Lien

Vietnam

Quote: “Who would have thought that at the age of 43, after having two adult children, I would be offered the opportunity to learn again?”

Sentence: In addition to increasing her skills at managing her finances, P.A.C.E. helped Lien realize the importance of taking care of her health

As the seventh of eight children, I am used to taking the backseat in life. My parents did not have a lot of money, and only my brothers had the opportunity for higher education. Who would have thought that at the age of 43, after having two adult children, I would be offered the chance to learn again? I didn’t know much about what P.A.C.E. was, but I jumped at the opportunity right away. During the program, I learned how to manage my finances better and prioritize my spending. I used to get frustrated because no matter how hard I worked, there never seemed to be enough money for the family. But now I know that how we manage our expenses really makes a difference. Like any parent, I would really love to give my children the best education possible. I think it’s important to be well educated – I only learned about the importance of keeping myself healthy when I participated in P.A.C.E. I am proud of the knowledge I now have. My husband and children keep telling me what a good wife and mother I am, and that makes me really happy.

Note:

In Lien’s original text, she included this sentence about money:

But now I know it’s not how much we earn that makes the difference, it is how we manage our expenses that matter.

I tweaked this a bit as I didn’t want to quote her saying that it doesn’t matter how much money she earns – this gets into some sensitive territory about what women garment workers are paid. I just changed the sentence slightly to focus on the key idea – that what matters is how you manage your expenses. Just wanted to run this by everyone……