



Freedom

Comparing our life with people who don't have freedom is sad. We, students and adults always complain about how getting up early in the morning every day to go to work or school is hard, about how we don't have "freedom" in our life. But think about it, do we really not have the "freedom" to choose not to go to school or work?

To me "freedom" is nothing but a word, an illusion. We always have the chance to make our choices, but we always choose what's best for our life instead of what's best for ourselves. This makes us do things that we don't really want to do in order to survive in this society living a "good life", and all these create the illusion that we had lost our "freedom".

Freedom is just a word that replaces choices and consequences. There are no right or wrong answers for choices, we choose our own path and make our own decisions "freely". But, there are consequences for every choice we make. We know that we don't want to go to school or work as we don't like it, it's hard and tiring. But why, are we still doing it? We know that we have the freedom to choose not to go to school or work, but what are the consequences? We won't get educated or earn money, making it hard for us to survive in this world. So, do we really not have the "freedom" in our lives?

Many people like to complain about how they don't have freedom in their lives, but how about the people that really don't have freedom? There are people in other countries, adults and children, suffering from the lack of food and basic needs like shelter, etc. These people don't have much choice unlike us. Some people even kidnap or buy the children from the poor and use them as tools for money. Most of the children are being locked up, do the same jobs every day, not even fed and some meet a worse fate than other children. Do you think they have choices to make like us, the "freedom" that we have?

I want to help these children from suffering so they can really be "free". Maybe we should start thinking about how we can help them instead of complaining about how we don't have much "freedom", or at least look at the bright side that we have more "freedom" than many other children. **(Thomas Teoh, 15yrs)**

Freedom, to me, is the ability to make your own decisions and decide what you want. There are millions of children around the world who don't have the freedom to go to school and receive basic education. So how can we change this? We could of course, take a more passive option and donate to the wide variety of charitable organizations that try to alleviate this issue, or we could take a more proactive approach and teach those kids ourselves. This is, of course, not for the faint of heart, and requires an abundance of determination, courage and motivation. **(Joel Hue, 14yrs)**

To me freedom is having a choice to do what one wants to do and what one has to do. I think the way to help people that have no freedom is by spending time with them. Helping them through their specific challenges in whatever way one is able to do. Motivating and encouraging may be a good start. **(Batrisya, 14yrs)**

Freedom for me means being able to make your own choices.

The group of people I would like to help is primary school students. Why would I choose them? I feel they have the least freedom; they are forced there and stuck studying many, many hours with minimal breaks because of the parents. What I can do for them is convince the parents and teachers to give them a little time to take a break and rest. They can release stress by playing games or doing sports during their free time. **(Bryan Lim, 16yrs)**

Freedom too many of us, teenagers, have different definitions. For some it might be religion, allowance or opportunity to do whatever he or she wants. To me, freedom is the right and the capacity of people to determine their actions without restraint.

In real life, it appears that only those who have money can enjoy real freedom. Those who have no means may have freedom, but their opportunities are always restricted. I think that education is an instrument to destroy ignorance. If we can focus to give children education for their own benefit. Educate them so they know what's right and wrong. Ignorance will enhance their freedom **(Precious, 14yrs)**

Freedom to me is my right to speak, act and think freely towards a better purpose. At primary school level, students do not have the freedom to choose their favoured subjects. This may prevent a student's journey to pursue his/her dreams.

A student may look beyond school to obtain the freedom of preferred education. This may be achieved through various channels. We can learn many things from online learning if we have a gadget to connect us to the internet. Learning can also be done by watching relevant informative movies or documentary. We can also refer to books and other reading materials to get this freedom to learn what we want. Another alternative is to go to education centres where the subjects may be available.

The fun way to learn subjects that is not available in schools could also be going to a related camp. We can also go back to time by going to the museums to reconnect to the past for the specific area of learning.

Students also can learn by being involved in a project with the experts or the people who have experience in a specific subject.

To fight for a freedom that you believe in, one must stay strong as there will be challenges and these challenges can be solved if we think out of the box. **(Kasshvi, 11yrs)**

Freedom is being able to have an opinion. Freedom is the ability, power, or right to act, speak, or think without being restrained or stopped. Unfortunately, multiple organisations or businesses have exploited their workers and taken away their freedom, a lot of them being children. It's sad to think that we live in a world like this.

Businesses and organisations usually target slums or villages where the people living there are poor and desperate for money. Most of the times, the children are forced to work. The saddest thing about child labour is that many of the children choose this path. It does not always mean that they love it; it's just that they have nowhere else to go. Some are even forced to leave their families in order to survive the inhumane conditions in their own community or country.

Here are some ways on how we can help children:

Join Action Groups

Taking part in a community or even putting up hash tags on freedom or child labour in your captions on Facebook or Instagram will help tremendously. This may result in a new trend or hash tag where it will let people know that this is really happening and something needs to change. Actions can have great results! You could also ask retail stores if their products were manufactured without sweatshops or child labour, and how they know.

Boycotting

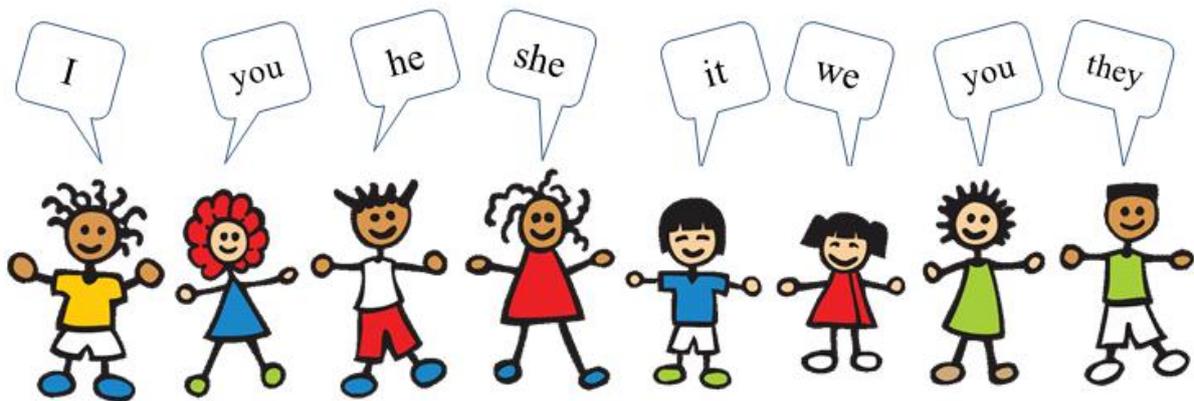
Boycotting a company or organisation that uses child labour leads to great results in stopping this problem. With no customers, this leads to fewer sales and may result in the company being forced to close down and stop manufacturing its products. **(Lyana, 15yrs)**

Freedom to me is the ability to decide what you want to do, without anybody's input or command. In this modern age of capitalism and technology, the word freedom gets thrown around a lot and misused or some just see the smaller picture. Some say that freedom applies only to slavery, others for independence but the truth involves both of these and much more. By saying that we are free, we're in fact lying as we are all chained and controlled by an economy and market that cannot be stopped. Freedom means a world without rules. Hence, as much as freedom can be seen as a good thing I feel that there are controls and boundaries on freedom. Suffice to say; too much freedom could be a bad thing... **(Valentino, 13 yrs.)**

Freedom, to me, is having the ability to choose for you. It is not having others force you into doing something you are unwilling to.

Many a county is in need of peace, for instance Yemen, Sudan, Egypt and Syria. I am just a small speck in this vast world, and am unable to do much to change these countries. Nevertheless, I can still contribute slightly. I can allow others to make a choice for themselves, and not force them to do what they don't want to do.

Members of terrorist groups or cults don't have much freedom, either. They are forced to do what their leaders command them to, even if they don't agree to. In addition, they will not be able to back out of these groups once they join—they are forced to serve these groups until their last breath. **(Sandra, 13yrs)**



by Malaysian FPSers