without

ever forgetting to take care of the welfare of his employees and the community at large. He established many educational institutions all over Uganda with a view to sharing his good fortune with the country that had been so kind to him and his family.

Throughout his lifetime, Muljibhai firmly believed that Uganda's most valuable resource was its people and, in order for the country to prosper, investments in scientific and technical education would be necessary to help stimulate and sustain the process. With his vision in mind between 1962 and 1972 the Madhvani Foundation

granted hundreds of scholarships each year for University, Secondary and Tertiary Education to disadvantaged Ugandans to study medicine, law, agriculture and other technical courses. Many of these recipients subsequently became leading figures in contemporary Ugandan society playing a very active role in the initial development of the country.

Unfortunately due to Idi Amin's expulsion of the Asian community in 1972 the scholarships scheme was abruptly halted and many bright but disadvantaged students missed out on the chance to fulfill their potential with the help of the scheme.

In 2002, after a thirty year absence the Board of the Madhvani Foundation was reconstituted and charged with reviving the scholarships scheme. A comprehensive study was carried out and it found out that while most brilliant but underprivileged Ugandan students struggled to find the means to put themselves through primary and secondary school most generally managed to finish; it was when they reached University level that many dropped out due to increased financial constraints and a lack of focus brought about by income instability. A decision was therefore taken to focus the Foundation's funds specifically at the university level where the greatest impact would be felt.

In 2003, an amount of 180 million shillings was allocated to the Foundation's revived University scholarship scheme and a first batch of 49 needy students were given scholarships. This amount has been growing annually and in the year 2012, as the country and the Foundation jointly celebrated their golden Jubilee, the Madhvani Foundation board announced a record Uganda Shillings 600 million had been set aside for 157 students - bringing the total number of students who have benefited from the scheme to over 1,200 students and the amount awarded since 2003 to over Uganda Shillings 2.3 billion; a living testament to the fact that the spirit and vision that Muljibhai had for Uganda is well and truly alive.



*H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni presents the prestigious Patrice Lumumba award to the Madhvani Foundation represented by the Chairman of the Scholarships Committee Mr Henry Kyemba at the Uganda Universities Union of Guild Parliaments (UUUGP) fifth annual convention and Golden Jubilee Awards ceremony on the 2nd November 2012. The Foundation was recognized for its immense contribution towards educating Ugandan university students.*

"The Foundation was born of an idea and a dream that attached a priceless value to education. The desire to see the community around us develop and encourage the youth to achieve their full potential. Initially supporting just a handful of students in the early 80's, today the Foundation supports hundreds of students every year and for this opportunity we thank God. However, even with the hundreds of students that we support, there are still many more out there who need assistance."

**Mr Henry Kyemba, Chairman Scholarship Committee**

*"The scholarship has made an enormous difference since it gives me much more time to spend on my coursework. After seeing an advertisement for the Madhvani Foundation scholarships in the newspaper, I applied for a scholarship. Overall, it has been a fantastic opportunity. I have been able to concentrate on my studies and will graduate soon. May the Good Lord richly reward the Madhvani family for their enormous contribution to the country."*

**Asingwire Gloria, Environmental Studies, MF scholarship beneficiary (class of 2012)**

*"The Madhvani Foundation Alumni offers all alumni an opportunity to network and carry on the vision of our founding father Muljibhai Madhvani. As the Association we feel empowered and pride ourselves in being part of such a big family that has a dream to see Uganda develop. We pledge our support to the Foundation and will continue growing in our conviction to one day achieve our mandate to give back to the Foundation."*

**Muwaganya Jonathan, Chairman, Madhvani Foundation Alumni Association (2011-2012)**

**For more information visit us at:**

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Empowerment Through Education