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Age: 11 years.

TITLE: My voice against violence: Unfolding Realities of change and courage.

Introduction:

My voice against violence cast a shadow over the life of communities, individuals and the society at large, manifest manifesting in curing the inflict of violence causing harm, conflict, cycles of Pain. Speaking against violence is an act of courage.

Body:

This reflects on mariam a girl of the age 12 being sent to an early marriage by her parents to a man Three times older than her.

Mariam grew up to be hardworking beautiful and respectful girl. She was loved by everybody in her town, she was also very intelligent. By the time she was in JSS 1 she performed greatly and was promoted to JSS 2, by then she was already twelve years old. Her father was a farmer and her mother a trader, she was the only girl in the family, so she was loved by her parents.

After the long holiday mariam resumed JSS 2, but during that period her father's farm did not produce well leading to a bad harvest and there was no money to feed the family, since the crops did not produce well and could not be sold for income her father had to go to his friend for money, but his friend told him to hand mariam to him for marriage.

He came home that day confused on what to do, He consulted his wife over the matter, and she advised him not to give mariam's hand in marriage. So he followed his wife's decision but soon couldn't take the hardship anymore so he gave her to his friend for





marriage. Mariam cried when she was told by her father, she was going to marry his friend, who already had three wives, But she decided not to give up, she wanted to continue her education. She decided not to return home from school the next day, she went to school the next morning but never came back home. Her mother was worried not knowing what to do she went out to search for her, meanwhile mariam's father had already started making the marriage preparations. Her mother searched round the town but didn't find mariam, she returned home sad and cried over her daughter.

Mariam had explained to her form teacher, and the teacher decide to help mariam, after school closed the teacher took the permission of the principal to take mariam home, But she took mariam to a facility in the city, where girls sit with challenges where being supported, trained and taught how to speak up for their rights.

St Mariam was amazed, she wondered how she would be helped, her form teacher left her in the care of a lady working in the facility, promising to return after explaining the issue to mariam's parents.

Mariam was taught a lot in the facility, she was even allowed to continue schooling. Mariam completed her schooling and opened her own facility where young girls where taught to speak up against violence.

Her Father could not believe what mariam did, he begged for forgiveness and began supporting her and the facility.

In conclusion:

Most young girls do not have the courage to speak up for themselves, but with the help of our voices we can change the world. Empower others and help the weak, if we begin with a little step we can succeed. Mariam was forced by her family but she chose not to, and with speaking and explaining herself to her teacher, she was encouraged and with the help of her



Teacher and the facility she ~~furthered~~ her found a new life, rekindled dreams and she finished her education and opened her own facility. When she came back to her family she was supported.

If ~~with~~ with our little voices, we will make some noise and impact others, then let's start and change reality.

For girls are also kids, And should be loved by the world. With the impact our voice against violence will surely last.