

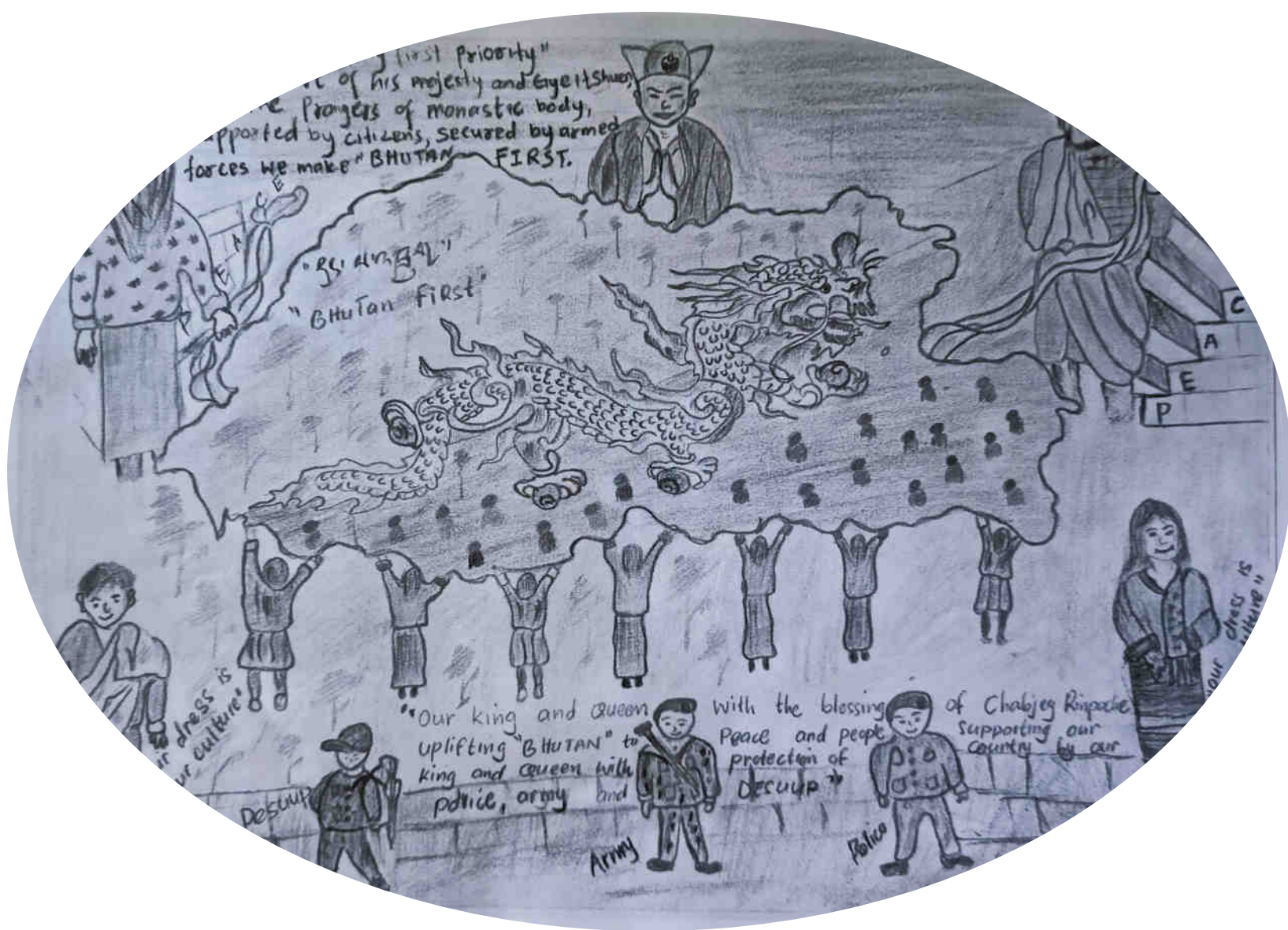
Bhutan first



WALKING THE PATH OF MONARCHS



**Expression of the children of Lhuentse Sherig to commemorate
114th National day 2021.**



Lhuentse Dzongkhag Education Sector

Phone No:+975 04 545218/545126

E-mail: lhuentse@moe.gov.bt

Concept and Guidance: Mrs. Ugyen Pem - Chief Dzongkhag Education Officer
Mr. Kunzang Tenzin - Deputy Chief Dzongkhag Education officer
Mr. Ugyen Dorji - Deputy Chief Dzongkhag Education officer

Design and Layout : Mr. Kelzang Lethro (Tangmachu CS)
Mr. Sangay Chopel (Lhuentse HSS)

2021

Acknowledgement

The Dzongkhag education officer gratefully acknowledges all the contributors and supporters. The sector would also like to sincerely acknowledge Dasho Dzongdag for his keen interest, ready approval, and guidance for the publication of this 114th national day tribute: “Bhutan Frist”



དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང།
Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Education
Rethinking Education



Message from the Minister

I am extremely delighted that Lhuentse Sherig Family is publishing a magazine on the theme "Bhutan First" to commemorate the 114th National Day 2021. The publication of magazine is one of the many initiatives to encourage our teachers and children to explore the real essence of education through reading, writing and other forms of arts. Such activities go beyond a routine academic session by creating avenue to nurture their creativity, boost their innovation and more importantly, to keep them psychologically, socially, emotionally and physically strong during the crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every country around the world and, we are aware that every country is putting their best efforts to combat the deadly pandemic. In our case, under the benevolent leadership of our King and Hon'ble Prime Minister, we were able to navigate through unprecedented challenges and the education sector withstood the test of time and proved to rebound with greater resilience.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Dzongkhag Education Sector and Schools for working tirelessly and completing all the scheduled activities and programs beside the publication of magazine. I would also like to thank the Honorable Prime Minister for his unwavering support to Education.

Above all, the blessings and wisdom from the Golden Throne will continue to guide and inspire the education fraternity. On this most auspicious and joyous occasion of 114th National Day 2021, I would like to join Lhuentse Sherig Family in offering our sincere prayers for His Majesty's long life and rededicate ourselves to serve the Tsa-Wa-Sum with a renewed sense of vigor and zeal.

Tashi Delek

JB Ra
Minister
Ministry of Education
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu : Bhutan
Post Box No. 112, K





དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང།
Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Education
Rethinking Education



Dear Members of the Lhuentse Sherig Family,

My heartiest congratulations to the Lhuentse Sherig Family for coming up with the magazine themed "Bhutan First" to commemorate the 114th National Day of Bhutan. I am truly honoured to be a part of it.

The last two years have been wrought with uncertainties and fear with the pandemic looming large over us. Amid the unending uncertainties, we proved yet again to the world that with our beloved Majesty at the helm, there is no adversity strong enough to shake the country. Whenever we have faced adversities, our beloved Druk Gyalpos have been the shields protecting the citizens.

In commemorating the 114th National Day, may every youth in our country realize the biggest blessings we have been bestowed upon in the form of our beloved Druk Gyalpos. May every youth strive to fulfill His Majesty's vision for the country with utmost dedication and unwavering loyalty. It's time for us to put the larger interest of the country before personal motives. If every Bhutanese take some time on reflecting how our acts would impact Bhutan, we are there, right at the crux of nation building and it's time for us to place Bhutan first. As future citizens, our youth should embrace their responsibility of getting good education and building their character to contribute to nation building.

We have embarked on an important journey of education reform as pronounced by the Royal Kasho. I invite the Lhuentse Sherig Family to continue supporting the reform initiatives. The vision as enshrined in the Royal Kasho is a sacred gift that signifies the noble wishes of His Majesty the King for educationists to commit in nurturing the future Bhutanese who are creative contributors to build and sustain a just and harmonious society.

I call upon Lhuentse Sherig Family to reaffirm our commitment to invest time and sincere efforts to realize the vision of a Bhutanese education system that prepares our students for the world of infinite opportunities and uncertainties. In this edition, I take this opportunity to reaffirm our pledge to shoulder our important responsibility to serve the nation to the best of our abilities and may Bhutan be blessed forever.

Tashi Delek.

Karma Galay

Director General





དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།
Royal Government of Bhutan
Dzongkhag Administration, Lhuentse



Message from Dzongdag

I take an opportunity to thank personally the Lhuentse Dzongkhag Education Office for bringing out the Magazine on the 114th National day theme " Bhutan First "which will be celebrated at Dungkar PS this year 2021. I see that "Nation First "theme of the 114th National Day is very important for the Education Fraternity. As "Nation First" attitude and spirit need to be inculcated in the children of the nation. It is proved that many of the younger generation have a very low spirit of patriotism. Patriotic awareness among younger generation has also been gradually diminished over time and has become a necessity to promote nationalism. The sense of Patriotism plays a very vital role. According to Ahmad Shah Pakeer et al. (2011), 'patriotism' is to build a country, where it requires a lot of struggle and sacrifices, in order to achieve independence and the spirit of patriotism among the people. It is a difficult task to educate the spirit of patriotism among the people because it starts from early childhood education. Schools and Institutions are very important source to fulfill the nations Vision the spirit of "Nation First ". Lhuentse Education is seen taking the first leap in cultivation of values and grace of mind towards achieving the Nations Vision.

On this Occasion of 114th National Day 2021 I would like to offer my prayers and special gratitude to our kings, Our Great Monarchs, who had been serving our country selflessly from generation to generation by always putting Bhutan First.

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulation to the Dzongkhag Education Office, teachers and students for your participation and contribution towards the auspicious 114th National Day Celebration. Keep up with your exemplary leadership, team-work and achievements and I wish the Education fraternity of Lhuentse Dzongkhag a very successful year ahead.

Jambay Wangchuk

(Dzongdag)





དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།

Royal Government of Bhutan
Dzongkhag Administration, Lhuentse



"Bhutan first" generally refers to a policy stance on Bhutan that generally emphasizes Nationalism which means priority to be with one's own nation and support for its interest and not interventionism.

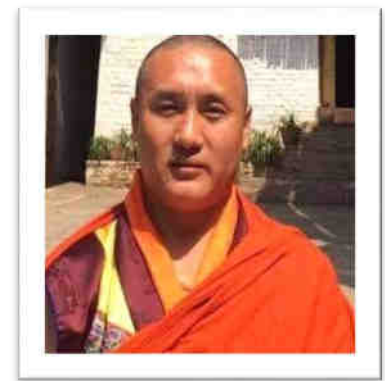
Also it means an ideology that emphasizes loyalty, devotion to a nation and holds that such obligations outweigh other individual's interest.

(Kuenga Penjor, MP)



རང་གིས་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་དང་པ་དག་དབང་ནུས་རྒྱལ་ཤིན་པོ་ཆེའི་ཞབས་ཀྱི་གདན་ས་བཅགས།
དེ་ལས་བཟུང་སྟེ་མི་དབང་འི་ཕྱོད་ནུས་ཀྱི་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཆོས་བཞེན་མཛད།
དེ་ལས་ཡིན་ཀྱང་དམངས་གཙོའི་ལས་སྟེན་བཅུགས་ཏེ་འཛམ་གླིང་སྤྱི་དང་མཐུན་པར་ཡོད།
མི་དབང་རྒྱལ་པོ་དང་སྤྱབ་ས་རྗེ་ཤིན་པོ་ཆེའི་གཉིས་ཀྱི་མངའ་འོག་དག་འབྱོར་སྤྱོད་སྟེ་ཡོད། །

སྤུངས་གནས་བརྟན།

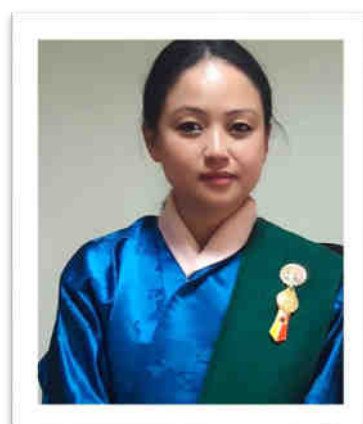


Bhutan First

Bhutan is a gift from our Kings to the people. All that we have achieved today are the accomplishments of our Kings and parents. Now is the time of the current generation to take responsibilities that have been bestowed upon us with the noble faith of His Majesty to leave a gift of a nation to the future generations. As a small nation, an individual's role is very significant in both the success and failure of our nation. Individually, we must promise and strive to excel and commit our willingness and hard work towards Nation building.

What our Nation is, so are We.

Dechen Wangmo
(Drangpon)



Always be "Bhutan First" in your thought, speech and action. The interest of Bhutan as a sovereign Nation must take priority over everything else.

(Dasho Tenpa Dorji NC)





དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།

Royal Government of Bhutan
Dzongkhag Administration, Lhuentse



༄ | རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་དྲུག་ཆེན་སྐབས་སུ་མི་རེ་རེ་བཞིན་དུ་བསམ་སྒྲོག་ཏོང་དགོས་པ། མི་གཅིག་སེམས་གཉིས།
ལ་གཅིག་ལྗེ་གཉིས་མིན་པར། མི་དབང་མངའ་བདག་རིན་པོ་ཆེ་དཔལ་འཛིགས་མེད་སེངྒེ་དབང་ལྷུག་གིས།
རྒྱལ་ཁབ་གཅིག་དང་མི་སེར་གཅིག་ ཁྱེད་གསུངས་པ་བཞིན་དུ། འབྲུག་མི་ག་ར་ཤ་གཅིག་རྩས་གཅིག་ མི་གཅིག་སེམས་གཅིག་
ལ་གཅིག་ལྗེ་གཅིག་ ཁྱེད་གསུངས་རྒྱལ་པ་གཅིག་ ཆོས་གཅིག་སྒྲུབ་གཅིག་སྟེ་དགོས། བད་ན་སྒྲུབ་ཁང་གཅིག་
ཤི་ན་དུར་ཁྲོད་གཅིག་ བསྐྱེད་ན་སྒྲོབ་དཔོན་གཅིག་ བཤད་ན་སྐད་ཡིག་གཅིག་ ཆ་ན་གོས་གཅིག་ ཁྲང་ན་མེ་གཅིག་ |
སྒྲོགས་ན་ཟས་གཅིག་ སྒྲོམ་ན་ཚུ་གཅིག་ སྦྱིད་ན་སྦྱིད་མཉམ། སྤྱད་ན་སྤྱད་མཉམ། མི་བརྒྱ་དབུང་གཅིག་
ལ་བརྒྱ་གཏམ་གཅིག་བཤད་དེ་གོམ་པ་འདུན་དུ་སྟོ། རྒྱལ་པོ་འི་དགོངས་པ་བསྒྲུབ་ཤོག། ཁྲ་མ་འི་སྤྱད་པ་དང་མ་འགལ།
མི་སེར་བདེ་བར་སྦྱོངས་ཤོག།
ཁྱེད་ཨུ་མཆོ་རྣམ་གླིང་མཁན་པོ་འཛིགས་མེད་ལེགས་པ་འི་སྒྲོ་གོས་སམ་རྟ་མགིན་སྟེང་ཐུབ་ནས་སོ། |





དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།
Royal Government of Bhutan
Dzongkhag Administration, Lhuentse
ལྷུན་གྲུབ་རིན་ཆེན་ཕྱི་རྫོང་།



Message from Chief Dzongkhag Education Officer

Education sector Lhuentse, is pleased to introduce the Magazine on the theme **Bhutan First: Walking the path of the monarchs**, to commemorate the 114th National Day. This Magazine entails the expressions of the senior students and the illustration of the younger children on the theme. Lhuentse Sherig pledges to uphold the theme of 114 National Day "Bhutan first" the concept of "nation above all" as the paramount importance in every spheres of learning. The three HHHs principle of Education as the goals to our education in the Dzongkhag, the academic leanings as Education of Head, and the one child seven skills as Education of Hands, the human values and Gross national Happiness values as Education for the "Heart" Instilling values in the children demands to create a thinking opportunity and expressions. Magazines and newsletters are some of the forms, to harness the knowledge and skills of the Children. Creating such platform is crucial to keep students and teachers engaged in enhancing their knowledge and skills and to showcase their literary talents which directly linked in uplifting the quality of education in the long run. Henry Wadsworth Long fellow said "The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well; and doing well whatever you do". As participation is more important than winning, creating avenues by educators is a stepping stone for learners' success to embark upon.

Education is learning organization and every moment is to be seized as learning opportunity. The greatest challenge we face globally is the Climate Change, Deterioration of the human values. Lhuentse Sherig, we believe that every Child as the potential reservoirs and future wealth and we seize the national events and auspicious occasion to inculcate the values of nationalism and sacred Bhutanese values "*Tha-damtse Layjudrel*". Education as custodians to attend the developmental needs of the children and maximize human and strive towards achieving the vision "Nationally rooted and Globally competent" I personally feel that education in the post Covid -19 era should to take a leap of mankind as first and foremost components and evolve, accommodate, collaborate and lead out best from every child ensuring uninterrupted and sustainable education.

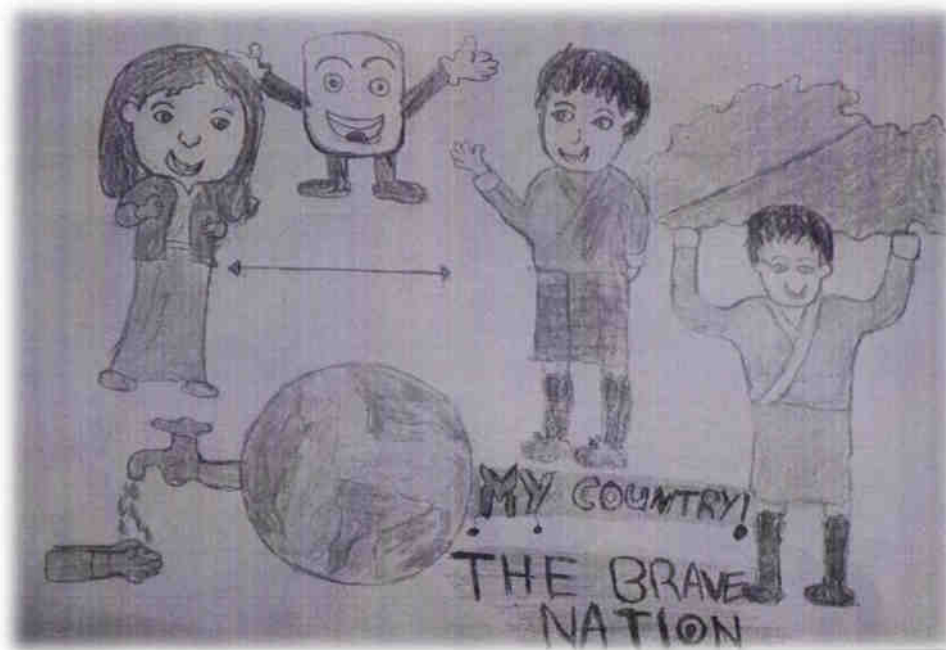
This magazine will serve as the ambassador on the ideology of the our kingdom as the "Bhutan First" I on behalf of Lhuentse Sherig envisage that the children of Lhuentse Dzongkhag will carry the brand of the most trust worthy citizens of nation, who are prepared adaptive confident and well focused creative with high integrity beyond the best knowledge, Skills and Attitudes. "Together We Can" is our ideology Penden Drukpa Gyalo !

Tashi Delek



དཔལ་ཚོ་རྒྱན་གུ་རུ་འཕྲུལ་བལྟན་བཞིན། །སྒྲུལ་པ་སྒྲིང་པའི་གདུང་བརྒྱད་ལས། །
 དཔལ་ཚོས་ཀྱི་རྒྱལ་པོ་དང་པ་འབྲུངས། །འབྲུག་ནང་འབྲུགས་སུན་པའི་རྒྱན་བཅད་མཛད། །
 དཔལ་གོང་ས་ཚོ་རྒྱན་དབང་ཕྱག་མཆོག་པོ་དཔལ་པོའི་གཏམ་སྟན་ཕྱོགས་བཞིར་གྲགས། །
 དཔལ་འབྲུག་པའི་མན་བདེའི་སྒོ་འབྱེད་པས། །འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་དང་པའི་རྟགས་བཟང་མཆོན། །
 དཔལ་མི་དབང་འཇིགས་མེད་དབང་ཕྱག་གིས། །ཡལ་རྩེ་དམ་པའི་མཛད་ལྷལ་འཛིན། །
 འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་འབངས་འཛམ་གླིང་དམག་ཆེན་གྱི། །རྒྱུན་བར་ཆད་མེད་པར་སྤྲུང་སྟོབ་མཛད། །
 རྒྱ་གཞུང་དང་མཐུན་འབྲེལ་དམ་ཟབ་མཛད། །ནང་འབྲུག་མིའི་སྦྱིད་སྤྱུག་དཔྱ་ཁལ་སོགས། །
 མར་ཕབ་ནས་བདེ་སྦྱིད་ཀྱིས་སྦྱོང་བས། །འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་དང་པའི་རྟགས་བཟང་མཆོན། །
 དཔལ་མི་དབང་འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་གསུམ་པ་གིས། །ཐབས་མཁས་དང་ཐུགས་རྩེ་མཛད་ས་པ་ལས། །
 ཕྱི་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་གཞན་དང་མཐུན་འབྲེལ་མཛད། །བདེ་སྦྱིད་ཀྱི་ཕུན་ཚོགས་སྒོ་འཕར་བྱེད། །
 དཔལ་འབྲུག་པའི་མི་སེར་པོ་མོ་རྣམས། །ཕྱི་ནང་གི་ཡོན་ཏན་སྤྲུང་བཅོན་ཆེད། །
 ཕྱི་ནང་གི་སྟོབ་གྲ་གསར་དུ་བཙུགས། །ཡོན་ཏན་གྱིས་རང་མགོ་འཕྱོན་པར་མཛད། །
 དཔལ་འབྲུག་ཡུལ་གོང་འཕེལ་མཐའ་དོན་དུ། །ལས་འཛིན་དང་ལས་ཁུངས་ཚོགས་སྡེ་སོགས། །
 གསར་བཙུགས་ནས་མི་སེར་བདེར་བཀོད་པས། །འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་དང་པའི་རྟགས་བཟང་མཆོན། །
 དཔལ་གཏེར་བཏོན་འབྲུག་སྤྱོད་རྩེ་ཡི། །ལུང་བསྟན་བཞིན་འབྲུལ་མེད་རྒྱལ་བའི་སྤྱུལ། །
 དཔལ་མི་དབང་འཇིགས་མེད་སེལ་མཆོག་དཔལ་འབྲུག་མིའི་མགོན་དུ་བྱོན་པ་བཟང་། །
 དཔལ་ཡལ་རྩེ་དམ་པའི་མཛད་བཟང་རྣམས། །བྱུང་ཅམ་ཡང་ཉམས་མེད་སྦྱོང་བ་དང་། །
 འབྲུག་མི་སེར་སྤྱི་ཡི་ཕན་བདེའི་ཕྱིར། །གོང་འཕེལ་གྱི་ལྷོ་བ་མཐའ་ཡས་བཙུགས། །
 དཔལ་འབྲུག་པའི་ལྷ་བ་བྱུང་པར་ཅན། །རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་ཀྱི་དགའ་སྦྱིད་དཔལ་འཛོམས་ལ། །
 གཞིར་བཞག་ནས་གསོ་བ་ཤེས་རིག་དང་། །སོ་ནམ་དང་སྒོ་མོར་ནགས་ཆལ་དང་། །
 སྒོག་མེ་དང་སྒོག་རིག་ལམ་སེལ་སོགས། །བཙུགས་གནང་བ་མ་ཆད་རྒྱལ་འབངས་རྣམས། །
 གཡེབ་དམག་ལས་རྒྱན་མེད་སྤྱབས་མཛད་པས། །འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་དང་པའི་རྟགས་བཟང་མཆོན། །
 དཔལ་འབྲུག་མི་བསོད་ནམས་སྤྱི་མཐུན་ལས། །སྤྱབས་གོང་མ་དག་དབང་རྣམ་རྒྱལ་གྱི། །
 སྐྱ་གསུང་གི་རྣམ་ལོང་མངའ་བདག་མཆོག་མི་སེར་གྱི་རྒྱལ་པོར་བྱོན་པ་བཟང་། །

དཔལ་ཚོས་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གི་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་འདིའི། ཚོས་སྤྱི་ཤིང་ལམ་སྤོལ་སྤར་ལས་ལྷག།
 རྒྱན་སྤྱོད་ཞིང་གོང་འཕེལ་མཛད་པ་ལས། རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་རང་དབང་སྤར་བས་བཅོན།
 དེང་དུས་ཀྱི་འཛམ་གླིང་གཅིག་འབྲུར་བསྟན། གོང་འཕེལ་གྱི་ལས་སྤྱོད་མཐའ་ཡས་པ།
 གཞི་བཙུགས་ནས་རྒྱལ་འབངས་བདེར་བཀོད་པས། འབངས་འཁོར་གྱི་བདེ་སྤྱིད་ལྷ་བས་ལྷག།
 འཛམ་གླིང་གི་མི་རྒྱལ་ས་ནད་ཡམས་ཀྱི། ལྷག་བསྐྱེད་གྱིས་བཟོད་མེད་མནར་བའི་དུས།
 འབྲུག་མི་རྒྱལ་སྤྱོད་མེད་སྤྱབས་མཛད་པས། འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་དང་པའི་རྟགས་བཟང་མཚན།
 འབྲུག་མི་སེར་ཆེ་འབྲིང་རྒྱུ་གསུམ་གྱིས། འབྲུག་མི་དབང་རྒྱལ་པོའི་ཐུགས་དགོངས་བཞིན།
 བཀའ་ཅི་གསུངས་སྤྱབ་པའི་དམ་བཅས་ནས། འབྲུག་ཡུལ་གྱི་མཐའ་དོན་གཙོ་བོ་རྟོན་ཏེ།
 རང་མཐོ་བའི་སེམས་ལུ་འབྲུག་དང་པ། ཁ་སྤྱབ་པའི་ཆོག་ལུ་འབྲུག་དང་པ།
 ཕྱི་སྤྱོད་པའི་བྱ་བར་འབྲུག་དང་པ། གཙོ་བོ་རྟོན་ན་འབྲུག་པའི་བྱ་རྒྱུད་བཟང་།
 འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་པོ་སྤྱོད་ཆེ་བརྟན་པར་ཤོག། འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་པོའི་མཛད་འཕྲིན་རྒྱས་པར་ཤོག།
 འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་འབངས་བདེ་སྤྱིད་ལྷན་པར་ཤོག། འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་བསྐྱེད་པར་གནས་པར་ཤོག།
 - སྤྱི་རྒྱལ་འབྲིང་མི་སྤྱོད་སྤྱབ་པ་ལས་ རྫོང་སྤྱོད་མིང་ཅམ་འཛིན་པ་ བཀའ་ཤིས་དབང་ལྷག་གིས་ལུ།



Pema Samdrup, Class IV, Mijey MSS



Sangay Choney Khewden, Class VI, Dungkar PS

Bhutan First: 114th National Day tribute

Hark at the passionate singing of birds,
And the dancing of butterflies of exotic colours
Softly hearken the fluttering of gleeful fishes
Awaken your ears to the soulful song on lips of every Bhutanese
All these are the melodies of Drukyul.

Behold! Peace and security is in abundance as fresh air
Happiness has its domain in every living paradigm
Culture is striving and thriving
The monarchs' compassionate leadership is verily inspirational
These are the keystones of Drukyul.

An act as quietly grand as planting a fruit tree
An act as modestly great as picking a piece of paper
An act as infinitely precious as teaching an alphabet
A graceful dance for the mellifluous choir of little Zhungdra
These are the keys of "First Bhutan; Bhutan First".

As people of varying hair colour and texture gather for National Day
Of 114th celebration of perpetual peace and happiness, at Dungkar
An overwhelmingly rousing emotion has erupted...
Blood is in Bhutan's perennial water, so is flesh, so is bone...
Nothing predates BHUTAN: Bhutan First.

Kunzang Tenzin

(DCDEO, Lhuentse)

Leading Legendary Lhuentse



Sangay Tshering Yangzom , Class IA , Thimphu LSS.

Bhutan First

Bhutan is a small and peaceful country. Bhutan is the country where I was born and living happily. Bhutan is ruled by a kind King. We have a beautiful queen and two princes. Most people are Buddhists. Gross National Happiness (GNH) is our developmental goal. Bhutan is a remote kingdom nestling in the Himalayas between its powerful neighbors, India and China.

Bhutan is a happy country. People smile a lot. My grandmother and grandfather enjoy eating doma. In Bhutan all children receive free education and all people get free health services. We breathe fresh air and drink clean water. In Bhutan, money is not everything, the idea of Gross National Happiness is everything. Our country is covered with forest.

The king gives us peace and safety. The king is helped by a beautiful queen. Bhutan is a beautiful country with dzongs, lhakhangs, and monks. There are many monks. The Bhutanese name for Bhutan, Druk yul, means "Land of the Thunder Dragon" and it only began to open up to outsiders in the 1970s.

Bhutan has a unique dress. It is called Kira and Gho. Girls wear Kira and boys wear Gho. The fluttering of gigantic national flags keeps me safe. Bhutan is a peaceful country, unlike many countries. In other countries, I hear news about war, forest fires, but in Bhutan news is usually about our king, water, and happiness. Bhutan is not a wealthy country. But we are rich in trees and water. Let us save precious resources for our children by not getting dirty.

Without the land "Bhutan" there won't be anything. There wouldn't be culture, language, and Gross National Happiness. Our mind, body and soul must all work together for Bhutan. Bhutanese should not be selfish. Everyone prospers and lives happily in this land called "Bhutan". Therefore, for me "Bhutan comes first".

I will study hard and help Bhutan to grow stronger. All the people of Bhutan should think like me. Let us work hard and make Bhutan a happy country. Let us continue to breathe fresh air and drink fresh water. Let us all work and think "BHUTAN".

Ngawang Choden, VII

Lhuentse Higher Secondary School

BHUTAN FIRST

Bhutan, a little Asian kingdom situated between two giants, has evolved from a medieval village to a tranquil modern state. In the 17th century, the founder, Zhabdrung (At Whose Feet One Kneels), unified the land, establishing a dual type of governance (Choe Nyiden). Bhutan's first hereditary monarch was elected by the people of Bhutan in 1907, when the first king of Bhutan was unanimously elected. Bhutan has had a peaceful monarchy for almost a century. With the implementation of the first five-year plan in 1961, the country experienced rapid economic growth. Modernization occurred at the same time that the country joined international organizations such as the United Nations in 1971 and established diplomatic relations with other countries.

Bhutan was noted in the 1990s for its unique and holistic development model, Gross National Happiness, which our Great Fourth King pioneered. Bhutan considers the happiness of its people to be more important than the country's gross domestic product. As a result, succeeding governments have focused on creating conditions that maximize people's happiness. On July 18, 2008, another historic occurrence occurred. Bhutan is a democratic constitutional monarchy that is one of the world's newest democracies. Because of His Majesty the Fourth King and His Majesty the King's skillful leadership, the transition to a democratic nation has been successful.

Bhutan's 12th Five-Year Plan is now being implemented by the country's third elected administration. Bhutan, although becoming one of the fastest rising economies in Southeast Asia, faces numerous socioeconomic issues. To name a few, rising youth unemployment, concerns relating to the elderly population, corruption, and geopolitical issues. The world is evolving at a breakneck speed. Bhutan must not be forgotten. She should either join the rest of the nations in leaping or take the lead in the race.

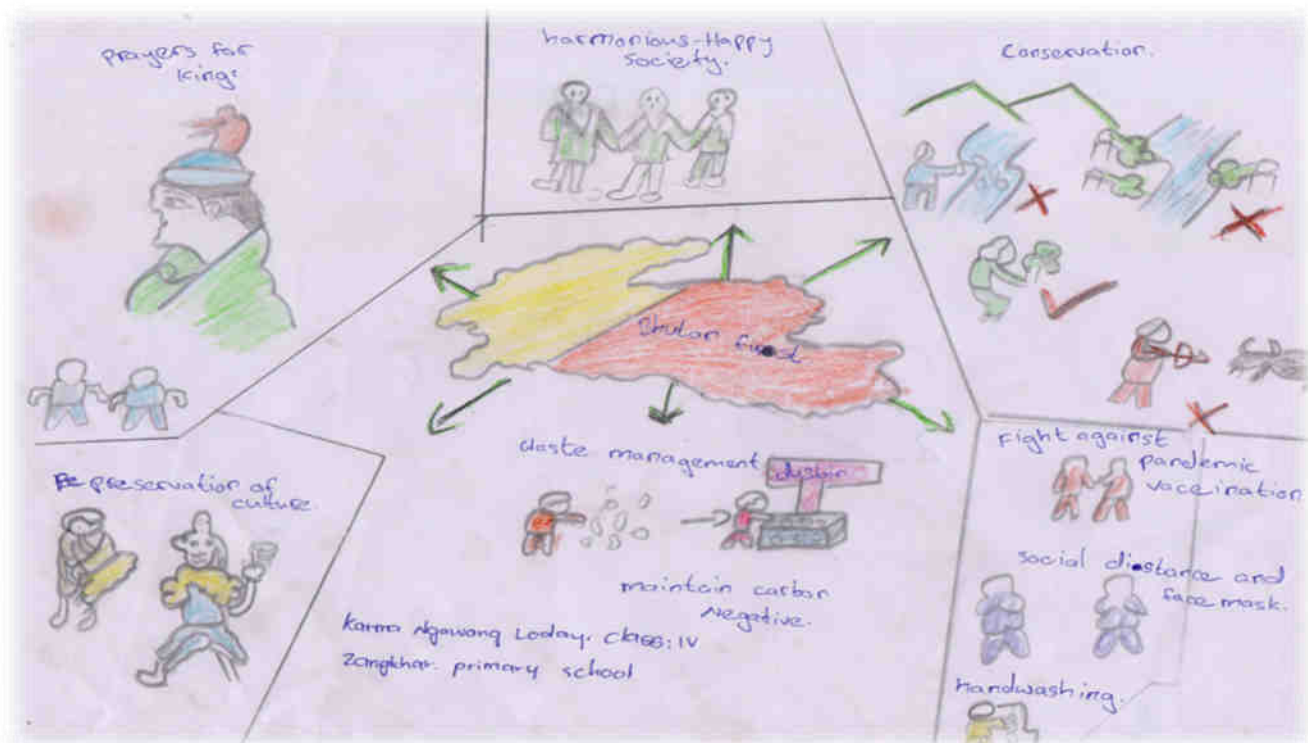
Bhutan First is the theme for Bhutan's 114th National Day in 2021. There are numerous ways to interpret the concept. Every time and in every situation, the national interest should take precedence. As a result, all other interests become secondary. Individual, organizational, communal, or Dzongkhag interests should take precedence over national interests. Bhutan becoming a self-reliant country, a GNH pursuing society, security, sovereignty and others are all examples of national interest.

Bhutan's economy is currently based on imports. Bhutan's biggest development partner, India, is reliant on it for both merchandise and finance. The recurrent expenditures are barely covered by domestic revenue. Over time, the trade gap has worsened. Bhutan's economy is weak due to its overdependence on India. Changes in the Indian economy have a direct impact on the Bhutanese economy. Bhutan should focus on reducing its dependence on India while keeping the national interest of economic self-sufficiency in mind. Bhutan has reached the point when it needs to diversify its economic basis. Small and cottage industries, agriculture, and mining are only a few of the potential sectors for achieving the twin goals of economic expansion (self-reliance) and full employment.

Bhutan is considered as the GNH's motherland. The world has realized that happiness is important. Bhutan should endeavor to improve the conditions that are necessary for people to be happy. Economic stability (money - having a steady source of income), health, family integrity, gender equality, and equality are all regarded determinants of happiness, according to the GHN surveys. Bhutan First - in order to promote Bhutan as a GNH society, policy interventions and programs should be implemented to enable the drivers to achieve gross national happiness.

Overall, national interest - Bhutan first - should take precedence. All other pursuits should take a back seat. A person's, a community's, a Gewog's, a Dzongkhag's, or an organization's interest in Bhutan becoming self-reliant, reinforced as a GNH society, maintaining our sovereign position, and moving ahead of the countries.

Sonam Tobgay
Teacher
Minjey Middle Secondary School

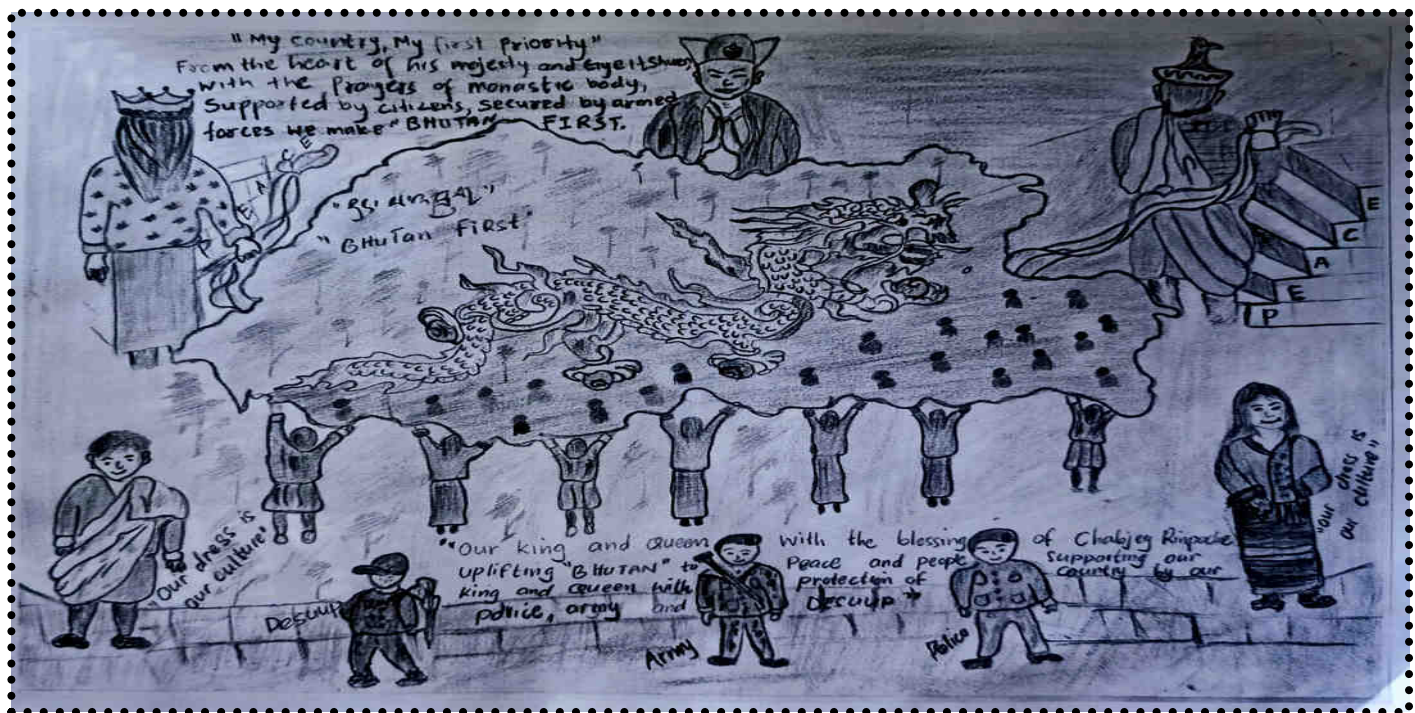


Karma Ngawang Loday, Class IV, zangkhar PS

SMART: Tsawa Sum

As we know that
 Our country would be first
 Because of our beloved Kings
 And smart Bhutanese.
 Our country should be first
 Citizens received covid-19 vaccination
 If the citizens are healthy
 The country is healthy.
 Our country should be first
 In thoughts, feelings and words
 Learning and striving to be
 Culturally rooted and globally competent.
 United we stand higher
 Achieving common goals
 Fulfilling His Majesty's aspirations
 Let's work harder to keep Bhutan first.

Tshewang Tempheh
Class VIII



Nation Always In My Heart

I always remind myself how fortunate I am to be born in this country
 A country gifted from the heaven with the blessings of triple gem and Wangchuck Dynasty
 A country filled with great bliss, happiness, peace and harmony
 Thus, people are freely grazing its serenity and joy.

The citizens enjoy the free facilities
 Those free gifted facilities equipped me with wisdom, experience, skills and knowledge.
 I owe the nation for moulding and molding me into a good educator
 Thus, my country is also my happy home.

If I am immortal, I will serve the nation with honor and dedication for century
 Keeping the nation in my mind and heart, my first priority will it be always
 I will work day and night with smartness to keep my nation on the top
 As it's now a time that I pay back to my nation.

I will ensure myself to strengthen my own capacity to explore
 To develop better opportunities to serve the country without deplore
 Taking care the problems of the nation as my own and as a first priority
 Resolving it as of own nation building, serving with heart as exemplarity.

Sonam Tobgay

Teacher

Minjey Middle Secondary School



My Pride: Bhutan

Bhutan First to modern world

My country, my heaven
 Small but peaceful.
 Now as time changes
 We should be mindful.
 It is mostly because
 Change in development,
 And change in thoughts.
 Disobeying the law
 Which are made by leaders
 Makes our land loser
 And closer to the mighty ocean.
 One day we might get drowned
 Thus, we have to promote
 And preserve our culture
 To show that we are Bhutanese
 Who obeys law and live a faithful life.
 Our country is our wealth
 We can proudly say
 Bhutan first now and forever.

Dechen Zangmo
Class VIII
Khoma LSS

Why should Bhutanese people give first priority to Bhutan? Giving priority to the country means sacrificing the life for the country. It is for country sovereignty and development. Bhutanese must protect and secure its own country. Bhutan is a small and religious kingdom which is surrounded by mountains and walk on the path of GNH.

In 2020 during COVID-19 pandemic, all Bhutanese came together to fight under the leadership our King. People came forward to volunteer and gave cooperation like most youth joined Desuups and did extraordinary work to keep every citizen safe. Monarch fulfilled all the wishes of people. This is the truth, all Bhutanese must understand.

Sonam Yangchen, X D

Autsho CS



Sonam Wangdi, Class IB, Autsho CS

The Warrior of Thunder Dragon Land

Bhutan, the land of Thunder Dragon, is nestled between two giant countries. China to the north and India to the South. It has remained independent and in isolation for centuries from the rest of the world. Yet, a country was divided and ruled by powerful people. Every time the rulers of different districts fought and people remained with no peace. But then, in the 17th century, a great ruler who came to Bhutan in 1616 AD from Tibet, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal united the country into one and it remained united until his death in 1651 AD. On 17th December, 1907, son of Jigme Namgyel, named Ugyen Wangchuck, united into one and enthroned as the first monarch of the country.

After the enthronement of the first king, disputes among different rulers were settled, whereby people were able to live in peace and in harmony. More than 100 years, Bhutan has been ruled by five visionary and selfless kings. They have uplifted and moved Bhutan towards the modern era and are capable of competing with other countries. In 2008, the Great Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck, founder of Gross National Happiness, made our country from monarchy to democratic constitutional monarchy, giving power and right to people to select their own government.

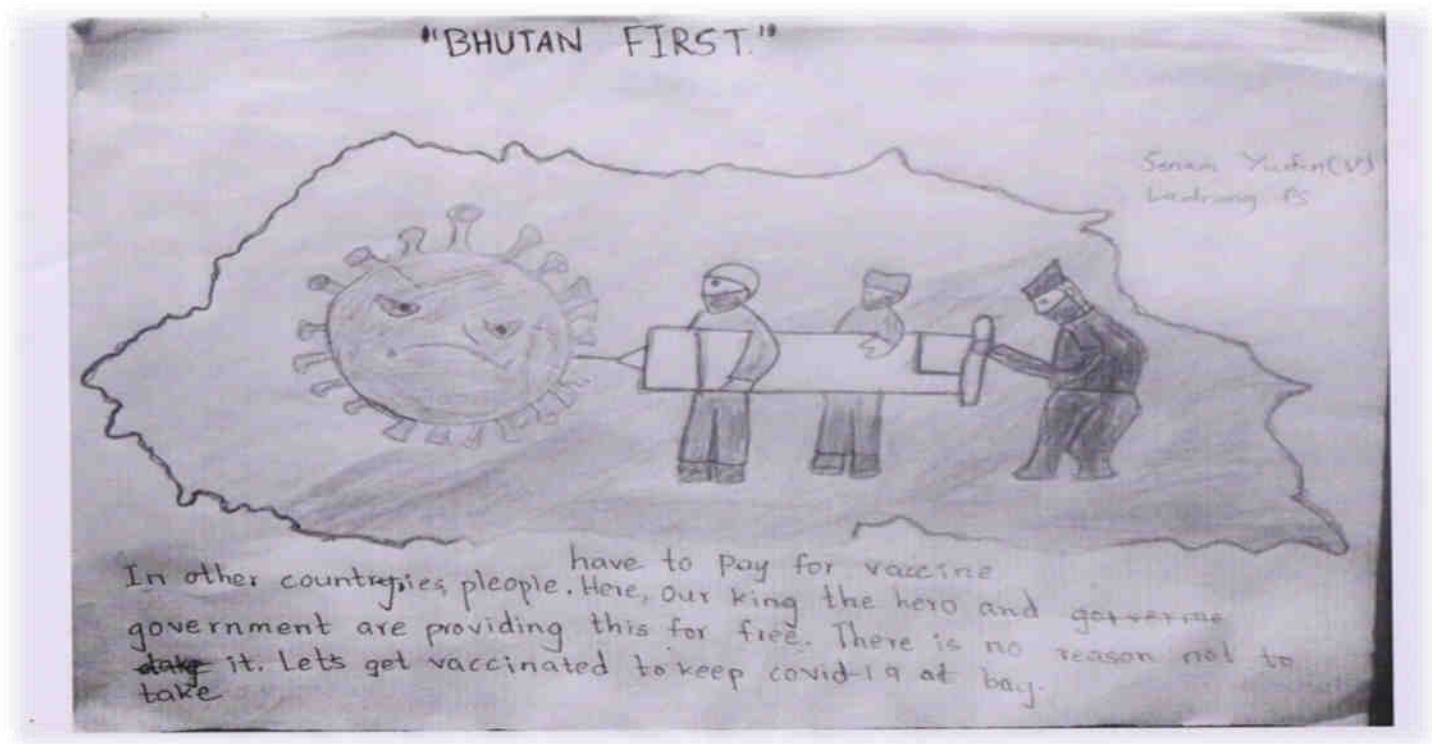
In early March, 2020, a dreaded virus called Covid-19 entered into the country worsening the country's economic performance and putting people's life at risk. Border gates were closed, international travel was restricted and our country was locked down several times to mitigate the spread of virus. Besides the measures taken to control the virus, his Majesty the Fifth Druk Gyalpo personally travelled selflessly around the country and closely monitored the Covid situation.

In conclusion, Bhutan is a small country, yet it was ruled by great kings and is still ruled by a visionary king. Bhutan was able to survive and remained safe while other countries are still struggling with widespread use of the virus. Therefore, we must really thank our great leaders for protecting and guiding us to the right trail.

Sonam Yangzom 'A'

Class VII

Lhuentse Higher Secondary School



Sonam Yuden, Class V, Ladrang PS

Smaller in the Bigger World

Bhutan is a tiny remote kingdom in Himalaya between the two powerful neighbor India and china. We wear gho and kira. We speak Dzongkha and we love our culture. It is a beautiful country with fresh environment and cool air. My country Bhutan is unique from other country in every aspects. We are blessed by Triple Gem; the protector and guardians: His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. His majesty the king has always looked into the welfare of his people. The importance is given for the national interest and served his subject focusing on the long term goals.

As a Bhutanese it is our responsibility to serve Tsa-Wa-Sum with dedication. Gross National Happiness (GNH) is the idea of our His majesty the fourth king. The happiness of citizen is put first than the product. Nation across the globe appreciates the great idea of our majesty.

Furthermore, Bhutan is rich in natural resources. The coverage of forest is about 70 percent. National resources is really important in our lives and the successive monarch played an important role to preserve and protect the environment for sustainability. Environment is very important for the survival of life including human and animals. Preservation of natural environment was felt important and the visionary king decreed that the nature should be preserved for sustainable use.

Lastly, we should love our king. We should respect our king. We should follow the rules. We should always be patriotic to the country. We should not go against the Tsa-Wa-Sum. We should be grateful to our king for giving peace.

"Let's Raise Our Hand and Make Bhutan First. Pelden Drukpa Gyalo"

Rigsel Ugyen Yangchen.

VIII B

Tangmachu Central School.



Yeejung Kuengyel, Class IV, Thimiyul LSS

Our country

In the land of Thunder Dragon
We the people of Drukyl
Are lucky to be under
Wangchuk Dynasty

Our country's happiness
Began since 1907

When Sir Gongsa Ugyen Wangchuck
Ruled with all his potentials.

Because of our greatest leaders
Today our country is rich in culture
People of Drukyl are living
In peace and harmony.

Pema Tashi
Class VII
Khoma LSS

འབྲུག་ཡུལ་དང་པ།

ཟག་ཏེ་བཏོན་པ་སྐྱོ་སྤྲིང་གཏུང་འཛིན། རྒྱལ་ཀྲན་འདུས་པའི་སྤྱི་གཟུགས།
དབང་ཕྱུག་ཅན་གྱི་གཏུང་བརྒྱད། འབྲུག་ཡུལ་འདི་ནང་འབྲུགས་ཡོད།

བྱམས་བཅེ་ཅན་གྱི་རྒྱལ་པོས། འབངས་འཁོར་རྣམས་ལུ་བྱམས་བཅེ།
སྤྱི་དུས་གདུང་མེད་སྟོམས་ཏེ། མི་སེར་སྤྱན་པ་སེལ་སོང་།

རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཡར་རྒྱས་གོས་པ། ཡར་དོ་སྒྲུབ་བཟུབས་འཕེལ་ཏེ།
མི་སེར་བདེ་བར་བཀོད་དེ། རྒྱལ་ཁབ་གཞན་དང་འདྲ།

འབངས་འཁོར་དམ་ཚིག་གཅིང་ཤོག། སངས་རྒྱལ་བསྟན་རྒྱས་ཤོག།
དབང་ཕྱུག་བསྐལ་བརྒྱར་གནས་ཤོག། རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཞི་བདེ་འཕེལ་ཤོག།

ཀྲན་བཟང་རྣམ་རྒྱལ།

མཁོ་མ་འབྲིང་མི་སྟོབ་གྲ་འོག་མ།



Tenzin Yoesel, Class V, Autsho CS

Perks of being Bhutanese

Bhutan, The land of Thunder Dragon, home for more than 0.7 million people is a small country yet peaceful under the reign of Wangchuk Dynasty. It is one of the Himalayan Kingdom landlocked between two giant countries and a country enrich with culture, peace, clean environment and artistic nature. The people of Bhutan are like single-nest bird like a big family. It is our home. We are proud and delighted to call it ours.

Bhutan, despite being small has great remarks and Bhutan is said to be the first country in the world with specific obligations on its people to protect the environment and only nation where the sale of tobacco was banned.

Bhutan is Democratic Constitutional Monarchy and all people are provided rights to do what is right and fair justice prevails irrespective of status of people.

Bhutan is the country which gave the idea of the philosophy of Gross National Happiness. When other countries go for war, we seek for happiness and spread peace. To keep the name of the GNH country, inner peace of the nation really matters. Bhutan also has rich values and traditions which hold the root for the country to be independent and uniqueness that describes a nation. There is no place in the world like Bhutan as we have well preserved etiquette and distinct cultures.

The fresh air we breathe, the clean water we drink and the peace and security we enjoy are all a part of our environment. Bhutan has eye catching features like mountains, terrains, forest, rivers and rich primate life which are rare. It is a safe place with free education and health care and society with very less crimes.

Living under the rule of our generous kings and being inspired by them is our greatest pride. Our Kings put citizen's need before everything to enable us to lead a happy life. Therefore, as we live in peace so shall we put our country before everything-Bhutan first.

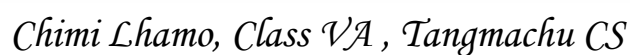
Tashi Khueldon
Class VIII,
Autsho CS, 2021

ཞུན་གྱ་ཅུ་རིན་པོ་ཆེའི་ཞིང་ཁམས་དངོས་ཡིན་མི་ང་བཅས་རའི་འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་འདི་ཕྱི་མཛོས་པའི་གངས་རི་རྩེ་གིས་བསྐོར་ནང་ལྷན་རིགས་རྩེ་གིས་གང་སྟེ་ཡོད་པས་འཛམ་གླིང་རྒྱབ་གཞན་དང་རྩ་ལས་མ་འདྲམ་ལས་ཁད་དུ་འཕགས་པ་འབད་བརྩིས་ཡིན།

གཞན་གྱི་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་སྤོང་ཆུ་ནང་ རྒྱ་ནུ་ལོངས་སྤྱོད་ག་དེམ་ཅིག་ཡོད་དེ་འབད་ཅུང་དུས་ཨ་རྟག་ར་ནད་དང་མུ་གེ་འཛིང་འཁྲུག་འབྱུང་བ་བཞི་གྱི་རྒྱུ་དན་ཚུ་ལས་
བཞེན་ཏེ་མི་སེར་ཚུ་དུས་ནམ་ར་འབད་ཅུང་སྤྱད་བསྐལ་ནང་ལུ་སྤོད་དོ་ཡོད་པ་ཨིན།

ང་བཅས་འབྲུག་མི་ཡོངས་ཀྱི་ ཏུས་ཨ་རྟག་ར་ཐ་དམ་ཚིག་ལས་རྒྱ་འབྲས་དཔང་ལུ་གཞུགས་ཏེ་མནོ་བསམ་གཅིག་ཁར་གཏང་ལགཔ་གཅིག་ཁར་མཐུད་དེ་ ང་བཅས་རའི་འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་ཞིང་ཁམས་འདི་ཡ་ཕྱོད་སར་ལུ་ཕྱོད་ནི་ཡོདཔ་བཟོ་ནི་གི་འགན་ཁུར་འདི་ ང་བཅས་འབྲུག་གི་མི་སེར་རེ་རེ་བཞིན་ཏུ་ལུ་ ཐོགཔ་ཨིན།

སྒྲུབ་རིམ་ཡང།





Dorji Yuden, Class VI, LPS

The land of Thunder Dragon

Bhutan is a country, peacefully located between two most populated countries. Bhutan has less population but it is rich in traditions and blessed by Guru Rinpoche and Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel. The entire citizen is like a family, who carries their responsibility sincerely and respects each other. The entire citizens are compassionate and believes in Tha-Damtse and Ley Judrey.

Our king helps people giving peace and happiness; therefore, the Bhutanese land is filled with happiness and joy. The fourth King of Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck started GNH, which stands for Gross National Happiness, hence, making it different from other countries. GNH helps Bhutanese a lot to gain happiness. Happiness is result of preserving the Bhutanese culture. Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal came to Bhutan and spread Drukpa Kagyu that shines like a sun and is shining even to these days.

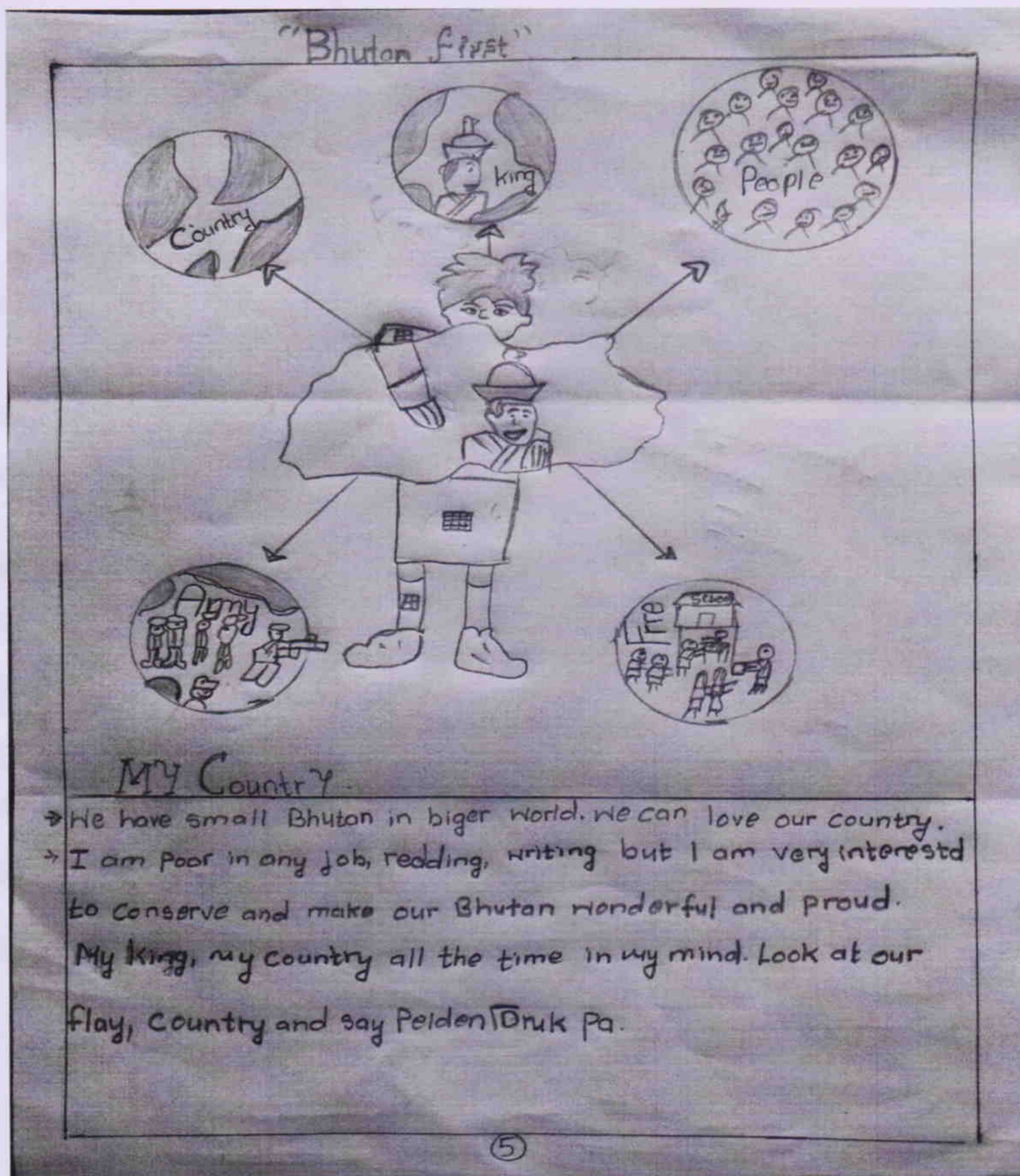
Our Majesty considers Drukpa Kagyu as very important and protects it. After ascending on the throne, Our King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck works every day. So, there is unity, peace and harmony bringing happiness to the people of Bhutanese. Bhutanese considers our King as god because he is very compassionate person, who always thinks and works for the people and country.

In Bhutan, because of our compassionate king, we Bhutanese have freedom wherever we go. Moreover, the education and health facilities are free.

Bhutan is a Buddhist kingdom located on eastern edge and surrounded by Himalayas, which is known as the Himalayan kingdom. Bhutan has dramatic landscapes and have many natural resources compared to other countries. We also have fresh air to breath and clean water to drink, along with hydro power project and precious medicinal herbs. Therefore, Bhutan is known as Menjong Norbuling (Precious land of medicinal herbs).

Bhutanese are extremely fortunate to have such a courageous king. Bhutan is a land of Thunder Dragon filled with Cyprus country and comparatively developed to the earlier times due to the great Wangchuck dynasty. Our country is a Kingdom filled with happiness, known throughout the world. Lastly, we are lucky and grateful to be born in the land of thunder dragon.

Pema Lhacho, VII A
(Autsho CS)



Kinga Dendrup, Class VI, WPS

Melodious Bhutan

The land of Thunder Dragon is blessed by the Great Monarchs, who without any doubts had sacrificed their precious life and served as a *Magpoen* during difficult period in our country. Neither this generation nor in future we can pay back the debt for the hereditary monarchs for work done to us. They had worked tirelessly and selflessly towards striving for the welfare of their subjects.

From the time of our forefathers till the present day with prayers of our Monarchs, the greatest parents that the Bhutanese people ever had, had eliminated all the enemies from outside and within the nation. Without leaving single foe, Wangchuck Dynasty had looked after the citizens with utmost love and compassion and spread the kindness to animals and other beings in our country and abroad. Our Beloved Kings had protected the sovereignty of our country, though surrounded by two giant nations; India to the South and China to the North.

Moreover, many sections of people were freed from the landlords and provided with land to work and clean drinking water, road for transportation and free education. Health facilities, farming machineries and equipment, television and communication station and hydro powers are the gifts from our benevolent and dynamic leadership of our great monarchs. Hydro power had generated huge revenues and made differences to lives of many people.

Furthermore, under the selfless leadership of our Druk Gyalpo, Bhutan is saved from the waves after the waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. When thousands of men, women and children die in other countries, lives of the people were made comfortable with His Majesty's Pandemic Relief Fund. People were called back from the other countries and provided the best quarantine facilities and those affected were also supported by our Beloved King. His Majesty made tremendous sacrifices to save our country from rampant COVID 19. Prime Minister, Health Minister and other ministers also tirelessly worked for the wellbeing of the nation. Dessung, army and police left their family behind to safeguard our country in boarder areas.

Similarly the Central Monastic Body with compassionate leadership from the Chabje Je Khenpo, they performed numerous rituals to protect our country from Covid. Looking at the tireless works of our great leaders make tear roll down on my cheek. We are lucky to born in *Druk Gyalkhab* where our leaders are true *Jangchuksempas*. I salute to my Beloved King for letting us enjoy such a wonderful lives. You gave us strength to move forward with courage, motivation and resilience to be somebody in future and serve *Palden Drukzhung*.

**Phuntsho Galley, XI Arts A &
Norbu Wangchuk, XI Arts A
Tangmachu Central School**

Greatest act of Bhutanese

The beam known as "The Last Shangri-La" is now reaching every part of the globe. Bhutan has enchanted the entire globe at various times, displaying perfect wisdom and selfless acts of people ranging from the nation's leader to amazing men. Those events will forever be remembered as the story of a small country.

As said by His Majesty, "We must always stand united in spirit and purpose. We must always be one nation with one common goal." That is why with one goal and dream, citizens of Bhutan pulled the country's name with time. The contributions, visions and particularly the potential of monarchs to take country one step ahead are immeasurable. The word that has been spoken will be the wisdom and determination which is included as one factor for people working together for the country.

Moreover, system of working hand to hand and coming forward to withstand what lies in the future is still alive. There we grow seed for friendship between other brother and sister countries. The people's king aims for Bhutan First! Bhutanese people are less of telling "I" and more of "we".

"Gross National Happiness" is one of the unique weapon which defend and hold stability and sovereignty. The land of Thunder Dragon flourished in harmony. We consider that our country is one of the happiest countries in the world. His Majesty said, "We look for the youth of Bhutan to come forward in this hour of need so that Bhutan can overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19." As expected, relating to COVID pandemic issues youths are found more concerned about keeping Bhutan first.

The flowers that bloom in our country, wind that whistle through the trees and the rainbow across the valley. In the sights and sounds, the smell around us, and in the dance of leaves. In the quake of the earth, in the room of the dragon and in many manifestations that charms our country's name "Bhutan" which lead people to peaceful and harmonious life. This sums up the story of Bhutan. "Bhutan First".

Sonam Eden (Autsho CS, 2021)



Chador Wangyel, Class VI

Bhutan First

To be born in this world itself is a blessing, and to be born as Bhutanese is much more blessing and hint of luck. Bhutan, a landlocked country between India and China is a stunning site. The abundant greenery, fresh air and fast flowing rivers, the melody of birds, and the foundation of a triple gem. Through the ancient times, Bhutan has survived on its own. The rules and regulations, human rights and duties have made Bhutan a strong nation. But the initiatives have been taken care of by our visionary Kings. Their rules have made Bhutan accomplish great things and it all started by Bhutan being recognized and appreciated by the East Indian Empire in late 18th century and 19th century, the first to be democracy formatted by the King and the first to be small yet having its own presence known.

The East Indian Company headed by British Empire (Queen Notaria) was found when the Britain colonized the Indians state due to the trade materials that could be found in Tibet Bhutan sure did have problems with an East Indian State but soon, they recognized the potential of Bhutanese and then our first monarch was crowned by their hands. Treaty that helped the country develop, when Britain left the Indian state, Bhutan was the first country to befriend an independent India, henceforth started the journey of everlasting lasting bond.

Democracy allows the citizen to know their fundamental rights and duties, it allows them to choose who shall lead them and who shall plan their development. Bhutan was not in Democracy even though they had monarchy, until the reign of 4th Druk Gyalpo. The people of Bhutan were the first to receive democracy as a gift from the throne. The Bhutanese citizens were the first to have a King who traveled to all the states to formulate Democracy for the people. The first ever citizens to have a King who would go to wars rather than command from the throne. The first to have a King who was so dedicated that the happiness of the people was found more important than the income that the country made. Bhutanese surely are blessed.

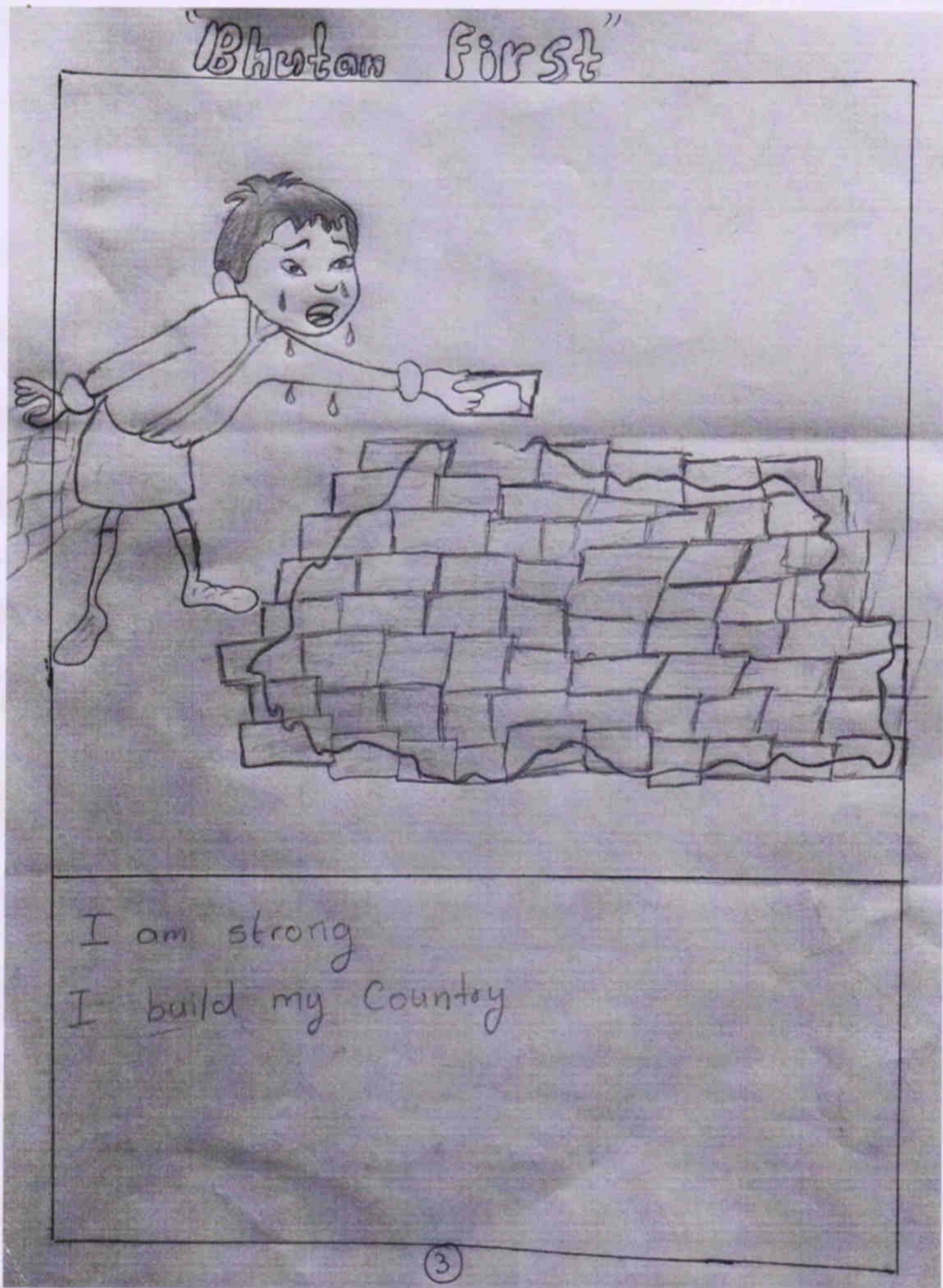
With the guidance of the great 4th, our small country made a stronghold on foreign soil. The past Kings did make relations with the outside countries and due to such small steps, Bhutan became the first to even be a carbon neutral and carbon negative country. The visionary eyes of the Kings in preserving the forests above 60% made all that possible. A small nation but a huge domination over others. Though small, Bhutan was the first small country to be the last Shangri-La. The initiatives of our Kings led Bhutan to countless victories in an unseen war. Bhutan truly is the first to all things due to our Kings.

In nutshell, a small country, such as Bhutan would have no future if it was not ruled by our visionary Kings. A small nation that was stable and content with what it has. The first of a kind to be appreciated by the enemy that wanted to over rule over us. Our Kings fought and won wars for the nation making Bhutan to be the first to have Kings that value people more than their lives. A small country but first to dominate in the natural resources over other nations and the first to be the Kingdom of happy citizens. A happy and self-sustaining country with admirable leaders.

Jigdrel Kinley Namgyel

XI SCI 'A'

Lhuentse Higher Secondary School



Grawagf Choden, Class VI, WPS

The Sovereign Place

The land of peace and prosperity, at side of the world that's known as the thunder dragon place where the yellow signifies the King and the Jekhenpo the holy, and the orange signifies the monastic body. Surrounded by high mountains, China in the north and India in the south. All the happiness is present in one country, which is independent as well as a sovereign. A great happiness and its beauty and the most significant are all beyond my expression.

Just a small piece or dot in the awesome world and a free existence of pollution, the oxygen is clean, the ozone is free and the water is pure and pristine, so it is safe for drinking. The greenly place, kind human being living all around and also a spiritual one who follows Buddhism, as such our country is known as the land of Buddhahood, which is ruled by a kind-hearted king, the Wangchuck dynasty.

Living in this country is like living in heaven or attaining nirvana. We need not have to bear any pain and suffering. The blessings of great people are always with us, which keep us safe from all evils and enemies. The great one from all life keeper from all, future maker and a way to be a great warrior. It not only show our rights but also gives us the main power for our future and a great ways to develop our mind. In this heavenly country, the birth of great lamas, kings, and the great people to support us and our country. We as a youth should think extraordinarily to bring our nation the first.

Be together and respect each other to develop a good relationship to build our nation. The nation of peace, the nation of care, the nation of kindness, and the nation of freedom. The first King Gongsu Ugyen Wangchuck (Father of Monarchy) did many good things to gain the citizens' trust and ended the civil wars and brought a good monarchy. The second king Jigme Wangchuck (the consolidator) put in place a simple hierarchical system where he had absolute power over all matters. The third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (The father of modern Bhutan) had brought progressive changes to the country during his reign. The fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck (Monarch of people) had guided the nation towards the pursuit of economic self-reliance, cultural promotion, environmental preservations, regionally balanced development, good governance, and decentralization. The fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck (Peoples King) treasures the nation's young people and finds time to share golden moments with graduates entering the job market. Find pleasure in combing every part of the country to meet his people and hear their plights.

Now, let's join our hands to keep our country the same but develop it. Let's preserve our culture tradition and nationality together and bring the nations a great one. "The future of our country lies in the hand of our youth", was said by our fifth Druk Gyalpo in one of his speeches. So, let's not waste time. Just put hands together to develop a good future to be appreciated by our great grandparents and the great Kings.

"Join our hands,

Join the nation,

And join for the Bhutan First".

Ugyen Wangmo VIII

Thimiyul LSS

Bhutan first



BHUTAN

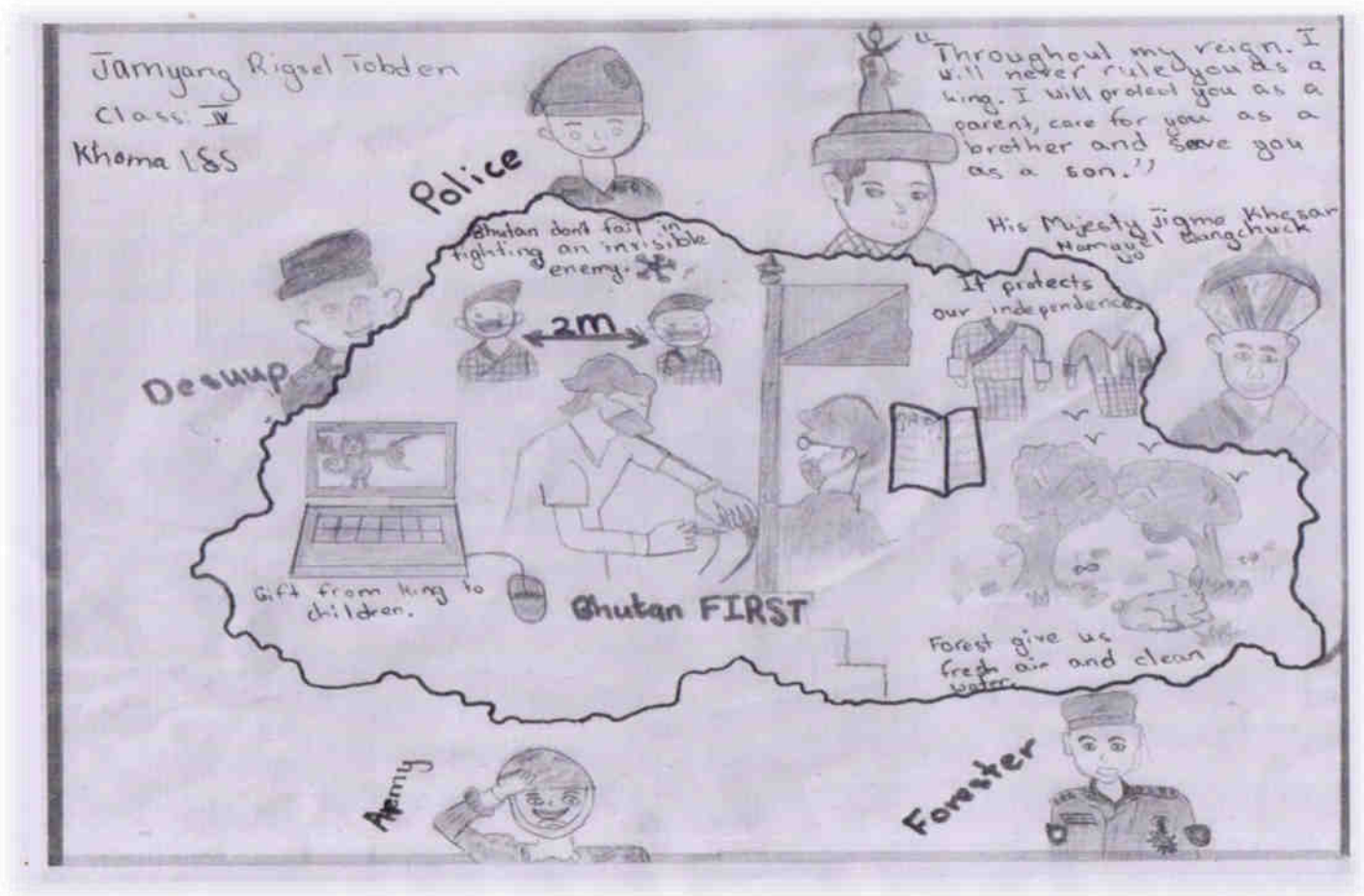


Our king is very worried that how are we going to develop our country. Then if we are going to develop our country we have to study hard and work hard. Why do we need to develop others country? if we develop others country they will become very rich.

Thank you

Kinga Wangmo
Class V

Kinga Wangmo, Class V, Thimphu LSS



Namgay Rigsel tobden, Class IV, Khoma LSS

21st Century Bhutan

Bhutan is our country

Rich in biodiversity

Push back your personal interest

Go for the nation's future.

Divesting our culture

Following other's custom

For the future generation

There won't be anything to inherit.

Let's stop being ignorant

Whatever challenges we face

Let's put our heart and soul

For the Bhutan's sovereignty and independence.

Tashi Yangdon

VIII

Khoma LSS

དང་པ་དེག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ།

དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་པའི་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་འདི། ལྷ་ཡུལ་ཞིང་ཁམས་དངོས་སུ་ཡིན།

རྒྱལ་ཁབ་གཞན་དང་འབྲས་མེད། དང་པ་དེག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཡིན།

ཞོ་རྒྱན་གྱི་རི་ལུང་བསྟན་དང་། མི་མེད་ཡོངས་ཀྱི་བསོད་ནམས་ལས།

ཆོས་རྒྱལ་རིམ་པར་འབྲུག་ལུ་འབྱོར། དང་པ་དེག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཡིན།

སངས་རྒྱལ་བསྟན་པ་པའི་རྟེན་འབྲེལ་ལུ། སྤུལ་སྤུལ་འཛིགས་མེད་ཆོས་གྲགས་འབྱོར།

ཆོས་ཀྱི་བསྟན་པ་གོང་དུ་འབྲེལ། དང་པ་དེག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཡིན།

རྒྱལ་ཁབ་འདི་གི་མི་མེད་ཚུ། དད་མོས་ཆེ་ཞིང་དམ་ཚིག་གཙང་།

གཅིག་མེམས་གཅིག་ལུ་མཐུན་པ་ལས། དང་པ་དེག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཡིན།

སངས་རྒྱལ་སྤྱོད་མ།

མཁོ་མ་འབྲིང་རིམ་སྤྱོད་བྱ་འག་མ།

Bhutan Travels Fast

Hidden for centuries, Bhutan is known as Drukyul; the Land of Thunder Dragon. It is located in the ridges of Eastern Himalayas with an area of 38,394 Square Kilometer. It is sandwiched between the two giant: China to the North (Tibet) and India to the South. Bhutan was first unified by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel and later in 1907, Sir Ugyen Wangchuk was enthroned as the first Druk Gyalpo. Though, Bhutan remained isolated to the world until 1970s, it has progressed significantly in many areas. Bhutan is the only country that is pursuing the idea of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and is a carbon negative nation.

Bhutan has a population of around 700,000 which is comparatively lesser than other countries. It is somewhat a mysterious country, appearing to be from a different universe. Yes, you read that right! Bhutan do not believe in Gross Domestic Product as an indicator of economic growth and development. Instead of GDP, it has introduced another measurement known as GNH, which was introduced by our great fourth the King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

Bhutan is a small nation but has done great things. Bhutan had portrayed exemplary to the world in combating the COVID-19. We remain strong and proud because of the selfless services rendered by His Majesty the King. Our King and the government had worked day and night and it was painful to see his Majesty suffer for the people and country.

Bhutan is the only country to maintain carbon negative. It means that it absorbs more carbon dioxide than it produces. In recent years, the wood collection and industrial development have been a pressing issue for Bhutan as it has resulted in production and emission of carbon monoxide. However, the lush and green forest acts as carbon sink and absorbs carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. It is vividly stated in the pillar of GNH to preserve and conserve the natural resources.

Bhutan was isolated entirely to the world until early 1970s when the media was allowed to cover the King Coronation. It has gradually begun to open doors to outsiders slowly and cautiously. Bhutan's Himalayan landscape is dramatic and pristine, and the traditional Bhutanese culture is fascinating. Visitors will be treated to beautiful treks along snowcapped mountains that are carpeted with forest and tumble down to flower-filled valleys, a rich biodiversity that includes unique birds and mammals, and unique architecture typified by dzongs and monasteries everywhere. Amazing annual Tshechus and Dromchoes and beautiful textiles and handicrafts breathe life into the country vibrant tradition.

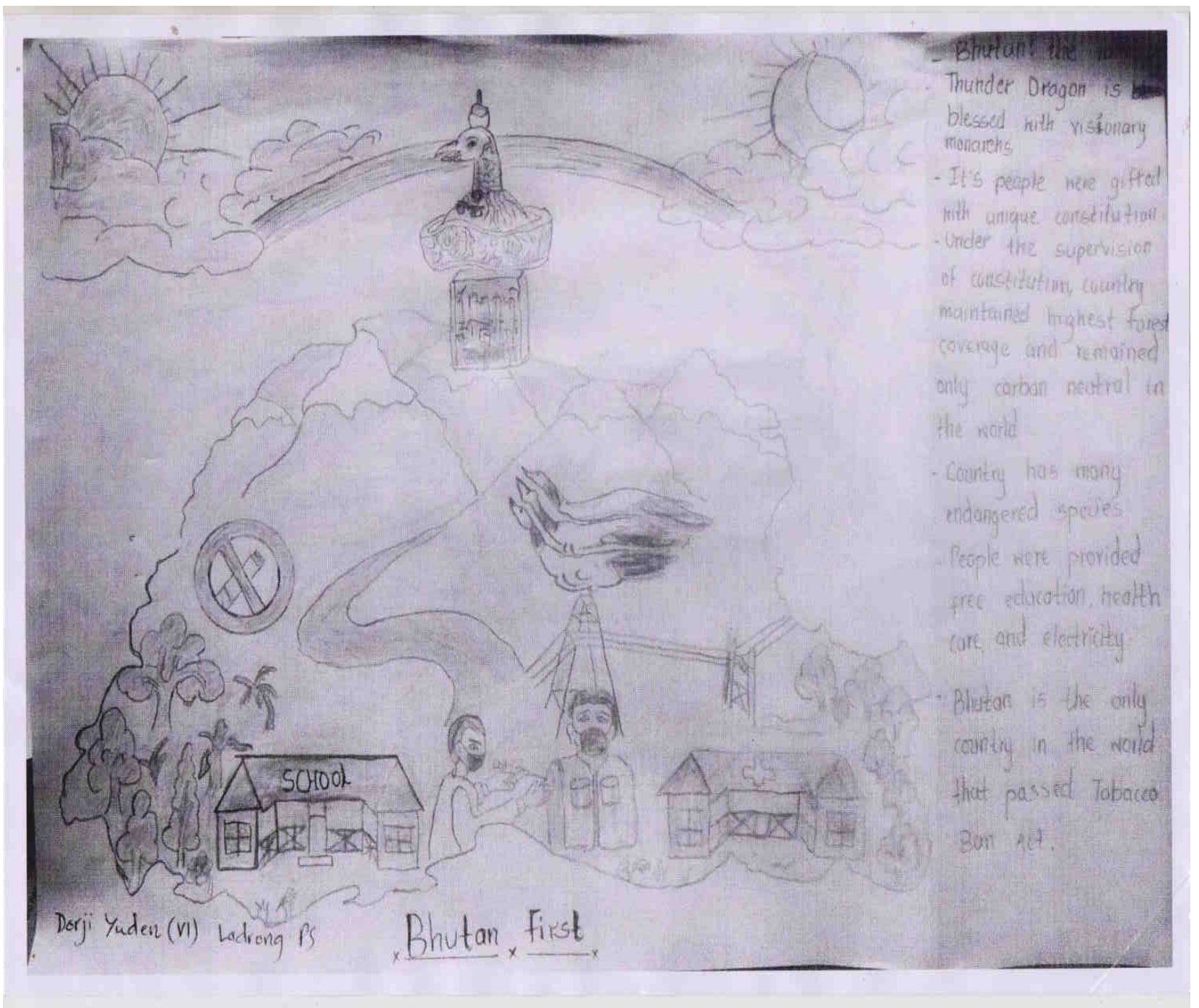
Bhutan is principally a devout Buddhist Nation and is only the country in the world to adopted Mahayana Buddhism in its tantric form as its official religion. The Buddhist faith has played and continues to play a fundamental role in the cultural, ethical and socio-logical development of the country and its people. The interesting fact about Bhutan is that it has remained independent throughout its history and it has never been colonized.

"Bhutan first" signify giving first priority to large and long term interest of the country for ensuring peace, security, and happiness in the nation. Bhutan has adopted a large number of environmental policies during its planned economic development in order to make economy sustainable over a long period of time. Apart from this, Bhutan has adopted Gross National Happiness as development goal based on Buddhist religious values. In Bhutan, it is believed that teaching children to be good, is as important as getting good grade. Bhutanese are known for living in harmony with natural environment. Bhutan is one of the last remaining biodiversity hotspot in the world, only country whose largest export is renewable energy.

Thinley Choden

XI COM A

Tangmachu Central School



Dorji Yuden, Class VI, Ladrong PS

Drukyul: A Mysterious Land

Bhutan is a kingdom of success and happiness. A small landlocked country nestled in the Himalayas between India and China. A country which measures its progress by how happy its people are. It is the first country in the world with specific constitutional obligations on its people to the environment. The determination and its culture make the country unique and its culture makes the country unique and special among the world. A tiny dot like Bhutan has all necessary features to be known to the outside world. Bhutan's first monarchy was established on 17th December, 1907 when the first Druk Gyalpo Gongsu Ugyen Wangchuk was crowned. The day is celebrated every year as the National Day. The monarch of the country had done their part well to break the isolation and make Bhutan stand among the highest populated and well-developed countries. Today, Bhutan is known for its rich culture and biodiversity. It is one of the happiest countries and has biodiversity. It is one of the happiest countries in the world. Although Bhutan cannot compete with the world on the basis of economy, population and wealth, it is a country with zero poverty and no discrimination of caste and religion. Bhutan is the only country with well defined, determined, and well executed goals and visions.

The commemoration of National Day serves to remind us of the profound sacrifice of our forefathers, who worked tirelessly for the well-being of the country and people. It also allows us to express our gratitude to those who kept our country's independence. With Bhutan being in a moment of major economic, political, and social transformation, the series of National Day celebrations over the last few years have been better. The celebration focuses on the urgency to achieve national targets. However, the national Day addresses are not all about the present or the future but it is also a day to remind ourselves of the past and eternal values and principles that define Bhutan. It also serves as an important national occasion for national continuity and unity. One important quality of the national day is that it is an event that strengthens national unity, sovereignty and stability. The sealing and signing of the monarchy system was historic and also important for Bhutan as the hereditary monarchy ensured peace, order, political stability and economic development of the nation.

The historical background of Bhutan can be traced from the 2000 BC, when the migration of the Monpa from Tibet took place. However, Drukpa affirms that substantial records regarding the second Buddha, PadmaSambhava Guru Rinpoche during the 7th century provides reliable information regarding the political structures of the kingdom. Until the early 17th century, Bhutan existed as an isolated country unknown to the outside world. Bhutan is one of the few countries which has been independent throughout its history, never conquered, occupied, or governed by an outside power. It is a country with many sacred places blessed by the Great Saints like Guru Rinpoche Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, and Tertoen Pema Lingpa. The era of Zhabdrung and the Desis had contributed enormously to the creation of Bhutan as a Nation. It is through the wisdom of Zhabdrung that Bhutan stands as a unique nation.

Gross National Happiness is a unique and primary philosophy initiated by His Majesty, the king Jigme Singye Wangchuk that embraces every aspect of development policy in Bhutan. It is to bring about judicious balance between spiritual and material advancement of the Bhutanese people and the country. GNH should be achieved with the traditional values and ethics with better quality of well-being and welfare. It balances the material, spiritual and emotional needs, to maximize happiness. The philosophy of GNH was again expressed by His Majesty the Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck during the admission of Bhutan to the United Nations Organization in 1971. GNH is considered more important than GDP because there was a little doubt that the people would have experienced a diminution of happiness if we concentrated only on the generation of wealth.

Apart from GNH, democracy is also important. It is the ideal form of government. Constitutional democratic monarchy is the form of government in Bhutan which came as a gift from the kings to the people. Democracy in Bhutan is indeed a vision of the monarch for human development. When people have free will to live freely, they will be happier. Bhutan has been an example of how good governance can form the backbone of democracy. This is how democracy helps fulfill one pillar of GNH of good governance. Bhutan chooses its own leader and the country is headed by the king supported by other ministers. The government has introduced many new apparatuses like decentralization and empowerment of decision making.

It is not the uniqueness that arrests the attention of the international community but the approach Bhutan has taken. Bhutan is a unique country culturally. It also contributes towards the promotion of world peace, at large and the regional and the national peace and security, in particular. Bhutan has achieved so much in such a short time. The system of governance is in many respects unique in the world, providing people with a direct access to the monarch and a larger share on the decision of matters of national importance. The development philosophy of Gross National Happiness is a unique ideology as is Bhutan itself too. The rich history regarding its political approach was primarily based on a theocratic system that depicts the political journey that the kingdom has endeavored. Bhutanese are known for living in harmony. The kingdom has maintained a close relationship with India for labor, financial assistance, and infrastructure development.

Karma Choden

XII Science 'A'

Lhuentse Higher Secondary School



Tshering D Yangzom, Class III, Thimyul LSS

Sovereign and Tranquil Bhutan

Bhutan is a beautiful country blessed by the great saint Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel in the 17th century. It enjoys the blessing from the vibrant and visionary leaders in the 21st century, and Bhutan will remain sovereign and blessed for eternities. A landlocked country enjoys the peace and harmony which was unified in 17th December 1907 by his Majesty the first King Ugyen Wangchuck. The dynamic leaders had shouldered the responsibilities by prioritizing the national interest, focusing on the long term goal, strengthening self-reliant and self-sufficiency, and striving hard to achieve the coveted goal.

This year as Bhutan celebrates 114th National Day on the theme, "Bhutan First", Bhutanese across the globe will resonate with a feeling of unity, peace and prosperity. The peace and harmony we enjoy is the result of our kings who worked industriously and generously by prioritizing the national interest. Our kings have always worked hard for the betterment of nation and its people. For instance, Gongsar Ugyen Wangchuck, the first king had transformed the country from tax burden, and better barter system by organizing trade fair in the border of Tibet to the North.

Bhutan has tremendously moved from poor to developing and highly esteemed country in the 21st century. Prioritizing national interest has been the priority of all the kings. Bhutan's main source of income in the olden days were in the form of different tax. One of the greatest urgency was to reduce the tax burden to its people by the first and the second king.

Coming back in 2020, many countries in the world were threatened by the COVID-19 and Bhutan was no exception. Many people lost job and income were affected. However, His Majesty was pure in soul and kind in heart, and did not leave his subject in suffering. Not only his majesty provided support to his people financially but also travel through dark and deep forest to provide moral support. His Majesty concern was on his people than his health.

Moreover, Bhutan is blessed to have Kings who has larger and long term interest which would ensure sovereignty, sustainability, prosperity and happiness. His majesty the second king Jigme Wangchuck laid a foundation for health care, education, modern transportation service and adaptive agriculture. It was further reinforced by his majesty the third king. His majesty sent Bhutanese abroad for studies. His Majesty the fourth king propagated the idea of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and conservation of nature. In general, kings considered the welfare of the nation rather than the interest of the people in power.

Furthermore, Bhutan lives by an exemplary of being able to manage global issue locally. The concept of self-reliant and self-sufficiency is the philosophy of the great leaders. The fact that a tiny country sandwiched between the world's two most populous nations not only continues to exist as a sovereign independent nation but also act as a model of sustainable economic because of the genius of the successive monarch. For example, during the crisis of COVID 19, all the nations were greatly affected and many succumbed to death. However, although Bhutan is a tiny in size and resources, but under the great leadership of King, there were only 2,632 infected and just 3 deaths.

Bhutan can produce vegetable but had depended on neighboring country. COVID-19 stopped the import of vegetable but Bhutan did not remain without vegetable. The farming practice which was introduced by the ancestor help Bhutan remain firm and sufficient. Every Bhutanese had taken their role to keep oneself sustainable during the crisis by growing and supplying vegetable.

Finally, the visionary king had demonstrated the ideals of real Bhutanese citizen. Citizen needs to replicate the legacy of great leaders to be able to solve the problem faced by citizens, prioritizing the national interest focusing on the larger and long term goal to secure sovereignty, prosperity and happiness. May Bhutan grow further physically, mentally, emotionally, psychologically and intelligently to combat the reality of the current developing situation.

"PELDEN DRUKPA GYALO"

Jamyang Sonam Temphe

VII B

Tangmachu Central School



Sonam Tshering, Class II, Lhuentse PS

Unanimity of Fortune- Patriotic Bhutanese

The glory of "The last Shangri-La" is now radiating from every nook and corner of the globe. Pertaining to the intangible, apart from the tangible in the country, the crown of prestige is bestowing with every new steps. Bhutan has mesmerized the world at various points, showcasing the immaculate wisdom, determination and selfless act of citizens, accounting from the nations' leader to the ordinary men. Those acts will always remain as the tale of a small country performing the task at global level. Subjects are blessed to have a monarch that turns the wheel of ever flowing pleasantness. As every law of universe is binary, one will gradually feel tired if one stops pedaling. Hence, with one common goal and dream, people of Bhutan pulled the country's name with time.

The contributions, visions, and particularly, the potential of successive monarch to take the country one step ahead cannot be measured. Bhutan has a remarkable leader, the people's King. At the hours of COVID pandemic, His Majesty travelled around the borders, risking his life. The story of His Majesty travelling six hours without luxurious shelter and on foot broke every heart of the Bhutanese. It is not wrong to address the monarch as the peoples' King, Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk, who has a heart of gold, is compassionate, and listens to the needs of his people, courageous enough to fight for the life of nation and truly a living god of the kingdom of the thunder dragon. The acts of Bodhisattvas, king of Bhutan and the word of wisdom and determination can be included as one factor for peoples' genuine patriotism for the country. What lack in numbers should build in talents? With the tender heart and brave thoughts of queue of monarchs, Bhutan is being recognized, Bhutan is being envied. Thereby, the seed of friendship of Bhutan with other sister countries germinated. Thus, peoples' King aims to put Bhutan first.

System of working collaboratively and coming forward to withstand what lies in the future still breathes. From the very old generations to present, from the forefathers to youngsters, the sense of volunteerism is precedential. According to the book, the crowning glory of Bhutan, His Majesty said, "There is higher reasonability not written in any legal documents but instead enshrined in humanity and history-a natural responsibility and duty that we all must shoulder equally, irrespective of who we are. With importance to the strength of a nation lies the ability of her people to live as one united family, a community in which interaction is marked by trust, understanding and cooperation. Bhutanese undergo trainings like Dessups and youths are expected to rise up as barriers to those harsh circumstances. And as expected, youths turn up.

Drukyl became a democracy. However, just as the Tower of Paris wasn't built in a day, the democracy was not offered in Bhutan on a golden plate, overnight. It was the fourth Druk Gyalpos' vision, which was accomplished successfully in the following years, since his abdication. Like nothing is easy at first, planting the seed of democracy was complex. On 4th September, 2001, His Majesty commanded council of ministers, the chief justice and the chairman of Royal Advisory council to draft a constitution for the kingdom of Bhutan. Accordingly, under the royal command, constitution drafting committee was formed comprising 39 members. 1st draft was submitted on 9th March, 2005. It was launched simultaneously on websites to seek views from Bhutanese residing outside. The enactment of constitution on 18th July, 2008, ushered in a dawn of new era in the history of Bhutan. Furthermore, with institution of Democratic Constitutional Monarchy, nation bonded much closer with pride and happiness. Thus, the King as a monarch and people as good and responsible citizen.

Being a citizen is to be self-disciplined with zero self-doubt. Bhutan is gifted with priceless gift from the throne. It delivers about SMART expectation from citizens; sincerity, mindfulness, Astuteness, Resilience and Timeless. The flames of independence will ultimately glow if one steps towards it. Patriotic individuals must show devotion to the country, respect to courageous and dedicated acts of leaders, not going against or above the law, courtesy to the nations' flag that outshined Bhutan to neighboring countries and be obeisance to the national anthem that demarcates from others. It is crucial for one to weave an intricate pattern of integrity, the quality of honesty towards one's own country. Bhutanese subjects have been embracing country's art, culture, and values to reveal the nature of patriotism in their heart. Bhutanese have an acceptable habit of visiting country's sacred destination before travelling abroad. Bhutan's revolution took place, is still taking place and will surely take place in future but without threat to culture. A nation's culture resides in the heart and soul of its people.

Education transformed the lives and bid farewell to poverty of many. It is vital for nation building and achievement of the country's noble vision, Gross National happiness. Highlighting these, many doors to scholarships opened. In the past, people went knocking the doors of opportunity, but now with evolution of time, opportunity comes knocking to the people. Just as any other country would do, Bhutan preferred quality education.

Bhutan is a park. It is home for fauna and floras with five national parks, four wildlife sanctuaries, nine biological corridors, one botanical park and one strict nature reserve. Every Bhutanese are informed that they are trustee of the kingdom's natural resources. Bhutan's constitution stipulates that at all times to come, Bhutan will maintain 60% of its area under forest cover. Though it is tough and challenging, Bhutan proved it is not impossible. Today 72% of the country is under forest coverage. Meanwhile, corruption is minimum. Bhutan stands 27th place in 2016 out of 168 countries on the corruption perception Index (CPI), as well as one of the cleanest nation in Asia.

Hence, Bhutan is always first.

His majesty said, "We must stand united in spirit and purpose, we must always be one nation with one common goal." May peace and happiness prevail forever in the land of Palden Drukpa!

Dorji Yuden, XC

Autsho CS



My Priority, My Country

In the midst of Himalaya lies the Drukyl, the land of Thunder Dragon. The country armored by its magnificent ridges with its rich biodiversity and people blessed by harmony which was bestowed by the benevolent leaders. Like an enormous sky, the nation's affection for its people is immeasurable. Nation for its people and people for its nation manifest a deep meaning. Bhutan stands for her people at good times and at worst times too. After being born in this heavenly land and enjoying its goodness, Bhutanese should take responsibility to perform some virtues duties to the country as a true citizen. The nation should be your priority over anything you aspire.

What can you do to your country? That's the question every Bhutanese must reflect upon. The nation inherited unprecedented peace and happiness which was instituted by remarkable rulers. Beginning from the ascending of first Druk Gyalpo to the golden throne, Bhutan took up the stairs to reveal itself to the eyes of the world and followed the path of modernization. The monarchs put their efforts to shelter and groom its citizen like a mother cuddling her child with love despite the nation's lack of superiority in every prospects. The nation faced many huddles; nevertheless, she shielded its people and instilled glory to it. The selfless traits of the leaders are the best evident from the operation of 2003, when the fourth Druk Gyalpo took charge of the welfare of the people and led the armed force himself. The fundamental character every Bhutanese must possess is the sense of patriotism; they must be always ever ready to serve its nation during the emergence of hard times and in their daily lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has turned the world into chaos with all those increased mortalities and poverty. Therefore HM the fifth Druk Gyalpo and frontline workers are making every effort for the stability of the nation. As a fortunate subject, each must respect them with all your heart. Bhutanese must think as one and help the nation to get your selves helped.

From the long-established beginning of the country, there flourished the distinct traditions and cultures which were inevitably unveiled to the young ones by the forefathers. This diverse culture ensured the strength and sovereignty of the nation. To assure the steady promotion of the culture, one must always be concern about the consequences of their deeds. This may obstruct the traditionally practiced cultures to the offspring. The modern culture should not alter the pristine flourish of the divine cultures. One of the sole contributions one can offer to the nation is by upholding national identities which is one of the distinctive features of Bhutan. In any official gathering and during occasions like Tshechus, the Bhutanese wears the national dress which is hand woven textiles. During festivities like Losar (New Year) and Nyilos, the people unites with their loved ones to dine together. The men and young boys would grab the day to romp on to the archery and other traditional sports. They would rock on to the old melodious song in circle. In this digital age, it appears that children are less interested to our culture and customs. This would affect in promotion and preservation of culture, fulfilling one of the pillars of GNH.

Bhutan is a peace loving nation. The land was visited by many spiritual leaders who preached Buddhism. Buddhism is the spiritual religion of the nation which solely concerns on the non-violence and compassion. One believes in happy lives and a good karma if they do good conducts in present life. Thereby, the nation strives for peace and harmonious life. Now after having built the foundation goodness in the nation by the great figures to the country, the citizen of Bhutan plays their duties. They pay their devotion to the nature as their spiritual deities and idols. They pray for the well beings of all the sentient beings in the country and wishes for no harm in the nation before they act upon to build their desires. These are the small baby steps which manifest love for the country by its citizen.

Bhutan astounds the world with its rich biodiversity and green environment. Bhutan is mother not only to its people but also to the numerous wildlife. It guards the wide varieties of species by providing them a proper and secure habitation. According to the article 5 of the constitution of Bhutan, it mentioned that every Bhutanese is a trustee to the environment and natural resources. They must take the role of safeguarding the natural resources, environment and its biodiversity. Bhutanese must strive for the conservation of abundant natural resources not only for the present lives but also for posterity in order to provide equity for centuries. Taking charge of one's litter, cleaning the surrounding, planting trees are the simplest yet effective baby steps that every Bhutanese must take. According to the constitution, Bhutan should have the minimum of 60% forest coverage, yet it has 72% which is a great achievement. Tobgay, T (2016), stated in his Ted Talk that Bhutan isn't only carbon neutral but also carbon negative country. Therefore, Bhutan is known worldwide as one of the carbon neutral country. Thus all the Bhutanese must thrive with the same conservative spirit for the environment.

The nation has lent its people more than what they asked for. If it's to be measured, it would have been outnumbered by now. So being one of its subjects, the duty to protect the nation in all aspects and favoring the country first in our daily life, certainly that each Bhutanese owes their country more than their lives. From the crack of dawn till we retire for the night, we ought to have a courtesy to have a good mindset, good action or at least thank the nation with love. Although, these steps are simple, it fetches an enormous meaning as deep as sea. The citizen of Bhutan, the Palden Drukpas must join hands firmly and heave the nation beyond the horizon.

Ugyen Yangchen Dolkar, XA

Autsho CS



Jigme Ngawang Lhendup, Class II, Thimpyuel LSS

Bhutan: The Kingdom of Heavens

The last Shangri La, the land of Thunder Dragon, the land of Herbs, many names are entitled to our country. Proven to many eyes that our country is the temple of peace. Our nation's flag contains the thundering dragon entering into the sunset. Everything in our country is unique, because it is considered the last of its kind. Our country has been in the shade for many years, but when it comes out in the open, it shines like the sun. All the people in the world were astonished by the discovery of the place. They started to call it "The Last Heaven on Earth." Bhutan lies in the Himalayan region. Its topography is way complicated, unlike other countries. Bhutan is one of the places where Buddhism thrives. A true place of religion brought up by the enlightened one and its incarnations. Even though Bhutan is not the place where enlightened ones are born, through the course of time greatness reached the nation. Bhutan has unique leaders, each a better part of themselves. Through their kindness the nation is gifted upon a democracy. As an inspiration and a path for the government of Bhutan to proceed, the philosophy of Gross National Happiness provides the county with the brightness to continue through the journey of the dark alley of difficulty. Through critical thinking and estimating the possibilities of losing the nation's independence, Zhabdrung Rinpoche has created a very unique culture for our nation, so that our country need not have to kneel to other countries.

The weak die and the strong survive. Bhutan may be a small country compared to other countries. It is between two great nations, but it still has its independence. This independence reminds us of the profound sacrifices that our forefathers, in the leadership of our Druk Gyalpos, worked tirelessly for the well being of the country and the people. The day commemorates not only the coronation of first Druk Gyalpo Ugyen Wangchuck in 1907, but also the Independence Day of Bhutan. 1907 a year that is engraved in the heart of all Bhutanese. The year when the prophecy became true. 1907 is a year when the magic started; it is when the glorious era of Wangchuck dynasty was bestowed upon the people of Bhutan in the form of a blessing. The day allows us to express our gratitude to those who came before us, for handing over a strong, sovereign nation to the future generation. It is the day of pride for every Bhutanese, a day when every face lights up, looks out to the sky, breathing the air of independence. On this day our forefathers have shared tales of how our country fought for its independence and we can share to our children and the tales shall pass on to the future generations. And when these tales of the sacrifices are shared, the feeling itself is way beyond the word. And in the heart of every man and woman, in the nation they know for a fact that we are strong and we can survive.

Some are born great; some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them. Bhutan's historical period began at about 747 A.D, when the revered religious leader Guru PadmaSambhava came from Tibet and introduced Buddhism to the country. In 1634 in the battle of five lamas, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal prevailed over the Tibetan and Bhutanese forces allied against him, and he was the first to unite Bhutan into a single country. Jigme Namgyal, the father of the first king of Bhutan not only made the political but also architecturally prosperous and sovereign. Gongsa Ugyen Wangchuck became the 1st hereditary king of Bhutan on December 17, 1907. In 1905, he was made the 'Knight Commander of Order of the Star of Indian'. The second king, Druk Gyalpo Jigme Wangchuck implemented administrative reforms within the country. During the time of third Druk Gyalpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, Bhutan became a member of the United Nations and made the country a part of the global diplomatic circle. At the age of 16, due to the untimely demise of the third king, the crown prince Jigme Singye Wangchuck became the youngest monarch in the world. And he created the internationally known philosophy "Gross National Happiness." The fifth Druk Gyalpo Gongsa Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk set up a modern judicial system and the first council of ministers in Bhutan.

The essence of the philosophy of Gross National Happiness is the peace and happiness of our people and security and sovereignty of the nation', as said by the 5th Druk Gyalpo. The fourth Druk Gyalpo announced that Gross National Happiness is more important than gross domestic product. Gross National Happiness as a vision of human development, a balance between material and spiritual development. In 2008 when the constitutional monarchy started the constitution of Bhutan (2008, article 9) directed the states "To promote those conditions that will enable the pursuit of Gross National Happiness. Gross Domestic product is the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's border in a specific time period. Whereas Gross National Happiness is a philosophy that guides the government of Bhutan. It includes an index which is used to measure the collective happiness and wellbeing of a population. The philosophy of Gross National Happiness is so important for the betterment of the country and its people, holding the country by its four pillars and planned by the nine domains. Therefore it is through the great philosophy of our fourth Druk Gyalpo that our country is developing in peace and prosperity.

Religion and culture identifies a person's identity. When the religious leader Guru PadmaSambhava came to Bhutan, he introduced our country to Buddhism. Dominant amongst the religious studies was the Druk sect of Kagyupa, a branch of Mahayana ('Greater Vehicle') and now the official religion of Bhutan. After the arrival of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal not only did he unite the county but also installed Buddhism in Bhutan, but also made Bhutan; very unique that we have till date. Bhutanese culture is influenced by the sacred Buddhist values. Dzongkha, our national language, which is closely related to Tibetan, and the monks read and write the ancient variant of the Tibetan Language, known as chhokey. Moving on with the cultural dresses, men have themselves gho, gong, lagay, kayra, kabney, and tsholam. For the ladies kira, wongu, tego, and rachu. Our country has been allocated with many spiritual and religious places such as dzongs, lhakhangs and chortens. This shows the devotion to the gods and the religion. The most fascinating thing in Bhutanese culture is the spiciness of the curries that we take. No one can match us, because we consume chilies in every kind of meal. Our culture was made unique, so that our country stays independent, therefore for the sake of independence we must preserve and promote our culture and tradition

In short, we refer to heaven as the peaceful place in the universe. The word we choose for heaven is Shangri La, and through the words of many people, our country is known to be the last Shangri La. The peace and prosperity in this Shangri La is brought upon by its leaders. The wise leaders, the ones who have grit in them, the religion of kindness they carry, all beings are the same for them. Their greatness can be seen in the freedom we have right now, the rights we are given with. We have our own identity, our own religion, our own culture, that identifies us and makes us unique from the rest of the world. The kindness we have makes the leaders of Shangri La the light in darkness. Through their minds thrives the greatest ideas that all can implement in the world. This is the most I can describe of my nation in words, but if you can open up the emotions of every Bhutanese, you can surely see the love and the respect to the nation.

Sonam Wangchuk

XII Science 'A'

Lhuentse Higher Secondary School



Pelden Dorji, Class VI, Domkhar PS

Glorious Glowing Bhutan

Bhutan was unified on 17th December 1907 by His Majesty the first Druk Gyalpo Gongsu Ugyen Wangchuck. Since then, 17th December is celebrated as National day in order to pay tribute and gratitude to the kings for their selfless service rendered to people. Bhutanese had lived, is living and will live in peace and harmony for eons and eons. This is because of the assiduous service rendered by the Kings to his subject.

There are many activities Bhutan is proud of and the important developmental activities is the construction of hydroelectricity. It is one of the pollution free energy source of our country. In the past, we did not have electricity and people used kerosene to light. Within the span of few years most of the citizen in Bhutan enjoys the exquisiteness of electricity. Bhutanese across the country relish the glorious electricity for every purpose. Nights have transformed to days. Global news is accessible and it can keep everyone updated with the daily news. Thank you your Majesty for showering us with the love and care!

Furthermore, accessible to motor road is another important infrastructure developmental activities brought by our dynamic leaders. The father of modern Bhutan, His Majesty the King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk was farsighted in his vision and he left no stones unturned. Road has enable the business and trade to function comfortably. Connection of roads to every nook and corner was felt important by the predecessor too and the road construction was prioritized. Even today for the safety of the commuter and the people of the country, His Majesty and the government focuses more on building roads and safety of the traveler.

Moreover, our King always emphasizes on the asset of the country. His Majesty always iterate that the youth are the nation builder. His majesty has a vision whereby Bhutanese youth can compete at international level and the world of twenty-first century is bounded by technology. Therefore, more importance is given in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Bhutan is no way lagging behind in the way to face the challenges in the developing world. This is because of the farsightedness of the leaders.

The farsighted and vibrant king had sown the seed and modeled the way for happiness. Thus, Bhutanese citizen need to react proactively to fulfill the aspiration of our great king to attain the happiness of every Bhutanese. It can be a small contribution to the nation as a whole. May peace prevail in Bhutan for eternity and Long Live His Majesty the King.

Tenzin Chopel

VIII B

Tangmachu Central School

My King; the Benevolent Ruler

The peace, prosperity, and happiness that we enjoy in Bhutan are the result of our King's unwavering devotion. Our most esteemed and cherished protector, Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, has labored relentlessly to realize his people's dream.

His Majesty is a foresighted thinker, benefactor of people, which national policies exhibited clarity of thinking, and accomplishment of national goals speak of determination and great statesmanship. This is why we honor his Majesty as the nation's father. Youths in the Kingdom look up to His Majesty as a source of inspiration.

He is a King who sacrifices traveling across the land to meet his people and learn about their problems. His Majesty has a deep belief in Bhutan's youth and makes it a point to speak to them on a regular basis. He is a King who values the nation's youth and makes time to enjoy golden moments with recent graduates looking for work. King Khesar has always emphasized the necessity of treating parents and senior folks with dignity. As a son and a responsible adult, he holds his father with high regard and gratitude.

The great Kings had granted peace, tranquility, sovereignty, and democracy in our lovely land. His Majesty made the following commitment to the country in his heartfelt coronation speech: "I will never rule you as king during my reign. As a son, I will defend you. I'll hand over everything to you and keep nothing. I will live such a good human existence that you will consider it worthy of serving as an example for your children and your hopes. I have no personal objectives or aspirations. I will always serve you in a spirit of love, justice, and equality, day and night ". His Majesty has lived up to his national commitment in every way.

His Majesty is an ideal role model for young people, as a responsible son, a protective parent, and a champion of "kindness, justice, and equality."

Palden Drukpa to Gyalo!

Rinchen Lhamo

XI com B

Tangmachu CS



Tenzin Sherab Seldon, Class III, Zangkhar PS