



Sang Ilmuwan: Dr. Firdausi Qadri  
HerStory Foundation



Did you know that you can be a disease detective? You can investigate criminal viruses through a microscope and look for clues to stop them. The study of how our bodies fight disease is called immunology, and the Supergirl Dr. Firdausi Qadri is an immunologist working to fight bacteria from spreading.



When she was a little girl, Firdausi wanted to study science—and so she did! However, when she was a university student, she saw the horrors of the Liberation War and how fast deadly diseases spread through water. At that time, she could not do much other than study harder and make flags from old clothes for the new nation of Bangladesh. But soon enough, she would go on to do great things for her country.





Firdausi loved looking through the microscope at squiggly cells and wanted to know more about them. She earned a scholarship to the UK and worked in a very modern laboratory where she experimented and discovered new things, but once her studies were over, Firdausi did not waste time: she packed up her notes and rushed back home—there was work to be done! Firdausi started to work at the Centre for

Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) where she investigated cholera, a terrible disease that lives in water and hurts thousands of people each year.



Like a detective, she hunted the bacteria, watching its movements and behaviour. Her goal was not just to cure it, but to stop it in its tracks! She wanted to create a vaccine that would be cheap, and easy to use and transport. After many years of trying, Firdausi found what she was looking for: a low cost medicine a person can swallow to prevent cholera. This great discovery helped millions of people!







Dr. Firdausi Qadri has received many important international awards, including a half-a-million-euro prize for research, which she gave to her laboratory. She is the first woman and the first Bangladeshi to receive this award. Firdausi tells girls who want to be scientists that they can do it! In fact, girls can do many things at the same time. This is their superpower! While Firdausi does not have a cure for everything, she does have a trick

for overcoming challenges: strength of spirit!  
Armed with this, anything is possible.



This inspiring story is part of the HerStories collection originally created by the HerStory Foundation and adapted into individual books in collaboration with The Asia Foundation's Let's Read initiative.

For more information about HerStory, please visit

[www.herstorybd.org](http://www.herstorybd.org)



Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, atau yang lebih dikenal dengan Badan Bahasa, adalah unit di bawah Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan

Teknologi yang ditugaskan untuk menangani masalah kebahasaan dan kesastraan di Indonesia. Badan Bahasa memiliki misi untuk meningkatkan mutu kebahasaan dan pemakaiannya, meningkatkan keterlibatan

peran bahasa dan sastra dalam membangun ekosistem pendidikan dan kebudayaan, dan meningkatkan keterlibatan para pemangku kepentingan dalam pengembangan, pembinaan, dan perlindungan bahasa dan sastra, serta meningkatkan peran aktif diplomasi dalam internasionalisasi bahasa Indonesia. Badan Bahasa memiliki Unit Pelaksana Teknis di tiga puluh provinsi di Indonesia yang memiliki tugas dan fungsi melaksanakan pengembangan, pembinaan, dan perlindungan bahasa dan sastra Indonesia.

Brought to you by



**The Asia Foundation**

Let's Read is an initiative of The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program that fosters young readers in Asia and the Pacific.

[booksforasia.org](http://booksforasia.org)

To read more books like this and get further information about this book, visit [letsreadasia.org](http://letsreadasia.org)

### **Original Story**

*বিজ্ঞানী - ড. ফিরদৌসী কাদরী*, Author: HerStory Foundation. Released under CC-BY-NC-4.0.

This work is a modified version of the original story. © The Asia Foundation, 2020. Some rights reserved. Released under CC-BY-NC-4.0.



For full terms of use and attribution,  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Contributing translators: Niken Paramita