

## **My Life**

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## **MY LIFE UNTIL NOW & LESSONS LEARNT AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY**

In this autobiography, I will talk about my life until this point in time. I am Samuel Waithaka Ndigirigi. I was born on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2001, in Murang'a county. Being born a Kenyan, my mother is from Murang'a-Kenya as is my father. In my childhood, I experienced life to its fullest. I have travelled and lived in various parts of the great country Kenya in my prime years as a child. I began my life as an infant at the Central Kenyan parts only to take a breath of it air and be relocated to Nairobi. I grew up in the land of opportunities for half of my life and began my journey across the country at about 8 years old. Now, I am studying Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at Dedan kimathi university of Technology in Nyeri. Growing up, mostly in Nairobi, I lived in a typical house in a middle-class family. My father works as a Fireman at the Nairobi county government, and my mother is a businesswoman with her own business. I grew up with two other siblings; a brother and a sister. We all got on very well while growing up educating each other and experiencing life together. Balancing academics with a bustling family life has been no easy feat. My two siblings, each with their unique personalities and dreams, have been both a source of inspiration and occasional distraction. Yet, the love and camaraderie we share are the cornerstones that keep me grounded as I navigate the demands of university life. Currently I am 22 years of age. I have always enjoyed education, ever since being a young child. This is due to the fact that I got to learn something new each day growing both physically and mentally. I began my education in PCEA Kariobangi North Academy for my pre-school education. I transferred to Vidhu Ramji Academy where I studied as a boarding student in class 6 to class 7. The beginning of my boarding life was quite a hassle due to various difficulties and first life experiences such as how itchy a bedbug bite can be rather than being painful. The dread of mosquitoes feasting on me and my fellow students' blood through our supple skin every night. I completed my primary studies with my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam (KCPE).I managed to get into the Murang'a High School after being successful in my national exams. During my high school years, I was never a popular child at the beginning of my school days. I used to spend most of my free time in the school library as this was the storage of the vast knowledge obtained in this world. The school librarian seemed to have noticed my thirst for the books' content and allowed me to take as many books as I wanted. She was a cool librarian. Though, she only twisted the school's regulations for me at times. I was academically strong throughout my years in secondary education. I have never been held back a grade, in which many of my classmates were especially in my primary school years. I have been studying hard from the age of 3 to this day. My specialty in academics is mathematics. I led the School for a while and decided to focus on my studies due to the advancing National examinations or the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Exams (KCSE). I completed my high school studies by graduating successfully into the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology for my study into mechanical engineering. I have managed to complete four years of the vigorous studying and

training with only one left to graduate as a Mechanical engineer. The journey was tough due to the variation in the country's economy but just a little more for me to get past the storm. As the years passed, my interest in machines and how they worked grew. It was clear to me that I wanted to delve deeper into the world of mechanical engineering. With unwavering support from my family, I set my sights on pursuing higher education in this field. The journey from a high school graduate to a mechanical engineering undergraduate was filled with challenges, late-night study sessions, and a determination to turn my passion into a profession. Now, as an undergraduate student in mechanical engineering, I find myself surrounded by the hum of machines and the excitement of discovery. University life has brought new friendships, challenges, and opportunities for personal and academic growth. The long hours spent in labs, collaborating on projects, and absorbing the wisdom of my professors have shaped me into a more resilient and knowledgeable individual. Sometimes I reflect on my formative years as a church leader during high school. This role not only introduced me to leadership responsibilities but also fostered a sense of community and shared purpose among my peers. As the Academics captain, I took readers on a journey through the intricate dynamics of high school life. From navigating academic challenges to fostering camaraderie among students, I explored the responsibilities and joys of being a leader within the school community. I managed to join the choir and found my voice – quite literally. I managed to explore the art of music, from learning the intricacies of singing bass to the joys of performing and collaborating with fellow choir members. Music became the backdrop for shared experiences and lifelong friendships. Upon entering university, I delved into the diverse social landscape that awaited. I shared the enriching experience of learning Dholuo, a language spoken by friends. This linguistic journey broke down cultural barriers, fostering cross-cultural friendships, and broadening my worldview. The football field transformed my life into a canvas for creativity and camaraderie. I recount the laughter-filled afternoons spent playing football with friends and brothers, where we not only enjoyed the sport but also invented new games that became cherished traditions. I also enjoyed and loved rugby. Rugby became a common thread connecting friends, especially at school. I explored the exhilaration of competitive games, the shared triumphs and defeats, and the enduring bonds forged over the rugby field. Throughout my growing period, I interweave lessons learned from leadership roles, musical collaborations, linguistic adventures, and sportsmanship. These lessons become the guiding principles that shape my understanding of the importance of community, teamwork, and cultural exchange. From church congregations to football fields, these friendships serve as the pillars that support the tapestry of my social life. I am vast in various languages mainly bound within our great country Kenya. I am quite fluent in the international language of English and quite vast in our national language of Swahili. I can also speak and read Kikuyu fluently. Thus, I also enjoy our national heritage of African cultures and languages. Reimbursing myself in research analytics and design is merely my way of escaping the nature of reality for a short while. It's my way of relaxing - as other people enjoy watching X Factor and Netflix programs. My day usually consists of 3 hours of online research and writing on Fridays, then 10 hours of lectures scattered throughout the entire mid-week. I enjoy learning something new every day. My aim in the future to become a Mechanical engineer. I am considering opening my own engineering firm and being my own CEO managing my engineering endeavors. This will also allow me to further focus on my designing and research for my engineering aims and objectives. My engineering journey led to my growth both mentally and skill wise. Proficiency in SolidWorks and Inventor design software emerges as a foundational skill, laying the groundwork for this career marked by precision and innovation. The of mastering SolidWorks and Inventor CAD design enhanced my creativity by showcasing these tools as not just software but instruments for translating creative

concepts into tangible engineering solutions. My expertise in arc and gas welding, portraying the fusion of creativity and technical skill grew exponentially and keeps on growing as I keep the engineering fire burning as I learn new methods of fusion welding. Welding has become more than a profession; it has become an art form, with each weld representing a connection between my engineering principles and hands-on craftsmanship. Welding and design skills led to proficiency in my innovative practice. In either the conceptualization of new welding techniques or the designing of cutting-edge components, I explore the synergy between creativity and engineering precision. From designing components to troubleshooting mechanical systems, the challenges and triumphs of working on the frontlines of technological advancement in the automotive industry was quite exhilarating. Innovative practices were required as a basic need to troubleshoot the high-end automobile challenges of vehicle operation. Hand-on skills in repair and replacement of vehicle components are a necessary skill in the automobile industry with visual inspection and analysis as the master tool for ascertaining appropriate vehicle condition. My experiences at KPLC, emphasized the practical applications of my engineering skills from conceptualizing designs on the screen to welding and assembling components on the workshop floor, this led to the application of the seamless integration of theory and practice. The automotive training accelerated me into the future, of exploring my vision for the role of engineering in shaping tomorrow's technologies. The inventive and innovative skills gained will contribute to sustainable automotive solutions and pioneering advancements that align with the evolving landscape of the engineering industry.

## **CONCLUSION**

As I conclude, I reflect on the symphony of memories created through leadership, music, language, and sports & and on my engineering journey. Each experience contributes to the unique melody of my life's journey, leaving behind a harmonious legacy of shared experiences and meaningful connections. The journey from aspiring engineer to a professional proficient in design, welding, and automotive engineering is one I always reckon. The bridges built, challenges overcome, and the relentless pursuit of excellence that define my engineering career as they all fueled my engineering light. This autobiography acts as a blueprint for future engineers and enthusiasts. The autobiography serves not only as a personal narrative but as a testament to the limitless possibilities within the dynamic world of engineering. The story is an invitation for others to join in crafting dreams, pushing boundaries, and engineering a future where innovation knows no limits.