

This story was filmed and recorded during early February 2006 for 'Hear all about it!'

This campaign is a wonderful selection of inspiring adult learning stories told by the learners themselves. The highlights from Yawar's interview can be watched and read; this is the transcript of the whole interview. The on-line learning champions would be delighted if his stories were used to promote learning in your organisation, college or charity. You can link your webpage to the West Midlands Learning Directory – Hear all about it! page

www.wmld.org/pages/hear_all_about_it/.



Yawar's story -

At the minute, I'm studying Access to Higher Education in Business Studies. The learning I did in my previous life's past was really ups and downs. Various combinations you can say. I did engineering as well. I did computing and now I'm doing Business Studies. So it's basically a mixture in my life at the moment. Engineering was a GNVQ intermediate first, and then I went for the BTEC National NVQ Diploma, for one year, although it was a 2-year course. I couldn't cope with it anymore. So that's why I decided to change my studies into Business.

What attracts me about this course, the business studies course? I don't know, there's something that attracts about this course, because before this Business course I was doing GNVQ intermediate in Business as well. So that really attracts me and I decided to go Higher Education. The higher level. And considering my age as well, when I would normally be doing A-levels as well, I decided to do 'Access'.

The thing that most interests me in this course is just the environment, the people, the study. The study is more practical than theoretical. That's what is like, the main thing for me, that it's practical. And though it's theoretical as well it's more practical for my life. I'm a practical person. That really helps me.

Going back in to studying after a break, I was wondering whether I would cope with the studies or not. How would the teachers react towards me? How the students, my classmates are looking at me. Those were the questions and doubts in my mind, but they've been answered and I'm happy now.

Coming back in to education was walking back down in to Solihull College, talking to one of the learner advisers, looking at all my certificates that I had. And then they decided that it would be a good option for you to do either a BTEC or the access to HE. And then again, considering my age, I want to be in Uni, ASAP. So I decided to go for the Access to HE, which is a year course, not a big deal, and so that was it. I decided to go. That was the day I decided.

Going to University after the course. University like doing a BBM, Business Management or something like that, I don't want to close my options at the moment so it's going to be opening my options again. Rather than doing a specific field, like doing Marketing or something like that, I don't want to close my options, so going for something open like BBM management or something like that, which covers all the areas in Business Studies. And hopefully when I finish my Business Bachelors then I can move on to my Masters. After that,

I'll prefer business. My family members... they all do business so I wouldn't like to go elsewhere after that. So I would say that Business would be my first option, if everything goes good. If not then I'll be thinking more jobwise.

One thing in my life is my family and my friends support me a lot, whatever I do. They never had an objection on me. My family supported me, they wanted me to get back into studies, and friends supported me whenever I needed them... whenever I felt a bit down or something like that. They helped me a lot. In terms of studying and my personal life as well.

Changing my lifestyle, this course did a lot. Every course does change your life a lot. You learn something from it. And so did I from this course. It helps me a lot interacting with other people, communicating with the business world and how the business world reacts. Basically it's all about how to communicate with people right now, which I've learned a lot in Business language. In terms of professionalism. That's what I've learned from it.

This project was managed by jo.knight@niace.org.uk - who can be contacted for more information. She works for NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education). Birmingham and Solihull Learning and Skills Council funded the project.

