

My Education *by Africa Tavaréz*

As I look back on my experience, I see several issues that made it difficult for me to complete my education. First, I grew up in a culture that is very strict with women. The only way for me to get any freedom was to leave my home and get married. I was still very young when I did that. Once I was married, I was weighed down by personal issues. I tried to be a good mom, a loving wife, and a successful student; however, I was too young and it was too much for me. Now I am older and wiser. I know more about the help that is available for women in my circumstances. I have supports in place now. With all this help, I know that I can succeed.

Africa Tavaréz is a student at Mujeres Unidas en Acción in Boston.



What Do You Think?

Here are some conversation questions to discuss with your classmates or friends....

- What are some of the things in culture that might be very strict for women?
- What kinds of personal issues do think weigh down women in marriage?
- What are some of the supports women need to succeed?