

# Nothing can limit your dreams

Hello everyone! **My name is Ari Puguh** from Indonesia, and I am 20 years old. I would like to share part of my life story with you. Especially for those of you who live a poverty stricken life.



I was born into an average, normal family consisting of my mother, father, two older brothers, and 1 younger brother.



My dad was a worker in a factory, and my mom was a housewife. Everything was fine and fun, even though we did not have extra money for going on vacation, buying toys in shops or even just eating out at a restaurant.

Nevertheless, we were fine with this because all that mattered was that our family was in good health and that we could still eat from day to day.



When I was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade of elementary school, things began to change. My dad was laid off from the factory where he worked because there was a monetary crisis in our country, which impacted many industries including the factory in which my father had worked. After that, he started to work as a motorcycle driver. I was consistently bullied, even by my own friends, because of the career my dad was forced into. Regardless, I kept my head high and did not let this bother me.

As time went on, things did not get better. We found out that my dad decided to live with his new family and leave my mother without any divorce statement. My mom struggled to take care of everything for the family by herself. Without a job it was extremely difficult financially.

A year later, my mom decided to move my family to our Grandparent's house because the living costs were significantly cheaper in their area.

I was there for only a year, and then I had to move to live with my aunt and uncle in Sumatra Island because my mother could not afford the education costs for all of her children. I know it was in her best interest for me to get a better education and life, but it was still so hard to live without my mom and brothers by my side. My aunt and uncle have a daughter, who did not like my presence amongst her family. While I can understand this, it truly hurt and I cried most of the time.



In the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade of junior high school, my mother died and I was not able to be by her side when it happened. Since then, I have promised to myself that I want to make my family proud, especially her. My dad showed up at the funeral, but after that I never saw him again. I continue to live with my aunt's family. I do not want my life to be seen as a sad story, so I keep moving on and cheer myself up.



Since I was child I have had a big dream to see the world and explore it. I love to have new experiences and learn new things in different countries. At this time there were a lot of people who laughed at my dream because they know about my financial condition.

Last year, in 2012, I had the chance to be an exchange student in Thailand and prove that my dream was becoming reality. It was one of the best times of my life. Even now I still work on my dream to fully become true. I do not stop myself from dreaming to explore the world. I do not stop myself from dreaming to explore the world.



Overall, what I would like to share with you is that you should never give up on your dreams and should always keep your spirit on fire. Bad and sad things happen in life.

It is normal to feel sad about it, but we should not dwell on it.

We all need to move on. You have to have dreams and goals in your life, no matter who you are or where you come from.

Poverty and financial problems do not limit us on making our dreams come true.

**Everyone has a right to dream.**

**I truly believe that when there is a will then there is a way.**