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Students : Pillars of
Kerala's growth

“ children of today are the
future of tomorrow ”

Children are considered to be the future of each and every nation. It is only through the proper moulding of students we can fulfill the dreams of an affluent nation. However, it's very likely that issues like child labour, illiteracy etc. can stymie headway. It is the duty of every student to contribute their fair share in making their nation opulent; but it's also the responsibility of the nation to help students grow ~~and~~ as ~~both~~ individuals, helping them showcase their limitless potential.

For the betterment of Kerala, we - the future of India - must co-operate and work gracefully.



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Illiteracy isn't an issue for Kerala - unlike other states - because every single citizen knows how to read and write. Even though this is great, there are ways to make things better. We follow ~~the 5+3+3+10~~ a syllabus that already has room for personal growth. So why not prepare students for the future by teaching them financial literacy? Lack of financial literacy hinders the growth of ^{our} ~~the~~ nation - decimating its economy - and affects nearly 75% of all Indians, according to a study by NCFE. In my opinion, we students can improve this troubling statistic by both including this in our weekly agenda and hosting awareness campaigns for struggling adults.

This is a crucial step in making Kerala ~~econom~~ financially stable and debt free, helping both students and adults alike.



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Similarly, students can organise drives ~~for~~ ^{on} nutrition to raise awareness. A study said that more than 78% of Indians suffer from protein deficiency. Though most schools provide healthy meals for students, I think that it's necessary ~~that~~ to teach families about its composition too. When costs of ~~food~~ commodities are skyrocketing, most poor families tend to ~~have~~ cut corners and omit very healthy and nutritious items. To avoid this, we students can donate such necessities monthly.

In a time where malnutrition and poverty affects every nook and cranny of the world, ~~it~~ organising such awareness programs and donations can grant us a significant head-start among other states and countries.

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Kerala, even though its a serene place, witnesses heinous crimes- both in the real ~~world~~ and online worlds- that most of the people are powerless to put a stop to. With the rising use of deepfake AI's for scams, awareness is key. Alan Turing- the father of modern computer science and artificial intelligence- once said -

“A computer deserves to be called intelligent if it can deceive a human into thinking it is human.”

Students can learn more about these horrendous acts and act upon it.

The three key fields we must give importance to - finance, nutrition, and digital scams- can make or break the society of a state, nation, or continent.



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Even though these three fields depend on hard skills, soft skills also play a key role in personal and societal growth. Educating students like us about basic skills like civic sense, responsibility and compassion can help us fight against pollution, littering, and destructive crimes like vandalism, assault, and homicide. One person must think twice before doing anything, and question themselves - "Will I get anything from this?"

This sort of epiphany or awakening can help Kerala become a cleaner, greener and safer state - helping more tourists to explore and enjoy the wonder that is Kerala without any worries of theft, pickpocketing, scams, assault, etc.



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We can also work upon our surroundings, as ~~it is the one thing we~~ it shapes our thoughts and character. Living in a dirty, polluted environment will significantly affect one's social life. So, I think that we can work upon this - day by day - ~~by~~ by cleaning and beautifying the places that surround each and every one of us.

It is also a great honour that Kozhikode became the first literature city in Asia. Therefore, promoting books, to people of all ages according to their tailored preferences can create a passion for both reading and writing, as famous writer Virginia Woolf once said, ~~showing the impor~~

“Read a thousand books and your words will flow like water.”



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Although we're very ahead of other states, it's gut-wrenching and terrible to see little children, who come from other states with their parents work or sell toys everywhere. These little children - without proper education - will be a setback for our growth. But instead of ignoring, I think we must report it to authorities and provide students with proper learning environments instead of charging them a hefty fee.

We can also help our fellow peers to showcase their unique talents like photography, gymnastics, etc. Helping shy students break out of that bubble also helps ~~because in~~ them in understanding the opportunities they're surrounded with and how to utilize them.



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There are ~~problems~~ issues surrounding us everywhere. But we students often feel shy or even ~~blocked~~ powerless, spoiling our curiosity and Kerala's growth. A trick that many people like social entrepreneurs, startup owners, etc. use is simple yet effective - Observe, Question, Think, solve and Repeat.

For example, imagine that we're in a city. After observing, we may find very smelly sewers or piling trash. After asking ourselves "What can we do to improve this?" we may find a solution like closed drains or proper waste segregation. It's only through asking questions ~~that~~ we, ~~it~~ can find answers and solutions.

Even though we don't ~~create~~ discover something revolutionary every single time, what really counts is our initiative to help.



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Another growing issue that has been affecting us drastically is substance abuse. Our peers and schoolmates are colonised by the suler of drugs! Albeit it may sound cool, we must understand that all this is doing is even more harm. Students use drugs, smoke cigarettes or even drink ~~atek~~ alcohol so that they can 'cope' with family issues or peer pressure, feel 'cool' or mostly because they're gullible and believe the dealer when they say that ~~they~~ it can help them study and focus more.

To help Kerala actually be 'god's own Country', we must help students overcome their addiction through therapy, rehab, forgiving, and understanding. Parents shouldn't feel ashamed, instead they must understand what made their child do this.



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Lastly, the major reason what I think will help build Kerala into a wonder is so simple, so common, but heavily ignored - Know nature like the back of your hand. We students often forget to look around and have fun. Once in a while, we can look at the stars in the sky, the coconut trees on the river banks, the sparrows and cuckoos... The greatest lesson my family ~~has~~ taught me has to be this. We learned that enjoying these tiny moments of joy helps us become more happy - something that all of us desperately need.

Being surrounded by the good will also make us good. This habit - that all of us can follow - will help us gain a deeper understanding of Kerala, making it an enthralling place to visit.



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We are the lights of Kerala's future. To still keep ~~shing~~ shining even during the strongest winds, we must take action from this very moment. By following these practices daily, I'm sure that all of us can definitely make a difference.

This may take time - Rome wasn't built in a day - but this will surely make Kerala a safer, better place for both visitors and citizens alike. Students can ~~at~~ only do so much, we need the help of supportive adults to make this dream come true. There will be several roadblocks, but as the famous leader Nelson Mandela, ~~who never gave up~~ said,

"The glory of life is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."



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In conclusion, we students can only build a new Kerala by ~~addressing~~ addressing several underlying factors including substance abuse, child labour, and heinous acts committed plainly due to ~~uncivilised behaviour~~ uncivilised behaviour. By addressing these concerns and finding ~~solid~~ solutions, ~~I surely think that I can~~ ~~promise~~ we students can overcome these obstacles. At the end of the day, every single action we do today will influence what we'll do in the future, ~~and it's certainly the time to question these flaws and correct them.~~