

What I Can Do to Realize My Dream

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What is your dream? My dream is to help poor children and adults around the world.

First, let me explain why I started to have this dream. When I was in the second grade in elementary school, I watched a documentary program on TV about poor children in a developing country. They were drinking mud water to survive. I was shocked because I had never worried about what to drink or what to eat, but I knew there were a lot of poor children who were undernourished in developing countries. After I watched the TV program, I wondered how I could help them. I simply thought I could bring some food for them because they were suffering from hunger, but at that time I was only a child and I did not know how to do that, so it was just my vague dream.

Last year, when I was taking an English class, my English teacher told me about "JICA." I became interested in it, so I researched what JICA is. It stands for the "Japan International Overseas Cooperation Agency." They assist economic and social growth in developing countries. There are many kinds of volunteer work in JICA. The volunteer work that I became most interested in is the activities of "Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer," who are known as "青年海外協力隊" in Japanese.

Their job is to go to developing countries and support the local people in need in various ways, communicating with local people using their own languages. Some volunteers support local people in educational ways such as teaching Japanese. Others do it in medical ways such as assisting with births. I thought that this was exactly what I wanted to do and that I could help people in need through this volunteer program.

This summer, I went to JICA to know more about what they do. Ms. Yamashina, a member of JICA, taught me many things. She said she became interested in volunteer work when she was my age. But she did not have anything she was good at, so after she graduated from college, she worked for a computer company for five years. Then, she applied for the "Japan Overseas Cooperation Agency" program and went to Jamaica to do volunteer work as a PC instructor. She said she realized it does not matter whether they use a different language or have a different culture as long as we respect and try to understand each other. And she said that when she helped people, she developed new values she did not have before, and there were many things she learned from them. What she told me made me consider what is important in life.

I would like to major in international relations in college, so I will have to study hard to pass the entrance examination for college. In college, I am thinking of learning about not only international relations, but also the various laws, economies, political systems, and international cultures around the world. As a volunteer, I would like to support poor people in educational ways. I will teach the Japanese language and Japanese culture to poor children. I believe that it would be helpful for them in the future to know about cultures and languages in other countries. Also, I want to tell adults about the importance of education and how to teach their children. Finally, like Ms. Yamashina, I also want to develop in myself new values that I do not yet have. So, I will make my greatest effort to make my dream come true.