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Building Social Bridges
by entrepreneurial thinking

Role models

Cyprus





Gautam Dinesh

“Discover the best version of yourself”



Introduction

My name is Gautam Dinesh and I am from Nepal. I was born in Nepal's second capital city called Butwal city and is the city where Buddha was born. I grow up in a very poor family but my family is educated. I have 3 siblings (2 brothers and 1 sister), I am married and I have a 4 year old kid. We are struggling economically and I also have to take care my mother and father.

I am in Cyprus for 4 years now. I decided 5 years ago to go abroad to study (in a western – European University) in order to enhance my skills and knowledge.

My goals and the barriers that I faced so far

When I arrived in Cyprus, I thought that this is a small country and very different from Nepal. The environment is very arid compared to Nepal and I was a bit surprised about that. In addition, Cyprus is much more expensive than Nepal. All people from Nepal arrived in Cyprus they faced difficulties in the beginning with the language and the accommodation. Even today we are facing similar problems.

Another problem is that as a student I have to also work to cover my tuition fees and my expenses. The Cypriot government allow to us to work only 20 hours per week at winter period and 38 hours during summer period. Sometimes is very difficult to find a job. Especially the first 6 months I couldn't find any job. The college helped me thought to find some part-time job in the hospitality industry which is related to my degree. So step by step I started building networking with the many businesses in the sector and finally I found an even better work.



However, many people I know from the Nepalese community still facing different issues. As I said above they have accommodation problems and there is the issue of unemployment. Most Nepalese students received some support by their families but this is not enough at all. Working while you studying is something that we cannot avoid.

Skills and Competencies

I gained experience in the hospitality industry from my work in Cyprus. I increased my communication skills, I improved my English and also Greek. At the beginning it was really difficult but after I found the first job then everything started getting better. I am also a very active person in the Nepalese community and I regularly write many articles about the issues that face the Nepalese in Cyprus. We have a website and we also use social media to express our views and highlight our concerns.

Social Contacts

At the beginning in 2016, I was searching for job as I said above. So one Nepalese guy helped me to found my first job. Then from my first job in a Cypriot business – restaurant I started networking with Cypriots too and building relations with locals. After that I found a better job in Paphos area and I made really good Cypriot friends. So slowly by slowly I started building my network and I increase my social contacts which helped me a lot to survive and also succeed.

Advices to Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

I would like to suggest to immigrants to learn something about Cyprus even before they arrive in the country. They will need to learn the language and the culture. Is some of you are looking to study in Cyprus then you will need to find out the best University and Degree for you.

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