

# Recognizing a Student's Need

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Being my parents' only child I grew up quite spoilt. It was when I graduated from my college, a number of unpleasant events in my life adversely affected my mental health. I could not cope with these events and started to remain depressed, anxious and nervous. I gave up my studies for about a year and half. At that point I realized I should study and my parents encouraged me to seek admission for further studies. I applied and got admission in the Quaid-e-Azam University in the Defence and Diplomatic Studies Department. The subject was new and challenging and I was not emotionally and mentally strong as yet; the result was that instead of getting better after joining the Masters programme, I started to get worse. Also, I had studied in Urdu medium institutions all my life and the medium of instruction here was English. Nothing was working out for me. My grades were the lowest in our batch.

This is when I started to receive special help from the Head of the Department Professor Brigadier (R) Ahsan ul Haq. I spent one semester in tears, scoring extremely low grades. I even received an expulsion warning from the university; I had to improve my grades or I would have to leave the programme. This is when Professor Haq started paying me extra attention in class. He would ask me a question in class. Then he would ask another question from a slightly different perspective. He would insist that I make some comment and that my comment should be in English. Initially I would hesitate, as other students would make fun of me. But gradually, I started to feel like I knew it all from before!

The result of Professor Haq's attention and expectations of me was that my results improved in the second semester. I now felt tremendous confidence in myself. As I was drawn into the class discussions, I started to be more attentive, and once that happened my understanding became clearer too. I graduated from the Masters programme with very good grades. I was also accepted to do internships in two important government departments..

Professor Haq was a well built elderly gentleman. He would always tell us, 'Knowledge is nothing, just use this machine,' as he was tap his first finger on his head.

Today I am a grade 16 officer and a mother of two children. I am leading a respectable and confident existence. None of this would have happened had Professor Ahsan ul Haq not given me the encouragement when I needed it the most.

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