

## Student Profile

Name: **Kate Mhango**

Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1994  
Place of Birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Father: Zifa Mhango  
Profession: Unemployed

Mother: Maureen Mhango  
Profession: Housewife

Primary School: Mumana Basic School

Secondary School: **Ibex Hill Secondary School**

2010 Level: **Grade 9**



### Family Background:

Kate lives with both her parents, and four sisters in Kaunda Square. Kate's Father, Zifa Mhango, worked for Barclays Bank until 1997 when he was retrenched. He hasn't been employed ever since then. Maureen Mhango, Kate's mother is a homemaker and so she does not contribute to the family's income.

Without a steady job, Zifa has found it very difficult to sponsor children's education. Food is hard to come by, and buying other necessities such as uniforms and books is nearly a huge struggle. At times Kate has had to go to school hungry. Three of Kate's sisters have completed secondary school and one is in grade ten. Mr. Zifa receives a monthly income of K450,000.00 (\$100) from renting out one of his houses.

Kate developed keloids behind her ears after she had her ears pierced. She went to the hospital to get them removed, however, after the operation they began to grow bigger. Her peers often made fun of her because of her appearance. This was a challenge for Kate, undercutting her confidence.

Kate has now had the keloids successfully removed and the transformation in her confidence and poise is striking. She is a self-possessed young woman and a leader among her classmates. Her mother's support has been central - through this hardship her mother has always assured her that she is beautiful and that

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what matters most is her intelligence. This support has also helped Kate value her education.

## Kate's Education:

### **Primary- Mumana Basic School**

Kate attended Mumana Basic School from Grade 1 through 7. She demonstrated a love for school and academics. She understood that education is the only thing that can get her to where she wants to go in life. Kate earned the first position in school every year except in Grade 4 when she got fourth place. Because of her mature disposition, Kate was selected as the class monitor beginning in first grade. She expressed that she has had challenges being a class monitor, especially when it comes to controlling the class, but she has enjoyed the experience. She is an academically promising young girl who is following her mother's counsel to focus on her education because she is intelligent, and put aside any negative influence from her peers that would distract her from that goal.

### **At Ibex Hill Secondary School**

#### *Grade 8*

At Ibex Hill School, Kate has been an outstanding student, excelling in her studies. In term one, she was the best student in grade 8, and in term two and three she finished second in her class. At the Ibex Hill Prize Giving Ceremony, she received the award for the best student in French in the secondary school. She is also at the top of all of her other classes—attaining first overall in her class! In the first term, she received 100% in environmental science. While she excels in all of her studies, Math and English stand out as her favorites. She says, “she has found Ibex School to be very interesting and challenging, surrounded by friendly people.”

#### Grade 8 Academic Achievements:

- Best Secondary school student in French

## Kate's Interests:

### *Extracurricular Activities*

Kate participated in the Scripture Union Club. “There, we share ideas about God and learn more about the bible.” She is looking forward to joining the chess club this year- “this is because every since I was young, I’ve always wanted to play chess, and I just want to do it.” Kate is also learning how to play volleyball and is hoping to take part in competitions in Grade 9.

## Kate's Career Interests:

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Kate wants to be a surgeon once she has completed her studies because she wants to save lives. “I wish to be a doctor when I grow up and I wish to work in Zambia, for Zambia. If I became a doctor I would form an organization that would basically be about health and good hygiene. I would make sure that everyone gets to know more about their environment and personal hygiene because that is one of the things my community lacks. I would carry out a medical check-up mainly for children and women because they are the most affected people in my community.”

## Kate’s Role Model:

“My role model is my elder sister, Temwachi. This is because no matter what problems she faces, she always finds a way to make herself happy. The thing that I like most about her is that she always puts God first. The fact that she is a very courageous girl inspires me a lot.”

## Kate’s Thoughts:

“Through being a student of Kucetekela Foundation, I have learnt that there are always people who care out there. No matter what problems you have, you can find help from someone. I have also learnt that when you’re being sponsored, you ought to be serious with what you do otherwise you might regret it.

I enjoyed the Pestalozzi event a lot because we event to see some less privileged kids and how they live. It has changed my life because I realized there are people in worse conditions in life so I don’t have but just maintain what I have. I think that my fellow KF students are great people. I find a lot of joy in being with them. They are a lot of fun, and they just know how to make each other feel at home.”