**As we review your application, what more would you like us to know as we consider your candidacy for the Harvard Business School MBA program? NA words count 1065:**

After finishing my first year in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University, I reunited with my Corps recruiter on campus. He said he was proud of me because he never thought that I would last more than two weeks given the program’s physical and mental demands. He would not have had that impression of me if he knew all that I had overcome to get to where I was. The family issues and the failures that I had to go through only gave me motivation to win in all situations despite the challenges.

I had a happy family: my parents, my brother and I lived in a small town in China. My happy childhood ended when my parents divorced when I was eleven years old, and my father was given custody of me. The two of us moved to another city far from my hometown, leaving my mother and brother behind. A few months later my father remarried, which was the beginning of my hardships. My stepmother hated me. Her physical and emotional abuse filled me with fear. School was no less daunting. My classmates made fun of me because I had a heavy accent and I wore outdated clothing that was typical of a small town. I was eager to leave school when class ended, yet I walked the streets for hours just to avoid going home. At times, I contemplated suicide.

I was not able to attend college because my father and my stepmother did not support higher education, nor did they want to spend money on me. Rather, they decided that I would become a nurse, so I started working at one of the biggest hospitals in our province. I had no right to decide my future. But after five years in career dictated by others, I decided to quit my job, move out, and take charge of my life. I ventured into various casual job opportunities like real estate agent and office clerk, and over time I was able to save a sum of money. At 26 years old, I started my first business, which was a beauty salon. I thought it could make me a better person in the society, besides, I believed it would help me to become independent, respectable, and honored individual. However, I had no previous experience in management which led to failure of the business within one year. I lost everything, and I had to work harder than ever for a living.

 My misfortunes trained me to be an independent woman with strong character, and someone who is unwilling to give up. In my second attempt at entrepreneurship, I used what I learned from my previous job in Jia Hua Marine Group Company to be a better manager. The time around, my venture was so successful that I was elected to the “Top Ten Hainan Business Women” candidates in Hainan China.

Besides my own business, I was employed in a number of companies that enhanced and flourished the management skills that enabled me to work with Mr. Zhou in Hainan, Qinfu company, making it one of the greatest seafood products companies in the industry.

After years of hard work, I had achieved a decent life for myself. At that time, I decided to seek new opportunities in America despite everyone thinking it was a bad idea, but I had proven to myself many times that I was capable of anything.

Because of my language deficiencies, I was not able to attend college when I initially arrived in America. After two years in ESL, I thought I was well prepared and enrolled at Houston Community College with great excitement. However, when I stepped foot into my first college class, my native-English speaking classmates spoke too fast for me to communicate with them. Worse yet, I could hardly understand what the teacher said. So, I had to read my textbook several times before and after class. Because I was afraid of asking questions to the teacher and my classmates, I received a D in the class. I told myself I would never let this happen again and I began to change my learning style in my future studies. I stopped hesitating to ask questions when I did not understand something and participated in study groups after classes. With time I could help my American classmates on some subjects that I was good at. After two years of hard work, I graduated from Houston Community College with Highest Honors and went on to Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in Economics.

It was at Texas A&M that I received a pamphlet from the Corps of Cadets. Their uniforms and the leadership program attracted me. I decided to join to challenge myself because I was physically weak. At that time, I did not know that it would be one of the biggest challenges of my life. My freshman year was very harsh with lots of yelling, standing at attention, and hard physical training. This experience was dramatically different from my previous life. The novelty of it all quickly eroded and was replaced by overwhelming demands from my academic studies and work. I soon found myself blindly charging towards various goals with dogged determination and tenacity. After freshmen training, I passed all my physical tests that enabled me to stay in the Corps. I even proved tough enough to train inexperienced Cadets due to my commitment, hard work, and my endless vigor to achieve whatever I wanted. As a result, I was accepted by the O.R Simpson Honor Society. This organization rewards cadets with a high GPA, academic achievement, leadership and character in the Corps of Cadets, and who promote scholastic excellence through tutoring and mentorship. Also, I was one of only ten Cadets out of 2500 elected to attend “Aggie 100 Award Dinner”, an event that recognizes the success of Aggie entrepreneurs from around the world.

I had come so far from where I started, and my recruiter was amazed by my tremendous achievements.

Joining HBS will help me once more to meet the challenges of my expectations and I am optimistic that I will pass them and become a better person and leader. In the past I overcame adversities and challenge and emerged more victorious. The barriers I encountered in my life have served as a stepping-stone in my development and prepared me for greater heights.