According to me civic engagement includes attempting to make a difference in anyone’s life and building up the mix of knowledge, abilities, and qualities to make that difference. It implies advancing the personal satisfaction in a network, through both political and non-political processes. It usually incorporates both paid and unpaid types of political activism, environmentalism, and network and public service. Different types of civic engagement are volunteering, public assistance, and administration learning. I personally believe that a society cannot solely rely on the government for the betterment, and people will have to come forward and offer their services selflessly to successfully make the changes.

I used to be very involved in all kinds of civic arrangements like volunteering and teaching kids and elderly. Back in India, where I spent most of my life, I used to be a part of a group who volunteered for different causes such as, blood donation, collecting and donating money for different causes, cleaning various parts of the cities, and educating the poor. Since I moved to the United States, my engagement has not been the same, but I try my best to do everything I can, officially or otherwise. I believe that no matter what the circumstances are, if one is not doing their duty to the respective community properly, then they have no right to blame the officials or the government when things go south. I volunteered at a library in my town here in the Unites States, where my job was to simply help people. I used to help people finding books, helping them browse the internet to learn different things, and making sure they understand the importance of voting when it was time. I do not think that the job or service of this type can be forced upon someone, it has to come naturally. I enjoy doing things and I am proud that even the slightest of things I do as a volunteer, is towards helping others and for the betterment of the community.

As mentioned earlier, one cannot be forced to volunteer or to do any other kind of selfless service. If a person is forced in doing so, they will most likely fail it or not do it at the best of its extent. I believe that as a fellow volunteer, it should be mine, or anyone who understands the importance of its duty to educate others about it. Teachers and third-party organizations need to make sure that people, especially the younger crowd, learns the nature of selflessness and helping anyone in need. They need to be motivated to do such things which is the only way to make this work. Rewarding people to do something will get the job done, but that is only temporary and will not build the key qualities that are required. I believe it is only the first time where someone needs to be motivated heavily because the joy one feels in helping others, or the satisfaction that one feels after the deed, radiates a different kind of energy and will motivate them naturally.