

Choose your sacred path: Children's Education in developing countries: on an example of Russia

Imagine... growing up in an urban area in a very small town somewhere in the middle of nowhere in Russia, in a place where the only way to have some food is to grow it yourself and where your bathroom is outside of your house. Yes, you have to brave the cold winter when nature calls. There are two paths that a person growing up in this area can follow. Ideally, everyone should choose their sacred path and become a better person (than his surroundings): be more open-minded and more educated. On the other hand, there aren't any possibilities to follow these idealistic dreams. Andrey is one of those people. He was born in a very small city in the countryside of Russia. He has five siblings, all from different fathers, and his mother, as you can imagine, is heavily drinking. He rarely goes to school since he is trying to find work whenever he can, just to buy some necessities. Last week, he saw some of his neighbors walking with their books and rucksacks. For the first time, he wishes to go to school and learn more. On the following day, he decided to go to school for at least a few hours.

Andrey: " Today... something so weird happened at school. A lady, very nicely dressed, was talking and everyone seemed to listen carefully. I didn't understand everything, but there were people with her who spoke another language. I have never experienced something like that before. The teacher was very happy to see me and asked to talk with the lady after the presentation."

Andrey didn't really understand what was going on. Would the teacher want his mother to come to school because of his poor attendance? The teacher explained to him that the lady came to help the children. Andrey was used to poverty and never considered changing anything. There was no time for such "thinking". Everyone around him was trying to survive. Even though his mother was totally against his going to school, as she thought that it was a waste of time, Andrey managed to do both: attending school, visiting extra classes and working as hard as he could.

As we know, hard work usually pays off.... At that time, Andrey was just going with the flow without thinking too much or maybe he just needed some attention as does every child.

Today, Andrey is contributing to help every child in Russia receive an education. He established a charity and has 20 people working for him. His mother never told him that she was proud of him, but he is giving all the love that he never received to his own children.

This story although fictional was inspired by real-life events.