



Students of Hewad High School 2008



**Mehnaz**

Mehnaz, a pretty, shy, soft-spoken eighth grade student, comes from the Hazara minority, an oppressed and discriminated tribe of Afghanistan. She joined Hewad High School two years ago. Before that, she weaved carpets with her three sisters

and her mother which her two older brothers and father sold in Afghanistan. During the Taliban regime her uncle was brutally murdered just for being Hazara in front of her own eyes. Alarmed, her family decided to escape to Pakistan. For the sake of supporting her family, Mehnaz sacrificed her education and entire future. Now at 17, she desperately wants to get educated to have a bright future, but still her family's financial status haunts her in her dreams. After school, every day she prepares soup, which her older brothers and father sell in their cart in the bazaar. Although a very smart girl, she hardly gets time for her studies. Her favorite subjects are Dari and English, and she wants to become a pilot in the future.



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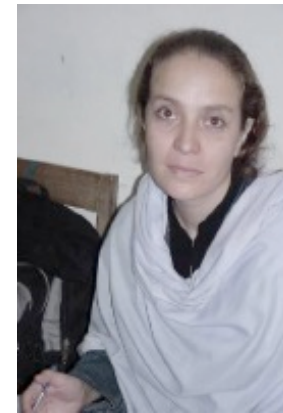


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Jameela



Talking with Jameela, the 23 year old student of tenth grade describes her love for education that has motivated her to sit in a class of 17-18 year olds. "I want to become someone in the future. I want to get educated so that I can do something for myself and my country." Her dreams of education were quenched by a disease that gave her tortures for seven years

when she was prohibited from studying. After much treatment she finally succeeded in joining school. Now her family is faced with financial difficulties and after school Jameela works at a beauty saloon till 9 at night to sustain her family.



**Roohullah**

Roohullah is a handsome, bright little boy in second grade. At the tender age of 10 he works at a mechanic shop. After a short lunch once he is home from school, he goes to the shop and works till 8 at night. His

father has died and he, along with his two older brothers aged 13 and 14, upholds the 8-membered family financially. He wants to become a doctor in the future and his favorite subject is Maths. He loves playing cricket but hardly finds time to do it.