

Dulce Flores

15 years

## TEAMWORK

I grew up listening to the importance of teamwork in school.

But what is teamwork?

If people divide themselves by their skin color, race, or ethnicity.

What is teamwork?

If people end their shift and go back to working individually.

What is teamwork?

If the society we have today separates us by our origin.

Why can't we become one?

Why can't we accept each other no matter our skin color, race, or ethnicity?

Wouldn't it be much easier to work as a team to fight today's problems?

I mean we are so concentrated on our own worlds that we don't realize the issues that are happening around us.

Problems such as contamination, climate change, the extinction of animals, and more.

Did you know that millions of people do not have enough to eat three meals a day? Did you know that millions of people don't have access to proper healthcare? Did you know that climate change is going to become a major problem within the next few years?

Did you know that rising seas are going to be the cause of drawing lands? Did you know that it's expected that by the year 2048 we will not have any more fish in our oceans?

Did you know that thousands of families are separated and then many more face racism?

I guess that you knew at least one of the problems.

But, what are we doing to solve these problems?

Are we working individually, in teamwork, or not at all?

An issue I know that everyone knows about and many are affected by is discrimination towards immigrants and people of color.

I am a Latina daughter.

I am the daughter of immigrant parents.

I am too American for my Mexican family. But, I am also too Mexican for Americans. I celebrate Dia de Los Muertos, but I do not know the story behind this celebration nor do I know how they celebrate it in Mexico.

I celebrate the fourth of July, but I do not feel connected to this celebration.

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As a Latina daughter, one of the biggest times I felt truly afraid was in 2016. A new president was chosen and he didn't support illegal people at all. Then he started deporting immigrant people to their origin country, separating hundreds of families.

How can teamwork exist in an event like this?

But, it did.

Teamwork was an important factor.

Hundreds of people came together to protest against it around the country.

One of the places was at the Capitol in downtown

It was nice seeing all types of people coming together.

Children didn't go to school and adults didn't go to work.

It was nice listening to people shouting all types of rhymes and giving speeches to support us.

It was a nice feeling like people wanted us.

It was nice looking at how people walked around the Capitol no matter how cold it was.

To this day I do not know if all those protests had any result.

I mean there is still discrimination and racism around the world.

Deportations continued.

But, I would not forget how much support I felt for once in my life because it's not the same when people make posters or comments on social media about how discrimination should stop. Then seeing that people are doing something. For once I thought people were taking action to make a change. For once I felt like I belonged in this country.

I grew up looking at how my parents were discriminated against in the society we have. I grew up listening to my parents' stories of their childhood in a country where there weren't any opportunities and the struggles they faced when they came to pursue "el sueño Americano" (the American dream).

I know that not all people support us, but what I see and care about are those who do.

Although at night I wonder...

What if for once people came together without any sort of stereotypes against each other?

What if we worked in teamwork and saw each other as human beings?

What if we use teamwork to not only solve problems like racism but also issues like hunger, climate change, rising seas, and others?

We need to start working together to solve issues now because it might be too late when we start living the consequences.

We need to start solving these issues before people get sick, our land becomes drowning, our water becomes polluted and animals start dying when the ice starts melting even quicker.

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We need to start being conscious about what is happening around us and leave our egos and selfishness behind.

Are we going to wait until our own families become affected by them?  
Isn't our families and friends important enough to start working together?

Do you know?

As I grow and go through more experiences my definition of teamwork changes.

As it right now for me teamwork means:

Leaving our ego and selfishness behind and putting our communities first. Meaning that we change our perception from "I" to "we". Teamwork means working together and becoming one. I believe that for that we need to learn how to live in the present moment. When we live in the present moment there is no ego nor negative feelings. When we achieve the feeling of consciousness we not only come together, but also our life becomes happier. Since you no longer worry about the stereotypes instead you get to know how someone really is.

You know the beauty of teamwork is that teamwork is not only to solve issues, but teamwork can also help us accomplish our dreams and goals. I know everyone has that dream, that dream that gets you up every day.

Now, what can be more beautiful than helping each other reach that dream that we fight each day to pursue?

I know it would take time, but we need to start by coming together. Keeping together is the process and working together is the success.