

2018 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

## **The one Thing I Want to Change**

(Original)

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"Kerekere one dollar please. I want to give my daughter her bus fare to school."

I can still remember how my mother begged my neighbors for my bus fare to school. Life is tough but it's a game. If you want to win, you can't leave in the middle. You have to keep playing.

I have four siblings, all younger than me. They are twins. My mum wakes up early as three in the morning. She feeds my baby brothers, cooks food for us. She brings water from well to clean dishes and for bathing. My dad has to walk miles to bring tap water for drinking. In the weekend, they go to nearby river to wash clothes. We don't have electricity supply at home. We used benzene light. However, when dad goes fishing, he takes benzene light with him. So, we have to use Kerosene lamp. This kerosene lamp is innovated by my mother. I had exam next day and my father had to go fishing in the night. He took benzene light with him and there was no way I could study without it. Then, my mom made a kerosene lamp of a coco tin. She lit it up, so that I could study. I can still remember how she used to say that I am her light and that I am the one who will bring changes in the family.

Yes, that's my background and that is what I want to change. I want to change my mother's life. My mother, my god and my motivation. Every time I see her, I start counting years when I will start working. Sometimes I feel that I should drop school and start working. Any additional money will be great help. But my mum will never accept this. She will do anything and everything for me so that I can be successful. She wants me to study hard so that I can get a scholarship to universities.

"Education is the key to success", my teachers tell us every day. It is the way to fight poverty. I make sure that I study hard and make maximum use of whatever resources I have available around me. Before I used to demand things from my mum, but now I have stopped. This is my time to struggle. I am aiming to get scholarship for higher studies. As

soon as I start working, the first thing I will do is shift my family to a better place where there is access to better facilities such as road, water supply and electricity. That will be a better place for my family. My siblings won't have to struggle the way I do. They won't have to study in that kerosene lamp. My dad won't have to walk miles for drinking water. And most of all, my mum won't have to beg money again.

My success will become a road to happiness of all my family members. Happiness is what I want for my family. And my mother will only be happy, if everyone at home are happy. I would like to tell all the young students of my age, "please do no loose hope". We are almost there. Think about the brighter side of the future. Think about the future that you want to give to your children. The decision is ours. Our future depends on the choices that we make today.