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Keys of Success

What are the keys of success in our own lives? If we look back our own achievements, we realize that people influence to our accomplishment. This kind of advantage is experienced by Deogratias known as Deo, an African medical student from Burundi in a biography of Tracy Kidder’s books, *Strength in What Reminds*. Tracy Kidder exemplifies about the life of Deo from Burundi of the Central Africa, the life that Deo had experienced the most brutal aspect and the warmest kind aspect of human being. In 1994, when the civil war broke out in Rwanda a country south of Burundi, genocide against Deo’s tribute overtook him, and he ran for his life for six months. The terrified and bloody experience contributes to Deo’s nightmare every time he sleeps. The story begins when Deo left from Central Africa to seek a new life. He boarded an air plane to New York City in the same year that the civil war broke out. When he arrived in the United State of America, he only spoke French, which he believed that it was the universal language, had only two hundred dollars, and had no acquaintance in America. Eventually, he met brilliant and kind people who directed him to his desire of going back to medical school. These people helped Deo to resume his studying at the Columbia University and to continue medical school. Ultimately, Deo established a public health care system at Rwanda, and he keeps challenging to be a doctor that Deo has dreamed since his friend passed away due to malaria. This success is amazing because Deo had terrible experience that people cannot even imagine how he felt scared. He overcame these difficulties since he received external support like Wolf’s, Sharon’s, and many others and internally his personal strengths.

Support from people whom Deo met in the United State deeply affects his success. When people face to an obstacle, support from friends and family or networks of friends, they know make them motivated and give them power to overcome these obstacles. The support the theses people provide them in various ways like emotional or financial supports. When people are facing a serious difficulty or a hard challenge, they would feel lonely and anxious because they would imagine that they fail at their challenges and their obstacles. Furthermore, they can lose their control easier than they usually do because they feel anxious and nervous. Moreover, they fall into a bad cycle that they think and imagine worse and worse. Deo met a mentally and physically dependable person named Sharon, who was a former nun, at the beginning of his life in New York City. At the time Deo met Sharon, he was afraid of talking about himself and his life because he thought people who discriminated Deo’s race would come to kill him if his story spread out from Sharon. Deo told his story to Sharon more than he wanted to as she asked him about his life because he realized that Sharon was a dependable person and felt a connection between them. From Deo’s accented English, Sharon found out Deo spoke French. She asked him if he could speak French with her friendly-sounding voice when they met the first time (52). This demonstrates Sharon’s kindness and support for Deo. People feel lonely when they live in a place where they do not know and where they cannot smoothly communicate with others due to the difference of languages. Even if Deo could understand what Sharon told him in English, the language would not sound comfortable to Deo since he needed to translate what she said in his mind in order to understand. Even though he had a language barrier, Sharon showed him her kindness. And, for that reason, Deo decided to reveal his life story and to lean on asking for help to find a doctor to treat his medical condition. Through Sharon, Deo gained a significant connection with Charlie Wolf and Nancy Wolf who provided him home and his money, and helped him to go back school. Support from people he met was a significant key of his success because he gained the opportunity to accomplish his goal.

Deo’s determination of personal strengths contributed to his dream of going to back school. People who are determined can control their outcome and experience well and distinguish what they actually need. Even if their outcome and experience make them upset or depressed, they can manage their sadness. Meanwhile, they can find and focus on their next step, as they see their steps, they find out what they want to do, their dreams or their goals in life. People who have a dream are energetic because they know their goals, so they realize what they should concentrate on. For example, Deo had a strong determination since he desired to go back school even after he had experienced terrible genocide. He had changed his mind to focus on his next step, so he started teaching English himself not only to participate in community, but also to prepare for resuming his academic process (54). Considering his circumstance, his dream seemed impossible because he worked in a grocery store, a physical demanding job and got only a wage of fifteen dollars per a day. Deo could not even afford to purchase a French-English dictionary. Even though he was in a poor situation, he did not miss the chance of going back to school because he sensitively sought his opportunity while he was preparing for his dream. If he had not had his determination, he would have missed his opportunities to resume his academic and he would have been busy just to take care of his sadness and nightmare and to make money just to feed himself. Being determined enables people to focus on seeking their chances because their attention and focus on remain. Since determined people decided their mind, they can tell their goals to people, and give them wider opportunities because they might be able to get a wonderful connection from friends of friends.

Deo’s parents directed him to success by teaching the importance of education when he was a teenager. Education is a prime key of gaining opportunities for one’s future’s success because education including schooling allows one to learn how to learn, how to manage time and tasks, to develop one’s interpersonal skills, and more. Therefore, the high levels of education show how students apply their ideas, their knowledge, and their analysis to accomplish their tasks. However, education does not satisfy people’s appetites for food, so impoverished people struggle with managing their work to satisfy their hunger and their schooling for their future’s opportunities simultaneously. In Burundi, unlike America or Japan, children have to work with their parents in order to obtain food for the table day by day, and their parents usually put a priority on work rather than their children’s education, in order to survive their lives, so a lot of children dropped out of school and many also passed away due to heavy physical demanding jobs and starvation. However, Deo’s father allowed him to stay at school an extra half hour to finish his homework before dark because he knew the importance of education (86). His belief in studying helped him to survive the genocide in Burundi and being homeless time at New York Central Park and to continue his schooling until not only when he was in medical school in Burundi but also his schooling in the United State of America. In order to survive genocide in Burundi, he needed to know geography of Burundi to escape toward Rwanda, where he ultimately decided to go. Since he learned about the geography from map in his geography class, he knew and figured out the direction toward to Rwanda. Furthermore, if his schooling ended at six grades like his father, he could not explain his medical conditions to Sharon well or he could not even figure out how to teach himself English after he arrived in New York. Therefore, Deo’s father told Deo the importance of education indirectly and showed him the way that he would survive his life.

Deo’s keys of success are both external support from Sharon and his father and internal strength of his determination. Sharon provided him emotional and financial supports because she was the first person who willingly helped him in New York. Due to the fact that Deo’s father allowed Deo to continue his education, he could survive genocide and homeless in New York Central Park and enabled him to continue his education. His determination allowed him to see his goal and found wonderful opportunities to go back to school. Deo’s life make readers amaze because the readers cannot sympathize with his story but also Deo shows and motivates the readers that success can happen to everybody if one has supports and personal strengths.

Work Cited

Kidder, Tracy. *Strength in What Remains*. New York: Random House, 2009. Print.