

**Kashmir Charitable Trust-AJK**  
*Lower Plate near Four fields Mosque Muzaffarabad AK*  
**KCT's Rescue work**  
**Khursheed National Library**



## Introduction

Kashmir Charitable Trust-UK is a community based charity organization & is registered in UK with registration# 105317 in 1996. It is working for the backing of vulnerable and marginalized Kashmiri people at both sides of LOC. After the devastated earthquake of 2005, KCT started its work in Azad Kashmir to support their people in the time of distress & started various projects concerned with relief and rehabilitation. KCT-UK wanted to start sustainable projects so it promoted the strength of youth and developed the capacity of the local team up to the level that within one & half year, the local volunteer force of KCT was able to carry different projects by self-help. So in January 2007 the management of KCT-UK decided to register a new organization under the supervision of KCT-UK & gave it the name as KCT-AJK. It is registered in AJK with registered# 6230 under the society act of 1982.

## Background

A severe earth quake of 7.6 intensity, struck the AJ&K and its surrounding areas on October 8; 2005, causing colossal losses to life, property and infrastructures, leaving nearly seventy five thousands dead, over hundred thousands seriously injured and several hundred thousands shelter less, without food and daily necessities. This natural calamity got immediate response from various domestic and international agencies, for the rescue and relief of the affected people. But the efforts are very small in relation to the size of damages. More over, the relief activities could not be extended and intensified as needed, due to disrupted communication and difficult nature of the area. Rescue and support efforts, what so ever are mainly confined to aerial mean, which again has its limitations.

After the gigantic adversity of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2005, KCT has initiated many projects for the assistance of earthquake hitters of AJK. Volunteer's management, social mobilization, economic regeneration activities, community development, male & female literacy centers, rehabilitation & education are the specific sectors of KCT for development. Many analyses were taken to examine the situation and necessities of the area as well as to monitor and evaluate the projects. **KCT** has used van donated by **Burley for Kashmir** to provide a quick response to quake hitters before and after starting the projects.

## Need Assessment

A forceful earthquake measuring 7.6 on Richter scale struck the Azad Kashmir & most of the area of Pakistan as well, in the early morning of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2005. It devastated the most of the part of Azad. Kashmir, especially Muzaffarabad, but the shakes were felt in the whole state. Pakistan is also affected by it, particularly the eastern districts of the North West Frontier Province & the federal capital, Islamabad.

The library was not on the plain ground but on a small hillock with a beautiful view around. The earthquake was of such ferocity that the ground and hills were moving up and down like huge waves of water, causing mountains to move and break. At several places, the crevasses opened wide enough to swallow whole buildings, and that is what happened with the library.

## Objectives

- To secure the sole legacy of Muzaffarabad.
- To drag the people from trauma condition by involving them in some rescue works.
- To enable the people to be self sufficient.

## Activity

The Khurshid National Library was founded in 1988 as a public library administered by the Azad Kashmir Ministry of Education. The facility housed the world's largest collection of materials on Kashmir, including more than 3,500 books and more than 40,000 documents related to the history of Jammu and Kashmir and its freedom movement. The only public library in the area of Kashmir administered by Pakistan was completely destroyed in the magnituded7.6 earthquake that devastated the mountainous region in October 8.

The whole region of Muzaffarabad is affected by this disaster and most the valuable legacy has dented. Immediately, after the earth quake, the team of KCT reached Jalalabad where Khursheed National Library, which was the precious heritage of Muzaffarabad, was totally ruined. The books were scattered here & there in the rain which was fallen in the evening, just after the earth quake. The



The volunteers of KCT saved all books, gathered them in a pile, put these books in the van gifted by **Burley for Kashmir** and took them to a safe place. After some time they had made a temporary library in Jalalabad Garden.

## Methodology

KCT was informed by its one of volunteers that Khursheed national library had ruined and all literary heritages were wasting in the rain on the road. The team of KCT reached on the place to witness the situation. It has gathered its volunteer to collect all the books and take them to a safe place. After that the volunteers had mad a temporary library in the garden in a tent, keep all the books in order in this temporary library and save this heritage from destruction.



## End Result

With the in time interruption of KCT & Burley for Kashmir, the exclusive library of Muzaffarabad has been saved from complete destruction. After passing some months to the disaster, this temporary library is shifted in to a permanent library which is still working in Muzaffarabad as past.