

Beatrice bounces back!!

When 19-year old Beatrice Cherotich reported to the GEMINI tailoring department for teen mums, she was not so sure about what she wanted to achieve in life. "I'm not sure if there is life after having a baby that nobody wants...."



Beatrice is just one among many teen mothers who come to our offices in a confused state, rudderless and angry. The only thing that separates them is their attitude towards the reform program.

"I'm lucky my mother did not abandon me after I got pregnant. Although boyfriend denied responsibility, mother was able to understand my precarious situation and advice me on what to do," says Beatrice, her infant cuddling her.

Beatrice still harbors an ambition. "I wish I could complete my education. This is the only way I can make ends meet...and guarantee a better future for my daughter."

Currently she is among a group of students taking the tailoring course. She hopes to graduate and become a qualified designer. "This course has strengthened my ability to face life more positively," she says, eyes glued on her four-month old daughter.

GEMINI hopes to launch a design and dressing enterprise that will be run by teen mums like Beatrice. They will be responsible for processing clients' work, customer care, handling finances and general administrative duties.

"I'm struggling to ensure that my daughter does not miss on the most precious thing in life: education. Once employed, I will work hard to make some savings for her future."



Beatrice ponders for a while then breaks into a shy smile. "If you can, please stop more girls from getting....you know...like this," and she inflates her belly, meaning 'pregnant'.

With your assistance, GEMINI will be able to widen its net and reach to more vulnerable teen mums. We are working on a preventive program that seeks to empower high-risk girls in school.

"This will be the only way of reducing the trauma that teen mums have to undergo," says Emily Cheptoo, Project Officer. "But we know we can always count on your support."