For the past 7 years, I have been living in one of the most diverse and populous

countries of the world, India. Although we Indians clash on many matters with

our confused voices, our unique cultural diversity has been one of our greatest

strengths. On the surface and according to the media, it is always sensationally

portrayed how we are still against each other’s practices and beliefs but in our

everyday, small communities beyond all the political orchestrations, we are one.

We all live peacefully together in the same neighborhoods, run around and play

together. Delhi, India’s capital boasts one of the largest mosques in India, the

Jama Masjid, where a person of any religious descent is graciously welcomed. We

have learned to respect each other’s differences and to accept our different

counterparts in a whole hearted way. But above all, we have great pride and

belief in our roots and culture.Down the centuries, we still continue to

celebrate one of our most cherished festivals, Diwali with great pomp,

happiness and unity. We still continue to uphold the traditions of respecting

our elders by touching their feet when we greet them and treating each and

every one of our guests with utmost care like ‘Gods’.

When I first shifted to India after living in Indonesia for around 11 years,

I realized that the competitive spirit of Indians, the race that Indians have

with each other to get into the most prestigious universities, the best paying

jobs, or the most luxurious amenities is what drives us and pushes us to the

best of our potential. Our economy is currently propelled by the hard working

and driven youth of our country that try their best everyday to get on the top.

But my community has also taught me that no matter how far we go, our humble

beginnings, our struggles are a part of us and it is in our nature to remain in

touch with ourselves and our origins. My parents had to work very hard to get

my family where it is today. They moved out from a small rural town in India

into one of most premier condominiums in one of India’s biggest metropolitan

cities. But they remain very grounded in all their endeavors, they keep on trying to

give back to their parents, to the city they were brought up in and they even

paid for a local project of rebuilding a temple on an isolated islet. They have

always inspired me to work as hard as I can and to help the larger community at

hand. My family has always pushed me to dream as big as I possibly can but they

have also taught me the importance of having the courage and determination

to work hard.

“Some people dream of success while other wake up and work hard at it” – Napoleon hill