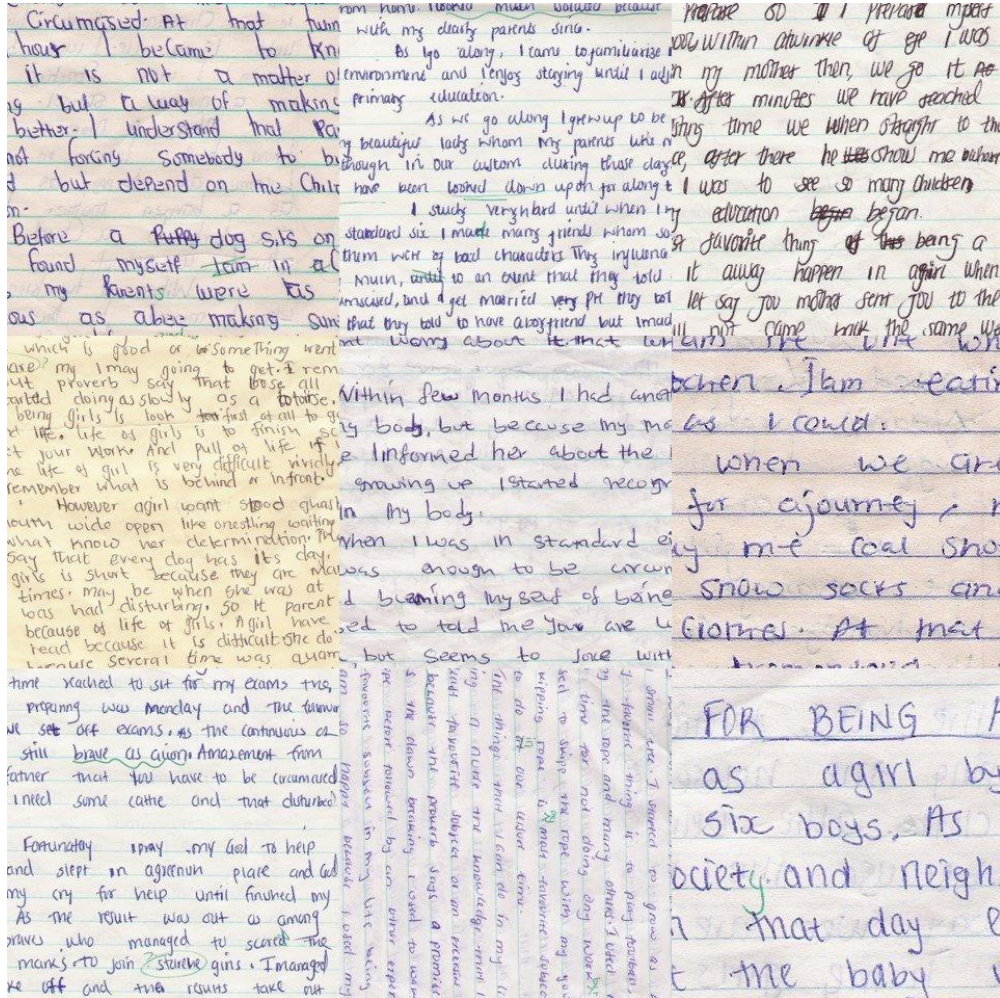




The Experience of Being a Girl

Essays written by the students of Pirrar Girl's High School
Oronkai Village, Transmara District, Kenya, Africa



These essays were written by the thirty-nine girls that make up the Pirrar Girls High School in Transmara, Kenya. The idea for the essays came out of a Girl's Empowerment workshop that I traveled to Kenya with Village Volunteers to facilitate in May of 2007. After many conversations, the girls decided that writing their experiences down would be a great opportunity to reflect on their lives and find their own voices.

There were four questions we decided on to prompt the essays:

1. Where were you born?
2. What is your favorite thing about being a girl?
3. What is your least favorite thing about being a girl?
4. What would you like to be when you're older and why?

These stories are funny, sad, silly, and moving yet all beautifully insightful; they illustrate the challenges these girls confront within their own culture and the similar issues that any adolescent girl, anywhere in the world, has to deal with. It was very important to me to keep their words the way that they wrote them, so there was minimal editing of the text.

- **Devon de Leña**

Chepwogen Faith

I was born in the year 1991 in a village called Kapkokos, Transmara District, Pirrar division, Njipijhip sub location. I grew up there and my parents continued looking after me. They are teaching me how to behave when I will grow up to be their age, and when I am with other people and all which needed to respect so I learn many things “as many as safari ants” which I would not be able to explain here.

My favorite thing in my life as I am a girl is this: I like the way God molded me with clay and put me in this land of pain and suffering to get food. Any good you need to satisfy your wants on top of that he give me good things which I am able to do my own work. I know what is good and bad so I am happy like a mother who give birth for the first time and I am jovial to stay with the rest of the rest of black otma.

The least favorite thing is this bad thing which sometimes transmits disease. Which is so worse in the life of a person such something bad is raping with some of the strong boys and disturbing me by giving promises everyday. Although it's common with other people but I don't like it.

What I want to be in the future is this: I would like to be a good person and the light on my children and other people and helping also my parents throughout my life on this earth of sin which is under casa by our ancestors, now I am continuing doing good and respecting my parents to give me blessing to live long on this earth. “Yumumber” a word which is said to honor your parents so that would live long on this earth that is why I am doing so.

Chelangat Agnes Sang

When I was in my mother's womb God knew that I will be born a girl. Suddenly I was born a girl and my parents were very happy as a king because I was the only girl in our home. When the time I was born it was the night all people sleep because I was given the name called Chelangat. I am now 15 years since I was born in the village Gelengelf in the division Nalanai and district called Bomet. When I was born everyone was happy because I was a girl. I was born a girl so that I can assist my parents in various ways in the home like collecting some firewood, taking care of my younger sister and brother, going to the posno mill and going to the river to bring some water. My mother is very happy when I assist her in various work at our home.

My favorite thing about being a girl is that many boys went and take some illegal drug abuse; cigarette and cocaine and girls never went and take drug abuse because it may cause effects on various parts of our bodies. In my lifetime I never see a girl who is taking drug abuse so that's my favorite thing about being a girl. Most boys and males are dying because of smoking and alcohol. Another second favorite by being a girl is the beautician.

My most favorite thing about being a girl is to be a professional like Professor Wangari Maathai because she was given the Nobel Prize. Many boys drop out of school and get married, they never get prize like Professor Wangari Maathai. Me as a girl I would like to study well so that maybe I will be like Professor Wangari. When I would be older I would like to be a judge in the future so that I may help people in various ways and cases. I would pray to God so that it may help me joined to be judge.

Chepngetich Evelyn

I was born in 1992 at Miti Mingi Village. I am happy to be a girl because I may assist my parents in many works at home. I may assist to nick the shamba (land) and take care of younger children.

My favorite thing about being a girl is that when my mother is not around, maybe she has gone to grandmother's house I may remain at home to collect firewood, washing clothes, cooking for my brothers and sisters. Also I may care after the cattle and the baby. But if I was a boy I would not collect firewood, or cook for the younger children. One day me and our mother visited our father at Kericho factory and we left our brother with a younger boy at home. Funny thing is that they were saying we are happy today because even we us we will cook the meal but when we came back to home we found our brother at our neighbors searching for food and they left the younger boy. Also they did not wash the cups or even sweep the house. But if it were me I would not go for food outside our home because I am able to cook and to do all the house work.

My least favorite thing of being a girl is that I will not go to other people's houses searching for food and leave the small children at home because I am able to work, I may cook and give it to the children and we can eat together. Also my sisters and my brothers did not get any problem even when our mother is not around. When my mother is not at home she knows that everything is correct when I am at home. As I am a girl I am proud of it.

But when I get older I would like to be a nurse because I may help all the people in the country. Also I may assist women—those who are pregnant to bear child and those who are suffering from different diseases.

Joan Karoi

I was born in February of 1992. The place is called Eldoret. I was happy as a new born lamb. I was in school. I was happy as a king. I would like to get work. If I read I would pass very well. The proverbs say that one should "think before you do" or "look before you leap."

When I was started my favorite I was thinking which is good. My brain was started burst but I was look which was good or something went wrong. I remember thing about proverb that says "loose all, grasp all." I started doing slowly as a tortoise. The favorite part of bring a girl is first of all to go to school and life. Life of girls is to finish school, after that get your work. And pull life if want to escape. The life of a girl is very difficult vividly. Because do not remember what is behind or in front.

However a girl want stood aghast with my mouth wide open like a nestling waiting to be fed what know her determination. The English man says that "every dog has its day."

The least favorite thing about being a girl is short because there are many several times. Maybe when she was at home something was disturbing. So if parents were unhappy because of life of girls. A girl will not have time to read because it is difficult. She is not glad because several times she was quarreling with other people at home. So the life of girl is very short. Wishing for hours a girl was happy as a king. We have smiles permanently fixed upon our faces. I smile broadly. His furrowed brow gone away like the despondency which was burned in his heart.

Sein Resiaio

I was born in the year nineteen ninety two, December. In the area if Oitomaroï Kapune entre. I was not born very fast but my father heard a lot of pain until when my grandfather arrived then I was born. My parents give me my name according to the experience.

My favorite thing about being a girl is that I would like to make my decisions to come true. That I would like to assist my dad and also the neighbors by solving such problems facing them. I like to be precious person in my family more than the way I am now because I heard that these days if you educate a girl you have built a nation. I would like to make the saying of people come true by helping them. In many ways and in different ways. I want to be a good example in the society doing the sayings of the people to be true.

My least favorite thing about being a girl is when a person comes with property to buy me, telling me to be his wife. Going to start my house problems, going to start bearing children this is the most of my problem like the water lily that have become the most problem in Lake Tana.

Anonymous

I was born in 1992 in the Transmara area and as I was hard myself as a girl I really like to be a girl forever and evermore. My parents like me so much as I am a girl. When I was four years old I start going to school, I like my teachers even my fellow students. My brothers and sister are also like me, even me like them.

My favorite part of being a girl is to assist my parents and the community as a girl. As being a girl I will be a good as I am at school. I like my favorite as being a girl but what only being a girl is to be care after your mother and baby, even assist in the housework like collecting firewood, fetching water, washing clothes and all which are on the house.

Beside my least favorite as a girl is to assist the nation even today the girls are leaders not like the other time when a girl cannot lead a nation or any group of people. Today's knowledge is the same while if you are a boy or a girl all can lead a company and that is why I am so proud of being a girl. One time I had a dream to be a president and that is my most favorite idea about being a girl.

Chepkoech Mercy

My name is Chepkoech. I was born in 1993 at Karmmermeu Village on that day when I came on earth where I can see many temptations up and down it is not like when I was in my mother's womb.

My favorite part of being a girl is to work hard for my future and to get a job. And how I am a girl and I am fifteen years old when I finished my school. I will be seventeen years old when I become a nurse or a madam and when I finished the school I would like to get a clean 'A'. By the will of God I will join a university and work hard so that my parents will be happy and know that we have a girl.

My least favorite thing of being a girl is the thing that can I think help my in my future and in my life when I finished university of college. I would like to join a job so that I will be given cash and after I had a job now I will be free to be married by to somebody who has got a job like me because I've been told that nobody can stay alone. How when I get children I feed them?

When I get older I would like to be a nurse or a madam because it is a good job and it is government work and when you get a job my children will follow my rules. Even he'll bless everything.

Chepkoech Janeth

I was born in 1992 in the family of three people. Just my father, mother and me as the first born. Then when I was seven years old my father took me to a certain nursery school which was called Kapsaos Academy. It was about three kilometers from our home.

Then I continued with my education until I was in class four. I was able to read, write and even talk in both English and Kiswahili. I was brave enough within a few years to reach class six when now I was

starting to face a lot of temptation in my life on that even my father was drinking alcohol enough but me, I was a Christian girl since I was four. In that level I had a lot of friends which had a variety of characteristics but because I was a Christian, I was praying to my God so that I didn't camp up with bad characters.

Within a twinkling of an eye that bad company of characters changed; every one of those girls had boyfriends then they continued up to an extent that they told me "you are for nothing" only because I was not having a boyfriend and then they want all of us to be in uniform with their bad characters but I refused to be included that company.

Before the end of that year many girls were pregnant and even some of them went to town so that to get enough free time to have sex; immorality without much disturbance from their parents. Now we continue up to class eight, but with few girls many of them they were circumcised and became parents on that level my father start to repent and became a Christian. I thanked God because maybe I could finish class eight and circumcised again as a rule of my father as he is a drinker.

Before the end of that year even though about to adjourn but I made a lot of temptation and because I was full Christian some people was afraid of when they tried to talk to me in a stupid language they came to our home to request me, but I told my parents that I will not be married until the end of my education. That, my father understood because he was now a Christian. In that year I took my K.C.P.E. of which I passed nicely, with flying colors. My father decided to educate me even though a lot of my friends got married because their parents were born of saying to educate a girl is nothing "it is just wasting of time" instead for us to handle a lot of cattle, I am educating. All in all, my father refused and paid the school fees of which I joined Pirrar Girls High School. For my case I am now in form two. I am stable in my life and I am still a full Christian. My target is to be a doctor so now I am struggling to make my target by the will of God.

Chelangai Helicar

I was born in the year 1991 in the village of Musunga. I have a family of six sisters and three brothers. My family are God fearing people that is why my parents handled and cared for us nicely until the time we began going to school. I personally joined nursery school when I was six years old. I was very happy as a king in his palace for being a girl, because I can help my parents in the other side and I can help my community when I will be educated because some people used to say "to educate one girl is like to educate all the nation." When I was in standard six I personally noticed some changes in my body that was my monthly period began flowing and my breast started growing. I was afraid as a hyena when these things happened to me because I had never seen these before but fortunately my mum taught me about when a girl is growing mature. As I go along I realized that these things are common to all girls. When I was in standard eight most of the girls were having boyfriends whereby I dislike because you might play with them until you become pregnant or get a disease like HIV/AIDS. Boys were trying to talk to me but I go against. Fortunately I struggle very hard and lastly I performed well in my K.C.P.E. exams. When these results come out I was so happy as a king in his palace because most of the girls that were having boyfriends failed so much. Later I was called at a far school but because of poverty at home I decided to go where school fees are not so much expensive. And that is why I joined Pirrar High School. At this level, that is secondary level, I am happy because I have learned many things in my life about how girl's life is happening and I will experience much as I go along. At this level again I am struggling so hard so that I will become a person in the future whom the country is waiting.

Naini Sharon

I am one year and five months old that I recognize that I am a girl and became happy as a bee. Actually I started my education when I was two years old because the Europeans entertain themselves to make a decision that the root of education is bitter but the fruit of education is sweeter. Before I started to make a decision and to have confidence in what I am doing in my work that forward ever, but backward

never. Fortunately being a girl is better, simply because I can be understandable in the situation of a parent. They fear corruption in the family either mother or father that will not corrupt and collapse somewhere. When she is educated they will benefit parents in the family. Likewise when she is employed in a business parents receive mostly money they remember her family even if when she was married in other places. A girl can care for parents more than a boy. When a girl proceeds in education and performs well in education they become important in the world and should be honored to all people. Mostly in the country when a girl leads. I as a girl we compete with somebody using knowledge in a peaceful manner not to make a war within the communities or within family. Because the higher you go the cooler you become. I am a girl I love to educate mostly and to make better your future life in my family because Europeans have said strike for better future. Finally I support myself to be a girl because we have peace to have good idea to everybody in a country.

Lucy Tiyioh

I have been born at Olomismis location in the Transmara District. I was born at the year of nineteen ninety one.

My favorite thing as a girl is education. I like education most because it is the best thing in my life. I myself know that education is the best policy. Nowadays without education there is not any job that you will get. So as education is the best thing we want to struggle about it.

The least thing in my life is being a mother because it is difficult. In some ways mothers would like to look after the house and her children. She would like also to prepare meals for her family. Mothers always have heavy work to do, she would do in a day even she would not have rest. Infant mothers have to breast feed her children until their grown. So as far as being a mother, it is the least favorite thing in my life, and that is true. When it reaches time for competition mother can not participate because she would say that is difficult.

I want not be a policewoman when I get older. It is a very good idea because policewomen would have peace in the world. I would punish those who break the laws. Those who break laws will be punish against their cases. They would not repeat because it is bad. When they repeat, and that is a mistake, of course they would be punished against their will. Being a policewoman is the best because it would be easier to know those who are bad. Those who steal things of others also will be punished because even God says that do not steal. It will be good to hear everybody keeping quiet not saying that this and this is lost. Being a police woman is good, to have peace in the world.

Damarus Resiato

I was born in 1992 in a family of five children, two girls and three boys. I grew up in a family where my parents were Christians and they taught us about be a child of God.

When I was becoming big I was told that school is there and that I have to go. I started my education in nursery and then moved slowly! Slowly, I was growing. I started to get some changes through my life when I was thirteen years in standard eight my experience, which I passed through, became more difficult. Throughout my whole life, that can a girl experience but I was given some courage. No sooner than when I finished class eight I was given a chance to step into secondary level. I was having a lot of stress throughout my life, that I could encounter from boys. These problems were more discouraging but I thank God because the church assisted me whole through. Since this changed in girls have come up, some of me boys writing a letter about being a girlfriend for him, which was misleading us as are we girls. So more experience as being a girl is receiving monthly periods after the end of the month, which can make her loose a week than she would usually. They cheated us we girl and get pregnant and the continuous of the school end, and we are told that when you have educated a girl you have educated the whole nation.

For some experience of a girl when child bearing age there is a pain that may occur. A girl may experience difficulties when she is being circumcised, when she is bearing a child the private part will be torn and that could be other problems of being a girl.

Although being a girl is good but will have to involve through, and being married and being a maid for somebody and you take care for him. Education is better than everything in our life today.

Esinah Machoni

My experience of being a girl it is very good because, as I know myself when my mother she was giving me birth my father and other neighbors of my country they were as rosy as a king. Because they were praying to God so that my parents would be blessed with a baby girl and they were expecting that I will be a classy in future as I was grew up.

Since that day I was born, my parents they adored me and reared me very well and they were not letting me dawn even one minute because even them they were not intimidating each other in planning for me. As soon as I started guzzling, my parents they were giving me mealy foods after that as I finish eating they preen me well and make me rejuvenated. A few months ago I started grabbing so these months it was very menacing for me because as I was grabbing I wouldn't know were I am suppose to grab. But my parents they were not ridiculous they were bellicose because they were coaxing me.

Suddenly I started walking and running as now I was at that age known as accommodating. Though my parents they were not knowing because it was my will and feeling of accommodating. Eventually my parents started realizing that I am the age of doing something. From that day my parents started showing me how to preen the house, wash clothes and so on. After that now, parents they started saying that I am accessory in the family and in the country. From that day even me I started knowing that I have acquaint from me parents and from my God. So up to this moment I grip to my parents and God because I have acumen what I am supposed to do so that my life to be like a vivid as I am still alive.

Chepkirui Maurine

Within the blink of an eye, since when I was a young kid up to this moment, I have seen some changes in my life. That means a stage between childhood and adulthood.

Without wasting even fraction of a second, I was as afraid as a chameleon on a frail twig as my heart was thumping behind my rib cage as it wanted to escape, and I felt like the cat who had stolen the cream of milk when physical changes take place. The physical changes every year until I was fine and singing and dancing as my life depend on it.

In the wink of an eye, everyday I was taught by my mother now to have good behaviors in everywhere I go and to be an honest and respectful girl. Great grandparents as not cheating when they were saying that "honesty is the best policy."

In a tick of a clock, some of my pals misused what was being told be their parents and they were told to make hay while the sun shine. At that moment, they balloon up without understanding, after knowing, their effort bore no fruit as their heart beat more than seventy two times as they puzzled their mouth in shock, not only shock but also flabbergasted and petrified with fear as tears of disbelief filled their cheeks. Eh! They thought a proverb which goes "no smoke without fire." They racked every corner of their brains and they formulated a plan of action. They understand each other to escape the terrible from their family as tears of bitterness stung their eyes and they signed deeply to ease the feeling. They went on and tour until they take abortion.

Oh! My pals they had come within a whisker of death and they thank almighty father for survived the terrible ordeal. I puzzled and I understood the experience of being a girl and I came through a proverb which goes “to live long, is to see much.”

Chervich

Once upon a time my parents were admired to get a baby girl, but God bless them to born. When my parents had me they became happy and they received a message that they will go to heaven. They became happy because they know that in the future we will get someone to help us. When my parents cared until I grow up I started to assist them when I came back to home from school. I do not have time to idle like boys. As I am a girl I am the help of help of the nations, a person can't stay with a helper since when God created the universe. I am the helper since the beginning up to the end of my life. God has good plans in girls because without a girl nothing can continue. Even the nation loves girls because they have mercy for the other. I give thanks to my God because I am a girl. I help my parents in many ways. If a girl got enough education she will be a volunteer for other countries.

Chepngeno Vivian

There is a big difference for me in things which I loved and which I hate in being a girl. I have been executing something good although others looks as they are bad from what has been happening to me from my childhood up to this moment. For a long time I have been thinking about things which I have passed though in my life, some make me proud to be a girl but other times I am discouraged. In fact my parents used to love me. They buy me very beautiful clothes. Like the girls of my age, they want me to behave well, be a discipline and very respective child, but sometimes I make many mistakes and learn something from these mistakes and trying never to repeat them.

Moreover, I learn skills and knowledge of dressing well, behavior, how to cook and many other home science when I was in class three. Unfortunately, when I was in standard eight my parents were unable to pay for my exam registration fees. This problem discouraged me and I decided to drop out of school, but before I did they got the money and registered me—then I continued until I finished primary education.

Before I could do anything the time came for me to join form one but my parents were unable to raise the enough money, but the lord God make things to appear. Although I faced problems from my friends who wanted me to be circumcised as it is a tradition of our community I was able to reject them fully. Therefore, from all things which I have passed through if they are either good or bad and all difficulties I have survived and got skills and knowledge from them. I will struggle to be the best doctor in the future. In conclusion: experience is the best teacher.

Chekemai Norine

I was born in Ndanai, the twenty-fourth of the month of December in the year one thousand, nine hundred and ninety-five. After my mother nursed me I grew up. When I was five years old, I started to go to a nursery school and I continued in my study until now I am in secondary school. And I wish I will keep on in my studies until I am finished with my investigation. I like being a girl because since I develop into this world of sin and temptation I was like this. So I like to be like a mother with her first born baby.

There are so many problems in being a girl. First is when there is period menstruation. This period breaks your decision because maybe you had some pain in the stomach. Maybe you oblige to go a journey and you knew that your period was not around, and as you gone there days came closer and period started and you haven't any plan to have that. I see this as the most serious problem. The other thing is temptation. You're tempted every now and then as you are walking on the way. Maybe you are going to the shop, school, or everywhere you go. I hope these two things is desperately. Although there is this temptation I didn't hate to be a girl because when I was waken up, I was like this. When I finish

my college, I will become a teacher in the future because there is lot hard work. When I get older I hope I will be a mother because it is a must to go through this stage.

Chepkirui Agness

I was born in Cheserton Village the date was June 16 1992. Through all my life I thank God for he has taken care of my life. I like to be a girl that is why I am a girl. In all I like the way God created me. Thirdly, why I am a girl is because I do all things that is required of being a girl. I help my parents at home such work as sweeping, looking after small babies, and all things that are necessary of being a girl.

My favorite thing of being a girl is that I wanted to be a nurse because I like them. Fourthly, we girls, I want to tell each one, every one of us take care when you are with boys because they may cheat us. Because boys like cheating us be careful of what he says. As we are girls we must take care of our nation because the wise men say if you educate a girl it is like that you educate the whole nation, so each and everyone of us must take care of herself as you are a girl.

Here I am a student in Pirrar Girls and the will of God I will get a job and I will help all the nations. When I grow older I'll have my own money so as to help myself. So my favorite thing to be a girl is the way I am the girl throughout my life. I am happy to be a girl. Because I have seen many things throughout my life of being a girl. I have seen the hands of the Lord doing miracles.

So now I am girl and my favorite thing is to be a girl.

Janet Naanyu

I was born in the year nineteen ninety two in December. In the area of Oltumaroi Shatuka Centre.

My favorite thing of being a girl is that I would like to make my decisions come true. That I would like to be a policewoman and I would like to assist my parents and also my neighbors by solving problems facing them. I like to be a precious person in the family more than the way I am now because I heard that if you educate a girl you will build a nation. I would like to make the sayings of people to come true by helping them in many ways and in different ways. I want to be a good example in the society, doing the saying of the people come true.

My least favorite thing of being a girl is when I am about to be married a person might come with property to buy me, telling me to be his wife. And also leaving my parents home and going to start my house life, bearing children, and doing other house chores. This is a problem like the water lily that have become the most problem in Lake Victoria.

Furthermore becoming the woman of cooking Ugali every now and then. Although we eat to live but sometimes it's difficult to make food. When I get older I would like to be a good retired policewoman. I would like to be quarrelling with anybody. But only becoming a good old mum.

This is because it is very nice to be a good person in future and there will be no more blaming of people in society about me. But only being talked that I am a good person. For I know that it's better to have a good name than having a good job.

Joan Chepngetich

I was born in 1992 in a family of five children; three boys and two girls. I started my primary education when I was seven years old. My parents took me to the nursery school far from home. I looked much isolated because I have been with my dear parents. As I go along, I came to familiarize with the environment and I enjoyed staying until I adjourn my primary education.

As we go along I grew up to be a young beautiful lady whom my parents like me even though in our custom during these days girls have been looked down upon for a long time. I study very hard until when I was in standard six I made many friends whom some of them were of bad characters. They influence me very much, to an extent that they told me to be circumcised, and get married. They told me to have a boyfriend but I made my mind that I am still young, my parents would not allow me that, I told them that I have received Jesus.

They pressured me but I refused and depart from them. I was challenged by many of my colleagues because in our village most girls of my age were forced by their parents to be circumcised and get married, what they want was just only dowry that is cattle.

They use to say that educating a girl is like wasting resources there is no need for a girl to go to school. But I really appreciate and thank my parents for not telling me to be circumcised. I proceed in my studying until in standard eight I decided to shift from that school to the nearest school. I study very, very hard until I reach at to sit for my final exam in primary school. Actually I perform very nicely where by those parents who force their girls to be married early were regretting and saying "we wished we knew." Actually educating a girl is like educating the whole nation, but educating a boy is like educating one family.

Girls are useful people they help a lot they do the household, even the educated help their parents they cannot forsaken they parents if you try to see they homes parents and compare with boys who are educated there is a big difference. For my case I am in from two in my target I like to be a lawyer so I am working very hard in order to meet my target.

Chesang Janeitt

I am a girl of age sixteen years old. I was born in Africa in the country of Kenya near Kakamega District. I like my country because it is made up of some beautiful scenery and wonderful coastline.

My favorite thing about being a girl in my life is visiting some countries and even go as far as continents in the world. Tourism is my favorite thing I like in my future. Moreover, when I go to every tour I like to learn more and more. I enjoy being a girl because sometimes I make myself beautiful.

My least favorite thing in my life is going to school to get more knowledge and skill. However, education is the key of life. I learn in school in order for me to get a good job in the future. Profitably, father without action is dead. By finishing my education, I want to be a president. Being a president is the most enjoyable thing because when I get older, I would be able to continue with that job. When I die, my children would continue to receive money. So that is why I want to be president.

Chepkemoi Joan

I am a girl of fifteen years old. I was born in a village known as Njipiship where my parents live. My parents take care of me until I grew up and when I grew up they took me to school. When we were still going I was very happy because I had never had a pen and book. I went on with my education until I did my primary national examination and was happy because I knew that I would join my secondary section.

My favorite thing I like to do as a girl is working hard in my education and touring to other countries outside of my continent.

My least favorite thing is drawing pictures because they are so difficult to draw.

When I get older I would like to be a lecturer. I like it because it is my best career in my life. I like it because I have seen many who are doing that work are working to achieve their goals and I also like it.

Chepwogen Faith

I was born in the year 1991 in a village called Kapkokos, Transmara district, Pirrar division, Njipishi sub-location. I grew up there. My parents continued looking after me and teaching me how to behave when I grow up to their age and when I am with other people which all need respect. So I learned many things “as many as safari ants” which I would not be able to explain here.

My favorite thing in my life as a girl is this. I like the way God molded me with clay and put me in this land of pain and suffering to get food and any good I need to satisfy my wants. On top of that, one good thing he gave me is the ability to do my own work and to know what is good and bad. So I am happy like a mother who give birth for the first time and I am jovial to stay with the rest of the rest of black atma.

The least favorite thing is this bad thing, which sometimes transmits disease. Which is so worst in the life of a person such something bad is raping with some of the strong boys and disturbing me by giving promises everyday. Although is other people it's common but I don't like it.

What I want to be in the future is this: I would like to be a good person and the light of my children and other people and helping also my parent throughout my life on this earth of sin which is under care of our ancestors. Now I am continuing doing good and respecting my parent to remember a word which said “honor your parents” so that you would live long on this earth that is why I am doing so.

Chebet Josephine

I am proud of being a girl. This is what I have chosen after I have thought as the proverb says “look before you leap”. It is enthusiastically when you are a girl, because occupation of being a girl you would pass through many experiences, since I was young until nowadays I have known many things include cooking delicious meals and washing clothes until it becomes as clean as crystals and fetching water as well as washing the utensils.

Secondly, I went to school and was taught how to read, write and understand better. I grew up until when I reach to be a candidate and I've done my exams. When the exams comes out our scores were the best in the district. I joined one of the best secondary schools in Transmara which is known by the name of Pirrar. My parents want to educate me because I am “a hope of tomorrow”, which means future leader.

As I am a second learner or in form two I have come across many temptations which I hate as I am a girls or what I hate about being a girl. This includes somebody needs you to have relationship with him, having breast, is another problem, being somebody's parent and passing the adolescent stage. All of these are what I hate about being a girl.

Finally anything I hate is passing through circumcision some of my allies have come across but I personally refuse that. There are many love of being a girl as well as hate being a girl in all our life.

Chemutai Mutai Josephine

I was born in a small family of four children; two sisters and one brother. I was brought up in a Christian way be my parents until I grow up. I was seven years when I started my education at a nursery school. After a moment, I became to know that I am in a school, and I became as happy as a lark and as a barren mother who has given birth to a child. Within a twinkling of an eye, I moved to the next class. As I was facing the characters of my comrades and my kin as they were waiting for their time to be circumcised.

Luckily I was loved by my parents and they did not force me to be having a kind of sensing about the habits of being circumcised. At that twinkling of an hour I became to know that it was not a matter of

marrying but a way of making life better. I understand that parents are not forcing somebody to be married but depend on the child's decision.

Before a dog sits on its tail, I found myself in class six, as my parents were as industrious as a bee making sure that my life and my minds are comfortable. I try my sides to know that I discover my option of what I have made. Fortunately, I sit for my Kenya certificate of primary education without me knowing that I am going to join the first learning, I become to love these things and I discover that to be a girl is good and also difficult to be a girl; because a girl is facing many difficulties.

Chepkoech Schvar

As my parents born me they were happy as a blind man who got eyes or as a king sitting in his palace because they known that in the future they will help her because a girl will not forget her parents forever and ever.

I love to be a girl when I was the head of the nation because people said if the girl be the head of nation, all people will be happy because a girl has mercy for everybody.

When I remember my creator I am giving thanks to him because he created me to be a girl because the people when they born a girl they are happy as a child who is born on a Friday. The old men they did not cheat us when they said "better the devil you know than the angel you don't know." That proverb teach us surely because if that nation known that. If so will lead us the nation will be okay or if so will lead us the nation will not okay they will check depend on the people because the people would not elect a person who will not help them, they are checking a person who love all people, but it is not a person who have partiality with other people.

So that I pray to my savior to help me to be a person in the future because my experience as I am a girl I want to be a professor even when I was young, it was said every day and then I will be a professor so that I have faith in God, even the old men say that "faith without action is dead" so I am working as hard as a termite.

Lilian Naiguran

Experience about being a girl is that you face many difficulties and problems every now and then, every time you get more than ten problems as a girl. I learned that us, as we were girls we need more assistance every time so for us to succeed for our future life. We get disturbances from boys, many others for pushing life only, maybe another struggling talking to you so that for me to get married. But another big problem is early marriage, it is difficult for girl to be pregnant even when you are still young and don't know how to take care for a child. Even when you reach adolescence stage you get every kind and type of temptation from boys and you become confused, because of facing many of them.

Another problem being a girl is when we are at school and maybe our parent doesn't pay fees because maybe he has given his level of money. The teacher says I need money you must go home to bring back and I know that nothing is at home when I reach home, no money, what shall I do to succeed? It may lead me to decided to get married early, there I know I am still young of course but it is fees that lead me to get married early. So as girls we have many problems and disturbances, since I grew up I have pass many problems in my life.

Edith Naserian

I was born in a family of six children, three girls and three boys. My mother and father were happy because they know that they will have somebody whom will help them. But in my side I was not happy for being a girl because girls have many problems in their lives, but because it was not the will of my parents it was the will of God for me to be a girl.

On top of that, as we are girls we are proud of ourselves because we cannot do the work of men but we can do our own work. In many ways we face temptation but all in all we can resist all temptation. As a girl to be a girl we must face many things in our lives, but if you cannot be very careful you can fall into temptation in every way we can find temptation and every place we pass is like that.

A girl also has a lot of problems because during the time of getting children it is painful. Again if I will request to go to school as a girl nobody hears that because they said there is no need for a girl to go to school and that's why you find that most of the girls look like the car that gets stuck in a muddy place.

In most cases as I am a girl most of the time people look down upon us and that I have seen is it true because we are the people who are shy, and when we meet anybody start to talk with us we look down and in that time we found ourselves falling into temptation.

Chephgetch Caren

It was the year nineteen ninety four when my mother was very tired of carrying me for nine months, and I could be able to be born. I was born in Kinugui Village. It was the date 25th of December (Christmas Day) I believe that they day was fine and birds were moving from one tree to the other in happiness. When I was about four years I came to know that I was a girl and I was very happy as I could because when I would grow up and I would help my mother in sweeping the house, washing clothes, cooking and washing utensils, ect. I start my 19 school when I was five years old. I still remind that day when my mother tell today we will to school. Within a twinkle of an eye I was ready to go, even my mother then we go. It was not so far. After minutes we have reached there. Without wasting time we went straight to the head teacher's office, after there he showed me where to go and I was to see so many children that day my education began. The least favorite thing being a girl is this; lets say your mother sent you to the market you will not come back the same way, you are always being tested by young gentlemen or even strangers. Plus being a girl has so many problems to pass through everywhere you pass is a test—even the period stage. I dislike them so much because they come maybe when you are in a bad place. I promise in future I would be a doctor, so that I would help my parents because they have cared for me since I was young.

Chesang Daizy

I am a girl of sixteen years. I was born in 1990 in Africa in the country of Kenya near Thika District. I like my country very much because it is made up of different beautiful things. It has wonderful things like some other countries that make us beautiful. My favorite thing about being a girl is that I am so happy a king because I have beautiful things and I have some good behaviors that make some others to love me being a girl. When I am a grown-up person I would come up with different things that make me not forget about my life. I would like to visit other countries for tourism, I would get out of my country and visit other countries for tour, and I would like it very much. Any tour that I visit I have learned something and looking at different things that may assist me in any way. I like to be in school as I am going to school I learned to get knowledge that'll help me in future days as if I have many things that I have learnt to know the key of education is better. If I learn and get my own job I will assist my parents in the other way, as my parents will know that they have an educated girl in order to manage and assist them. Those parents were happy and yours "happiness is like an old man who discovered the force of gravity, his name was Isaac Newton." When I finish my education I was educated wee by my parents and I get a good crate in my knowledge. In the future I would like to be a nurse and enjoy my knowledge. All in all I will be a nurse in the future.

Edith Nolary

I was born in 1994 at Osonkoroi Village near a small tree. I started to grow as a girl. My favorite thing is to play football, skipping the rope and many others. I used my talent at the time for not doing any work but for leisure time. We used to skip the rope with my younger sisters. Skipping rope is my most favorite subject that we like to do in our leisure time. The things that I can do in my life as a girl is being a nurse the knowledge that I can get. My favorite subject or exercise is being a nurse because the proverb says "a promise never fail." As the dawns breaking I used to wake and skip the rope before, followed by an other experiment. It is my favorite subject in my life being a rope skipper. I am so happy because I used my time assisting my parents after I started doing my own work. What I am aiming now is the higher as I am a girl. Because if I was a boy my mum was usually having some mental suffering. I am very knowledgeable in skipping rope and doing science. I thank my almighty father who has been taken me to be a girl instead of a boy because boys sometimes are unreasonable, they misuse sex such as raping, incest, homosexual and other. I would like to support my side as a girl this is because girls give birth to young ones of the same kind. Girls are housewives, they respect their husbands. I am planning to be a nurse as my knowledge can allow me. But this is a proverb says a "goal is a dream with a deadline!" When I get older I would like to be the nurse because I used to struggle to be a nurse. As the dusk closed I would in making sure that I have get something in sciences at every end of the day. My experiences being a girl is by the end of my education I could assist my parents in every way and the money that I can earn will be the part of our family. At that time if I get a job I would in sitting as an angel of receiving. Eleventh hour reached I struggle so as to get something because half a loaf is better than none. That time my heart was bouncing like an engine. At the end of university I will be looking for a husband because a dog has its own day. I was aiming that I would be the one of the nurses set a thief to catch a thief. And why I am lucky to be a nurse is to assist the victims to be secure because a friend in need is a friend indeed. I was making hay while the sun shines because I was seeing many the injury hours got danger. I came at the time this is because the early bird catches the worm. 21

Chepngeno Mercy

I was born in the year of 1992 to a family of four children. Surely I am the first born in our family. The second born is a boy. I grew up slowly like snail. Without squandering a couple of minutes I started going to school as a nursery pupil in a school known as Tulwet Academy. Proudly I continued with my study as the best girl in every subject and discipline. At twelve years surprisingly I saw my monthly period. I started trembling like a leaf, wondering "what is wrong?" I managed to ask my mother, but I feared to ask her. No sooner had I finished the monthly period than willingly to ask what is happening in my body. Sincerely my mother replied that is natural. Meanwhile I was about to register myself in standard eight because I was preparing for the Kenya National Examinations. As a hard working lady, my academic performance is excellent that every minute I was busy as a bee doing some research from teacher, pupils and also my level best. As the time reached to sit for my exams the day of preparing was Monday and the next day we set off for exams. As the exams continued I was as brave as a lion. Amazement from my father that you have to be circumcised because I need some cattle and that disturbed me. Fortunately I pray my God to help me and slept in a greenish place and God heard my cry for help until I finished my exam. As the result was out as among the braves who managed to score the highest marks to join girls. I managed to make off and the results take out my father. But my father continued to say "no education to girls, only boys." Eventually I came up with some ideas to look for the ministry of education officer to take to encourage my father that to educate a girl is like to educate all the nations, but educating a boy is like to educate one person. Also a girl is likely to be the one who will come to assist you during the time you are not able to work for yourself. No sooner after I had joined secondary school I continued working very hard and at the end of my course, I make some miraculous thing to join university and I was employed as a medical doctor because I scored the good grades in university. My father did not forget my story in his life until the industrial bacteria decomposes on his flesh.

Chekonoh Jescar

I was born in 1990 to my parents Jamila and John who live in a certain village known as Tesa. My parents were not rich as such, but they work very hard to satisfy my need as a child. In this case my parents struggle for my need, and indeed I was provided my need as a child.

22 When I was ten years my father took me to a nursery school in a certain school in a certain school known as "Telcel". This is where I was molded by my teacher until I reach standard five where by I experience a lot of changes in my body. Firstly I had some things growing in my chest like stones, that time because I had never encountered things like that I ran to where my mother and said "what is this mum?" My mother started giggling and said "don't worry about it." That is what I experienced first. Within a few months I had another serious change in my body, but because my mother had already told me when I asked about the breasts. So because I was growing up I started recognizing a lot of changes in my body. When I was in standard eight my father says that I was old enough to be circumcised that where I started blaming myself for being a girl. But my mother used to tell me "you're lucky because you are a girl," but that seems like a joke to me because that time I had a lot of questions flowing through my round head like an overflowed river but I got no answers and imagine it was one week to our final exam in primary school. In fact I wish the earth to crack and swallow me; sincerely this was a calamity in my life. But because God was on my side I sat for my final exam, even though my heart was throbbing thunderously like a train engine and my mind was at sixes and sevens. After all I finished my exam well, and pass with flying colors, which made my father to think like a pinned animal trying to scratch its way to freedom. After all that he decided to take me to a secondary school nearby our home area. In fact I was really lucky and happy to have gotten that golden change to join a secondary school. In secondary school I had a lot of friends who are working hard for excellence but for me I am trying to work hard in order to change my community in the future. Even though the role of education is bitter but the fruit are sweet. Also to strive for a saying which goes "to educate a girl is to educate all the nations, but to educate a boy is like to educate one nation" and being a girl I will make it!

Chepkowch Janeth

I was born in 1993 in the village called Greenland. As I grew up in my life I was happy so much because God has taken a lot of time to make me and led my parents so that they get energy to care me. My favorite thing about being a girl is I am happy because God has created me and as I am going on I want to learn and after I finish the school I want to get a job so that I have a better life than that of my parents.

My least favorite thing about being a girl is that I don't want to engage in sex or get early marriage because it affects my body and it is a sin in God. I want as I get older in my life to be a good grandmother to have a good name in my village and also my main point is to assist our girls to abstain in sex until the day of marriage. 23

Chepkemoi Lily

I was born in a country called Kenya, born in the district Ndanai location, a village called Kagasik. There are many experiences as a girl. Some of them are advantages and others are disadvantages. As I am the most loved by my parents. As my parents give us a proposal in our family they give me more and fantastic things than my brothers. When we have visitors, I am the one who is welcoming them, giving them meals, and exchanging ideas. Boys tend to greet the visitors only and then disappear. Furthermore, I am the one who receives a proposal from the visitors. Another thing is that I am the one who is in the kitchen. I am eating as much as I could. Always when we are preparing for a journey, my parents buy me coal shoes, as white as snow socks and fantastic clothes. On that particular day I am tremendously spick and span. Boys are not always going for a journey but me as a girl, I am chiefly the first one. When I heard that there is a journey I feel a cheerful as a princess. All the work to be done in our home belongs to me because I am a girl. Boys are only looking after the cows but me, my work is to dig the shamba, clean the utensils, sweep the hours and bring water from the pool. As I was still young I felt happy as I did a lot of work. Nowadays I have understood that much work belongs to me.

They are becoming more and more. That is the reason why I am not disgusted but before hand I was entirely satisfied. Another reason is that I have seen that my brothers only eating without working. They are as helpless as a babe and as greedy as a hyena. They are always wolfing. They only walk with their friends. The most thing which I detest in my life is that many temptation are approaching me. As I was in class eight I had many temptation from men; one preceding another one. I was not even studying in class. My mind was far away from class. I was not satisfied as I remembered the temptation which has approached me.

During break time I was not playing. I was only counting people who had tempted me and praying to God to assist me by controlling the temptation. As I counted, they were ten of them. That is the thing which I detest everlasting. When I get older, the most thing I want to be is a doctor. 24

Kaako F. Soina

I was born as girl by parents in a family of six boys. As I was born all people in the society and neighbors were very happy as a king. On that day everyone was very happy to hear that the baby who had been born was a girl. On that day my parents organized a celebration very nicely and for people to bring prizes to my parents and the young baby who was born; because within our village if a girl baby is born everybody becomes so happy. Because in the sides of mothers they have get assistance at home, work or in the kitchen. When all villages heard that the baby who was born was a girl they rejoiced because they had a person who will add to society, additionally to that they will get more dowry, but according to the Maasai they will get many cattle, so it means that in our community a girl is a very important person. After some months I grew up, my parents like so much to brought for me, give to me and to be happy and feel okay. My parents like me very much other than somebody else in our family. I was surprised to see that boys at the time were not important?

My experience for being a girl is to assist my mother in home work such as collecting firewood, fetching water from the river, keeping the house to be beautiful and washing clothes. Sure being a girl is very important because the moment the mother were away were are the ones to assist them at home, girls help their mothers in order for the fathers not to quarrel with them. Actually, being a girl is for assisting the community and to bring different communities together or countries when you will be marry in other countries e.g. U.S.A. I have experienced a lot of things in my life, but in other cases the girl has a lot of work to do. As soon as I started growing up I saw that a girl has disadvantages in the family of your parents. When you become pregnant at home is it so shameful to the girl and her parents and you will serve in giving birth a child. As you are a girl you will face many temptations in your life. 25

Chepngenoh Emmy

My experience of being a girl is very good because before my mother gave birth to me my relatives and neighbors were melancholy because they knew that a girl is the one who will come to preen and take care of the family when the parents are away.

As I was born my relatives and neighbors were rosy as like the daughter of the king. They take care of me from when I was born until they took me to school. I was so angry because they left me alone with other children at place where I didn't know, and then I shudder for almost three weeks without talking to anybody, I continue with my education in preschool for two years. I moved to the other class, standard one. When I was in standard one I was able to read and write.

I stayed in primary school for eight years then I joined secondary school. I educated because to educate a girl is the same as you educate the all nation. A girl is the one who will be helping their parents and their neighbors. A girl is the one helping her mother in the household and washing clothes of the children and for their mother and father. A girl is cleaning everywhere in the compound to look clean and not dirty their environment. Experience of being a girl is one is looking smart every now and

then. She is giving birth to fulfill the earth. A girl is taking care of their home and cooking and share to the family. She doesn't want the compound to look dirty.

Chesang Diana

I was born in 1992, October in a family of four children and two boys. The village of Matofeli in Busette district. I was brought up in a Christian way; I learned many good things through Jesus Christ and grew up as a good disciplined girl in our family. I respect my parents, my brothers and all of my relatives and the people. In fact my parents appreciate my behavior.

When I was seven years old I began my nursery school where it was far from home. For sure I passed through hills and valleys. I encounter many problems on my way to school, sometimes it might rain and the path is so bad everywhere was mud that I was slipping the moment I reached school I was very dirty and nobody was willing to help wipe mud off my clothes because I had no friends and my brothers were not there and I was too young to wipe it for myself, sure I felt isolated. On reaching home my mum used to take off my dirty clothes. She warmed the water to take a bath. In the chilly morning I was supposed to wake up early to take tea and go to school when I remembered all the problem I am facing I wish to stay at home but if I refused I put myself in hot water, I will be caned thoroughly by 26 my unfriendly father as he known that "the way to bring up a child is the way he grew up." I wished him to go away from home then we remained with my mum because he has no pity on me.

I just persevered with all those problems as the saying goes "he who does not listen to elders breaks his/her legs," and also "the roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are sweet." I was molded nicely with my teachers until I had known how to read and write properly by then I started passing the exams. I proceeded slowly as a snail and when I was in class five I was taught how to cook and milk the cow by my mum and also how to wash the clothes and all household chores that stage now I experienced more of being a girl. As the saying goes "small by small will fill up the measure," surely I learn more of value as a girl.

After about one year I encounter many fearing changes in my body, first of all I discovered that there is small things growing in my chest which have started to lift my blouses. I asked my elder sister, but she told me don't worry those are breast past of adolescent stage through which girls pass. I was surprised that I started blaming myself of being a girl. Then I also came across some red fluids flowing in my body. I thought I was injured, but this was no injury then I started to cry thinking that something bad had happened because I had a stomach ache as they flow down. When I was asked the problem I was facing to say I kept on crying. When my mother noticed my problem she sat me down and taught me all things which are likely to occur in the body of a girl.

When I was in class eight my father was happy because he has seen I am a mature girl enough to be wife of somebody. After my K.C.P.E. examination he said there is not going to secondary school, he told "you are now enough to lead your own family," he did understand that education is as good as a husband who will never divorce and before I get married I will be circumcised first. On hearing that I felt to scream tears were flowing down my cheeks but all was in vain my father had already received the dowry only to arrange the day. Then my mum talked to him trying to rescue me, she pleaded with him to educate me as he understood that "to educate a girl is like to educate the whole nation," and "education is the key of life." Then the following day my father called me and told me that "I heard what your mum said and you're now going to join secondary school because I have understand that education is like ashamba (land) surrounded by water allover." He promised to buy all the items required in form one, then I nodded, thanked him for he had agreed to educate me. "Education is the shielder of life and it is one way of driving away poverty in the community," he kept on saying.

Then after one week I was called into national school because I had passed with flying colors in my K.C.P.E. fortune enough I also receive a letter that the government was ready to offer me free education, "handwork will never go unrewarded." I put more effort as the saying goes, "hardworking and

determination lead to success,” surely I passed well at our end term exam. I am trying not to shame my parents for they have committed themselves to satisfy my needs. Surely “there is no beauty without fault,” to be a girl is very good, but remember there are many temptations and crisis but all in all endurance is the best option. 27

Cherotich Misoy

I was born in a family which fosters me and God can do for me. As I was young I was feeling like an angel with my parents because they provide everything needed to feed me and also make formalize decision for what I should be doing during my leisure time. My experience of being a girl is I am twine in everything because I have known how to cook and take care of my younger brothers and sisters but some work my parents discredit me. So my experience of being a girl is jovial to me until the hungry termite could feed in my remain mind. During creation God created man and he said that this is not good to be alone within a fraction of a second God created woman and everything he do he said it is good and we were born and our parents whole in whole the wise me said charity began at home. As we are girls we have advantages in everything such as during circumcision we with not pass through or boys pass every where we go we are twinkles like stars shines very brightly and we give up on some habits and also we put on which is expected of us. Wherever we go we face many challengers but all in all we must succeed like the way God succeeds. The experience of being a girl is enjoyable to everyone because some people said to educate a girl you are educating all the nation.