

**ISMAT LITERACY &
HANDICRAFT CENTRE**

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
AND
REQUEST FOR FUNDS**

Address:

Behind AMU Post Office

Morrison Road, AMU, Aligarh – 202002

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

“Read! In the name of your Lord who created.”

(Quran 96:1)

الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً فَلَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ
عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

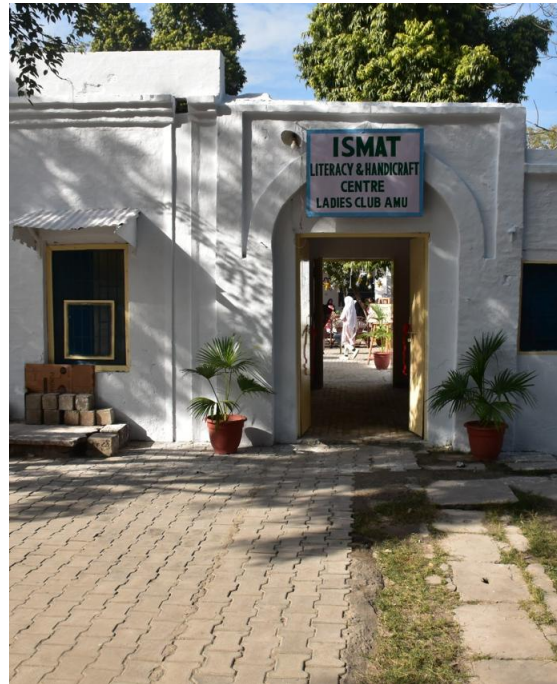
Those who spend their wealth in charity day and night,
secretly and openly—their reward is with their Lord, and
there will be no fear for them, nor will they grieve.

(Quran 2:274)

HISTORY

The Ismat Literacy & Handicraft Centre (the Centre) was established on 2nd October 1997 under the aegis of the AMU Ladies Club, a socio-cultural organization set up in 1972.

The Vice Chancellor of AMU, Mr. Mahmoodur Rahman, allotted a university building to house the Centre. It started with 50 children, both boys and girls, who were provided non-formal education through training in reading, writing, arithmetic, Hindi, and English. The Muslim children learned reading the Holy Quran, and the older girls were also trained in sewing, embroidery and knitting skills. Since 2008, the Centre only admits girls and the number has now grown to about 250. From 2009, proper classroom education was implemented from Kindergarten to Class VIII with 15–20 students in each class.



From its inception, the Centre is run on voluntary donations from its well-wishers. While AMU continues to provide rent-free accommodation, the Centre pays for the utilities.



It is to be noted that all students come from very poor families that are unable to afford formal schools, and but for this Centre, these girls would get no education at all.

There is no tuition fee. Every girl is also provided free books and other learning materials, proper school uniform, ID card and school bag.

The older girls are also coached for one full year to take the AMU Women Private High School Exam. They pass it with very good results, including several distinctions.



AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- Promote literacy and general awareness among girls from the marginalized sections of society.
- Prepare girls to finish High School and open channels for further education.
- Train girls in skills that can augment household incomes.

CLASSROOM LEARNING

For classes KG to VIII grade – all girls are trained in

- Reading and writing: English, Hindi and Urdu
- Spoken English
- Arithmetic / Mathematics



Computer Course

A three-month basic course that includes software installation, mini hardware training, MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, and internet browsing.



Tailoring, Knitting and Embroidery Course



A six-month complete course of drafting, cutting and stitching, knitting and crochet of wool and thread, embroidery and designing.

Beautician Course

A six-month course including skin and hair care, bridal make up, hair styling and mehndi application.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Beyond classroom learning, the girls take part in various other activities.

National Days - Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Teachers Day and Children's Day are celebrated with much fervour and keen participation of the students and staff. They put on cultural and educational programmes relevant for the day.





An **Annual Fete/Exhibition** is held with sales of items made by the students. This showcases the handicraft skills of the students, while also raising some funds for the Centre.

A **Creative Week** is organized annually to encourage the students to showcase various skills like Drawing, Poster Painting, Essay writing, Environmental awareness and sports. They are awarded with prizes and certificates.



Workshops and health check-ups by other charitable NGOs are organized regularly.



Learning the **Holy Quran** is compulsory for Muslim girls from KG to Class V.

IMPACT

Through its basic literacy and life skills approach, the Centre has impacted the lives of thousands of girls, who come from extremely poor families. It is unlikely that these girls would have ever gone to a fee collecting school. The early successes of several girls have also convinced the parents to put them in regular schools and further support their professional development.

1997–2024 KG to Class VIII: 1300 students

Vocational Courses: 1700 students

2012–2024 AMU Private High School: 400 students

The Centre pays special attention to the teaching of Mathematics and English to Class VI, VII and VIII so that girls may be able to compete for mainstream institutions. Several students have successfully cleared admission competitions, convincing the parents to support their education in regular schools and colleges. For example, a girl who studied at the Centre from Class VI till High School is presently pursuing her B.Sc. Nursing.

Many students who have cleared their High School were encouraged to further pursue their education through AMU Distance Learning. Several have completed their graduate and postgraduate degrees. The Centre has arranged National Teachers Training for these graduates and postgraduates, and some also went through a teaching programme under the Azim Premji Foundation. Some of these girls now teach at the Centre.

Many girls from the vocational training side of the Centre have utilized their abilities professionally. Some are employed at beauty parlors and others are earning while at home through their stitching and knitting abilities.

Students have participated in events and competitions by various NGOs and have won prizes. This gives them confidence for further studies and professional development.



TEACHER DETAILS

The following teachers are currently responsible for different classes and subjects.

Name	Class	Qualification
Class Teachers		
Nisha Noor	KG	Senior Secondary (12 th)
Sufia Khanam	I	Senior Secondary (12 th)
Shadli	II	B.A.
Ilma Parveen	III	High School (10 th)
Muskan Parveen	IV	B.Com.
Mantasha	V	B.A.
Neha Zaheer	VI	B.Sc.
Ruksar Yameen	VII	B.A. and M.A.
Anam Mohsin	VII	B.A. and B.Ed.
Shaina	IX + X*	B.A., B.Ed. and M.Ed.
Subject Teachers		
Tabassum	III to X (Urdu)	B.A. and M.A.
Talha Zaheer	VI to VIII (Mathematics)	B.E. and M.E.
Vocation Teachers		
Zeenat Anwar	Computer Course	B.Com. and M.Com.
Razia Naseem	Tailoring Course	B.A. and M.A.
Rubi	Beautician Course	B.A.

* This is a one-year course to prepare for AMU Class X Private High School Examination.

EXPENDITURE

	Monthly expenditure 2025 (Rs)	Annual expenditure 2025 (Rs)	Projected expenditure 2026 (Rs)	Projected expenditure 2027 (Rs)
Salaries 18 staff (15 teachers, 1 caretaker, 1 cleaner, 1 gardener)	93,000	11,16,000	11,72,000	12,31,000
Utilities charges (electricity, water)	7,000	84,000	88,000	93,000
School stationery, medicines, etc.	5,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
School uniforms and shoes		2,12,500	2,23,000	2,34,000
School bags, books and stationery		3,37,500	3,54,000	3,72,000
TOTAL		18,10,000	18,97,000	19,90,000

Note: Annual increases, where shown, are 5%.

REVENUE

	Annual revenue (Rs)
Two regular donors – Rs. 60,000 per month	5,00,000
Other donations over the year (approx.)	5,00,000
One-time donations in 2025	3,00,000
Profit from Fete and Annual Sale (approx.)	1,00,000
TOTAL	14,00,000

SHORTFALL

In 2025 there was a shortfall of Rs. 4.1 lakhs, which was managed by seeking buffer donations from regular members and deploying past savings.

The reason for the shortfall is the Centre's founding body – The AMU Ladies Club – has become non-functional. The Club, which used to raise handsome donations, particularly during Ramadan, has no regular meetings and fundraising drives.

The Centre continues to function at full capacity. However, annual admissions are unable to accommodate every girl who applies for lack of space and funds.

REQUEST FOR FUNDS

We request the Zakat Foundation of India for a donation of Rs. 17.85 lakhs to the Ismat Literacy & Handicraft Centre, Aligarh.

This is needed particularly in 2026 to keep operations at the present level, replace old computers and introduce a regular mid-day meal scheme for the girls. Providing protein-rich foods to girls in their growing years, has become a necessity. Beyond improving health, it will be another incentive for the families to keep the girls in school. Better nutrition, improved health and regular attendance are all known to improve learning outcomes.

Timely support during 2026 and 2027 will allow the Centre to find new donors, who will sustain it in the medium to longer term.

The funds are projected to be used as shown below.

Item	Projected expenditure (Rs)
1. Cover shortfall between present revenue (11 lakhs) and projected expenditure for 2026 (18.97 lakhs)	7,97,000
2. Purchase 5 new computers for the Computer Course	2,50,000
3. Mid-day meals Rs. 30,000 per month for 2026	3,60,000
4. Mid-day meals Rs. 31,500 per month for 2027*	3,78,000
TOTAL	17,85,000

* The projected increase for 2027 is 5% over 2026 estimates.

BANK DETAILS:

Account Name: ISMAT LITERACY & HANDICRAFT CENTRE

Account Number: 31298964146

Bank: State Bank of India, AMU Branch, Aligarh 202002 (UP), India

IFSC: SBIN0005555