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by W R

Discussion Prompt

I have been in a situation where I had been labeled a deviant. When growing, I happened not to come from a family with a rich background, which affected my personality greatly. Most of the children I interacted with in my school had some privileges that I did not access. The lack of the fancy things my peers could afford made me secluded from them since I felt a lesser being. My education also started dropping due to the negative attitude I developed due to my condition. One day, one of my classmate's watch got missing, and when he reported the issue to my class teacher, the whole class stared at me suggestively as if I was the one who stole the watch. My deskmate told the teacher that I was the only potential thief in that class since I was poor and could not afford such things. To my disappointment, the teacher seemed convinced by such sentiments and asked me to stand up and present my school bag for frisking. They later found the watch in a certain girl's pocket. When I demanded an apology from the class, another classmate suggested that it could be possible I sneaked the watch into the girl's pocket. The harsh feeling made me hate everyone in the class, and consequently, I became too violent in school, and I could fight anyone who showed any slightest provocation to me. My violent habit made the teachers and students label me as a deviant.

I did not have any problem with coming from a humble background. The only challenge I had was how the school, which is supposed to put everyone at the equitable level, contributed so much to my isolation from the rest of the school community. Notably, the situation could be different if the teachers would teach other students against taking advantage of and mocking people of the same background. I would be more comfortable when my classmate could see me as one of their own and understand me amidst them. I could not be fighting with my classmates if I could find at least one friend who could tell me well despite what I was passing through in

school. My education could not drop if I could get a teacher who could have a thorough understanding of me. Besides, I am sure I could be morally upright with fewer problems if the school put strict rules against those who discriminate against others. The whole situation could be different if the teachers could find the root course of my deviant behaviors instead of punishing me and talking ill. Consequently, I needed to be shown love and empathy instead of suspensions and being used as a marking scheme of a bad example in school.

Response

I agree with your work that schools play a significant role in people's socialization process. In the same case, your character was positively molded by the school due to positive labeling. Being that fellow students were looking up to you as their role model and the teachers in constant praise of your character, you had the pressure to do the right thing always to avoid letting them down. Consequently, the culture of being a moral person got cultivated in you and that's what made the difference between you and other students who could not feel any guilt whenever they cheated in exams or lied to the teachers. Thus, I accede that positive labeling can make a moral behavior in an individual.

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