

Have you ever thought of what your life would be like if you were born as one of those less fortunate? What if you had to suffer all the time and struggle alone, just to make it through the day? For me, like most of the fortunate teenagers, I do not have to worry much about my everyday needs, nor do I have to worry about my parents making a living. I thought this was the case for other teens as well in this prosperous city, but then, a voluntary work experience last year has completely shattered this wrong impression I had, and has changed my perspective over society.

Today, I would like to take this opportunity to share a memorable and meaningful voluntary work experience with you, one that helped me find satisfaction in helping others, one that reminds me of how lucky I am, one that teaches me I should never take anything for granted.

Last summer, I followed my classmates to go on to my first voluntary service to an orphanage. To my surprise, the experience was never close to what I expected.

The main theme of the workshop is to understand more and put our feet into other shoes, hence we proposed a session named "Deep Communication With You". My partner, Betty introduced herself that she was brought to the orphanage when she was five, where her parents were meant to divorce. Just when I was planning to comfort and cheer her up, she grinned and continued. "A little bit of misfortune couldn't beat me down! I do not get a chance to decide our birth, but the choices to determine our path and life are in our hands." "I got my friends, my strengths and weaknesses, just like any other." I was thoroughly gratified, and I encouraged Betty to continue embracing her bright future with her positive mindset.

Time flew by, my first volunteer workshop has come to an end. Yet, I know I have learnt so much from Betty's optimism and have a lot to contemplate on.

I was laying on the bed that night, reflecting on my first-ever workshop visiting such resilient and positive souls. Betty's words had awakened me from my wrong beliefs, giving me a special lesson not to assume what my parents fulfilled me was absolute. At the same time, I also grasped that being grateful and positive would be key to success. Adopting a positive mindset could make your life much easier.

Community service has helped me to notice the indeed and give back to our community. It also raised my awareness as a true part of society. Having the opportunity to volunteer has been an extremely rewarding experience, providing me with an extraordinary chance to build better connections with each other. To conclude, not only does volunteering help the one less fortunate, it also taught me a valuable lesson to treasure everything I have and appreciate each and every single person and thing around me.

*"Write about a time when you help someone less fortunate. What did you do? What is the one thing that surprised you about your experience. How did you feel afterward?"*

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