

## Personal Narrative

I vividly remember my time growing up in my rural village, where I only depended on my single mother for all basic and secondary needs. I am the second last born in a family of two, and I used to spend most of my free time with my sister, who is five years older than me. We used to live in my grandparents' home, and we faced a lot of challenges considering that my mother was not employed and used to work as a casual laborer on the farms. I cannot forget the support my grandfather accorded my mother in ensuring that we attended school, and I appreciate the fact that we never missed school at any one point. My mother and grandfather played an important role in making me the person I am today.

Growing up without a father figure in the family was challenging, considering most of my peers came from nuclear families. As I grew up, I came to realize that my mother was not married, but there was no way I could ask about it. The fact that I belonged to a single parent did not bother me or hinder me in any way. I was always committed to my studies during my primary education, despite facing numerous challenges in my class. My ability to persevere and not give despite struggling performance earned me a lot of respect among my peers, teacher and my mother. I also thank my headteacher, who encouraged me to keep working hard as a way of becoming an important person in the future. He used to bear with me at times when my mother was unable to raise school fees on time just to make sure that my academic excellence was not compromised in any way.

It is unfortunate that my grandfather died when I was in my second year of high school education. I was lucky that I secured a full scholarship in high school from a former patron of the high school that I attended. The scholarship was a relief to my mother, who was struggling with my school fees, as well as that of my sister, who was joining college at this time. The scholarship also acted as a motive for me to work hard in an effort to avoid disappointing my sponsor, who was keenly following my academic performance. I also worked hard to score high in my final examination as the only way I could join the university to pursue my dream career, as well as enjoy continued sponsorship by the same patron.

My commitment to high school studies paid off, and I joined the university in the end. It was unfortunate that my sponsor died in a tragic road accident which marked the end of my sponsorship at the university. By this time, I had enrolled for a part-time job in a nearby bank which helped me to cater for my school fee and upkeep. I was happy that I no longer depended on my mother throughout my university education at a time when she could no longer go out for tedious and low-paying casual jobs. I remain thankful to my mother, my late grandfather, and my late sponsor for the role they have played in bringing me up and ensuring that I received the best in terms of education.