

2022 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

LOVE AND TOGETHERNES

(Original)

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I failed woefully! While our headmaster was calling on the best pupils in my class, I stood transfixed, watching as they shook hands with him. The fact that I was among the top three the term before, made the pain even worse. But I thought I was doing well because I had an innate capacity to do so. Little did I know I had a bigger part to play.

Shamefully, I collected my report card and went home. I was no longer eager to show my results to my mom like I used to do. It was too poor. This particular incident greatly altered my value system. I decided that henceforth, I was going to work harder. I needed to get my name back on the honours' list next time. I thought all I needed was to read. This was so firm in my heart that I began devoting more of my time to reading and research. This restricted me from associating with my peers.

It was later that I discovered that my believe system was the force behind my thoughts and actions. Of course, I got what I wanted—a good result. However, I had little or no time to interact with my friends. How was I supposed to impact lives which was one great goal I prayed for, almost always, if I did not mingle with people?

Even though I was now doing well in class, I observed that my relationship with my mates went sour. They began saying that I was wicked, inconsiderate and selfish. I couldn't recognize their feelings—whether they were happy or sad. Neither did I recognize when they needed my assistance. The only life I knew was life with my books because I didn't want anyone to rob me of my position. I soon discovered that undoubtedly, I was selfish. This prevented me from achieving my goal of impacting lives.

So, I decided to change my belief system. I discovered that it is true that a 'tree cannot

make a forest.' I resolved that co-operation and love was going to be part of me. I remember declaring within me: "Hardwork, diligence, co-operation and love will be my values!"

How was I going to achieve that? I began to be interested in group work. I wanted to find an opportunity to help my mates out with mathematics and other difficult subjects. I tried to show much care whenever I saw someone in trouble. My desire was to see them smile always. What a great relief it was to me when I discovered that everyone in my class was now my friend. At least, I could now touch lives in my own little ways.

The little group of friends I have is one means of ensuring that diligence is upheld. We cooperate with one another and proper solutions to the problems we face. This has made the bond between us stronger. The progress we've made so far is immense. We've achieved great things ever since, out of sheer discipline and co-operation.

I hope that the network would expand into the society. I believe this co-operative system of living will help eliminate hatred and ego-centric behaviours. This will reduce the level of conflict between communities and countries, foster love and development for the common good of everyone. This will also eradicate greed from government offices and bring about grass root development.

A society filled with love and care is what I hope to achieve. A place where togetherness stands tall. Will you join me in upholding my values?