

“One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education First.”

Have you ever heard these words? Yes, they were the messages to the world said by *Malala Yousafzai* at the United Nation Conference. She received a Nobel Peace Prize last year. It is not too much to say that these words have changed the way of thinking about education around the world.

She has taken part in activities as a representative of children who can't have education because they are involved in war. And she also has been working hard for the women who are discriminated against and can't receive an education. She continues to insist that everyone should have the right to education equally. Even though her courageous act was the object of admiration throughout the world, she was injured because of this. She was wounded in the head and neck by a gunman on her way home from school. Why does she continue to tell the importance of education even though her life is in danger?

There is a video which impressed me a lot. It is a documentary which had close coverage of the way to school of children in developing countries. Their way to school is very hard and dangerous to walk and it takes a lot of time. They go over mountains, go through rocky places which have footholds and sometimes encounter lions. Their school building was built poorly. Their textbooks and stationary are very simple. A reporter asked them, “Why do you go to school in spite of the hard and dangerous way to school?” They answered, “We have dreams. We want to study because of our dreams.” Their eyes looked very sparkled. I was moved by their words. I was also surprised at the children who had positive ways of studying.

Using pens and going to school are quite common among us Japanese today. I take it for granted that I have lessons in my school and teachers teach me many things. It feels natural to have education but there are big differences in the educational system between our country and their country. I asked myself whether I try to study hard in such a good educational system. I thought of the reason for studying again and again after I watched the video.

Now developed countries offer much support to developing countries. But we should learn many things from the children there, such as their attitudes that they try as hard as they can and their eagerness to learn. We should also return to our original spirit of learning.

When I was a child, I read the biography of Helen Keller. Though she had a visual and hearing impairment, she overcame them thanks to Ms. Sullivan who was a teacher of Helen. Helen proved that all people could live equally with confidence and pride. Many people were impressed and encouraged by her action. She had an enormous influence on education.

I think that learning is a tool for us to make a career and learning is also a chance to know a lot about the world and to contribute to society. I think this is one of the reasons for learning.

It is important for us Japanese to feel really grateful for being able to learn many things in this good educational system and we should do our best at everything. I will make good use of my junior high school days and I will do my best. Education can change the world and I can change the world!!!