

Arfa Karim Technology Incubator

We are driven by the vision of Arfa Karim Randhawa, Pakistan's tech prodigy and daughter of the Nation. Inspired by her legacy, we empower careers, foster innovation, and nurture tomorrow's tech and entrepreneurial leaders. Founded on values of integrity, creativity, and collaboration, AKTI bridges the gap between academic knowledge and real-world success, guiding individuals to thrive in the competitive professional landscape. Our commitment to excellence is not just a mission; it's a legacy carried forward. Arfa Karim Randhawa (1995–2012) was a Pakistani computer prodigy who became the world's youngest Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) at the age of 9 in 2004. Her achievement garnered international attention and led to an invitation from Bill Gates to visit Microsoft's headquarters in the United States when she was 10. Born in Faisalabad, Pakistan, Arfa displayed an early interest in computers. By the age of 7, she was proficient in Microsoft PowerPoint, and at 9, she enrolled in a local technology institute to pursue her interest further. Her dedication and aptitude for technology led her to pass the MCP exam, setting a world record. After returning to Pakistan from a visit to the Microsoft headquarters, Randhawa gave numerous television and newspaper interviews. [S. Somasegar](#), the vice president of Microsoft's Software Development Division, wrote about her in his blog.^[7] On 2 August 2005, Arfa was presented the Fatimah Jinnah Gold Medal in the field of Science and Technology by the [prime minister of Pakistan Shaukat Aziz](#) at the 113th anniversary of [Fatima Jinnah](#)'s birth.^[9] She also received the Salaam Pakistan Youth Award in August 2005 from the president of Pakistan.^[10] Randhawa received the President's [Award for Pride of Performance](#) in 2005,^[11] a civil award usually granted to people who have shown excellence in their respective fields over a long period of time; she is the youngest recipient of this award. She was made brand ambassador for [Pakistan Telecommunication Company](#)'s 3G Wireless Broadband service, "[EVO](#)", in January 2010.

AKTI Leadership

Amjad Karim

Chairman

Samina Amjad

Managing Director

Tabinda Islam

CEO

Usman Hussain

COO

Arfa Karim

Arfa Abdul Karim Randhawa ([Urdu](#): ارفع کریم رندھاوا, [Punjabi](#): ارفع کریم رندھاوا; 2 February 1995 – 14 January 2012) was a Pakistani student and computer [prodigy](#) who became the youngest [Microsoft Certified Professional](#) (MCP) in 2004. She was submitted to the [Guinness Book of World Records](#) for her achievement.^[3] Arfa kept the title until 2008 and went on to represent Pakistan on various international forums, including the [TechEd Developers Conference](#). She received Pakistan's highest literary award, the [Presidential Pride of Performance](#) from General [Pervez Musharraf](#) in 2005. A [science park](#) in [Lahore](#), the [Arfa Software Technology Park](#), is named in her honour.^{[4][5][6][7]} At the age of 10, Arfa was invited by [Bill Gates](#) to visit [Microsoft's headquarters](#) in the United States.^[8] She died in 2012, aged 16, from a cardiac arrest.

Biography

[\[edit\]](#)

Early life

[\[edit\]](#)

Randhawa was born into an ethnic [Punjabi](#) family from [Ram Diwali](#) in [Faisalabad District](#), [Punjab, Pakistan](#).^[*citation needed*]

Career

[\[edit\]](#)

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Recognition

[\[edit\]](#)

Upon her return from the US, Randhawa became an icon in Pakistan.^[13] She was interviewed by various channels, invited to several international conferences and

summits, and received awards from the [president](#) and prime minister of Pakistan.^[14] In 2006, Microsoft invited her to be the keynote speaker at the Tech-Ed developers conference held in [Barcelona](#).^[11]

Representation at international forums

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Randhawa represented [Pakistan](#) on various international forums and was invited by the Pakistan [Information Technology](#) Professionals Forum for a two-week stay in [Dubai](#), where a dinner reception was hosted in her honour; Dubai dignitaries, including the Ambassador of Pakistan, attended. She was presented with various awards and gifts, including a laptop.^[15] In November 2006, Randhawa attended the [Tech-Ed Developers conference](#) themed *Get Ahead of The Game* held in after receiving an invitation from Microsoft.^[11] She was the only Pakistani among over 5000 developers in that conference.^[16]

Death

[\[edit\]](#)

In 2011, Randhawa was studying at the [Lahore Grammar School](#) Paragon Campus in her second year of [A-levels](#). On 22 December 2011, she had a [cardiac arrest](#) after an [epileptic seizure](#) that damaged her brain and was admitted to Lahore's [Combined Military Hospital](#) (CMH) in [critical condition](#).^[6]

On 9 January 2012, [Bill Gates](#), chairman of Microsoft, contacted Randhawa's parents and directed her doctors to adopt "every kind of measure" for her treatment. Gates set up a special panel of international doctors who remained in contact with her local doctors through teleconference. The panel assisted in diagnosing and treating her illness.^[17] Local doctors dismissed the option of moving Randhawa to another hospital due to her being on a [ventilator](#) and in critical condition. Members of her family have lauded Bill Gates for offering to bear her treatment expenses.^[18]

Randhawa began to improve on 13 January 2012, and some areas of her brain began to show indications of healing. Microsoft had discussed flying her to the United States for treatment, according to her father, Amjad Abdul Karim Randhawa.^[19]

Randhawa died at a hospital in Lahore on 14 January 2012, aged 16. Her funeral, which was held on the following day, was attended by the [Chief Minister](#) of Punjab, [Shahbaz Sharif](#). She was buried in her ancestral village [Chak No. 4JB Ram Diwali](#), on Faisalabad-Sargodha Road [Faisalabad](#).^[20]