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07/22/2024

Scholarship Committee

[University/Organization Name]

[Address]

Dear Members of the Scholarship Committee,

My name is Lima Sahibzada, and I am writing to apply for the scholarship program for higher education. As a young Afghan woman from Kabul, my journey is marked by perseverance, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to education and empowerment for myself and my fellow Afghan women.

From a young age, I harbored dreams of becoming a doctor. Despite the challenges, I remained steadfast in my studies, motivated by the encouragement of my family and friends. Their words of praise fueled my determination, propelling me to excel academically. Although I did not initially rank among the top students, their support inspired me to strive for excellence. By the time I reached sixth grade, I had become the top student in my class, and I began tutoring my classmates, which not only enhanced my understanding of the subjects but also provided me with the means to buy essential study materials and motivational books like Malala Yousafzai's story.

As I progressed through school, the importance of education became even more evident. In Afghanistan, the final years of high school are crucial in determining one's future, and I was determined to take the Kankor exam to pursue my dream of higher education. However, my family's traditional beliefs posed a significant obstacle. They believed that education beyond high school was unnecessary for a girl. Despite my passion and self-study efforts, they arranged my engagement at the age of 17, putting an end to my aspirations of becoming a doctor.

Marriage brought new responsibilities, and soon after, I became a mother. My husband's views mirrored those of my family, and he discouraged my educational pursuits. Yet, I refused to let go of my dreams. I continued to study English on my own, clinging to the hope of a brighter future. This determination led to conflicts in my marriage, eventually resulting in my husband's departure and my separation from my son. Despite these hardships, I remained resolute in my commitment to education and empowerment.

In the face of adversity, I founded the Afghan Women Opportunity HUB, a WhatsApp group dedicated to inspiring, educating, and empowering Afghan women and girls. Over the past three months, I have connected with over 150 women, providing them with support, education, and a sense of hope. Through private sessions, I have helped them navigate extreme stress and socio-economic challenges. This initiative is a testament to my belief that there are opportunities even in the most difficult situations.

Living with my parents after my husband left, I have managed to support myself through online education and occasional sales of traditional Afghan clothing. However, these efforts are not enough to sustain my ambitions. My ultimate goal is to establish a robust network that provides Afghan women with social, economic, and human rights opportunities. To achieve this, I need the resources, mentorship, and higher education that this scholarship offers.

My journey is not just about my personal struggles; it is about the collective dreams and aspirations of millions of Afghan women and girls. I have sacrificed my family and endured immense hardship to stand as a beacon of hope for others. Through my initiative, I have already made a significant impact, helping many women find educational opportunities and even preventing suicides. My story is a testament to the power of education and the transformative effect it can have on a community.

As a traditional Pashton girl, I understand the cultural barriers that prevent many Afghan women from seeking education and empowerment. Despite these challenges, my family now supports my mission, recognizing the positive impact I am making. They see the potential for a better future for Afghan women through my efforts.

In the beginning, my family and husband were against my education, but now that I am leading an increasing number of disadvantaged Afghan women and girls and sharing their stories with my family, my parents see my ambition to be a changemaker in our society. I am determined to establish my network, provide advocacy, raise funds, and initiate sustainable programs to help millions of Afghan women and girls. This scholarship is a great opportunity for me to gain higher education, find mentors, and expand my initiative.

My story is not only about me; it is about a mother who sacrificed her family and her son to stand for millions of Afghan women and girls. Instead of succumbing to despair, I chose the path to help others so they wouldn't become victims like me. If I didn't have this vision and belief in my capabilities, I would have already given up. I have helped hundreds of Afghan women and girls get educated, find online education, and focus on their futures. As we say, there is light after darkness. I have even helped girls who wanted to commit suicide, and I am their first point of support.

As a traditional Pashton girl, due to pride and honor, we don't have reliable mediums to share what we are suffering, and we are not allowed to step out of the four walls of home. But now my family trusts me and realizes what I am capable of. I am requesting you to highly consider my application so that I can be the light and future for millions of deprived Afghan women and girls. As a local traditional girl, I understand and know the problems of my fellow Afghan women and girls who no one has yet heard. Even though I am not allowed to share their stories, I want to be their role model so that they believe in a better tomorrow.

My parents support me, as there were days when only my earnings were financially supporting my family. Even my aged father and young brother couldn't help us. After my in-laws took my son and my husband left me permanently, I had nothing to support myself financially. I was abused, disrespected, and seen negatively, even by my own family and relatives. But now, after I have navigated my path and believe in the future I am building, everyone is counting on me.

I am writing this letter with tears in my eyes, driven by the hope that you will consider my application favorably. This scholarship represents more than just an educational opportunity; it is a chance to bring about real change for Afghan women and girls. I am determined to expand my initiative, raise funds, and create sustainable programs that will empower countless lives.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to further discuss how my experiences and vision align with the goals of your esteemed institution.

Sincerely,

Lima Sahibzada

Kabul, Afghanistan