

2018 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

A Flower in the Cliff

(Original)

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Ever since I was able to think, I always encounter prejudice over sex in many aspects. In a dinner table, my relatives would ask my mother to carry another child, especially a boy. They also amuse with me, “ Do you want a younger brother? Your parents may not love you any more if you have one.” I would madly say no as a five years old and started to yell. Then, the conversation end with laughters.

In primary school, I strongly remembered the day my best friend told me her biggest secret — she was once abandoned literally right next to trash can. I was shocked, and carefully inquired the reason. Then, I realized. Traditionally, Chinese people feel sons can carry on their family heir and daughters will belong to the family heir they marry with. So, if they give birth to a daughter, the family heir will stop. China has been practice only child policy since 1980s and only recently change to two children policy. Under only child policy, you will not able to have the second child unless you pay a large number of fine.

My best friend was abandon, because her family want to have a boy, and they are too poor to pay the extremely expensive fine. Eventually, her aunt saved her and bring her back as an adopted daughter. Her mother soon give birth to her brother. She spoke out this calmly, like she is talking about other’s life. I knew she must have overcome a lot for this truth. I knew many baby girls have been threw away due to their sex and even aborted while their parents figure out their sex. However, it’s never as shocking as hearing a real life example from your closest friend. The inequality in women are happened from the beginning of her life.

As girls grow up, many voices are surround them in society. “Women shouldn’t receive higher education, they should raise their children and doing housework so that their husband can work without worries about home.” For what reasons women’s value are confined to the housework and raise children. I found none. Naturally, women are as intelligent as men. They are humans which all humans are equal. There is no way women

should be discriminated in workplace and receive less working opportunities just because their sex and their nature to give birth to babies. The news cover that a company forced a young women to sign a contract which promise she won't be pregnant for next three years or she will lose the opportunity. Many companies will purposely recruit less women than men, since they find women will be married and return to family anyways. I am infuriated by these bare discrimination in my society and I won't accept them.

I want to see one day that baby girl won't be abandon just because of their sex. I want to see the day that women can have equal opportunities in every jobs and promotion. I want to see women are truly not looked inferior of men in everybody's heart and their values are not restrained in giving birth to babies and doing housework.

For me as a high school students, I will bring the change starting from myself, to be an example of an extraordinary women work for what she passionate to and live in ways she wanted free from judgements and limitations due to her sex. To grow like a flower in the cliff, deeply rooted in the wall and chasten by harsh environment. To influence people surround me, strongly disapproved the obsolete as well as unjust view of sex. I would wish to share my ideas and find more supporters of my perspectives together to make a improvement in women's situations in China and even in the world. Although my power is limited but I believe people's power are unlimited, little by little with more awareness on importance of equality of sex. We can have a world with equality sex that women can be perceive with respect as much as men. Their dreams and abilities should not restrains based on the sexual difference. Our world will progress through this change.