**ESSAY#2**

***Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.***

Sports have been a significant piece of my life growing up. There is not a single sport that I have not tried. Be it cricket, soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis, badminton, table tennis, golf or squash. I was such a sports enthusiast. But it was soccer that pleased me the most. So I decided I wanted to become a soccer player and make my country proud. Consistent recognition of my play gave me genuine certainty and belief that I could make my sporting fantasy come true.

But it soon came all crashing down for me. I was 13 years old when I was diagnosed with Osgood-Schlatter disease, which restricted all my physical activities. Life never felt so mundane before. It was tough to adapt to the sudden stillness in life. As an early teenager, I didn’t know what was happening to me. I felt less motivated for day-to-day tasks, and my abilities seemed to deteriorate. But surprisingly, the most challenging part came after two years, when the doctor cleared me of the disease.

My happiness knew no bounds. I could finally play my heart out again. I could go to the field and feel the freshly cut grass invigorate me, and the satisfaction the touch of the ball gives is ineffable. But it never quite felt the same. It didn’t give me the same joy it used to provide. It wasn’t as fulfilling as before. This marked a period of introspection for me, which made me realise that instead of finding that old version of me, the mischievous fun-loving, soccer-for-life boy, I should try to comprehend these life changes. I had to understand that I had more responsibilities to fulfil and study better to make my career. It was time for me to grow from this young, adventurous, and carefree boy to a mature, ambitious, dedicated, hard-working man. ……………(life philosophy)………………………lay ahead—working hard daily and becoming the best version of myself. I was competing with myself. I had to prove I was worthy. Since then, it has motivated me to perform better, and my grades have gradually improved.

I am still into sports. However, it's just a hobby now. It's remarkable how sports have been instrumental in building my extrovert leadership personality, which is reflected in my every other pursuit. I aim to start my business venture- The Pet Pamper- a place to find the ideal caretaker for one’s pet- an extension of my love for pets and leadership skillset. I motivated my mother to kickstart her career counselling business- Career Cart, to guide and help the student community with such life-deciding decisions. I volunteered in a covid relief camp set up in our colony during the oxygen crisis, which shows my will to create a difference in society………………………………. but deep down, I know that event has helped shape who I am today, someone I am very proud of.