

## MY JOURNEY AS A BCOM STUDENT AT THE MIGHTY HILL.

University education was a life changing experience that shaped my path as a growing young individual. However, it also came with a distinctive set of obstacles that significantly affected my academic and personal life. Perhaps for someone pursuing a bachelor's degree in commerce I got entrapped in a diversity of challenges, these challenges were particularly encountered from various angles ranging from economic, remote learning and technology access to mental health issues among others.

The economic situation in Uganda, exacerbated by the global economic downturn left me as a student with no choice but to maneuver part-time jobs along with studies, which in turn affected my academic performance. The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in 2020, forced many educational institutions to adopt remote learning strategies.

Although face-to-face learning resumed, a significant portion of the academic experience remained online. I in particular, faced difficulties in accessing course materials, and submitting assignments on time. The Bachelor of Commerce program (*BCom*) is intrinsically demanding, with a curriculum that includes courses like accounting, finance, economics, and management. The workload was often overwhelming for me, since I had to balance multiple courses, projects, and exams concurrently.

The combination of academic pressure, economic hardships, and social isolation, particularly during periods of the semester took a toll on my mental health a couple of times. I faced challenges such as anxiety, depression, and burnout. I at University also encountered significant administrative challenges. Issues such as delayed release of examination results, Delay tendencies in course registration.

For me, attending University marked the first time living away from home. The transition to university life involved embracing significant social and cultural changes, especially for a student from a less affluent background. Navigating the social dynamics of university life, while also dealing with academic pressures, proved challenging for this period of time. The period from 2022 to 2024 was a challenging time for me at the mighty hill. Economic difficulties, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, academic pressures, mental health struggles, and infrastructural inadequacies all contributed to a demanding university experience.

Despite these challenges the support from UECD Inform of the scholarship tremendously helped me overpower any weapon that was formed against me during my time at the mighty hill, hence this was demonstrated in my resilience, persistence and determination, which will undoubtedly serve me well in my future careers.

The university, on its part, must continue to address these issues to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed and thrive in their academic pursuits.

***Text by: Ayiko Ishaq Hanan***