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Life is nothing but the total of some hours and days where we get to face a lot of unexpected situations that can change the phases of our lives. We learn our motives and goals as we go through these challenging situations. My life completely changed after I moved to America in March of 2008, a significant moment when I figured out that I was not in my known areas any more. As a sixteen years old teenager, I could not control my emotions because of leaving my relatives, friends and my country. That was the biggest challenge that I believe I have overcome with my courage and determination.

I was born in Bangladesh, a south Asian country near the Bay of Bengal. My life was full of love from people whom I have seen since my childhood. I used to live in a joint family. Our whole family was there since 1930's. It was a family of unity and love. I never thought I would be detached from that unity in my life. I always felt that there was an enchanted connection between me and my homeland. It was awfully hard for me to break that bond and come here. However, it happened in my life. I am now thousand miles away from my childhood, from my past.

My Bangladeshi culture always taught me to care about my relatives and family. After moving here, I totally lost my familiar world. Although some of my relatives live in America, I could not find my home spirit at the beginning. Leaving a country was like an intense emotional experience for me. Little memories kept me in touch with my homeland, Bangladesh whom I love the most. I could not hear the birds singing in my country, see my friends gossiping in my

school, eat lunch with the whole family and enjoy “Bengali New Year” with “Bengali” foods. Everything seemed lost to me.

Since I was a newcomer in America, I spent all night thinking how to cope with the mysterious world where I was an alien. Then, my family aided me to adopt the dissimilar life here. I learned my strength about being passionate which can bring success to anyone. As I look back, I still remember my first day of school being really frightening although my motivation was to make friendship and understand the new place with curiosity. Since it was the beginning of April, summer was knocking on the door. The school was almost going to end. I could not apprehend the learning process for the first couple of weeks. Standard of Learning Tests (SOL) were held three weeks after my arrival. All of these realities clogged my mind. I became weak in assurance by thinking that I would not pass the SOL’s. Also, leaving my homeland placed a lot of emotional stress on me. Those days are dark memories of my life. Everything moved with such alacrity that I did not get time to find any idea for relevance, but I brought my strength by putting my best effort to deal with the new subjects and my new life. I always believe in the truth that “Life is not a bed of roses,” meaning our life is defined not only by happiness but also by sorrow. Therefore, I attended extra study sessions during that time. My teachers were my best friends who inspired me and assisted me in comprehending the new school life.

Whenever I become confused, I try to figure out my goal which is overcoming any barrier that stands in the way of my success in education. School has always been my first priority before anything. Thus, I tried to overcome any barriers for educational need during those precarious days. Education was the principle reason for our transformation to here. To be truthful, America serves as one of the preminent countries for higher education. Here, my complicated school life is now settled because of my assiduousness. My passion and mental

strength empowered my abilities to dream and hope for optimistic results. Especially, sanguinity helped me the most in my life's struggling days.

We always wish to go back in the past and make corrections for our mistakes, but it is not conceivable in real life. My life would not be stressed if I could have been here in January; at least, I would get time to elucidate critical circumstances in school. Teenage years are the best parts of our lives. However, my teenage life has become completely dissimilar than my thoughts. Looking back, I have figured out different solutions for the problems that I faced during my first school year. May be, I could stay in Bangladesh until my graduation in high School. Many students come here after they finish high school to start college directly. Moreover, two study halls provided me a freshman year with less credits. Taking classes in the summer might be tough since that was my first summer that I spent in America, my new home. Cultural differences introduced a lot of problems, because neither I have been here before nor I have ever been experienced this culture. I could not do much to change the phase. However, I still did a lot of extra work to get the credit hours that I should receive as a senior in 2011. Getting pre-calculus class in J Sergeant Reynolds's Community College enabled me to take calculus in senior year. Spanish I, which I took in summer of 2009, enabled me to aim for advanced diploma, because I have now three years of foreign language credits. Thus, my extra efforts paid me back.

I believe I have ensconced my life in a stable position. Every day I am making new friends, meeting new people and starting each morning with new dreams. I can see my success, because I have worked with my best effort. Life has changed a lot. I am now taking advanced placement classes; moreover, I got enrolled into a dual-enrollment program with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) where I can earn sixteen college credits. My career goal is

now completely set. I want to become a doctor which is the biggest dream in my life. I aim to continue my exertion until I have overcome all the obstacles and reached my goal with success.

My cultural background is also helping me to express my talents and improve myself as an artistic and qualified person for the future. Before moving here, I took acting classes in Bangladesh Shishu (Child) Academy. Moreover, I was involved in dancing and singing. Receiving an award for dancing in Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Reflections Program is a great achievement for me. Dancing is one of my hobbies. Since I am a member of US-Bangladesh Social Organization, I usually perform traditional Bangladeshi dances like I did with my friend in the last Asian Festival. Each time I perform on a stage, I get an amazing feeling for showing my talents and my culture. I know how to work with new people in different situations, because I have the aptitude to speak in Bangla, English, Urdu, and Hindi. These languages express my multilingualism and enable me to communicate with versatile people. I am now more responsible and sincere in my life, because I am a teenager with venerable parents, lovely friends and a challenging society from where the race of life starts. I am getting ready for my future career of being a doctor.

From my personal life, I know how hard it is to live in a new environment. But courage and passion are really important to overcome fear of a new place. To become successful is to become more organized and determined. If my determination is not stable, then I will not improve in my life. Moreover, I believe that everyone should treat complicated situation just like a challenge in order to achieve victory. For me, success also depends on my confidence and ability to be optimistic. No matter what crisis I had, I didn't lessen my spirit of winning my goal. I had a made well-organized plan to bring success. That is why I am now standing in this position from where I feel as if I am holding my future in the palm of my hand.

Life goes on with every complication which could not stop my motives during those critical days. Using my best determination, I have initiated a new era from where I can fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor. Believing that life is full of beauty, I am now aiming to live my life to the fullest potential, and fight for my goals like this scholarship.