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What we as students can do to build a new Kerala ?

As the proverb goes, 'Students of today, are the leaders of tomorrow', <sup>it</sup> significantly impacts on the system of education. Kerala has achieved so much in the past decades and had put initiative efforts in achieving the highest literacy rate. Many projects like 'Sewa Shiksha Abhiyan', 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padao' etc focuses on an innovative future for the economic progress of our nation. From this it is evident that a resourceful youth helps building up our society. The vision prompts innovative and social welfare measures from the youths for better living and modernising the society.

As a matter of fact student volunteers <sup>had</sup> started taking up





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voluntary measures for the welfare of the nation. The Government of Kerala has brought up several membership units from school students to universities. Various club memberships like Eco club, Energy club, JRC, Scout and Guides, SPC, NCC, subject oriented clubs etc builds the motive for a civic conscious and welfare organized Society. Civic Consciousness is the realisation that whatever progress we make should be beneficial to the society as well as ourselves which solves the problems faced or is posed as a threat or finds remedy for it in one way or the other. Civic Consciousness can be moulded from various social interactions through family, Education, Associations, Media, Democratic systems etc.

In addition to civic



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consciousness, value-oriented lifestyle, good behaviour, tolerance, leadership qualities, mutual cooperation are achieved mainly from family backgrounds. The family should equally accept the achievements and motivate them during hardships. They should not feel pressured, demotivated or worthless. For understanding the conditions and mental health of the children, <sup>the assistance</sup> should be attained from education. Students learn to behave tolerably and attain knowledge through learning different subjects, take up leaderships, actively interact with peers open-minded. Teachers are a vital role player in moulding a person's interests and guiding them. Several associations and participating in club activities helps to work with team spirit,





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perseverance and cooperation. It increases the knowledge of the students on the respective clubs and <sup>makes them aware of</sup> how it assists them in the future. They can also achieve success and have a decreased mental pressure. Little Kites, JRC, etc. are examples. Through accomplishing several initiatives the awardees are often reported through different media platforms. Medias like Internet, newspapers, radios, televisions, weeklies etc helps bring society and reforms of government together. Better political background and scenario and a knowledge about the world around the nook and corner could be estimated making the citizens a vital part in democratic process. Democracy helps citizens to live in cooperation and mould their intellectual thoughts. Students also becomes a part of the election process by





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organising for selection of school leaders.

Throughout our education the vision is to explore the society and become educated to accept right decisions and raise voice against inequalities. Equal acceptance and participation of both men and women should be promoted. Students could organize seminars, rallies, debates and campaigns highlighting the importance of being understood equally and appreciated. People still underestimate a person based on the race, religion, region, caste, colour etc. This is mainly because there persists an unequal consideration on the basis of certain criteria. In my opinion, it would be better to understand the person's aptitude level and the field which helps them to grow better and then resourceful in it rather





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than categorising them based on their status. Well-organized efforts are initiated by the central governments in promoting the different sectors to uplift our economy attracting the youth to be resourceful to our nation. Projects like 'Kissan Samiti', 'Annapoorna', 'Mahatma Gandhi Rural development scheme' and state government schemes like 'Haritha-karma Sena of Kudumbashree', 'Maslinya Muktha Navakeralam', 'Young Innovation Programme (YIP)', 'Say No to Drugs' etc. YIP is a platform where young innovative ideas that help nurture the relevant problems of the economy are put to reality by assisting them in mentoring and fund raising building their own startups. The Model Space Startup Challenge [MSSC], held on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 was an effort



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under the collaboration of ISRO, was involving student innovative ideas for propelling them in STEM based research and contribute to space technology for various applications in real life.

Furthermore, the New Education Policy (2009) was started with the motive to bring student friendly reforms to better living conditions as good social beings. Student organized initiatives can be seen in the environment activist, 'Greta Thunberg' a Scottish student of university rallied against the exploitation of natural resources for humans' greed and strongly raised her voice in the UN Summit. Similarly, students should get involved in raising voices and working against evil superstitions, inequality that





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are yet to be banned from society. Even during the 2018 floods, devastating visuals and news were reported. Selfless and courageous fire fighters, fishermen, rescue operators worked for saving the lives of our own brothers and sisters. The unexpected and deadly landslides in Chooralimala villages of Wayanad (2024), once again uplifted the humanity spirit among people irrespective of caste, creed, religion etc. All these were useless and all that mattered and valued were life, love and affection. Several Party Unions and university students joined hands and stepped out for the rehabilitation efforts and rejuvenating the lost and the precious. The youths were relentlessly working day and night for their motherland.





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Student Councils are seen volunteering even in various programmes of state government such as 'Pathroksavam', 'Kalolsavam', 'Important functions on Special Days' (NCC, Scout & Guides, Little Kites, JRC etc). Kerala also became a model in medical industry under the 'KASARP' projects. They successfully took initiative efforts for advanced medical procedures using better equipments. The central government project which uplifted the patriotic mindset of every Indian 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' which translates to self-reliant India focused on the youth efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kerala took several protocols maintaining hygiene and preventing for the people's life was valuable. The affected





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people were moved to isolation and had quarantined for two weeks still keeping in touch with it. Students were practising social hygiene and effectively builded their creativity and spent valuable time with family, nature and medias. The model vision of Kerala envisaged the resourceful utilisation of youth in planning demonstrating contributing to economic growth. Students could be joining in collaborative efforts in their aptitude levels and take part in clubs and orientation. They should get enough motivation to perform with national and international platforms. Kerala has achieved the knowledge boom and has revised the curriculum in education sector. In the ICTs and ATL takes central governments imprints this vision.





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Although we resort to implement these actions several threats poses challenges to it. The mindset that the progress made by the person should be prioritized and vested with only that person and should not be for the welfare of society. The youth who are addicted to Internet and games are increasing. If they are prodigies they should be supported, but it being an addiction or an easy way of procrastination, we are losing a valuable young person. The youngsters could not tolerate with the high expectations of adults and thinks of it as a burden and often feels less motivated. Many of the youths often has a wrong perception about the education and complains about the prescribed curriculum. Often parents



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spoil their kids way too much and they lose consciousness about the value of money and hardwork. This worsens the situation when the youth protests and leads to disintegration of the family, even by seeking violence. The youth undergoes mental disturbance and loses confidence in everything and prefers to be idle always. Then it would require mental consistence and seek him / her to be worthless just like falling victim to drugs and internet.

However, this is the case of only a few, we can take up measures to prevent the listed challenges to a great extent. When the youth has to seek job opportunities or to which course they should join, they should



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first seek career options and guidance. Often taking aptitude tests helps to determine where he/she should join and is capable of. Parents should not always follow the old trend method that only studying school and becoming an educated high salary jobs could help them. Because it increases pressure and stress and can feel burned out easily. Instead, they should ask for their wishes just like a friend eager to know their ambition and only 'suggest' if they are struggling to find. They can also be encouraged for finding their aptitudes together. This helps foster mutual cooperation and relieves the bond between different generations. Being a friendly, motivating at the same time an adult



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parent could help the students to easily feel worthy and open-minded, they are proposed to feel motivated and could perform well. There is no mistake in doing wrong things. They should be given chance to understand their teenage mindset and should not force them.

As the Father of our Nation quoted "Be the change, that you wish to see in the world" envisioned for an empowered India. The famous personalities are not moulded through easy or successful childhood. Even abroad India has been a global power joining ties with West Asia and assisting them in various fields. The year 2024 has remarked gradual yet remarkable



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changes in the history of India. The world where Artificial intelligence is making effortful progress in science, economy, environment etc is a good leap. Several awards for 'Kuttikanshakkar' is implemented for children to make environment a better and sustainable development sector. The programs like 'Sasthrothavam', 'Kalolsavam' helps nurture young minds and foster civil independence and helps build a new Kerala becoming an international expo too. With retrievable efforts and patience Kerala could rise with tremendous power with a powerful and youthful society. The Finland model of education is a great example for such an achievement. So we should all be part of modernised Kerala and be proud of it.