**We venerate loyalty- to our schools, employees, institutions, friends as a virtue. Loyalty, however can be as least as detrimental as influence as it can be a beneficial one.**

Loyalty is a term which is derived from the word loyal, which means being trustworthy, obediant,  faithful, true and devoted for any place, people, institution for which we are directly or indirectly working or  engaged with.  
I believe loyalty is the best practice which we can inculcate in ourselves. Infact   it won't be wrong if we call it as the fundamentals of our life. Everyone must be loyal in whatever act we perform irrespective of place, people and situation. Loyalty on whole is lucrative to all of us and brings harmony and helps in building a good relationship, mutual benefits to all of us. Loyalty is a powerful tool using which we can win people hearts, respect and cooperation.  
let us consider a school going student, he is taught to be loyal in his studies, respect teachers, friends and family members. If the kid is obediant he gains respect , applauded everywhere and also his demands are fulfilled in all aspects.  
Loyalty even applies to our own life as well. If we are desciplined, follow every rules and regulations, do our tasks in proper manner then in return we help ourselves by reaching to new heights , fulfilling  our dreams and desires.  
But i also believe it is a two way process, consider a situation when you are working in an organization or a firm. We are assigned certain strict roles, well defined task. We are obliged to be loyal to company and in return we are paid as per our performance. Employees work showing great enthusiasm, austerity and perseverance hoping to get worth of his loyalty . But many a times it happens emplyers loose loyalty and employees are not given any credit for their handwork.  
So it won't be wrong if we say loyalty doesn't works everywhere , we should be pragmatic in our approach and use our wisdom to decide as to how we should take necessary actions and  work intelligently as per the circumstances.

**We venerate loyalty - to our schools, employers, institutions, friends - as a virtue. Loyalty, however, can be at least as detrimental an influence as it can be a beneficial one.**

In a society where crime and murder occur more and more frequently, one might wonder who supports those ideas and individuals to let it come that far. As a consequence the virtue of loyalty might be questioned. Is it really a beneficial influence or might it also be a detrimental one?

On one hand, one may say that the argument contains some true value in it. If one is too loyal, it may influence both that person's life and the one of the person he/she is loyal to in a negative way.

Let us for example take a look at a case where loyalty is not beneficial for the supporting party. If one's friend is recently taking the wrong path and you stay loyal to him, you might end up on that same path. Loyalty (as a first step and afterwards peer pressure) is in my opinion one of the main reasons a lot of people start to smoke.

The second case can be illustrated by the same example. By staying loyal to your friend, you do not signal him that he is wrong. Therefore by staying at his side you give a message of encouragement for a bad habit to someone you love.

However, these negative points can be viewed just as well as positive ones. If you replace all negative valued words in the previous argument by positive ones, you get that loyalty might make a better person out of you and/or the person you are loyal to.

For this reason one can regard loyalty as a virtue and put the problem of it being detrimental or beneficial as a case of the personality of the persons involved. Especially the character of the the person who lends his/her loyalty is important. If that person has a spine and is able to stick up for him/herself, mostly good things will happen out of the loyalty virtue. One can for example take a distance from his friend when he starts smoking, thereby signalling him he is developing a bad habit. It is important to remark that one can stay loyal to a friend whilst taking some distance whitout breaking their friendship. With this means, he might reconsider what he is doing and get on the right track again.

Since however most of us regard their family and closely related friends as having a strong character, one might say that as a consequence of this, loyalty ist regarded as a virtue in our society. But in the wrong hands, this virtue might not be beneficial anymore, but be a detrimental influence leading to negative newsfacts we see almost daily in the news.