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Rough draft

Moving to the United States of America

Life tends to offer new opportunities, but it is an individual decision to either grasp or leave them. Although some experiences have negative impacts, they end up bearing inspiring results. Throughout my life, I did not fancy the idea of leaving home. I was literally in a comfort zone. I was quite nervous at first moving to the United States because I was not sure how things would turn out. Leaving everything behind and adapting to a new start was not easy, but I took this opportunity to pursue my dreams. As we speak, I have two girls and I am pregnant with my third born. It is quite a hard time because it is difficult studying with my kids but I am sure I will make it because I have found a home far away from home.

My life changed back in May 2015, my husband and I moved from Jordan to Minnesota. The move was quite abrupt and I was seven months pregnant with my first born. I was very nervous because I was not sure what life had in-store in the new environment. I had to leave my close relatives, friends and focus on adapting at the new place. I could hardly sleep on the night before because so many thoughts crossed my mind. That morning, my family made sure we had our belongings and bags ready for the journey. My sister drove us to the airport so that we could catch the flight on time. The plane arrived around 6am and we proceeded to the ticket line and everything was cleared. This was the first time I had to leave my family, board a plane and travel a great distance. Eight hours later, I was in Minnesota! I couldn't believe it, I was here! The city looked beautiful, full of bright lights and magnificent buildings.

Adapting in the new environment was challenging because I had to deal with so many changes in my life. I was anxious because I didn't know anybody here and I did not know what life would be like. Also, I was worried about how we were going to live because I didn't know English, my husband didn't have a job, and we didn't have our own place to live. I had an awful experience just because I could not speak English. I vividly remember a girl that was mimicking me; I had never been so angry. Without doubt, I struggled and I could hardly mingle with people or have a conversation because I was not at ease. I had to take the bull by the horns and dedicate myself to learn how to speak and write English properly. Also, at some point I felt that I was losing my social life because the only person I could talk to was my husband. Often, I wanted his attention and help because I was heavily pregnant but he was always running errands to ensure that we are settled. Sometimes, I could have nostalgic memories of my native home, I missed being in my own house and strolling with friends chatting. Other times, I cried because I felt invisible, lonely, abandoned and everything looked empty.

At this point, I knew this was the biggest hurdle in my life that I had to overcome. I made up my mind to walk through the tunnel with the hope and faith that light would be visible someday. I wrote down my goals and told myself, "It's only me to conquer my fears, no one else will". Luckily, my husband identified his extended cousins who lived Minnesota and it was a great advantage for us in the settling process and navigating through the city. Within three months, we moved into a rental, obtained driver's licenses, and we had our first baby. As time progressed, my communication skills were improving and I could confidently converse with people. Soon, I made more friends and by the time I was having my second baby; things had started to flow because I had blended in the environment.

Moving to the United States serves as a learning experience and the results are so inspiring in my life. When I moved here I was a shy person and I never had the courage to speak in front of people because I had the impression that I could be ignored. Nevertheless, the English lessons I took assisted me to overcome shyness and now I can confidently speak in front of people without any fear. Also, my level of responsibility in life has changed because I have to make sacrifices for my job, kids and school. The journey across the dark tunnel taught me a priceless lesson on confidence and constant dedication in life. Indeed, moving to the United States has made me a better person because it has changed my perspective about various issues in life. The experience served as an opportunity to change my life style, meet people from different parts of the world and expand my education. I have become a social butterfly and I now enjoy learning new and exciting things. I am forever grateful for the chance despite the challenges.