



CLASS OF  
2014

**Mohenesh Singh**

**Fiji National University**

### Qualifications

- Diploma in Hindi Language Studies - Ministry of Education and Central Hindi Directorate Fiji, 1999
- Diploma in Office Management and Administration - The British College of Professional Management, 2000
- Certificate in Early Childhood Education - University of the South Pacific 2003
- Certificate III in Children Services, - Australian Pacific Technical College 2010
- Certificate IV in Training and Assessment Australian Pacific Technical College 2011
- Counseling Tools for People Support and Enhancement - FNU Nabua 2013
- Advance Counseling Tools for People Support and Enhancement - FNU Nabua 2013
- Higher Education Certificate in Early Childhood Education- FNU Lautoka 2014

After a hectic day which began at 5am with tending to small chores on the farm, before walking to school and attending to additional chores after school, a neatly dressed youngster would in one hand clasped on an old frail looking book which had its edges stained and ruffled, while the other dragging a heavy wooden chair across the porch to his favourite companion his grandmother to read to her the philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi.

He would repeat his favourites innumerable times. While the recitals comforted the elder, it helped the child discover the meaning to his life and contemplate how he could be the change he wanted to see in the world.

Born in Votualevu, Nadi, Mohenesh Singh, 36, spent his childhood with his paternal grandparents helping out on their cane and vegetable farm, tending to poultry and grazing cows and goats on the rural hilly terrains.

Every free time he had from school he spent it on his farm which to him served as another learning experience, and instilled family moral values. Life as a secondary school student was tough enough and the death of his grandfather escalated the situation.

The responsibility of his family fell upon the 17-year-old, but this middle sibling of three didn't lose his will nor looked back upon the troubles clouding his family.

Since he was the only support for his grandmother he dropped out of school to concentrate on farming. Yet with faith in his heart that he can make a difference, and his grandmother's blessings, he moved on in life.

He was 21 years old when he com-

# PASSION FOR SOCIAL WORK

pleted his Diploma in Hindi Language Studies and a year later he undertook a year-long course in Office Management and Administration through distance learning from the British College of Professional Management.

“A self-made personality, Mohenesh rekindled his aspirations to create a healthy difference in people’s lives. With this vision he engaged himself in numerous community projects including the distribution of wooden toy blocks at rural preschool centers in Nadi, which was completed last year while he served as the Chairman of Australian Pacific Technical College Alumni Association Fiji (West).”

Under his leadership the association accomplished various projects to promote early childhood education and support the ECE centers through educational aid and stationary donation, and provided professional training to ECE teachers.

He furthered his studies by undertaking courses at the Fiji National University and these include Advance Counseling Tools for People

Support and Enhancement, and Higher Education Certificate in Early Childhood Education (ECE).

A current Honorable Member of the Youth Parliament, Mohenesh has served as the President of School of Children Services Teacher Students (West) 2010 to 2014 and is currently a member of the Fiji Red Cross Nadi.

A teacher by profession, Mohenesh is currently working with National Substance Abuse and Advisory council where he is engaged in creating awareness on issues comprising of child abuse, gender based violence, HIV/AIDS and drug and substance abuse in schools and communities in Nadi, Yasawa, Lautoka and Sigatoka.

His outstanding commitment towards his duties was recognized by National Substance Abuse Advisory Council last year and Mohenesh received multiple awards including Best Community Service, Best Leadership, Best Innovation and Dux of the Year.

Some projects he is presently engaged with include the designing and constructing of Ray of Hope children Park and a play group center for children at Malolo, Nadi. He is also engaged with the Nadi Hospital in arranging the screening programs for rural areas to create awareness on NCDs.

Mohenesh is also a recipient of an award for the World of Difference

program by Vodafone ATH Foundation in 2010. This is where he contributed towards advocating on children’s rights and promoting importance of early childhood education. He also scooped a Special recognition Award for his valuable contribution and outstanding ECE Advocate 2015, and is a nominee for Presidential Medal 2015.

An issue he feels strongly about is the rising number of non-communicable diseases among the Fijian population. “I challenge every single citizen change their unhealthy lifestyle. Young alumni should focus on developing healthy personal attitudes towards others and the environment.”

Having the country’s Prime Minister as his inspiration, Mohenesh aims to reach out to every ordinary Fijian by creating awareness on NCDs, drug and substance abuse, eliminating violence against children and women towards creating a Fiji that provides a safe and secure learning and living environment for the coming generation.

“As a young Fijian, I feel very passionate about my country. We are a country which is blessed with beautiful climate and friendly people, and through community education we can advocate for social responsibility. People are an asset to their country and we need people who with their actions better other’s lives.”