

914p P A Iran Journal (Name suppressed for safety)

I grew up in a country where the only thing which justify your personality is your religion, it's not important who you are, what are you doing for your country or how much you try to prove yourself to your community, you are tagged with your religion like a birth mark. If you belong to any of the minority religion communities in Iran like the Baha'is you can say goodbye to a bright future due to the total injustice of the education system .

I was born and raised in a Baha'i family in Iran, and because of that me, my two brothers just like all the other Baha'i youths couldn't go to the public university, even we couldn't enter the superior high schools which we were accepted in their interviews. During my junior years, I felt unwelcomed and dishonored in front of the whole class. People point at me and laugh, I was the best student in the class but there were no prizes, no thanks. Being banned from education was the last thing I could endure. I was, am and will be in love with learning, with education with using my knowledge as a way to facilitate the life for other human beings.

In the university entrance exam I placed in the 230 out of 300,000 applicants, but again I was rejected for the same reason. That's why I enter an underground online facility called BIHE (Baha'i Institute for Higher Education). In order to study there I had to choose among the limited majors and I chose business (I really loved to chose development but we haven't such a major here). During my university years, I faced a lot of challenges. There were several attacks to the university and the professors (some of my dearest professors are now jailed for 4-5 years only because they were teaching in BIHE), the internet speed is very low and I have missed lots of my exams and homework because of the connection speed and electricity cut offs, but that couldn't stop me from finishing my studies.

In the beginning of my last semester I was introduced to a new program called **Geebiz**. Competing in **Geebiz** was an option suggested in one of my courses. When I opened the website and check all the information and download some of the projects and journals in the archive I began to cry. It was because there was no prejudice and injustice waiting for me. I was finally allowed to compete somewhere and feel that I am equal and welcomed. On the other hand I will compete to provide a business plan which would improve people's life quality and

I would be part of a global team which is kind of a unique experience and would not happen to every person on this planet during their life.

During this 1 month I found out that how 8 different people from different backgrounds can attend a meeting and discuss about mutual global, issues and share the same understanding and concerns about that, how some of the team members would sacrifice their sleeping time to still attend the 3 hour Skype session to choose the perfect topic, how we can cooperate with each other through social networks such as Facebook and find good friends. I understand that there could be a place in our terrifying world which people care about others without tagging and labeling them. Unfortunately I missed last four days of the contest because I was hospitalized due to the worse condition of my fibromyalgia (a rare disease in which I have constant unbearable pain in some tender points in my body). I have to thank all my group members to be such nice, lovely people who understand my problems and don't blame me because of my lateness. I hope that someday every business or development student have the chance to take part in **Geebiz**, and enjoy the difference it would make in how they see their world.