



On the spotlight with
Eman Mubarak Algabana



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Academic Profile:

1st class honors graduate of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology(MMUST).

“When you educate a girl, you educate generations.”

Education is most powerful when it is inclusive. Despite the evidence for inclusive education, girls and women continue to be denied the opportunity to learn as they have to overcome unique obstacles to access education. They face a plethora of social, cultural and economic challenges in completing primary and secondary school, and subsequently, transitioning to tertiary education.

With such grim statistics on girl-child education, success stories of refugee girls who beat all odds to not only access higher education but also excel in it need to be told. These are the kind of stories that inspire and motivate other young refugee girls to stay in school and go after their dreams.

Meet Eman Mubarak Algabana ,1st class honors graduate of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology(MMUST).

“Being a female 1st Class Honors graduate is such a huge achievement for me. I could not believe it when the results came out. It is still so surreal that I came top of my class, setting a new record in the university as the 1st Female refugee student to graduate with 1st class honors. So much so that the University has expressed intention to make a documentary on it.

For young refugee girls in the camps, having female role models to emulate is a huge motivational boost. Those who reach and excel in higher education, such as Eman, act as much-needed role models for succeeding generations.

“This win is not just at a personal level, but also a win for other girls in similar circumstances as myself. That they too can make it. Thankfully, growing up as a young girl in Kakuma Refugee Camp, I had a female humanitarian worker role model that I looked up as I got to benefit from her motivational and mentorship talks.It is now my turn to inspire and mentor other girls just as I was mentored.

Needless to say, it has not been a smooth sail for me, especially being a girl with dreams and highly ambitious. I have been told on my face that because I am a girl, I should stay away from science courses, that i cannot be a leader, that my voice should not be heard, that I cannot achieve certain levels of success.”

Yet education empowers you to challenge some of these stereotypes. It opens up your mind to possibilities, enables you to exercise your own power and make informed choices. For instance, a Bachelor’s degree in Conflict Resolutions and Humanitarian Assistance is a science based yet I excelled in it. I am the first female in my immediate Nubian family to graduate university. I served as the Vice-Chair of the International Students Guild (ISG) of MMUST in the 2019/2020 academic year.

To enhance equitable, accessible and quality education for all persons, WIK seeks to provide equitable access to quality education and opportunities for girls. As such, WIK provides scholarships and other tailor made support that is needed to increase access to quality education for female learners.

‘WIK scholarships are life changing. The impact that these opportunities have on beneficiaries like me is so huge. After

completing my secondary education, I got stuck for a moment, not being in a position to finance my higher education. My breakthrough finally came in the form of a WIK scholarship. It is such a privilege to be WIK scholar, having in mind how competitive these opportunities are. Looking at me now, my life is totally changed. I am not the same person I was before I got the scholarship. I have gained more knowledge and skills, am more exposed, more confident and more empowered to be a force to reckon with and an agent of the much needed change in my community.

Indeed, the returns on investing in education, more so for girls, are immense and far-reaching. Women who are educated are more likely to find work and are less likely to get married and have children at an early age than less educated women. They are likely to have smaller, healthier and better educated families. Education provides them with the skills for self-reliance, problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork, boosting their confidence and self-esteem.

"My future is very promising. I want to advocate for human rights, to speak on behalf of other girls, give them hope, give them a voice, because information is power. There is no stopping for me, no looking back. My education journey is far from over because I am now more determined to pursue post graduate studies.

Our refugee status should not define us. Believe in yourself, keep the focus and ignore the nay sayers, be bold and fearless, work hard, make sacrifices. Your hard work and determination will definitely pay one day."



No.10 Amboseli Road, Off Gitanga Road, Lavington
P.O. Box 40521-00100 Nairobi
Mobile +254 721 551 451, Email: windle@windle.org
Website: www.windle.org