



Assalamu Alaikum. I

have been a tutee of Moder Patshala since it began seven years ago, from a fifth grade student to now as a high school senior. I am so grateful to this institution because of the members that have helped me, from Ali Zaker to all of the tutors who have taken the time out of their busy schedules to help students in need such as myself over the years. I thank all of you. It is because of your advice, inspirational lives, and encouragement that I have pushed myself past my limits to be where I am now. I will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

Many might ask what things I did to get to where I am. Well, I would like to first mention that I believe every person is intelligent and has the capacity to exceed well in any goals he or she pursues, but every individual differs in how much they apply themselves in his or her work ethic. I loathe doing work as much as the next person, so I always tried to find some motivation or inspiration to keep continuing to do well in school and outside activities. Whenever I felt frustrated or helpless in the amount of work I had for school, I always came to Moder Patshala and got amazing feedback from my peers and teachers. They all not only encouraged me, but challenged me academically to improve my math and reading skills, and also apply them to real life situations. The second thing I want to emphasize is to try to get college application information and essays done as early as possible because that is extra time gained for revision and that much of an increased chance of getting into a college of preference. Thirdly (this is also the cheesiest advice) is to never lose faith in your potential to excel, because I know I have had my moments of doubt, and never expected any of the things that I have achieved.

Have there been some things I wish I had changed to make the grueling college application process easier? Of course! I experienced what every high school senior has gone through, becoming

infected with "Senioritis" and procrastinating a lot. I regret doing so, because I might have gotten a lot more scholarships and gotten into some more wonderful universities if I had invested the extra time into my applications and essays. This is why I stress the need to get everything done ahead of time, especially during the summer before senior year begins. The only reason I got into UPenn even when turning things in on the due date is because I received so much help from the tutors. Mr. Golam Kabir helped me numerous times to revise my college essays, Dr. Hydar Ali wrote me a recommendation letter, and Dr. Siddiqui always encouraged me, helped me improve my test scores, and gave me valuable college advice. If I ever needed help, they never hesitated to take time out of their personal lives to help me achieve the best I could.

I am sure that all of you have already heard the advice I have given, and there really is no other advice to give when it comes to applying for universities. No matter what, that time of the year will always be a painful process to go through, waiting months to find out if a school of preference has chosen you and not sure what to do if you don't get in. I have gotten into some great places and got rejected from some, but I never let myself feel discouraged because I know I did the best to my abilities and know I would get as great an education at any institution in this country. I am glad to have shared my experiences with you and give you my greatest gratitude to all students and teachers. You are all an influential part of our cultural community and insha allah hope the details of my experience has given some perspective. Thank you.

-Naimah Hares

