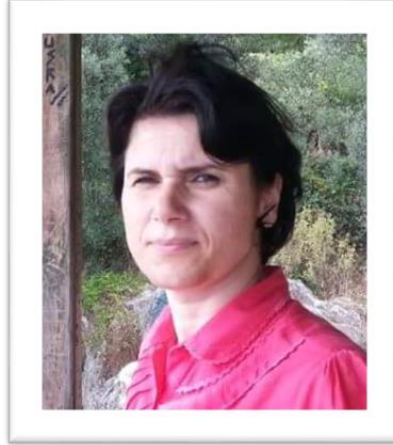


## SUCCESS STORY OF HAVVA KURTULUS

Interviewed by **Gülay EKREN**  
Sinop University, **TURKEY**



She was born in Ayancık/Sinop/Turkey in 1971. Her father is a farmer and mother is an housewife. She has two sisters and three brothers, she is the oldest of her sisters. They were living in the village. She studied at the Primary School of Hatip Village where her family is still living.

She was a successful student at school and her primary teacher said her father that she must continue her education.

Since of financial impossibilities and also belief of people in the village that it is unnecessary further education for girls because duty of girls are looking after babies, cooking and doing houseworks; studying or making money is for boys.



She said "One day my father got permission from my teacher to be worked in the field, he was in need of more workers in those days. But I was up with the lark and run away to school. This was not for swinging to lead, I was dying for school."

She also added "Our school was far away nearly 10-15 minutes walking distance from village so especially in winter days our shoes got muddy and we didn't let in to school, first we cleaned down our shoes with freezing cold water of fountain in the school garden and then was allowed to enter the school. Today there are better opportunities for youth to study but most of them don't want to study like us."

"When I was a young lady, it was raised a new school in the center of village. Our men; fathers and brothers, went to the stone quarry for making money so I and the other young ladies (nearly 15-16 years old) in the village worked like a construction workers for digging a foundation of this building. Afterwards, our brothers and sisters studied in this school."

She was married when she was eighteen years old in 1989. She went to Austria with her husband because her husband was a guest worker there. After two years she had a baby, named Duygu. In 1994, they came to Istanbul. She had a second baby in 1997, named Hikmet.

In 2006, she divorced and came back to her village. Her daughters had to go to school therefore she settled to town (Ayancık) and got a job.

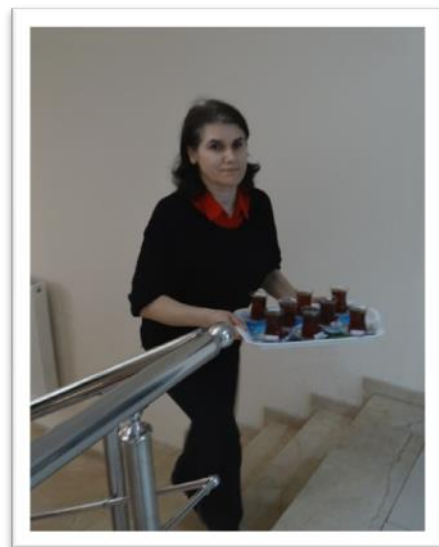
She started to work in a kindergarden in Ayancık. Her daughters started the school. She worked there nearly 4 years.

Then she started to work in Sinop University as a contracted personnel. This work was more guaranteed employment for her. Under these conditions, no longer she had to wait for her education.

It is time to pick up where she left off. She feels regretful about her education. She attended to Open Elementary School of Ministry of National Education in 2006.

She graduated from secondary school in 2009 and then she wants to continue Open High School but her older daughter Duygu was preparing for university exams and had to go preparatory school, so she had not enough money for Open High School.

First priority is her daughter's education, so she waited for attending Open High School for three years.



Then in 2012, when her daughter was in her second year in school of business administration in the university, she attended Open High School.

According to her, learning knows no age limit, and added "I always want to set a good example for my daughters. If I hadn't studied primary school, I wouldn't be brave enough to go out of the village or to go far away from my family. Getting education taught me making decision of myself and not getting on someone top of myself. I had further self-confidence by force of education."

"Everyone has right to education. Going to any school was impossible for me after I have married and have childs. But for distance education or open schools, and it was always stayed within my heart through all my life. How can I go to school when I have to make money? Thanks for everyone who are working for distance education or open schools or everyone who give me these opportunities."



**Now, Havva Kurtulus is continuing her education in Open High School of Ministry of National Education and working as a cleaning staff member in the Sinop University.**

**Her older daughter was graduated and started to go out to work. Her little daughter entered university exams this year.**

**Havva Kurtulus wants to do her level of best for herself and her daughters with more self-reliance and more braveness.**

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