

Topic: My Mother's experiences during her adolescent and young adult years.

Abstract: My mother was born on November 12, 1954 in Jalisco, Mexico. She was raised with both of her parents and nine other siblings. At the age of six she started her first year in school. Since in the older days it was a custom that younger girls under the age of eighteen were getting married, my mother was proposed at the age of sixteen and got married six months later. In the first month being married to my father she followed him to the United States where she began her new life. After happily finding her first new job she was disappointed to realize how she was being discriminated as if she was not wanted.

Keywords: Education and Work, Accustom to New Life, New Work, Seeking for Progress because of Discrimination, and Personal connections.

My Mother's Experiences During her Adolescent Years

On November 12, 1954, my mother was born in Jalisco, Mexico. She was raised with both of her parents and nine other siblings. During the age of six years old, she attended her first year in school. She always wanted to attend school because she liked to learn new things and make new friends. It was the one important thing that she looked forward to doing everyday because not only did she enjoy attending school but it was a way of her getting out of her small home that was full of children including both of her parents. However, at the age of twelve years old being done with her fifth grade year she was not able to continue school because my grandparents asked her to start working since she was the fourth oldest. My grandparents at the time were struggling to maintain enough income every month to be able to feed their ten children and provide them shelter. My mother was devastated to be missing out in many things that were involved in school and her friends. During her free time her sisters and neighbors were her friends who she played with and socialized with.

My Grandparents were extremely strict. My mother was never allowed to have a boyfriend or socialize with men. One day while she was working at a store, she met my father where he introduced himself and asked her to be his girlfriend and my mother accepted. She felt

that since she was not able to attend school, attend church, and anywhere that was far away from home she had something to look forward in her everyday life. However, knowing that she was not allowed to have a boyfriend she decided that she would see my father when my grandfather was not around. In the first month of my parents seeing each other my father proposed to my mother. He asked my Grandfather for permission and surprisingly he accepted even though he was not aware that my mother was in a relationship with my father. My grandfather never accepted his daughters to be in relationships with men but in contrary accepted marriage, which makes it an odd idea.

Six months later from being engaged to my father, they finally got married. Soon after that my father decided to migrate to the United States where he can work and save money in order to have a better life and help his single mother. My mother was scared to leave her home where she was used to living but because she was married she felt like she had no choice. Her ideas after getting married with my father was to live in Mexico like any other couple who lived in her small town. She also wanted to live near her mother and sisters where she can always communicate with them and help them with anything they needed. Instead her ideas were changed.

When arriving to the United States my mother was amazed how cleaner and beautiful her surroundings were. She felt like she was in a whole different world. She was impressed that streets were made by cement; houses were built from wood, farms were a lot greener than what she was used to seeing back at home. My mother loved everything she saw in her new home. She moved in to a small home behind a house were a family that my father knew. After living there with my father she was startled when my father wanted her to cook. Being the age of sixteen, she had no idea how to cook or any basics on how to make anything. This was something that made

my father upset because he was used to having his mother cook for him. This made my mother depressed and made her realize that she needed to learn to grow up fast emotionally. A lady who was the owner of the main house became good friends with my mother. Every day during breakfast, lunch and dinner hours she would ask my mother to help her out to cook. This lady taught my mother everything that she knew about cooking and how to clean and wash clothes. My mother felt extremely grateful and fortunate to have met this woman who taught her everything she knows today. It is everything that my grandmother was not able to teach her because she had many obligations with no time to teach my mother things that she knows now.

During the year of living here in the United States my mother received her green card. This made both of my parents happy because now she was able to find a job where she can work and help my father with bills to pay and to be able to save money. Unfortunately, she was not able to find a job where they would accept her because she was only sixteen. Not until my mother turned the age of seventeen and a half, she was able to work at Cimino Vessy Foods cleaning garlic and sorting them. My mother was surprised how difficult and tiring it was to work there from Mondays through Friday eight hours a day compared to the less difficulty it was to work at a store in Mexico.

While working in Cimino Vessy Foods my mother felt that she was not treated right because she was not able to speak fluent English. Supervisors who worked there would laugh when my mother was not able to answer them in their language. There were also women who were bilingual who always ignored my mother when she would ask them a question in Spanish. This made my mother angry and felt that she needed to learn English soon. As a result, she decided to go to the public library in Hollister where she would borrow books that came with cassettes that would help her read and learn the English language. After a year of trying to learn

English my mother was finally able to speak little English but was able to understand the language more than speaking it.

Soon after being more educated in the new language, my mother quit her job and found a new job at Try Valley Foods. She worked there seasonal for fifteen years that was held during the summer. While she was working there she felt more comfortable and was well respected. In her new work all her co workers were mostly Mexican women who she was able to relate to when they shared many stories and memories of marriages and coming here to the United States.

When my mom turned eighteen she gave birth to her first child. Taking care of her first child was challenging for her because she did not have her mother to teach her things that she needed to know to be a good mother for her daughter. But in some way she was able to do it and learned many things that made her the best parent she could be. A year later she had her second child and after she got pregnant again with my oldest brother. Nine years that has passed, she had my other older brother and then me soon after. Being raised by her I saw how great of a mother she was and experienced.

My mother went through many experiences that have made her the person that she is today, a person who is strong, caring, and brave. After all her hardships she went through she was eager to become a better person.