

Vlog #2

Hello!

I would like to make a brief summary of the benefits of attending a literacy program.

I was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, I never attended a formal classroom. My parents tried to find a proper deaf school for me to attend but had no luck. I was taught how to lip-read Farsi, the language used at home, and also acquired some basic reading and writing skills through home-schooling. It was not very easy to learn. Until I became a teenager and could be able to lip-read.

My family and I fled to Pakistan because of the ongoing civil war. We lived there for 3 years then we immigrated to Canada. I began my education in a literacy program for Deaf adults at Durham Deaf Services. I had no foundation in American Sign Language nor English. My former two literacy instructors understood that I did not know the language and they suggested that I had to learn ASL. I picked up ASL and I learned English after. Obtaining my driver's license and becoming a Canadian citizen are both something of which I am proud of.

I look back on how I have changed my life. I had no confidence back then. I was very shy and withdrew from people I met. I always went with my sisters and or parents to a mall, family doctor, or anywhere and I relied on them on what was being said. But now I am confident that I can communicate with hearing people by writing back and forth without relying on others to interpret for me. I built up my confidence and independence.

Literacy is very important in that it helps people improve their reading and writing skills. If anyone is interested in learning more, then a literacy program will help! It also helps people who are seeking employment.

Thanks!