

Topic: My Mother's Experiences as a Pregnant Seventeen Year-Old Teenager.

Abstract: My mother experienced various hardships while being pregnant at the young age of seventeen. Unfortunately, she dropped out of school early her senior year to work to be able to support her incoming child. She was determined to go back to school so that she could be able to achieve her goal and pursue a career in order to better herself and her family.

Keywords: Postponed education, Prolonged degree, Financial need, Responsibility, Young pregnancy, Young mothers, and Self motivation.

There are many hardships our guardians had to surpass to reassure our lives were ten times better than theirs were during our present age. My mother began her struggles at a very early start, but knew she had to take charge and pursue a better future, not only for herself, but for the family she desired to have one day. She did not only struggle with knowing that she had a child on the way, but with other problems ranging from being financially unstable to not even having a source of transportation to places where she needed to go.

At the age of sixteen, my mother married my father and had mostly everything going for her but when she turned seventeen she became aware that she was going to give birth; therefore, she lost it all. She dropped out of high school as a senior to work at my grandfather's bakery to try to earn a descent amount of money so she could support her

incoming child. During this time, she was taking the bus to go back to school to get her G.E.D. She knew by doing so that it would bring her one step closer to achieving her goal of making a career for herself.

In 1991, my mother had me, her first child, and began her journey to achieve higher education. She finally managed to buy herself a vehicle in which she put use to start attending Cabrillo College, but still maintained time to work as well. Two years later in 1994, my sister was born. Even though she brought another life into this world, she still managed to balance her daily schedule; however in 1996 she began to go through unbearable hardships with my father; hence, she felt it was appropriate and necessary to file for divorce. In 1997 she met my step father, which was the same year that my brother was born. Four years later, In 2001, life was once again brought into this world, were my other brother was born, yet my mother continued to attend school. She did her school work while her kids completed theirs, as she passionately cared for all four of her kids.

That same year she finished all of her schooling; it may have taken her a total of ten years, but she managed to get it done and graduated from Cabrillo College with her degree in nursing. Throughout this time, she kept a positive mindset and didn't give up. Even though there might have been times where she wanted to give up because it was difficult; but didn't because every time she would look at the face of one of her kids she would get the determination to block out all those thoughts of giving up, and strive to succeed.

My mother went through many experiences as a pregnant seventeen year-old. They may have not all been very happy experiences, but the outcome in the end was relieving. She managed to achieve her goal in attaining a career, and was now able to

better her life, as well as the life of her kids.