

Noreen Gore “Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny”



After I graduated high school, I became certain that I wanted to pursue a higher education. However, being an orphan, I did not have anyone to help pay my tertiary fees from. I started moving around cleaning houses for elderly people in our community. After raising a few dollars, I then applied for a place and got it.

The institution had limited accommodation, and a few were going to be picked from the system. The rest were supposed to find their own accommodation outside the campus. I was not picked. I visited the Dean of Student affairs and explained my background and told him that not giving me accommodation meant me dropping studies. He insisted that there was no way he could help, as the institution had so many students with the same challenges. On his way out, he found me seated and I pleaded for one more chance of an audience. I told him that that as they could not give me accommodation, I asked for them to give me a part time job in the institution instead. It was not their culture to offer students part time jobs. The institution decided to give me accommodation. He also told me that the institution agreed on offering part time jobs to willing students.

My first part-time job was to help pack books and clean the library. I would use this money to buy snacks to sell at the hostels to other students. This was not easy as people expect university girls to be “smart”. On the second semester through the student affairs, I requested that the institution considers offering some of the hostel tuckshops to students who could afford to manage them. This was granted and ever since then students are offered priority to rent the tuckshops and part time jobs are still being offered. This is all due to my persistence. During my studies, every orientation week I would be invited to share and encourage students not to engage in promiscuous behaviours but to be open to student councillors and to not be ashamed to sell snacks or do cleaning to help them meet their college expenses. As part of the Alumni, I still go back annually to encourage students. Many students have offered testimonies on how my advice has helped them achieve their dreams.

Noreen Sekai Gore is a holder of a Master's Degree in Strategic Management and Corporate Governance, a degree in Human Resource Management and a Diploma in Personnel Management. She is currently a lecturer at Zimbabwe Open University. Currently studying towards Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN).