

The Finale...!

While growing up we are told that everyone we interact with will teach us lessons about life. In school, our teachers are our mentors who instill in us significant theoretical knowledge. At home, our parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents are the foundation on which we learn about attitudes, mannerism, morals and values that will mold us in the real world. Our friends are the ones who share our mistakes and successes side by side and teach us the meaning of social relationships. Each of these personas are indirectly our mentors but it just depends on us to see it.

However, the individual who explicitly undertake the task of being a mentor, possess a unique quality. As I end the pilot phase of the Commonwealth Women's Mentorship Scheme, privilege to be a part of the first batch of women that will gain a new perspective on life and achievements and battling failures, I am honored to have been a mentee. There are billions of persons in the world and this program awarded me the opportunity to learn from someone who I have never met before. Some would argue that it is difficult to connect with someone who had a different cultural background and who is a complete stranger but I say take the leap, it could turn out to be the most amazing part of your life, for me it was.

As I recall my first meeting, discussing our goals for the period and sharing our backgrounds, I felt that this was the beginning of something different for me. Our meetings continued as scheduled followed by Whatsapp chats during the week. As a mentor, she was incredible, her story was life changing and to know that I was privilege to have her as my mentor was even more satisfying. We connected on a mentor-mentee level and more, for she was friend I gained for a lifetime. The one who allowed me to freely express myself and offered me advice where I met a roadblock. As we progress, so did our bond. I was able to achieve all the goals I set out at the beginning of the scheme that has results in great person growth.

There is a lot we can learn from someone in a day, can you image how much we can learn from someone in six months? To those who are reading this and have not joined the Mentorship Scheme as yet, ask yourself what are you waiting for? There is an old saying "time and tide waits for no one" so why not grab this opportunity and expand your horizon and learn from an individual who can give you great insights into your development. You may have a mentor for six months, but you will gain a friend for life. Finally, thank you to the team at the Commonwealth who have contributed to giving birth to this remarkable scheme. Your efforts are not in vain for you are inspiring so many women around the world who see this precious opportunity as a life changing one.