Apoorv Nednur

Inside Our Communities: The Power of Diversity

In our captivating meeting with guest speaker, Judge Ravi K. Sandill on Saturday, December 12, 2020, he made sure to emphasize communities, specifically the many different communities that we live in at any point in time. Our neighborhoods, schools, and even families are all communities we are a part of. Being willing to engage with members of your community in conversation gives you the ability to learn from others, going out of the comfort zones that we try to keep ourselves in. A community doesn’t need to be a simple place around you, either. Your characteristics and qualities can place you into many communities with people across the globe. Judge Sandill himself fits into many different communities because of his characteristic and experiences: he is a judge, a cancer survivor, a Canada-born Indian, a father, and many more. When he interacts with others of any of the communities he is a part of, Judge Sandill can learn about another person’s life and expand his periphery, viewing a wider world than he did before.

During the meeting, a student brought up a very important question. They essentially asked: How do you build a strong, open-minded community? Judge Sandill spoke from experience, saying that a major part of building a proper community is having people not just agree on the rules, but take an active part in supporting them. He also suggests that the people in a community must be diverse. A community full of people that are the same would not have interactions with those that have qualities and experiences unlike their own, making it difficult to view topics from a different perspective.

Honorable Judge Ravi K. Sandill made sure to hammer in our heads the importance of the communities we are a part of and what they need to properly run, and rightly so. Even the community formed around the YLDP students and the amazing board is full of people with a similar interest in the qualities of leadership and success. Every individual in the program, however, has their own personalities and characteristics that make them different from one another. We gather–our meetings are online to keep everyone safe–to learn how we can become leaders of our communities and help each other grow to be better people. And we thank Judge Sandill greatly for bringing these ideas into the spotlight.