

Pashto transcript:

school level باندې، college level باندې زه به دا اووایمه چې ما کې دومره awareness نه وو چې مطلب what is meant by education. خود سره سره مطلب نور students ته هم چې کتل نو هغوی مطلب بڼه بڼه grades اخیستل، بڼه بڼه marks اخیستل.

او مطلب مونږه به ډیر د لیری نه راتلو college له، یا university ته، او هغوی مطلب پیشاور کې کورونه وو یا هغه کالج سره، خو هغه sense of competition, you can say

نو مطلب college level باندې ما محنت وکو او up to date like. زه خوش قسمته ومه چې ماته مطلب university کې admission ملاو شو، Peshawar University کې. او مطلب English department یو داسې department دی چې هلته ډیر کم students به یې اخیستل. نور departments کې یې مطلب hundred students اخیستل. دلته یې صرف 25 یا 30 اخیستل. هغه ټول پښتونخوا نه. نو مطلب زه، زه خوش قسمته ومه چې ماته admission هلته ملاو شو.

او نور students چې کوم وو، هغوی زه به اوویم چې دوی they were better than me، خو teachers کوم زمونږ چې وو هلته، څنگه چې ما اوپلی تاسو ته، they were a source of inspiration for me. او مطلب graduation نه پس که ما teaching شروع کو، as an English teacher، دا هم زما د teachers په وجې وو. هغوی به چې په کومه طریقه teaching کاوو، نو هغه زما خوښ وو. او دغه وجه وه مطلب چې ما teaching شروع کو. او بیا دا scholarship ما ته ملاو شو. مطلب دا teaching سره related وو. او ما غوښتل، I wanted . Thank you. So I did that. to be a fulbrighter

English translation:

When I was at school and college, I can say that I was not well aware of what is meant by education¹. But over time when I was looking at other students they were getting good good grades, good good marks.

I mean² we were coming from very far away to college or university, and I mean their houses were in Peshawar or near the college³. You can say there was a sense of competition.

¹ Literally, in Pashto he says that “on school level, on college level, I did not have that much awareness or that much awareness was not in me that what is meant by education”.

² This is an expression and a filler word. Literally it means “purpose” but in conversation it means “I mean”. It is a short word in Pashto (مطلب) (Matlab). In Pashto the “I” is not said. This filler word is often used by some Pashto speaking people in their conversations near the Afghanistan and Pakistan border.

So I mean when I was at college, I tried hard and like up to date...⁴ I was lucky that I mean I got admission to the university, to Peshawar University. I mean English department is a kind of department that they were accepting very few students. In the other departments I mean they were admitting a hundred students, but here [English Department] from all Pukhtunkhwa⁵ they were only accepting 25 or 30⁶. I mean I was lucky that I got the admission there.

Other students who were there, they were better than me, but our teachers there, as I said to you; they were a source of inspiration for me. I mean after my graduation [the fact] that I started teaching as an English teacher, was because of my teachers [I was inspired by my teachers. That is why I started teaching English]. The way they were teaching, I liked that and this was the reason I started teaching and then I got this scholarship⁷. I mean this was related to teaching. And I wanted; I wanted to be a Fulbrighter. So I did that. Thank you.

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³ Mostly, universities and colleges in Afghanistan and Pakistan are located in big cities. Due to the few numbers of colleges and universities, the youth from the villages and farther towns have to come to the big cities in order to get higher education. Other students who live in the cities, the colleges and universities are closer to their house and commutes everyday back and forth to their schools.

⁴ He does not complete this sentence, but he might mean that he tried hard to get up to date education and update his self with the education he thought he was left behind because he came from a remote part of the region. In remote parts, the materials thought at schools are often out-dated and sometimes could be of several decades back.

⁵ This is the region that majority or almost all the inhabitants are Pashtuns which means the “the land of Pashtuns”. It is also called Pukhunkhwa, Pukhtunistan or Pushtunistan. This term is used to refer to the historical region inhabited by the indigenous Pashtun people of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

⁶ In most cases, the youth from the remote parts of the two countries have fewer chances to get admission in the higher institutions. This is because the quality of education in remote parts is not as good as it could be in the cities which makes them less attractive to get enrollment in the higher education institutions. Also, the admission is very competitive that fewer students from remote parts make their way to higher institutions.

⁷ He is referring to the Foreign Language Teaching Assistant “FLTA” Fulbright program scholarship.