

The Dream of a Polio-free World

Have you ever wondered at a few who made a difference in the world around them? Ask them the secret of their success and the answer invariably will be, “dream, dream and dream!” No wonder, Eleanor Roosevelt says, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams”

Dreaming is not wishful thinking. It is rather, a passion that urges one to move forward in life for a greater cause. All you need to know is where you are and where you are heading for.

Nothing is ever accomplished without a dream. Therefore, start dreaming high and never give up even if you do not know how they would ever come true. Once you build a dream, the dream will build you. It is only hard work and time that can make dreams come true. Every obstacle becomes an opportunity to grow if you start working towards the life you have always dreamed of. Believe that there is always a better way to live your life.

Twenty five years ago, we made a solemn promise of making our world free of polio. Despite great success in eradicating the wild polio virus from 99 percent of the world, polio is still a menace for children around the world, particularly in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. Simply put, the job is not finished and Rotary keeps its promises. This was the dream of over 1.2 million Rotarians to see a polio-free world.

I am aware of how Rotarians have put in their time, the phenomenal leadership and least to say their resources to get where they are today. It is with this belief in Rotary and Rotarians that I see the challenge in the final inch of journey a matter of time before we overcome it.

In India alone, we have been able to achieve a massive feat. India recorded its lowest count ever, 42 cases across the country in 2010. This has been possible because of all the Rotarians and countless others who have worked towards the common dream of polio-free India. It is known to us all that the world expects India to go for the kill against polio and finish this scourge once and for all. And with every passing year, the expectation



Governor of Maharashtra Shri K. Sankaranarayanan administering polio drops.

for India to do so is building up. We, as Rotarians must feel this more and ensure that India lives up to this expectation as early as possible. RIPE Kalyan Banerjee committed to international audience that India will live up to the expectation. This is not just his commitment but ours to keep and uphold.

We must remember that an individual, who has the will to succeed, takes charge of the success. He knows what he wants and he plans the steps by which to achieve it. Every act of his is to the attainment of the dream or the goal he has thought of. He does not expect fate to throw success in his laps nor does he rely on other people to give it to him.

He knows what he wants, he knows the strengths and weaknesses, and he knows how to convert stumbling blocks into stepping stones and regulates his daily actions to attain it. He succeeds because he has the will to succeed.

We must remember that every King was once a helpless child and every great structure and monument on this earth was once a blue print. It is not where you are today but where you will reach that counts.

The former President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam once said “the dream is

not what you see in your sleep—but the dream is one which does not allow you to sleep.” To accomplish Rotary’s dream of polio-free world, we must put more that what we can and see that in your region, you involve all the Rotarians and ensure that immunisation activity is reinforced in the coming days.

Always remember the words of H. Jackson Brown “when there is a hill to climb, don’t think waiting will make it any smaller.” Keep your dream of polio-free world alive every day. Think of it and its success, put your best and see yourself succeeding and you will feel your dream of polio-free world come alive. Needless to say, it is the last step in a race that counts. It is the last stroke in the nail that counts. Many a prize has been lost just when it was ready to be plucked.

Get ready to feel the dream of polio-free world.



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