Imma’s life has been a difficult one. The young, intelligent lady was born and bred in Homa Bay County where she excelled in her secondary school national examination. Despite securing a chance to join college, she was forced to abandon the academic journey due to lack of funds.

When Imma joined the DREAMS Innovation Challenge project implemented by KELIN, her brilliance quickly sprang her into various key leadership roles. She became a DREAMS Champion representing the girls in her county. She also became part of the DREAMS project Steering Committee and is the voice of the adolescent girls in the committee.

“I have learnt how to network. I talk to my community elders in order to bridge the gap between them and the youth and I am a lead person in the sexual and gender-based violence campaign in my community. KELIN’s DREAMS project has greatly built my confidence,” she admits.

Being part of the DREAMS project since inception, and the fact that KELIN tasked her to be one of the members of the steering committee, Imma has grown into a responsible young woman. She is particularly passionate about girls’ rights and the fight against sexual and gender-based violence.

“It was in this period that Imma met a widow champion, who happened to be one of the paralegals working with KELIN. The widow champion introduced her to the KELIN DREAMS project, where she was taught that she can become anything she wants in life; and that she can rise above her present challenges and become an inspiration to other girls, and her community at large.

Addressing reproductive health rights issues in her community is Imma’s speciality. Through KELIN’s training, Imma is able to speak confidently about the reproductive health rights of girls.

“After being unable to join the university, I had to survive by myself by undertaking different jobs. I worked as a waiter in a restaurant,” Imma narrates reflectively. This line of work was extremely challenging for her. Often, different men would try to take advantage of her situation.

In an incredibly remarkable twist of events, Imma has joined the university where she is paying her school fees. Therefore, she is a perfect example of her own belief, that through empowerment, in order to reduce the gender-based violence and the sexual and reproductive health rights issues in your community, it has to begin with yourself.

Tabitha is one of the success stories that KELIN can look back at with pride, having shown that the DREAMS projects, among other projects, has a lasting impact in whole communities as well as in individual lives.

Imma concludes by saying: “I believe that we, the young people, are now the partners of KELIN. This makes the project sustainable. We aim to bring more girls on board to access justice and keep every girl safe. As a young person, I have moved one step ahead and there is nothing that can stop me from achieving my dreams.”