

Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

412

What we can do to build
a new, better Kerala

'What we as students can do to build a new Kerala?' The question itself is filled with boundless possibilities of what a student views to be the future of the state that they themselves are a part of. Kerala, God's own Country is filled with various issues that if not solved may harm the future of the state. Financial issues with our expenditure going up and no manufacturing to reduce the deficit as well as youth migration are some of the major problems that the state is going through right now. So, what can we do in this scenario to build our dream state, to build a



Item Code: 644

Participant Code: 412

new Kerala?

Well, the major thing that we can do is study, which means to develop our God-given skills for the state's future. Nelson Mandela once said 'Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world.' In this scenario, our dear state. As we develop our skills, we will be able to participate more actively and contribute more to the state. As of now, Kerala is going through a brain drain of sorts, with many talented youth and students leaving the state for studies and employment opportunities. So, what we desperately need now is talented youth and students who can uplift Kerala and bring our state into the global eye. We can also



Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

412

strive for better employment opportunities within the state itself so that the brain drain is no longer an issue.

Another main concern is losing our roots. We as students are able to access the internet at all times. Learning about our traditional arts and supporting them even at a school level so that more people know about it and thus regain our traditional roots and keep our dear culture alive. It is not to say that the government has been lazy, doing absolutely nothing but with our participation as well we will be able to achieve a higher result.

Another thing that we can do is be inclusive and promote empathy amongst ourselves. We all know the



Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

412

youth of any nation are the pillars of progress, the bearers of hope, the architects of change and the promise of a better future. Empathy, inclusivity and openmindedness can go a long way. Historian Yuval Noah Harari remarked in his book 'Homo Sapiens' that humans are social beings and it is this capability that allowed us to triumph over other species. So imagine a society deep rooted in positive values and how much of an impact it can make on the world. The student's dream of a Kerala is a Kerala with a society built upon positive values where all are included.

Gender related crimes are another point of concern. Even though when compared to the rest of India, our gender-related



Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

412

crimes are much lower it is still happening. The government itself has taken up multiple empowerment programs for women but there still exists injustices committed towards women. What Kerala needs now is a mentality shift, remember we are the students, the youth and if our mentality itself changes then the numbers will automatically become non-existent.

A few years back, the state of Kerala was faced with the Kochi fire, where a landfill in Kochi caught on fire and kept burning dispersing toxic gases to the atmosphere. Many schools and colleges in that area didn't hold classes until the smoke got reduced. This was quite the incident and many news channels were reporting it. The reason I'm bringing



Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

412

it to your attention is to show the problems if we carelessly throw out waste and doesn't segregate it properly. So, what can we as students do? Well, it can start from small things, like making sure we put the candy wrapper in the dust bin. It is these little things that should make us aware of the environment and it is these little things that we should do for our safety as well and conservation of our environment. We as students should hold accountability of our actions that will harm the environment.

As students should also make use of the various initiatives the government has provided us for our betterment. Kalolsavam for letting us prosper in arts, little Kites for us to get technical education.



Item Code: 6441

Participant Code: 412

and know about the world of computers, we should make use of all these programs. The Kerala Startup Hubs is another project by the government to incubate promising startups. To make use of all the initiatives for our own betterment can go a long way.

A survey conducted in the age group 15-10-75 in India showed an alarming rate of 14.1% or 16 crore (160 million) people are addicted to alcohol. While, this figure includes all of India, the situation in Kerala is not one to be glad about. Schools and colleges catching people selling drugs to students are somewhat of a common occurrence now. Drug addiction is one of the most pressing concerns for the Kerala State and it is growing at an alarming rate when we compare the past



Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

412

and current decades together. Rallying against this issue and refusing drugs are somethings we students should do for not only our nation and state but for ourselves as well.

As the internet has gotten bigger, the scope of misinformation has also gotten larger. Social media platforms like Facebook and Whatsapp are now known to the things of fake news. So, when we hear a news report that something happened it is important that we fact-check it ourselves. A lot of these fake news are filled with health-related things so if not checked it can be quite dangerous. So we students must be well-informed about the events occurring in different parts of the world as well as make sure that



Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

412

fake news does not harm us and be aware of the media, the good and the bad. as well as make people aware of these fake news. Many parents believe these kinds of misinformation and should also spread awareness about this issue.

Political injustice can occur anywhere so we should all be aware of the law governing us and should raise our voices if injustice occurs. During the 2024 election, we saw Dhruv Rathore, a youngster who spread awareness of the government's wrongdoings. Now, every government has its good and bad. I'm giving Dhruv as an example for raising our voices when we feel something is wrong. In the face of injustice, the youth or the students should raise their

Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

412

voices and fight for our rights. in the case of injustice.

Media literacy and the understanding of violence in cinema that it is, i.e., cinema is an art form and the violence is not to be copied is another major thing that we as students should understand to build a Kerala where everyone is well-informed and is rational.

Spreading awareness amongst people to segregate their waste properly and teach them the problems associated with irresponsible waste management and the corresponding air, water and land pollution with air pollution being the cause of death for 8 million people annually is also something that we youth are capable of and what we

Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

412

should do-

As we approach the ending of this essay and for all those who still doubt the role of students remember Rome wasn't built in a day. It would require all of our combined action in various sectors to make the dream of a new better Kerala can be achieved.

Malala Yousafzai once said 'A pen, a book, a teacher and a student can change the world'. In this scenario the combined action of Kerala's youth could propel it to heights never seen before. As the most literate state in India and one of the most developed it is simply imperative that we work together, as students all working



Item Code:

644

Participant Code:

L12

together to reach a common goal.

In conclusion, the role of students in building a new Kerala is one that is filled with importance. Across education, environmental concerns, media literacy, stopping misinformation, rallying against drug abuse, empowering our culture, raising a society filled with positive values, shifting our mentalities for female empowerment, using the resources given to us for our betterment, and raising our voice against political injustice, the students of Kerala can do a lot to build it anew. Starting from the little things itself, it is the students who should serve as a driving force of innovation, ideas and positive change that should lead the



Item Code: 644

Participant Code: 412

charge in making Kerala better and building it anew. The students of our dear state has the potential to transform and become trailblazers and it is important that we lead the charge. There is a whole new world of opportunities waiting for us as we step into the 4th industrial revolution, the age of AI. So, let us all work together to lead the charge towards a new Kerala one filled with opportunities, acceptance, positivity and clean environment and one that will be admired and loved by the future generations.