

GARVIN AKWOLAGA TANKEH

Seven years ago when I was in the Junior High School, a very tragic but extremely unforgettable event occurred. A promising boy, who was visibly weighed down by a large sack he was carrying, tried to cross a dusty road into a local market centre. All of a sudden, he was knocked down by a speeding truck loaded with sheanuts, vegetables, and market women. A precious life was lost. That boy had been toiling to care for himself since he lost his parents. Since then I have resolved to excel in my education to enable me help people with similar pressing challenges so that they would not risk their lives to that extent just to get an unbalanced meal a day.

However, coming from a place where poverty, illiteracy, and deprivation are rampant, pursuing such goals are both unrealistic and unheard of. Even though I finished top of my class in the West Africa Senior Secondary Certificate of Examination (WASSCE), I had no option but to eventually drop out of school due to the absence of financial support from my debt-ridden extended family. It was at that time of extreme need that Educational Pathways International (EPI) rescued me to create mixed feelings of surprise, joy, and gratitude in me. EPI has since been paying for my tuition, books and accommodation, in addition to some allowance for feeding, clothing, and general upkeep.

I may have attended school since childhood in spite of the heap of financial challenges. I may have performed excellently in class. There may be the pressing need to help save life and transform society after school. But for now, EPI is the main reason and fuel for my university education. EPI continues to keep my dreams and aspirations afloat and reachable. The mere fact that I am still in school now is a source of priceless inspiration to my age-mates who at some point in time did give up or contemplated giving up on education to persevere in difficult times. It rekindles the hopes of many other people that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Being a member of the Educational Pathways International family has been of inestimable value to all beneficiaries. The country Programme Coordinator has been giving us practical tips to help us in personal time management and goal setting among others. The application of those tips has enabled us schedule our studies and extra-curricular activities in a much more effective way. EPI has directly transformed our lives through many of such acts of sheer benevolence and philanthropy.

For the positive impact EPI has made on society through the members of the EPI family, our current generation and posterity would find it so overwhelming to recount all their life-changing experiences. EPI is touching lives in an unparalleled manner.

I, like many other beneficiaries, come from rural communities where success is rare and so deemed miraculous. EPI is on a noble and laudable course that will eventually lift such communities out of poverty and illiteracy. With many more “EPIs”, the world will be a better place to live.

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