

# Spreading the Light of Education

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As the only Canadian-born citizen in a family of Indian immigrants, my experiences growing up contrast to those of my parents and sister. Despite this clear difference in upbringing, their perspectives have been integral to the shaping of my identity. Their backgrounds have instilled a strong sense of community within me and a great appreciation for education. My family has always encouraged me to become involved in community ventures and seize all possible learning opportunities. I have been fortunate enough to participate in volunteer work and a variety of extra-curricular activities. I have dedicated a great amount of time as student council president at my high school. This position has completely altered my views on teamwork, my personal capabilities, and the love I have for my community. Student council was only my first leadership role; I became so enamored with guiding and organizing that I opened the first chapter of the Indian Umbrella Club in the Maritimes. This non-profit organization aims to provide



underprivileged children in India with an education. In the last few years we have organized several fundraisers – from gift baskets to bottle drives to

coffeehouses. My team and I have worked earnestly to raise as much money as we can. Multicultural Night is an annual fundraiser organized by the club; its purpose is to celebrate the wonderful diversity found in the city of Saint John. Through all these activities, my ultimate goal is to cultivate informed global citizens.

Education has been a cornerstone of my upbringing; my parents astutely believe that one's learning experience is never-ending. Despite my limited fluency in English during my early elementary school years, my family managed to inspire a love for reading. Although I initially struggled to communicate with my classmates, I am now a proud student in my AP English Literature class.

On my parents' suggestion, I joined French immersion in middle school which posed another challenge in my education as neither my father nor mother understood French. With perseverance and my family's support, I managed to become fluent and succeeded in multiple French oratorical competitions. They also pushed me to take part in SHAD – a summer enrichment program – which further nurtured my excitement for higher education. As I prepare for graduation this summer, I am unsure of what I will be studying, but I am certain I will be enjoying every second of my upcoming experience.

