How May I help you?

            The idea of ​​a university is a lie. These are not privileged institutions to study and memorize formulas or methods that do not apply to life. They are to grow, personally develop and build new forms of human beings in the twenty-first century. Most of the time we spend what seems an eternity sitting in conferences without purpose, learning mathematical formulas or political theories of people who have died 500 years ago, but they do not prepare us as people or individuals for real life after graduation.

When I joined an experimental course at the University of California at Berkeley, I realized that there was still a possibility that this would be just that typ of a class. That again we would participate in a bureaucratic process that does not show me how to function in the real world. But then I realized that this is not only class and other courses I've taken. Here we learn and experience life through serving people. That was the first thing I learned. In the article “The Problem With "Help" in Global Development” by Julia Kramer, the author poses the question: "When we say that a person or a community" needs help, "do we suggest that they are less than, and that we as "helpers" and "problem solvers" are inherently better or more capable? "This is a concept that we reflect on a great deal in class. Many people, especially in a privileged and prestigious university such as UC Berkeley, are guilty of having a certain attitude of arrogance and superiority. However, the truth is that we know nothing. Most of us do not know the real pain of having to escape violence in our countries of origin. We do not know the fear that is being forced to flee in the middle of the night, carrying our children on our backs or brining along our entire family.

Our problems are so small, so insignificant that if we look around us at around the world, we would realize that the people around us do not need help, they help us. They are the ones who teach and develop our lives, not vice versa. We are better off only because we were born with some advantages, because we are witnessing the best high schools, because we speak English in a "standard" level. The result of marginalization is that these people are desperate. Although we have more resources in many situations, they are the most capable. There is a moral obligation of the privileged communities to do something. Volunteering to develop a different perspective is an absolute must for students.

According to the author Rachel Naomi Remen in her article Helping Fixing, or Serving? she says almost the same concept that Kramer "Fixing and helping create a Distance between people, but we can not serve at a distance. We can only serve to That Which We are profoundly connected." This quote really catches my attention because it is essential to remember that we do not help others, we contribute to their development. We do not fix things in the world, because they are not broken. The important thing to remember is that people are not broken, but is different. To be "deeply connected" people have to humble ourselves more than ever. We must understand that the vices, their problems, addictions, tumultuous past or whatever is not their faults, they are to blame for the marginalization, discrimination, greed, and often greed of capitalism.

If all we want to learn in a beneficial way without showing off and show our achievements in social networks, we must voluntarear locally with people who need our services and foreign places that do not have much access to resources and knowledge we have here. Many say they want to volunteer, but do it for selfish motives. They want recognition that mass or a certain amount of "likes" on its front Instagram photo of a bridge collapsed in Nepal. This idea of ​​volunteering is an exaggeration that the noble work of voluntarear is romanticized. It's easy to donate an amount of our monthly checks to some non-profit organization, but actually work and collaborate with people in the community is another thing entirely. If we humble ourselves, we let arrogance, and realize that the outside world is so rich in knowledge, there are no end of learning. First we must ask ourselves about our own motives to serve the world, evaluate them, and only then can we move forward.

            One day last week I accompanied a man in his appointment in the Department of Homeland Security to get special permission to travel to visit her mother in Guatemala. Mr "Gerardo" was a very humble, workers, asylum Guatemalan man, and like many others spoke little English. His mother, who was about to have surgery or possibly die, absolutely needed his only son at his side. He was terribly nervous when I met him. "Hey, do you think that I will be able to travel believed? I am already bought my ticket and my mother does not hold much more. "You can not imagine the physical and mental pain he feels this man and his family being so far away from each other. He did not have a concrete answer, but we could try to get permission. It makes me feel so guilty. Here I am earning a good salary for a part-time job, receiving scholarship funds, while this man can not go to visit her mother, much less return home. I wonder, why I deserve to have a life like that? Why I was born with many advantages and blessings? Daily life is a struggle between selfish way, and unselfish way. I feel that is our obligation to share the benefits with others. It is the only way to reduce suffering in the world. Unfortunately, the decision whether or not to permit travel from Gerardo is in the hands of the directors of the office, but we did everything we could. That's enough.

            Well, aside from all that I wondered how I was going to start writing a blog. It is a balance between self-reflection and an expository essay. Although there are millions of ways, strategies, and preferred techniques for building our ideas, I found that the best way for me is to write freely. I had to do to begin to reflect on this blog was "Let [my] Design Happen In Clustering" an idea of ​​the second chapter of Writing the Natural Way. It is important not to cover or hide emotions painful and embarrassing experiences. We must free our minds, stop thinking and let the ideas flow like a river. We can not be limited to what we appear, we have to share all the emotions, struggles, and doubts we have in this long process of personal growth.

According to Peter Jaret, in his article Are We Born Racist? "Human Beings Have natural proclivity to make distinctions between" us "and" them. "I am very important to consider that before you can do volunteer work, we must be aware that there is no separation between" us and them " . If we are all as individuals, humans with unique experiences to offer, there is no end to the things we can teach each other. It is easy to forget the outside world living in the United States. We are as susceptible to the constant pressures of daily life, the demands of the studies, or future plans often neglect the poor and desperate people. This course has made me reflect on my purpose as a student and as a human being. It is very introspective and something I need at this stage of my life as a student with no specific direction.