

## Challenges prepare you for a better tomorrow - Kumar

**M**aintaining a positive outlook on life is important and never give up despite the challenges you encounter. These are the words of new graduate Arvind Kumar who believes it's important to focus on goals rather worrying about negativity.

Kumar graduated in the programme of Certificate in Radio and TV Servicing offered by Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

The 27-year-old said he returned to school in 2017 after a lapse of nine years. Originally from Bulileka, Labasa, Kumar said he had to endure many challenges to attain tertiary qualification.



"I could not pursue tertiary education after leaving high school in 2008 due to financial constraints. I chose to work as a Sales Assistant. I am thankful to

my friend Mohammed Hussain who assisted me in securing a job at Sewak Electrical in Labasa and this where I developed an interest in the field of electrical engineering," said Kumar.

Kumar said he applied for Certificate IV in Electrical Engineering at FNU's Labasa Campus but was informed he did not meet the minimum entry requirement. This did not deter Kumar and he opted to take up Certificate in Radio and TV Servicing.

"This did not discourage me from getting a formal qualification. In fact, I am glad I did this programme as I got to learn the basics of electrical engineering."

"The past two years have not been easy for me. I had to move to Suva last year where accommodation became a major issue for me but with god's grace I have wonderful colleagues with whose support I overcame this problem as well."

"I believe keeping a positive mindset is key to achieving everything that one dreams of. The difficult situations are part of life – it is these circumstances that make us stronger and teaches us to face challenges with patience."

"It is because of the challenges that we push ourselves to do even better, which takes us closer to our dreams."

As fate would have it, Kumar has now successfully enrolled in the Certificate IV in Electrical Engineering and is enjoying campus life at Derrick Campus, Samabula.

The soft spoken man aspires to own his own electrical business in the future. "With my own business, I would be able to provide employment to people like me who struggle to earn their living," said the soft-spoken Kumar.

"At this stage this may seem a dream too big to realise but positivity and right attitude can turn any dream into reality," Kumar added.