

"I WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL"

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00.02.00	CAPTION	<p>IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONLY ONE GIRL OUT OF TWO GOES TO SCHOOL</p>
00.02.09	narration	<p><i>Although every child has the right to go to school, girls throughout the world have to struggle to be allowed an education. Akhi, Aisata and Akisa are just three of the girls who have had to make an extra effort to go to school.</i></p>
00.02.37	she	<p><i>Akhi is one of the 300 million children in the world who have to work instead of going to school. She lives in Bangladesh in Asia where</i></p> <p><i>she</i></p> <p><i>went to school until her father became ill.</i></p>
00.02.53	girl/voice-over	<p>My name is Akhi Kajol. I am 12 years old and I live in Dhaka – the capital of Bangladesh. I get up at 5 in the morning at the call to prayer. And I start my day by reading the</p>
00.03.04		Koran.

00.03.10

In the morning after prayers I help my mother with the chores. I fetch water, chop vegetables, and cook. But I can't do much, because I have to get to the factory on time.

00.03.25

I am the only person in my house who can read, so mum asked me to read her a letter from my brother. He lives somewhere else. My family is made up of my father, my mother, four sisters, and one brother. My brother writes that he wants dad to send him some money ...
But my dad is ill ... a car hit him while he was on his rickshaw. Dad says I must write to my brother that he is getting better and my brother should come home soon. My brother is at college. But I left school after two years to earn money for my family.

00.04.31

My younger sister can go to school now – because I work. On my way to work I take her to school. I went to school for two years – but I don't go any more. Because of my dad's accident. I had to get a job at the match factory.

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A whole crowd of us get to the factory at once. We work all day. If we start at 7 in the morning, we all

leave together at 5. But sometimes we work till 7 in the evening.

00.05.26

In the morning we start by taking matches from the tray and putting them into the boxes. If there aren't any matches ready we go upstairs, fetch a new tray, and put it by our places. Then we're ready to assemble matchboxes.

They check to see that we're working fast enough. Everything we do is checked twice a day.

After the check we hand the matchboxes to the packers. Then they're ready to be sold in the shops.

00.06.00

I've been working at the factory for a year now. Every day I think of ways of going back to school.

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I work so my sister can go to the little school next door where we live.

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It was started so that child workers could have lessons. We can go there for two years and then move on to the big school. I spent two years there before I started at the factory.

00.06.42

We learn to read and write and lots of other fascinating things.

I like the Meena cartoons because they are about our own problems.

The cartoons say that girls and boys should have the same rights. I agree.

Because in real life the boys always come first.

00.07.06

We watch cartoons at school as well. I think it's fun because they're about us and our right to go to school. After two years at the little school we can go to an ordinary school. I hope I'll soon be allowed to. But for now I've got to go to work at the factory because dad is still off work.

00.07.30

Now I've got to go to the checker who will count if I've done the number of boxes I have to make. Some of us make up to 3000 matchboxes a day. It really depends on how good you are at it. If I work from 7 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon I can make 2500 boxes. If I work from 7 to 7 I can make 3000. And if I work really well I can make even more boxes – thus more money. And if I don't work so fast I don't earn so much. We get paid every two weeks. I can make 5 US dollars in a fortnight – or about 50 cents a day – if I'm lucky. But sometimes I only make half of that, because I can't work that fast.

00.08.31

I often go to my old school to get help from the teacher. I ask her if she'll talk to my parents so I can leave the factory and start school

again. She says it's time to go back to school and stop working at the factory. Today she says she'll come home with me and my sister to talk to Mum.

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I really hope she'll be able to persuade my mother to let me go back to school. The teacher says it's important for all girls to go to school and parents should help them to do so. Mum understands but says that because my dad is ill we're short of money for food and that's why I was sent to work at the factory. But when he recovers I'll be able to stop working at the factory.

00.09.26

After a year Dad is better. He can ride his rickshaw and I am leaving the factory.

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I'm really pleased because I won't have to go to work any more. Now my sister and I will both be able to go to school.

00.09.57

Today Mum and the teacher are taking me to the new school I'm starting at. And I hope I'll be able to stay there for many,

00.10.05

many years ...

00.10.23narration

Aisata has always wanted to go to school. But her parents, until now, have refused to give her permission. They need her manpower in the village in Mali, West Africa. She is now 15 years old. But from as early as the age of 8, she has dreamed of going to school.

00.10.57 girl/voice-over

I have always wanted to go to school. Since I was only 8 years old I have dreamt about it. There is a school here in the village where there are already a lot of girls. My father and mother don't want me to go to school. There are four boys and two girls in my family. The boys go to school but the girls aren't allowed to.

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When I ask my father, he says that girls shouldn't go to school, because a girl who has been to school will feel superior and then she won't marry the man her father chooses. If he gives me permission to go to school, he also thinks that I will then continue my education in the city and not come back to the village. And that I will find a man in the city and get married there. He says that it's like losing a daughter.

00.11.56

My mother won't give me permission to go to school either.

She says that if I go to school I will no longer help to wash clothes, fetch water and pound grain.

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My father says that boys who go to school bring home what they have learnt and share it with the family. A girl who goes to school takes what she has learnt with her to the village where her new husband lives and her knowledge only benefits his family. Therefore my father thinks it's a waste letting me go to school. It's better for my family to let me work than to go to school.

My father also says that it's easier for men to tell girls what to do if they don't have an education. It is difficult to dominate girls who are educated, he says.

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But although my father says these things, I still want to go to school.

00.12.58

It's now seven years since I should have started at school. I am 15 years old and have never learnt to read and write like some of my friends. I am very sad about that.

Now I am forced to stay here in the village. I cannot go anywhere else. If I had learnt to read and write, things wouldn't be so strange.

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When I have children they will certainly be allowed to go to school.

Although my father thinks that school is only for boys. I should just think about marrying a man from our tribe and having children, he says – and learns some practical things that can help our family and village to have a better life.

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My friend tells me that the school is now starting a reading course for older girls like me, who also have to work in the village.

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I would really like to join that new course, then maybe I can still manage to learn to read and write. The course also deals with many practical things which we can use every day in the village....How to plant trees and grow vegetables in the dry soil.

00.14.46

I think that it's these practical things that have convinced my father, because he says that I can take part in the evenings. The course runs for 2 hours late in the day, after I have finished working. My father has agreed that I can learn some practical skills which my family can benefit from and it doesn't matter if I learn to read and write at the same time. That's what a school should be used for, he says.

- 00.15.12 So now I dare to go to the school and ask if I can have a place on the course for older girls.
- 00.15.20 The headmaster says it's a good idea, since I'm too old to start in the first class with the younger children anyway. The new course for older girls who also have to work at home, suits me better.
- 00.15.33 My father has fortunately finally said yes. Now I'm just looking forward to starting. It will be great to learn something new.
- 00.15.49 narration *Akisa went to school until she was 13 years old and gave birth to her son. Then she no longer had the money or the time to go to school. But even a young mother has the right to an education, and so, with help, Akisa was able to return to school. But what is it like being a young mother at school in Uganda in Africa?*
- 00.16.13 I'm called Akisa. I'm 16 years old. I live in Uganda, Eastern Region.
- 00.16.24 Unfortunately I was raped on the way from the well. I was only 13 years when I was raped. This man has run away.. he ran away up till today. He's not been seen - now I remain with the child.. alone. And I don't have any way I could help this kid. It is a baby boy.

- 00.16.48 And in Africa if you produce a baby boy, it is so difficult. The home people they cannot allow that kid to stay in that land. Since he has no father, I'm now the mother and the father at the same time. So I have to struggle to buy for him a land, where he can stay when he grows up.
- 00.17.23 As I got pregnant I had to leave the school. I was at home for two years without schooling. Because at that time there was not anyone who could pay for my school fees. I had to struggle so hard in order for me to get my school fees.
- 00.17.43 Me with my friend Juliet – we went at the Young Mothers' Centre to look for some help – how we can go back to school.
- 00.17.51 100% - Okay, you are welcome!
- 00.17.55 - Last year, Phibby, you helped us with good ideas for the contribution to our school fees. But now we're in trouble. The new year is coming, we are now in S. 2, but how can we get school fees? Can we go to the same people?
- 00.18.12 - Yes, you will have to go back to the same people... you beg around to

get fees. You remember the lady who helped you a lot with fees? But if you don't get enough, I'll have to contact the overseas donors, so that we can top up your money and you go back to school.

00.18.36 girl/voice-over

When we go to Young Mothers' Centre we get help and advice how we can raise our money for school fees and how we can help our children and our lives.

00.18.46 100%

- Madam, last time you helped us and paid for our school fees. Could you help us and pay for us this time also?

....we are going to work very hard....

00.18.58 girl/voice-over

I'm actually happy when I'm leaving the village to school, because I'm avoiding digging, fetching water two kilometres away from home, collecting firewood, cooking lunch and supper, digging most especially...it's not easy.

00.19.19

Me with Juliet, we have not told anybody at school that we have babies, because if we tell them they will laugh at us, they will begin back-biting us, talking our names around. So we are so afraid of telling those people that we are having babies.

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The problem is leaving my son when I'm going to school. Every time when I come for holidays I find my son is in very bad condition. He has worms, he has bad hair...yellow-yellow like that, and sometimes he is looking shabby. His condition is not good when I'm not there.

00.20.06

He has to stay with my mother at home, and I have to leave for school. Then the baby will begin crying. And I feel bad about that. I feel like I'm a bad mother. I get so confused. I want to go – I want to remain with my kid at home. But for the future I need to be in that school.

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At (the) trading centre they were calling me a second-hand, a useless person. But now people are kneeling for me, they're greeting me in good manners. They never expected me to be in such a school, so they are so proud of me if they see me. They can't believe that this was a useless girl – a second-hand girl ... they can't believe.

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The school is very strict. At the parade the prefect is supposed to comment about those girls who behave badly.

- 00.21.13 100% - We have started receiving complaints that you girls have no respect for these cooks....
- 00.21.22 I'm now in S. 2. At least I'm remaining with three more years ...to go. We... with Juliet – we are so proud of our lives, because in our village we are the only two girls who are in the most powerful school – that's Tororo Girls' School. Very many people they cannot manage to afford to bring their daughters in such a school which we are in now. So in the village they respect us so much. At school they are so proud of us to see us also ...poor people in such a school.
- 00.21.52 I have learnt more about life, because now I can stand in public and I speak...
- 00.22.00 This debate is about if White people they did more good than harm in Africa.....
- 00.22.08 - I'm opposing that...They brought new crops. For example in Uganda we had...okay...some few crops. But when they came they brought new crops - like rice....
- 00.22.23 One thing I think that when I am at boarding school Joseph doesn't get enough food. And the roof of our

hut is leaking (linking), and at night coldness can enter and attack Joseph sometimes. That's why he falls sick. And he doesn't get enough food, when I'm not there.

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I have to share books with Juliet, and sometimes I can find when I want to read, she also wants to read, so we struggle to get the books for reading.

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Now in our village, girls are suffering. They are getting married at 15 years. They don't have this chance of education, but me, I thank God really, I've got this chance of educating myself.

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I've found out that to make a better life and to be a good mother, you have to be educated.

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If we want to talk about our children, we talk about our children at prep-time. We can be close to each other and we talk about Malvine and Joseph.

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At night when I'm going to sleep – after my prep-time – I always think about Joseph. I say, Oh Lord...now, I don't know. I just surrender everything to God's hand, when I think about Joseph.

- 00.24.21 100%
When I was coming to school Joseph told me that "Please, Mummy, don't leave me alone". I told him, "Look, Joseph, they don't allow you in Tororo Girls' School. They allow only us, so please, just bear the situation and stay with (my) mummy at home." The boy began crying. So even...when he was crying I also cried. It was so painful for me.
- 00.24.54
I feel well, but I don't know the life of the kid. He is facing a hard situation, and sometimes I can think...I can end up crying, when I think of Joseph at home. He is facing a very hard life.. no food – the land is not enough, where my mother can dig and get enough food. The land is unfertile, so I don't know really, I don't know, I don't know really...
- 00.25.31
- Just put your trust in God.
God will help us, you know!!
- 00.25.38
I would like to get my own land and I build my own house... and I stay with Joseph.
- 00.25.45 100%
I want to be a businesswoman. I want to open my own supermarket that I operate in. That's the kind of thing I want to do in the future.

00.26.04

After studying in such a powerful school I'm doubting of staying again in the villages. The whole world is open for me. I want to get more education, so that I may get a better job and better life, and I may be able to care for my only one son, Joseph.