



# Small little steps to the goal

I said to my mother I am too young to work and I want to study more

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Marist Asia Foundation

[www.maristasiafoundation.org](http://www.maristasiafoundation.org)

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My name is Thu Thu Mon. I was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1995. I lived with my Aunty in Kawthaung, Myanmar since I was three years old and studied there. I studied primary and secondary school at Kawthaung. In summer holidays I used to visit my parents in Ranong, Thailand.

In June 2007, my Mother asked me to study in Ranong. The head teacher of Soi-jet Learning Center sent me to join English class at Ranongthani Learning Center which Marist Asia Foundation provided.

In 2008, I studied at Marist Asia Foundation. In that year my mother asked me to work but I do not

want to work. I said to my mother that I am too young to work and I want to study more. She asked me to choose between education and Mother. She gave me two choices to choose. If I study, she will not allow me to call her Mother. I am allowed to call her Mother if I work. I did not know what to choose but I went to school as usual.

One day my Mother told me that I am giving more importance to an education than the Mother. At that moment I did not know what should I say. Should I need to say sorry to her or not? Then I immediately told my Mother please let me study, I will not ask for pocket money, I will not ask for new uniforms or stationeries. I told her that I will help myself.

One day my parents separated and my Mother go away from home. We all have to live with our Father. From that day I have to take care my sister and my brother. My sister and I have to work on weekends and take care of house. Even though I live with my father, I go to school everyday. I keep in my mind that only education can change my life in the future.

After I finished year 4, Teacher Irene from Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) offered me a job to teach at Bangklang Learning Center. My first day of work was great because I joined Ngao Learning Center's parents' meeting and I started to learn more about migrant families. Now I am a teacher as I wish and helping my own people in Ranong.



"Education is the most powerful weapon with which you can change the world."

Nelson Mandela