## Learning Has Changed My Life

I want to share how learning has changed my life, and talk about my education plans. My goal in life is to be the best person I can be. I try to be modest, passionate, devoted, hardworking and honest.

I'm from the Middle East(Iraq), it is called Mesopotamia. We speak Aramaic (mother tongue). This language is widespread only in the Nineveh Plain and is very old. The second language is Arabic, which we learn in schools. My family has been cultivating the land and raising livestock for generations.

My father was a physician's assistant in my city. My mother was a housewife. They both love their occupation. The values I have learned from my parents are to be hardworking and passionate.

I have four brothers and two sisters. I studied at school in my town. I graduated from university after studying for four years. I remained without a stable job for more than three years until I was employed after a regime change and we had a new ruler.

After the contract, I was officially appointed to a school near my town and I taught there for about 10 years. In a short period of time, I chose UNICEF, the acceleration education program for students who left school for various reasons including security.

In June of 2014, the bombing began. We had to leave our homes without taking anything, but we did it to save our lives.

We became refugees in our country until we traveled to Lebanon. A new journey began searching for a new job and securing a living.

After a search, I worked in the embassy for about five years. I worked as a receptionist there, and I was responsible for flower and gift arrangements for the embassy officials. I had many friends of different nationalities who left a great impact in my life including: Italian, Belgian, Indian, Lebanese and French.

I arrived in Canada at the beginning of 2019, I learned English at MCAF, and I graduated in level five. I worked as a volunteer in a church all summer long, growing vegetables and working on my English skills. I actually started the WES program and have now graduated from that. I'm currently studying for my GED.

I always try to be positive. I am lucky because my family can grow and we can build a great life in New Brunswick. Some of my family went to different places. One day, I wish to visit my sister and friends in Denmark, and my old boss who found his new home in Washington D.C. I want to thank him for his support and encouragement over the years at the embassy in Lebanon. My goal is to get my GED, get a western university degree, and find a consulate job helping or teaching here.

## Afraa Yako