

Respect other people's feelings

I happen to come from a place where people of all levels of socio-economic levels inhabit, i.e. the poor, rich and middle class friends. My immediate neighbour falls under the category of the poor by the fact that he earns below a dollar a day. Additionally, our neighbour has seven small children who have to be fed. Getting a meal a day is in fact dependent on people's generosity.

I had a brief talk with this neighbour recently and asked him how I could actually help him. The neighbour who also happens to be from a different ethnic group from mine. He asked me to leave his house immediately because he thought that I was actually intimidating him. A heated argument would have began had I not put into practice what I have learnt in Ethics: to respect other people's feelings. I kept cool and waited for about ten minutes until his temper cooled.

We then engaged in a fruitful dialogue because in the long-run, we came up with a reasonable solution. We decided to rehabilitate a certain waste land for cultivation. With the help of his children, we tended that land until our plan actually looked feasible. My parents helped us purchase some seedlings which we planted and then watered every day. The seedlings are growing bigger, and our background and cultural differences sorted out.

I have come to learn that differences created by human beings can be solved by human beings. Human beings should value each other even though they might come from different social or cultural backgrounds. We should embrace the fact that our diversity is mutually enriching and a harmonious co-existence will give rise to development.

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