

Honourable UNICEF Representative Mr. Abdelmajid Tibouti
Honourable Guests and students.

You might have seen me before on various magazines and newspapers, television and radio. In 1987 I moved to Addis Ababa and I used to make my living shining shoes. Then, while working as a listro (shoe-shine) I began to take night classes. I used to trade various commodities on the side. I continued like this for seven years and after I had saved a certain amount of Birr, I decided to open a restaurant. At the present moment I own my own restaurant and have a few employees under me.

What I want to say to you is that our country is poor, but if we just keep quiet and accept her poverty we there will not be any solution. We must work hard at whatever type of work we are engaged in – however little it may be, and do well. When I look at our desire to work it is not very encouraging. We even insult those who are actually working. We should be encouraging those who work. At all times our goals and objectives should be for a positive end. Any individual needs to do well in whatever vocation he is engaged in. When we are strong the number of street children could decrease. We have to get rid of any addictions that we may have.

Thank you for listening to me.