

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD

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### Abstract

*In any country youth plays an important role in development. Infact, youth and development are synonymous. The possession of youth is tremendous. It deals with creativity, innovation, technology as well as his culture with him. The development and progress of any country chiefly depends on the youth. Thus the moulding and nurturing of youth in the right direction is must for the development of the youth as well the development and the progress of the country. The paper focusses on the development of the youth with the neighbourhood.*

**Key words:** *youth, development, youth development, neighbourhood*

Not trying to highlight my nationality, I want to say मैं चीनी हूँ, अभी हिन्दी सीखता हूँ। I major in Hindi in my university in China. But can you imagine the moment when I got my offer of university? After the college entrance exam, finally I got my offer. However at the moment I looked into the offer, I literally kept staring at it blankly. “Major in Hindi” What is Hindi? What am I going to learn in the next four years? At that time, I have no idea about India at all. To be honest, I even couldn’t understand why Indian people use their hands to eat. But luckily, I decided to figure it out somehow. So I started to learn Hindi.

In China in my university, I’ve learned Hindi for two years, Grade 1 and Grade 2. It’s the very first time that I come to know about India. Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Vishnu, Shiva, Brahma and many many images approximately made up an India in my mind. An ancient, religious, mysterious country. I said mysterious, because at that time all and every thing that I know about India came from books. And you know what, every day it keeps coming into my ears that it’s our responsibility to know more about Indian people so that we can sweep away the misunderstanding between Chinese and Indian. How can I understand the words then? Where on earth are the differences between Chinese and Indian? I had no idea. And again, I decided to figure it out. I don’t dare to say: Now I know about India very well. But the answer to the question has come to me somehow.

In fact, whether there are so many differences existing there that it leads to the misunderstandings and makes us feel we are different?

Let me give you some examples to figure it out.

When you suddenly sneeze, for no reason, what do you think? Maybe something bad is going to happen. It means bad luck. For Chinese, I’m sure 10 out of 9 will think exactly the same as you. Sneezing, bad luck.

Conversely, fish stands for good luck. As a saying goes in Chinese: 年年有余, which means wish you rich and prosperous every year. Here “fish” and “rich” are homophonic in Chinese. And as I know, in India, eating fish brings someone a good job. So we can tell, for both Chinese and Indian, fish is a lucky symbol.

These are some commons of our mindset. In my opinion, a large part of our mindset is made up of our traditions. And festivals are the best presentation of our traditions. Here are some other examples of festivals.

In China, we celebrate the Spring Festival in the following February, which is the most important time for all the Chinese in a year. It's similar with Indian New Year. What we do is family union. And of course, we place a great significance in it. It's the time to enjoy the togetherness with our family members. Chatting with relatives, sitting around a table, having a feast, doing some outing somewhere with the whole family. We do just the same as you do to celebrate the new year.

And after Spring Festival, comes the Lantern Festival. It's pretty like Deiw Diwali. We will spend a wonderful night with our family and friends, hang out some beautiful, colorful lanterns, enjoy a special sweet dish which is called yuan xiao or tang yuan. So are the ways of how you celebrate Deiw Diwali. Play crackers, stay with family for some special dishes. It's also a moment we cherish the most in a year. And normally, it's a symbol of starting to work. It tells us it's time to start a new stage, show a new face after celebrating the new year.

As we can see, for both Chinese and Indian, we value the family union a lot since ancient time, back to some 5000 years ago. It's seared in our mind that family always plays an irreplaceable part of our life. Even the value of family has become the base of our mindset, both Chinese and Indian. And it leads to many commons between us. Once we are capable, it's our duty to take care of our father and mother. Wherever we go, we have to stay in decent manners, in order to maintain the family reputation. We give our honor to the place where we were born where we live.

Apart of these, we show our respect to the moon on the Mid-autumn Festival and for you गणेश चतुर्थी is the moment. You show your admiration to the ancestor on पितृ पक्ष and celebrate harvesting on पौगल, वसंत पंचमी, बीहू, while for us Laba Festival is a good timing.

Now I come to understand there is no difference between Chinese and Indian at all, no difference between you and me at all. If there is, it must be our personality. I can't deny we do have some external differences on our habits, traditions, the way to talk, to express our feelings. However the root of Chinese and Indian culture is the same. Love to our family and friends, consideration to others and responsibility for the society. I fail to give many more proper examples in such a short time, for the reason that both China and India have such a long history, more than 5000 years. Now we gather on this land, I breathe what you breathe, drink what you drink, eat what you eat.

So what I'm trying to say is, misunderstanding is real, but understanding each other is a choice. Maybe the reason of misunderstanding is not because of any difference between you and I at all. Substantially, you are we. We are the same. Why not keep the misunderstandings away and know about each other whole-heartedly, sincerely from now on. I can't be more grateful to my previous self who decided to learn Hindi, who decided to figure it out. And now I am quite into it, quite enjoy gathering around with my Indian friends.

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