



Ahmed Abdul-Baseer
2nd Year, Medical Laboratory Science Student
University of Ghana

Ahmed is the only child who graduated from senior high school graduate in his family, he is the fifth of six children. Below is his story in his own words:

Ahmed Abdul-Baseer's Story

I am a self-motivated young man, born and raised in a lower-class family in the remote village of Sefwi Yawmatwa in the western North region of Ghana, who completed his senior high school at Sunyani Senior High School in 2020. To begin with, my father died on April 16th, 2008, and life was not easy for our family after his death. My mother started trading at the local market, but it was not enough to provide for our family's needs. At the age of eleven, I began farming to contribute to making a significant change in our family income by cultivating crops for commercial purposes and domestic use. However, I was not regular in school until a new teacher started punishing me for absenteeism and lateness and assisting me in academics. He was so consistent that I had no choice but to develop a positive attitude toward school. I became one of the prominent students in the school and I was elected as the Senior Prefect. I completed junior high school successfully with distinction.

After completing my junior high school, I did not have any hope of furthering my education because only one child out of six children of my parents had been to senior high school but unfortunately dropped out of school in her second year of schooling due to financial problems, and some of my siblings had no formal education. Luckily, the government initiated free senior high school, which gave me the chance to further my education. Even though I was a beneficiary of the government initiative, I faced a lot of challenges. I hardly met my basic needs and educational expenses, which affected me academically and psychologically.

However, I managed to complete it successfully with better grades. But looking back and describing my life, I see all the ways in which I'm disadvantaged in pursuing my bachelor's degree due to my socioeconomic status. I have no father, and my mother's monthly income is not more than GHC300.00; a dying cocoa farm, which used to have an annual income of not less than GHC700.00 and not up to GH1500.00, has been cut down by the Ghana Cocoa Board for

rehabilitation; and I do not have qualified guarantors or suitable collateral to secure loans for my higher education. All my siblings are either junior high school graduates or have had no formal education. I'm the only one who is schooling, but it is obvious that I can't further my education without financial support. As a result, I'm committed to looking for opportunities that would help me further my education. I believe I'm an ideal candidate to be the holder of your scholarship considering my socioeconomic status, academic achievements, and the educational background of my family. And I believe your scholarship will provide me an opportunity to fully focus my attention on the main objective of achieving the best I can in the medical laboratory sciences program.

Furthermore, what are my career goals? I am a self-motivated young man with a strong passion for helping others to improve their lives. My community is one of the remote communities in Ghana with poor health facilities and an inadequate number of highly skilled health personnel. My goal is to be a medical practitioner who will be working to improve the lives of others and to leave the world better lives than I found it. I want to be one of those who will help to improve the health quality of the people in the remote communities around Ghana. As a result, my passion for helping others to improve their lives and my enthusiasm to solve health problems, motivated me to pursue my bachelor's degree in medical laboratory sciences. Pursuing medical laboratory sciences will afford me the opportunity to explore my passion for improving the quality of health conditions as well as solving my community problems since medical laboratory scientists perform essential laboratory testing that is critical to the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. They exist as the detectives of the healthcare field, and it is estimated that about seventy percent of all decisions regarding a patient's diagnosis, treatment, hospital admission, and discharge are based on the results of the tests medical laboratory scientists perform.

Moreover, whenever I ponder plans for my future life, I always say I will attain a career in the medical field as a medical laboratory scientist since my passion has always been assisting others and trying to improve their quality of life. Therefore, I think that pursuing such a career will provide me the opportunity to help improve the health and quality conditions of the people in remote communities and learn about their medical needs. I want to give back to the underserved populations in Ghana that struggle every day to sustain their families and who do not have as much access to medical assistance as other privileged groups. The first health project I want to accomplish throughout my career is to establish a free clinic for those who are economically disadvantaged. The diverse health services would include free doctor consultations and low-priced or free medication.

The second biggest career goal that I want to accomplish is to establish a non-profit organization where I can create internships or volunteer services for healthcare providers in my community to provide free medical services to the community members and also allow them to travel to provide free medical services and healthcare solutions to the underserved communities around Ghana, leading a team of not less than thirty.

This will contribute to the growth of my community as well as Ghana since health is an important determinant of economic development. Ensuring the health and well-being of all is essential to poverty eradication efforts and achieving sustainable development, contributing to

economic growth and prosperous communities. Health is also an inalienable human right according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as good health allows people to reach their full potential, children to be better able to learn, workers to be more productive, and parents to care for their children better. These are my major career goals, which I want to achieve in my life because of what I have been through as one of the underserved populations.

I believe these goals could help me to improve the lives of others and to leave my community and the world is better than I found it.

However, looking back and describing my life, I see all the ways in which I'm disadvantaged in pursuing my bachelor's degree and I know that all my goals will remain dreams if I do not complete my bachelor's degree”.

Thanks to the JEQ Foundation tuition and residential scholarships, Ahmed can now pursue a bachelor's degree