

PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT LAGGED MOHAD BEHIND IN JOINING SCHOOL AS EARLY AS OTHER CHILDREN: CASE STUDY



One of the FENPS staff mentoring to Mohad in the classroom and helping him with school hand bag

Mahad is just 19 years old. He lives in Mogadishu, Somalia with his parents. From a very young age Mahad has suffered from disability caused by polio in one of his legs.

Mahad is the oldest child of his family but his family did not send to education at the appropriate age school because he was not able to walk to school and his parents could not afford bus fare to school or to provide him with wheelchair to go to school. Another obstacle that made him late to school was that his father did not want to send Mahad to school because the father believed that Mahad was disabled who will not add any benefit to the family. “My mother liked to send me to school but my father was careless. I used to stay at home when other children go to school. I liked education and my brothers and sisters used to recite me what they learned from schools” narrated Mohad. “I learned how to read and write from my brothers and sisters at home” added Mohad. Mahad was sent to Quranic School and Alternative Basic Education School near his home at the age of 14. “My parents were encouraged to send me to school by good people who advised them the importance of education for me. And I also sometimes made protest against my parents because I wanted to send me to school. I said that I would not do nothing and eat food until you send me to school as other children. However, they sent me to school when I became stronger and was able to walk with sticks” said Mahad.

Expectation of Mahad

Mahad learns now first class of secondary school and expects to be an engineer. “Now I am happy that I am learning in the school with other boys and girls. I want to learn hard to be an engineer because the subjects I like best are math and physics” said Mahad

Memories of Mahad

Mahad worries that people with disabilities are discriminated and they are not given their rights to education and other things. “They say that we are disabled and could do nothing for the community but the reality is different from that. Although they always use sarcasm words such as “jeeri” (one-legged) but I can understand the lessons better than other children and I believe that I will increase more to the community when I finish my education. I am sorry that many children who are mentally or physically disabled live in many homes in my neighbours without access to education or other rights but I will include my plan to help these people when I finish school” recalled Mahad.

Finally, Mahad thanks to FENPS staff for including him formal education and supporting with education materials “I thank FENPS staff for their timely support. They always encourage me to learn hard and not to disappoint whatever other people say. They also encourage my parents and my parents are very happy now for my education” concluded Mahad



One of the FENPS staff mentoring coaching Mahad inside of the class



Mohad learning in the classroom with other students



Mohad answering brainstorming questions to the teacher in the class



Mohad going out classroom with his friends



Mohad going to home from school