

A. Ehsanul Hoque, MBBS, PhD

Dr. A. Ehsanul Hoque is the Executive Director and founder of Distressed Children & Infants International. He is passionately dedicated to promoting child rights and improving the health and welfare of underprivileged children.

Dr. Hoque was born in Barisal, Bangladesh, in 1964. He was born with congenital cataracts, and by the age of five he had already undergone seven eye surgeries. Thankfully, the operations restored his eyesight. By 1987, he had become a medical doctor; he completed his Ph.D. in 1995, and his post-doctoral fellowship in 1997 at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. Over the years, he has worked at several different institutes: Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Bangladesh; Dhaka Children Hospital, Bangladesh; Asahikawa Medical University, Japan; University of Western Ontario, Canada; University of Toronto, Canada, and Yale University School of Medicine, USA.



Dr. Hoque's research fields include cardiovascular pharmacology and physiology with a special focus on ischemia-reperfusion injury of the heart, and neuroendocrinology with a focus on aging. Dr. Hoque has published his work in various scientific journals, and presented his findings at national and international conferences. He has also been the recipient of numerous academic honors, including a Monbusho Scholarship from the Japanese Ministry of Education, research awards from the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the University of Toronto Research Fellowship, and the Hartford Foundation Fellowship.

Dr. Hoque's approach to life and work has, inevitably, been influenced by his early years. His experience of having cataracts has given him a greater understanding of the difficulties faced by those who are visually impaired or challenged in any way. Moreover, he could not help but be moved by the stark contrast between his life and the lives of impoverished people in towns and villages across Bangladesh. In the course of his volunteer work as a young doctor among the underprivileged of Bangladesh, he witnessed the suffering of many children and he realized he had a moral obligation to help. These children were poor, ill nourished, and often orphaned. He became convinced that they had no hope of improving their lives as long as they lacked food, shelter, health care, and education; and thus he conceived of the idea of creating a child rights organization with a child sponsorship program as its centerpiece: DCI's current Sun Child Sponsorship Program.

In 2003, Dr. Hoque founded Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI), Inc. with the aim of providing quality education and healthcare to underprivileged children, reducing the poverty that millions of children suffer from, and preventing childhood blindness. Dr. Hoque is now a dedicated activist for children's rights. Underlying Dr. Hoque's work is his belief that human beings want to provide aid and support to one another, and that "real joy comes not from ease of life, wealth, or from the praise of men, but from doing something worthwhile for another."

Dr. Ehsan Hoque feels fortunate that his life is indeed full of "real joy." He is passionate about working for impoverished and underprivileged children, first in Bangladesh and then around the world. Dr. Hoque lives in Connecticut USA with his wife Dr. Nina Hoque and their two daughters. Dr. Hoque is the only son of late Professor A.N. Shamsul Hoque, who taught political science and public administration at Duke University, USA and at Rajshahi University, Bangladesh. His family and friends throughout the world appreciate that, despite the responsibility and seriousness of the huge task he has undertaken, he maintains a sense of humor and delight in life.