

Darkness under the lamp - Dr Muhammad Yunus

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Dr Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for pioneering the modern concept of microcredit and microfinance. He is the founder of Grameen Bank. This article will shed light on little known facts the creation of Grameen Bank and related issues as it proverbs "it is always darkest under the lamp" for the readers to have a balanced view of Dr Yunus.

Under a special program of Chittagong University, to provide easy-term loans to the rural population, a pilot project was undertaken by Dr Muhammad Yunus in 1976 and expanded to Tangail in 1979, upon the success of which, following his proposal to ensure collateral-free lending and recovery, the Bangladesh government took the initiative to transform this project into a bank. In 1983, Grameen Bank was established under the Grameen Bank Ordinance, 1983. At the time of its establishment, the government of Bangladesh provided 60% (18 million Taka) of the bank's 30 million Taka capital. According to section 4(3) of the Grameen Bank Ordinance, 1983, Grameen Bank was exempted from the Bank Companies Act and other related rules and regulations, and under section 33, it was granted income tax exemption.

To ensure the success of Grameen Bank's microcredit operations, the Bangladesh government did not interfere with the activities of Dr