

## **A Family Facing Immense Hardship – KSP No.468** **Sithum**



As part of our continuous student monitoring, I visited the home of Sithum following the recent tragic events in his family. Their residence is located in remote area, which took approximately one hour to reach from our center.

The family currently struggling to cope with the sudden and untimely death of the Sithum's father. He passed away recently due to severe head injuries sustained from a fatal fall from a tree. As the sole male breadwinner of the family, his sudden dismissal has left the entire household in an extremely vulnerable state, both emotionally and financially.

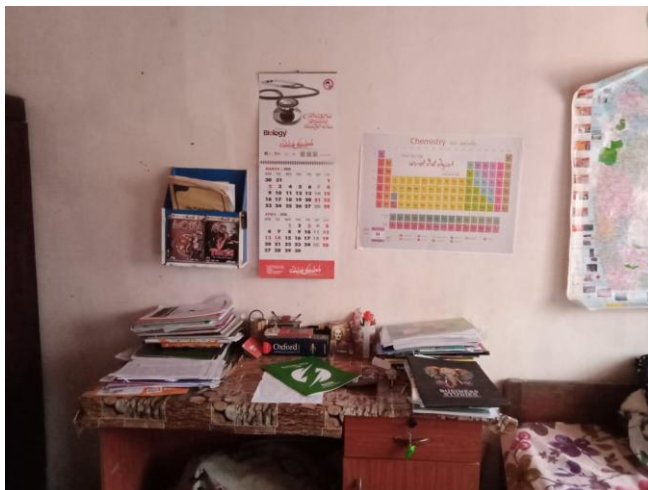
During my visit and the discussion held with the family, the depth of their struggle was evident, following his father's death Sithum is now the only male member left to look after a family of four women. He lives with his mother, a younger sister, his grandmother, and an aunt. Notably, both his younger sister and his aunt suffer from permanent mental disabilities, requiring continuous care and supervision. The family's only source of income is a very small shop run by the mother at their home. This minimal income is barely sufficient to meet the basic daily needs of a family of five, especially with two members needing special care.

During my interaction with Sithum, it was evident that he is struggling deeply with the emotional trauma of his father's death. Although he is a student preparing for the G.C.E. A/L examination this year, his focus is severely hampered by the grief and the over helming responsibilities now resting on his shoulders.

The weight of being the only male member to look after four female family members, two of whom have special needs, has led to a noticeable state of mental exhaustion. It is clear that he is not in a position to dedicate himself to studies as he once did, as the shock of the tragedy and the family's precarious future weigh heavily on his mind.



With his family



Study table



mothers' small shop