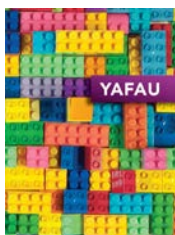
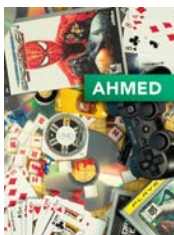
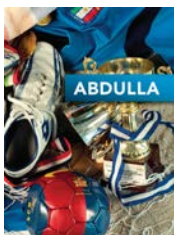


A vibrant collage of festive items. In the top left, there are blue, red, and green balloons. A stethoscope is visible in the upper left quadrant. A yellow acoustic guitar is in the top right. The center features a large orange banner with the name 'RASHEED' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the banner, there are wrapped gifts: one with a floral pattern and a blue ribbon, and another with a colorful floral pattern and a yellow ribbon. A yellow balloon is prominent in the lower right. A saxophone is visible in the lower left. The background is filled with colorful ribbons, tinsel, and other festive decorations.

**RASHEED**

Books in this series.....



**RASHEED**

Written by Ifham Niyaz for Handicap International  
Concept, Design, Photography & Layout  
by mooinc. [[www.mooinc.com](http://www.mooinc.com)]

THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR SALE

# Introduction

Welcome to this series of inspiring stories of Maldivian children and adults. With each story you can see part of a new world, and meet a person with a different experience of life. Through the stories you are privileged to gain an insight into what each person values, and what they aspire to. You will realise that each character has another aspect to his or her life as well - either a hearing, visual, intellectual, mental or physical impairment. But as you read, you will understand that all people, whether with or without an impairment, have skills, talents and dreams, as well as challenges in life.

These are true stories, using real names, and were written during 2008 / 2009. Each person is trying to help you understand more about his or her life, so that you can realise that we are all equal, and deserve equality. Through your understanding you can help to make a more welcoming environment for all on your island.

Handicap International would like to say a big 'Thank you' to the stars of the stories, for taking the time to share them with us.

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Rasheed's first song was broadcast by Radio Maldives when he was just 5 years old. It was a Hindi song from the famous movie *Lawaaris*.

Rasheed has been a fan of music ever since he can remember. He loved singing as a child and developed a taste for Hindi music as he grew older. Rasheed remembers that when he was about 12 or 13 years of age, he started wondering about the music he hears in the background whenever he listens to a recorded song or records a song himself. He remembers asking his father where that music came from, because he liked it very much. It turned out that the sound he liked so much was the sound of a keyboard playing in the background. Rasheed could not see with his eyes, but he saw and felt the music from the keyboard through the sounds he heard. His father bought Rasheed's first tone organ then.

Ever since then, Rasheed has been learning to play music on the tone organ first and later on keyboards. Rasheed thinks a keyboard is essential to composition and performance of music, just the same way he believes that salt completes the taste of food. And so began his musical career as keyboard player and singer for the local island band called 'Dhammaanu'.

Rasheed says that his right eye was fully blind at birth and that his left eye had some sight as far as he can remember. In the hope of correcting his blind eye, Rasheed's parents sought medical advice from a doctor who prescribed eye drops that was mistakenly used on both the left and right eyes. His sight from his left eye too was lost in ten minutes after the eye drops were used, says Rasheed. A simple yet grave mistake for which he blames no one. "I now see the world as a dark

place that is shadowed by grey clouds. But I did see once, so I am able to visualise things and places through smell, sound, and feeling. I will recognise your voice if I meet you in ten years, even if I never meet you again until then' he tells me confidently.

Rasheed is now the life of his band Dhammaanu from Kulhudhuffushi Island, which performs throughout the northern atolls mostly during festive periods such as Eid and circumcision celebrations. He organises the band's shows, negotiates arrangements with clients, sings Hindi and Dhivehi songs, and still manages to be the lead keyboard player at each show. He is happy that his first training sessions in keyboard during his teenage days have paid off. And he surely has not forgotten the support and confidence he has continued to receive from his father and band members. "I make a decent living with this now. It was not easy to start with. I didn't believe that I could do this. But my band believed in me. Now, I can easily say that no one can beat me at playing popular hindi songs on keyboard at a live show!" said Rasheed daringly.

By this time the sun was going down, and I asked Rasheed if there was a light in the open sitting area of his house. He just smiled, stood up, walked in a right angle and confidently switched on the light in the hallway. Rasheed seemed quite at ease in the place where he was at that time. But he seemed more at ease when he sang a small verse from that Hindi song from the movie Lawaaris on my request "...Kabke bichde hue hum aaj kahaan jaake mile... Kab Ke Bichde... Kab Ke Bichde... How long has it been since we last met..."



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## Glossary of terms used in this series;

**Brain Injury** – this could be due to a mechanical or infectious cause, and could result in one or more of the following; Attention impairment, cognition (understanding) impairment, language impairment, memory impairment, conduct disorder (different behaviour), motor (physical movement) disorder, any other neurological dysfunction.

**Cerebral Palsy (CP)** – Caused in the womb or at birth by lack of oxygen, meningitis encephalitis, German measles (rubella) or other unknown causes. The child's muscles may be weak, with tremors and uncoordinated speech, hearing and sight. The child's body may not grow the same as other children. Some children with CP have an intellectual impairment, while others may be extremely intelligent. Spasms may cause particular problems, and speech and facial expression are often affected.

**Early intervention** – applies to children of school age or younger who are discovered to have or be at risk of developing a disabling condition or other special need that may affect their development. Early intervention consists of the provision of services such children and their families need, for the purpose of lessening the effects of the condition.

**Impairments** – all the impairments defined can range from mild to severe;

*Hearing impairment* – Four categories are generally used to



describe hearing loss: mild, moderate, severe and profound. Some people with a significant loss, communicate through sign instead of, or as well as, speech. People with a hearing impairment may require hearing aids, adaptations to their environment and/or particular strategies in order to access concepts and language. Hearing loss may be because of conductive or sensori-neural problems and can be measured on a decibel scale.

*Visual impairment* – this refers to a range of difficulties from partial sight through to blindness. People with a visual impairment may be able to use spectacles or low vision aids (such as magnifiers) as well as training in mobility skills to be able to move independently. Adaptations to the environment may be necessary depending on the individual. Some people who cannot see to read large print may learn Braille, a tactile language read with the fingers.

*Intellectual impairment* – this means an impairment in paying attention, in thinking, understanding, or in memory. People may require support, both for their learning needs and also for personal care. They could need tasks broken down into very small steps. Some people with an intellectual impairment which makes speech difficult may communicate by gesture, eye pointing or symbols.

*Mental impairment* – this can include people with depression, schizophrenia, paranoia and can result in behavioural, emotional or social difficulties, from mild to severe. A person may be withdrawn or isolated, disruptive and disturbing, hyperactive and lack concentration, lack social skills or present challenging behaviours.

*Physical impairment* – This could mean a different shaped arm or leg, hand or foot. It could impact on mobility. Or, people with a

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physical impairment may be mobile but may have significant fine motor difficulties, like holding a pen and writing, which require support.

**People with a disability** – includes those who have long-term impairments as described, and who experience discrimination or barriers in society, such as steps, language and laws, which prevent people with disabilities from being included equally.

**Polio (poliomyelitis)** – causes muscle paralysis. The virus may affect the nerves governing the muscles in the limbs and the muscles necessary for breathing, causing respiratory difficulty and paralysis of the arms and legs.

**Sign Language** – a language of communication through hand and arm movements and facial expressions which is completely visual. Sign languages commonly develop in deaf communities, which can include interpreters and friends and families of deaf people as well as people who are deaf or hard of hearing themselves.

**Special classes** – classes in schools for children with needs which are not met in the mainstream classes.





# הקדמה לשיעור במחשבות על אלוהים

השיעור הזה נקרא: **הקדמה לשיעור במחשבות על אלוהים**.  
 במחשבות על אלוהים, יש ששאלו את עצמם: מהו אלוהים? האם יש אלוהים?  
 השאלות האלו הן שאלות בסיסיות, והתשובות להן הן שאלות בסיסיות.  
 אלוהים הוא זה שיוצר את העולם הזה, והוא זה שמחזיק אותו יציב.  
 לכן, עלינו לדעת את אלוהים, ולהבין את חשיבותו.

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مُشَوَّرٌ

سوسوئی قریب ...



A vibrant collage of festive decorations. In the center-left is a large, light-colored drum with a metal rim. To its right are two balloons, one pink and one green. The background is filled with colorful tinsel (red, green, blue, yellow), streamers, and gift-wrapped items. A keyboard instrument is partially visible in the bottom right corner. The overall scene is bright and celebratory.

موسيقى