

Barkat Dreams to be a Businessman

Barkat Ullah is a boy of 11 (Eleven) years who lives in a poverty-stricken family in Baniadi village under Mahishashura union of the Narsingdi sadar upazila. Despite the difficulties his family encountered with, Barkat had a dream becoming a businessman. However, he faced many obstacles in pursuing his dream. Barkat's father, Asgor Ali, abandoned his family when Barkat was just a few days old. His mother, Kulsum Begum, had to work in a spinning mill to support their family. Barkat had to stay with his grandmother while his mother was at work. When he turned 08 (Eight), his family struggled to afford the basic necessities, and Barkat had to start working in the spinning mill.



Eventually, Barkat's elder brother, Rahomot, helped him getting a job at a grocery shop. However, Barkat had no education, hence found difficulties in calculating the prices of goods. The shop owner suggested that Barkat goes to a nearby government primary school, but the timing was conflicting with his job. Fortunately, UNICEF and VERC started an alternative learning center near to Barkat's community. His mother took him to the learning center, where he was admitted at the age of 11 (Eleven), having never been enrolled to any school before. The teacher, Shamima Yeasmin, conducted a diagnostic assessment and enrolled Barkat in the Cholo Anonde Shikhi Kendro. Barkat attends the learning center regularly, keeping balance with his job at the grocery shop in the morning and learning basic literacy and numeracy in the afternoon. He is determined to learn math so he can calculate prices and handle purchase and sales-related tasks at the shop. As Barkat continues to attend the learning center, he begins to excel his studies. He quickly caught up with his classmates, and his teacher noticed his aptitude for math. His teacher encouraged him to continue pursuing his dreams and reminded him that education is the key to a better future.

Barkat's mother is grateful to UNICEF and VERC for helping her son. Barkat himself is enthusiastic about his education and determined to become a renowned businessman after completing studies. Barkat's story is a testament to the transformative power of education, even in the face of poverty and adversity. With the help UNICEF and the dedicated learning center teacher like Shamima Yeasmin, children like Barkat can pursue their dreams and think for a better future for themselves and their families.



Barkat's story is an inspiration to other children around his community who are facing similar type of challenges. It shows that with hard work, dedication and the right support, anything is possible. Barkat is now pursuing his dream of becoming a successful tradesman, and he aspires to use his success to help other children like him to achieve their dreams.