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This I Believe Speech

Everyone’s Smart

I believe that everyone is smart.

At a very young age, my mom would always emphasize education to me. She always told me to work hard, to study hard, and to prioritize my education because that is something that no one can take away from you. Education was something that my mom was not able to pursue because she was born on a country that was not as privileged as America was. Because of this, her educational background only led up to grade 8, and she was not able to pursue it from then on.

Although my mother did not graduate from high school or college, I still find her to be pretty amazingly smart. She had me at a young age, and she had to raise me as a single mother as well. Instead of choosing to sell me or put me up for adoption, she decided to raise me instead. She knew that it would be a tough challenge to raise a then-newborn baby all alone with limited income. She knew that she had options -- a "better way out," if you will -- but she chose to not give up on me, and she did all of this without a proper education. Unfortunately, she still often calls herself dumb because she doesn't have a diploma to hold to claim that she is smart.

That astonishes me, and I think that she is wrong. I believe that everyone is smart in their own way. Sometimes, I would look at her and feel fascinated by her capabilities of how well she seems to be doing in life. Things such as cooking, sowing, being financially stable; while also trying to help family members back at her homeland are things that are, unfortunately, what we do not learn at school -- things that actually help us survive "in the real world." She can survive out there in the “real world” with neither a degree nor a diploma, yet I don't think that those who do possess such things know how to single-handedly take care of a child all on their own.

Some people can be amazingly talented in repairing cars; while others aren't. Some people are way better at solving math problems than others, and some are way better at socializing with other people. All of these skills and strengths are things that I find that add up to a person's knowledge -- which ultimately makes them smarter. So, like my mom, I think everyone has certain strengths and certain skills that they are really good at.

However, I also do know that some people are weaker at certain things. Personally, I know that I am not the best at math, but I do often try my best by putting a lot of effort into my work. And that is the important thing to do when you are weak: do not give up. Always try your best, even if your “best” does not give you the results that you wanted. At least you did not give up, and at least through giving your best, you’ve increased your sense of courageousness and your hard-working ethic, which some people still do lack. Being weak or “dumb” is not set in stone. To me, they are an even better reason to improve yourself -- to become better.