

Mentee Feature: **Ayu**

Title of Article: **Achieving Her Dream of Building her Own Family with Mentor's Guidance**

From a young age, Ms Seri Hirdayu Mohamed Kassim only has one wish, which is something she never had previously, and that is to build a happy family and to raise her children well.

As someone who previously stayed in a residential rehabilitation home and has been involved in several cases of mischief during her teenage years, her goal to build a happy family was the factor that encouraged her to change her ways when she reached adulthood.

According to Ms Hirdayu, who is 30 years old now, she was not able to achieve this goal on her own, especially since she did not have the support of her family whom she has been distant with for quite some time.

Her dream became clear only after receiving guidance from her mentor in Beautiful People who helped in planning her future.

Ms Hirdayu, who grew up with her grandmother after her parents divorced when she was 3 years old, was later housed in a residential rehabilitation home. This was due to cases of mischief in school when she was in Primary 5, and one of these cases involved the use of a sharp weapon to defend her friend at the time.

“It can be said that I was a student who was frequently punished and held back by the Discipline Master because I would often be involved in fights with other students. It is not due to ill intentions, but I wanted to help my friend who was bullied. Also, as my parents had separated and were not able to take care of me, I was taken care of by foster parents, who had other foster children.”

However, the life Ayu had with her foster family was not suitable for her. Ayu would often run away from her foster home and then be involved in gang fights during her teenage years.

Due to Ayu's repetitive negative behaviours in her foster home, she was then transferred to Hope House, a residential rehabilitation home in 2006.

This was where Ayu met her Big Sister, Irene, from Beautiful People through an empowerment camp that the residential home had organised. As compared to the treatment that Ayu had received previously, her mentor did not judge or detest any of Ayu's plans for her future.

Instead, Ayu was cared for by being provided with opportunities to engage in fun activities such as make-up and personal grooming classes, shopping and staying in local hotels.

“I did not expect that I would receive such opportunities and in being treated this way,” Ayu shared as she reflected on her negative behaviours back then.

Although Ayu was only 17 years old at the time, she had shared her life goals to Irene which was received with no judgement or objections, and that made Ayu slightly stunned.

“At the time, my future was a long way ahead. Usually, people would advise me to further my studies, but I knew that I wanted to achieve only one thing since young, and that is to have a happy family. Irene did not detest this. Instead, she guided me by helping to prepare a schedule according to my intended and projected life plan, based on the goals I wanted to achieve.”

Ayu is now working in the administrative office at KKH, alongside specialists who work with children with special needs. Ayu got married at the age of 20 years old to her husband, Mohamad Sopian Hairi, who is a technician who lived in the neighbouring block of her grandmother’s flat. They have 3 children together, aged from 5 years to 9 years old, and living in a 4-room flat at Segar Road.

Ayu shared that she is incredibly grateful for achieving what she has now, which is what she had wanted since young.

“This fate is something that is peculiar to me, and I believe that God is Giving in His own ways.”

On top of her work and family commitments, Hirdayu is currently working on launching her business in the coming future.

At A Glance (Blue Section):

- Beautiful People is a volunteer movement with the objective of building life-long relationships that will transform the lives of the mentees and the mentors.
- Starting as a programme under Beyond Social Services in 2006 with the focus on teenage girls, Beautiful People expanded into residential homes with the flagship programme ‘My Beautiful Life’ (MBL).

Other programmes that are offered:

- Families for Families
- Free for Good
- Dream Fund
- Heroes’ Journey
- Little Giant Steps
- Young Leaders

Photo Caption: When Hirdayu’s mentor agreed with her life goal of building a family (pint text)

Quote: “At the time, my future was a long way ahead. Usually, people would advise me to further my studies, but I knew that I wanted to achieve only one thing since young, and that is to have a family. Irene did not detest this. Instead, she guided me by helping to prepare a schedule according to my intended and projected life plan, based on the goals I wanted to achieve.”

Impian bina keluarga sendiri tercapai dengan bantuan mentor

SEJAK kecil, matlamat Cik Seri Hirdayu Mohamed Kassim adalah untuk mendapatkan sesuatu yang beliau tidak punyai sebelum ini, iaitu membina rumah tangga yang bahagia dan membesarkan anak-anaknya dengan baik.

Bekas penghuni rumah peralihan yang pernah terlibat dalam beberapa kes rusuhan sewaktu zaman remajanya berkata matlamat itulah yang mendorongnya untuk berubah apabila beliau mencecah peringkat dewasa pada suatu ketika dahulu.

Namun, menurut Cik Hirdayu, 30 tahun, beliau tidak berupaya melakukan itu dengan sendiri, terutamanya dengan tiadanya sokongan daripada keluarga yang hubungannya sudah renggang sejak sekian lamanya.

Impiannya menjadi nyata hanya selepas beliau menerima bimbingan oleh mentor daripada penyedia perkhidmatan sosial, *Beautiful People* yang membantunya merencanakan masa depannya.

Cik Hirdayu, yang membesar dengan neneknya setelah ibu bapanya berpisah dan kemudian mendirikan rumah tangga dengan pasangan masing-masing pada usianya sekitar tiga tahun diletakkan di dalam rumah peralihan kerana terlibat dalam beberapa kes rusuhan sejak beliau di darjah lima – salah satunya melibatkan senjata tajam kerana ingin mempertahankan temannya.

"Boleh dikatakan saya seorang murid yang sering dikenakan denda dan ditahan oleh guru disiplin sebab selalu bergaduh dengan murid lain.

"Bukan sebab saya berniat jahat sebenarnya, tapi saya nak tolong kawan saya yang dibuli," katanya.

"Memandangkan ibu bapa saya sudah berpisah dan tak berupaya menjaga saya, saya dijaga oleh ibu bapa titipan yang mempunyai beberapa anak titipan lain," tambahnya.

Namun hidupnya dengan keluarga titipan itu baginya tidak begitu sesuai.

Beliau sering melarikan diri dari rumah dan terlibat dalam kes rusuhan semasa di peringkat remaja.

Kerana tidak tahan dengan tabiat Cik Hir-

SEKILAS

- Beautiful People gerakan sukarelawan yang bertujuan bina hubungan tulen sepanjang hayat yang mengubah kehidupan pembimbing dan mereka yang dibimbing
- Bermula sebagai program di bawah pertubuhan Beyond Social Services pada 2006 dengan tumpuan beri sokongan kepada remaja perempuan, Beautiful People kini telah berkembang untuk sokong wanita dari semua lapisan masyarakat melalui program 'My Beautiful Life'
- Program lain yang ditawarkan
 - Families for Families
 - Free For Good
 - Dream Fund
 - Heroes' Journey
 - Little Giant Steps
 - Young Leaders

dayu itu, beliau akhirnya diserahkan kepada rumah peralihan Hope House pada 2006.

Di situlah beliau menemui mentor, atau 'kakak besarnya' Cik Irene daripada *Beautiful People* menerusi satu kem memperkasa diri anjuran rumah peralihan itu.

Berbanding penjagaan yang diterimanya dahulu, mentornya itu tidak pernah membuat sebarang andaian atau membantah rancangannya untuk masa depannya.

Malah beliau 'dikasihi' dengan ditawarkan pelbagai kegiatan menarik, daripada kelas-kelas solekan, hinggalah kegiatan berjalan-jalan, membeli-belah dan menginap di hotel setempat.

"Tak sangka pula saya dapat layanan seperti ini," katanya sambil menambah beliau sedar akan tabiatnya dahulu.

Meskipun berusia 17 tahun ketika itu, beliau juga berkongsi matlamat hidupnya itu kepada Cik Irene, namun langsung tidak me-



IMPIAN TERCAPAI: Cik Seri Hirdayu Mohamed Kassim bersama keluarganya, (dari kiri) Eva Nabila, sembilan tahun; Encik Mohamad Sopian Hairi, 36 tahun; Liya Zafirah, lima tahun; dan Iris Sofia, enam tahun. - Foto BM oleh KHALID BABA

nerima sebarang tentangan daripadanya hingga membuatnya sedikit terpegun.

"Pada ketika itu dan masa depan saya lagi panjang lagi. Selalunya orang akan menyuruh saya melanjutkan pelajaran, tapi saya hanya ingin mencapai apa yang saya tidak miliki sejak kecil lagi, iaitu untuk membina sebuah keluarga.

"Tapi Irene tak pula membantah rancangan saya. Dia cuma membantu saya menyediakan sebuah jadual menurut masa atau usia yang mana saya perlu mencatatkan matlamat saya pada peringkat-peringkat tertentu untuk mencapai keinginan saya itu," kata Cik Hirdayu yang kini bertugas dalam bidang perkhidmatan pesakit di Hospital Kanak-kanak dan Wanita KK (KKH) dan bekerjasama dengan pakar terapi untuk menawarkan bantuan kepada kanak-kanak keperluan khas.

Beliau bernikah pada usia 20 tahun dengan suaminya, Encik Mohamad Sopian Hairi, seorang teknisyen, yang merupakan jiran-nya di blok yang sama dengan neneknya. Mereka kini mempunyai tiga anak berusia antara lima dengan sembilan tahun, dan tinggal di flat empat bilik di Segar Road.

Cik Hirdayu berkata, beliau amat berbesar hati memiliki apa yang beliau hendak sejak kecil lagi.

"Takdir ini sesuatu perkara yang pelik saya rasa, dan Allah Maha Memberi dengan cara-cara yang tersendiri," katanya.

Selain memberi tumpuan kepada pekerjaan dan keluarga, Cik Hirdayu sedang berusaha melancarkan perniagaannya sendiri pada masa mendatang.

APABILA MENTOR AKUR DENGAN MATLAMAT HIRDAYU BINA KELUARGA

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- Cik Seri Hirdayu Mohamed Kassim.