

Essay On 'Small Is Beautiful.' Do You Agree? You May Consider Schools, Businesses, Towns, Buildings

To be a student in a small school is definitely many times more desirable than to be one in a big school. The reasons are obvious in a small school you practically know everyone else and more importantly everyone knows you. The teachers are like elder brothers and sisters. Your welfare and well-being are looked after properly and you feel you belong to the school. Consequently, your loyalty is never in question.

The situation is not so beautiful in a large school. In the midst of a couple of thousand other students, you become a nobody. if you do want to stand out, then you will have to involve yourself in school politics where everybody steps on one another to gain the favors of the teachers. The teachers too are generally less caring. They do not even know your name. What is more, they do not even know some of their colleague's name. I had one enlightening experience one day when mentioned my teacher's name to another teacher and he did not know who I was talking about. I do not blame him. Over a hundred teachers spread out over two sessions certainly alienate the teachers from one another.

The headmaster always laments about our lack of loyalty in interschool sports and other competitions. it seems that we are disloyal and disrespectful. How can one be loyal when one does not feel a sense of belonging? How can one show respect when the headmaster does not acknowledge your presence, even when you greet him?

So, it is the same with businesses. Small is indeed beautiful. Consider a small sundry shop. You can buy things on credit and at a

discount if you know the proprietor well enough. On top of that, any bad goods can be returned and exchanged for something else. You get none of this in a big modern supermarket. it is strictly cash, no discount and definitely no such thing as returning goods. It is your bad luck if you get a defective product. To try to see the manager about it is like trying to go through a brick wall of bureaucracy and indifference. When you have handed over your money to the cashier that is the end of it.

On top of all these things, they even install TV surveillance devices all over the place. It makes you feel as though you are a shoplifter. Still, they cannot catch seasoned shoplifters.

When towns grow larger, people grow unfriendly. it is the inescapable price we pay for having too many people in one place. Small town folks care about their neighbors. Granted sometimes these simple folks intrude into your life when you do not want them to, but such intrusion is infinitely better than living among people who do not know or care about other people at all, even when they are only separated by just a wall. In big towns, neighbors are looked on with suspicion. You do not know if one of them is a thug or a crook, only slowly and rarely do you get to know your neighbor next door, that is, if he wants to know you at all. When you think about it, it is silly, but the fact remains that many next-door neighbors live side by side for years without even exchanging a glance.

In general, it is thus easy to see that when organizations become too large, they invariably become impersonal. Large organizations require greater control. It would look as though the people in such an organization spend so much time keeping the organization in running order that they do not have time left over for other things. They become slaves to their organization. They have forgotten their individuality and uniqueness.

Apart from natural giants like mountains and rivers, I would definitely agree with this statement that 'small is beautiful.' Give me a small school or a small shop anytime. There I can relate to other human beings. It is not so in big schools or supermarkets. There I have to deal with human machines.