

AUTHOR'S NOTE

My grandmother, **Maryam Faruqi** (December 13, 1920–April 9, 2012), affectionately called Milloo by her father, is famous for founding Happy Home Schools in Karachi, Pakistan. These schools are still thriving today. As a young child, she had a love for education. Many girls did not go on to middle or high school or college and instead stayed home. In fact, Maryam's older sister stayed home to help with the family and chores while Maryam fought to keep on staying in school. Maryam graduated at the top of her class from Bombay University in 1946. In her own words, she would say, "I never stood second." When she was featured in the newspaper for her accomplishments, many young men wrote to her asking for her hand in marriage. An educator at heart, she married the man with the neatest handwriting and most elegant Urdu language, my grandfather. After the Partition of India in 1947, the division that created two separate countries, India and Pakistan, Maryam moved to Karachi, Pakistan, with her husband and taught there. In Pakistan, she was trained by Maria Montessori.

When Maryam took a class for cooking and stitching, she said it was "a course in which I was least interested." Unfulfilled, she opened a school in her home: she said, "My happiness knew no bounds, as I wanted to use my education."

In 1960, Maryam Faruqi won the Fulbright scholarship to study educational administration and supervision in the United States, where she met and garlanded President John F. Kennedy.

She won scores of lifetime achievement awards, including the President's Award for Literacy (1987) as well as awards from the prime minister and the president of Pakistan. She educated thousands of students; students who have flourished in various professions in life.

