

My First Step

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My father is a Japanese and my mother is a Thai. I was born in Thailand and lived there for ten years. These long ten years make me feel that Thailand has two sides; a happy side and an unhappy side.

I have parents. They are always nice to me. I eat breakfast, lunch and dinner fully every day. I live in a tall building. Sometimes I go to the sea, mountains or some other nice places for vacation. They give me very nice experiences. This is my life, the happy life.

On the other hand of my happy life, I saw people who were not happy. When I walked in the market, there were always some people sitting or lying on the streets. Some of them didn't have their parts of bodies. At other times, when we were in the car, the widows were knocked by the children selling flowers, newspapers and snack. Many boys and girls walk around and knock the car windows around to earn their money. They look just six or seven years old, maybe younger.

In my childhood, when I saw them, I always thought, "Where are your parents? My house is up there; but how about yours? Have you eaten? Why did you lose your arms and legs? I study and play a lot with my friends at school. But, what are you doing there? Why are you selling such things? Have you ever seen the sea? It's very beautiful. What is the most beautiful thing you have seen? Are you happy?" I wanted to help them and I became sad when I saw them.

People tend to forget things, good or bad when they are away. I was one of them, too. I forgot most of my feelings about poor children in Thailand while I stay in Japan. However, when I went back to Thailand last winter vacation, I saw those poor children again. When I saw them, the same feelings came back to me again; and this time, I thought I've got to do something about them. I DO know I can't change the whole situation of poverty in Thailand, but at least I can't be indifferent to them anymore. I must do

something; this speech is my first step. I hope that my words strongly impress you. I want everybody here to share my experience with your families, friends or anybody around you.