

Valerie Ann Taylor
Founder & Coordinator of CRP

Valerie Ann Taylor was born on the 8th February 1944, in Bromley, Kent, UK to parents Marie and William Taylor.

Valerie is a Fellow of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (FCSP) and first came to Bangladesh with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in 1969 to work as a physiotherapist in the Christian Hospital, Chandraghona in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, East Pakistan.

Her stay was interrupted by the War of Independence in 1971. During the war Valerie was evacuated but returned to the country in October 1971, two months before the liberation of Bangladesh.



Having grown up living close to the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville in England, she was very aware of the need for rehabilitation services for the disabled in Bangladesh.

In 1973 Valerie returned to England to raise funds to establish a rehabilitation centre for paralysed people. She stayed in England for two years before returning in 1975. It took another four years before CRP was able to admit its first patients in 1979. During this time, Valerie worked in the Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in Dhaka and it was in the grounds of this hospital that CRP had its first premises, two cement store rooms which were used to treat the first spinally injured patients. Rather like gypsies, having moved to three locations during the first eleven years, CRP then found a permanent home and moved to Savar in mid 1990 where the head office is situated.

Valerie's achievements have been recognized with various accolades. She received the OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 1993 from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth; the Bangladesh Independence Award in 2004; Honorary Doctorate Degree (2010), by York St John University, UK and The ONE Award 2013 by Rotary International. In 1998 Valerie was granted Bangladeshi citizenship by the Government of Bangladesh.

Valerie has been legal guardian to two Bangladeshi girls for several years. She continues to live adjacent to the CRP-Savar premises with her younger adopted daughter, Poppy. While Joyti, the elder one works as a computer operator in the CRP office and lives next door.