

Poverty couldn't stop them from making it to top law schools

Danish, Namrata, Jumika Find Place In Nirma And GNLU Thanks To Nationwide Project

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Ahmedabad: Mohammad Danish Ghani's father works at a footwear shop, earns Rs 3,000 a month and supports a family of five. Despite the hardship, Danish has studied history in college, read books, played cricket and competed in quizzes. And today he is a proud student at Nirma University's Institute of Law.

Like Danish, two others — Jumika K Yeptho and Namrata Dubey—who hail from impoverished backgrounds have joined Gujarat's top law colleges, Gujarat National Law Uni-



Jumika K Yeptho



Namrata Dubey

versity (GNLU) and Nirma. Like Danish, Namrata has joined Nirma; Jumika has joined GNLU.

Danish wanted to pursue law because he was upset with the current state of law and order. He not only beat the odds but also cracked the common law admission test (CLAT). "I hope to etch a career on legislative drafting or become an IAS officer to better our society," he says.

These three kids are supported and tutored by 'Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access (IDIA)', a nationwide project that trains poor students and helps transform them into leading lawyers and community advocates. While Danish and Namrata are from Kolkata, Jumika comes from Nagaland.

Nirma director and dean, Prof

Purvi Pokhariyal, said: "This is the first time we have admitted IDIA scholars. They have the requisite CLAT score. We want to promote diversity to enrich our classroom discourses. We also see it as our social responsibility to bring in bright talents who beat odds to be here."

The two IDIA scholars will get full tuition fee waiver for the entire five-year duration. "We hope to bring in more such law aspirants every year," Pokhariyal added. Jumika has joined GNLU on the basis of his CLAT score. A scholarly student of Sainik School from Dimapur in Nagaland, Jumika says his life has been tough. His father, the sole breadwinner of the family, takes care of three sons, two daughters and three relatives. "As the eldest son, I hope to share the responsibility of my parents and also help the needy, especially those from my community," says Jumika.

IDIA runs on the backbone of leading law school graduates, who voluntarily travel across India to sensitize students to law as a career and identify marginalized students with an aptitude. It trains the selected students for CLAT and All India Law Entrance Test (AILET).