

1,500 Students Stand #withMalala in Japan

Students' Reactions

Meiji University

☀ Y.I (Student, Female)

I felt it would be possible to change the world if just one person would stand up with courage like she did. I know it is not easy to get the courage to stand up, but it is important to take action no matter how little you can do. When more people put their minds together, they can take bigger action. I'm not sure if I'd be able to act brave, but I would like to tackle whatever I can. I think if you can take action for the others with compassion, it would be a match for the Nobel Peace prize awarded achievements regardless of how little you can do. Just make a 100 yen donation is good. I felt strongly that it is important for every one of us to take action.

☀ A.S (Student, Female)

Malala-san was so brave that she spoke up about the need of education even under the situation that she might be killed. Her action could have endangered her own life and it's not something anyone can do. I was deeply touched by her being so courageous to commit to her cause and doing what she thinks right. I think she must have walked on a tougher and rougher road than we can ever imagine. Yet she never gave up and stayed in action. Her action deserves great praise, and I think her Nobel Peace prize is a true sign of her efforts and suffering. Her strong speech of "one book and one pen can change the world" was very touching and I was deeply moved. The documentary showed us what Malala-san was like in her personal life, so we could see her as an ordinary girl but not the winner of the Nobel Peace prize. I felt that just an ordinary girl could make the world go around if she committed to her cause and took action. What Malala-san did can encourage many of those girls. I'm sure that she will continue to act as someone who understands those girls and speak for them.

☀ S.K (Student, Male)

The film made me think how Malala-san who is younger than I am won the Nobel Peace prize and has been playing an active role to involve the world in order to popularize the education for women. I would have simply given credit if she were shown as the youngest Nobel Peace prize winner who had been a focus of world attention. However, it made me wonder how those who surround her see Malala-san risking her own life and actually endangered it to maintain energetic activities against the problem which even some countries could not solve even when they joined hands. Malala-san may develop her activities on a mass scale. I think it will be possible for her to support more people. On the other hand, as her media exposure increases as if she were a poster girl, some of her fellow Pakistani criticized that she had received such politicized Nobel Prize and her western influenced educational thought. And the Taliban continued to issue new threats against her. I think Malala-san's efforts and activities to change the world deserve plaudits and need to be recognized. Yet I wonder why Malala-san is alone at the forefront to lead the education need for women while facing against the threat of terrorism and the focus of malicious attack.

Meiji University

✿ R.I (Student, Male)

I personally found it thought provoking as to what the justice is about. I was touched by Malala-san's strength more than anything.

✿ Y.S (Student, Male)

I saw the film and felt outrage over how diabolical and cruel the Taliban had been. I was in a disconsolate mood as those grown-ups and societies let a 15-year-old child bear everything and at the same time, it made me keenly aware that I was just one of those grown-ups and it was just horrible. It also made me realize how lucky I was to freely get an education. As the film depicted, I was impressed by Malala-san's strong will and her ability to take action and it offered much to emulate.

✿ J.S (Student, Female)

How many people could take action without paying attention what everyone around them would think? It is inevitable to accept a diversity of opinion at the age of globalization. Yet there are not many who try to convey their own intentions instead of accepting diversity in a positive manner. When I saw the film, it made me pause to think about how I would try to overcome the situation if I took Malala's stand. In one of the scenes, Malala did not dare to talk about difficulties she had gone through. She is younger than I am and still tried to come face-to-face without complaining, which is encouraging, but also a little painful to learn. I wonder why Malala by herself had to keep speaking out till she was shot. I think if people in the world had united, it could have been solved before Malala was shot. I saw Malala's eyes reveal her strong true intentions. I think that she can express her strong will because she forms a strong bond with her family. That is why she can cheerfully smile even after she learned how hard her journey would be. I felt like that the film let me – still being timid - glimpse the light.

Meiji University

☀ K.T (Student, Female)

I was shocked to learn the fact that those girls were forbidden from receiving education rather than it's a matter of low educational opportunities for girls. And Malala continued to promote girls' education even though going against the government's mandate would lead to threaten her life. She was shot in the head, was near death, the left side of her face was paralyzed and left with disability, yet she kept delivering lectures and giving speeches. I was very moved how she managed all. Malala's father also continued to take action believing that "being silent is the worst thing to do, and it is important to speak up" and criticize the Taliban in his speeches and lectures. The film strongly conveyed how he was risking his life to fight against the Taliban. Both Malala and his father aim to promote girls' education opposing against the Taliban power. They are now in safe England and Malala goes to school in easy circumstances. Malala hopes to go back to her home country Pakistan to continue her activities while she can choose not to go back there. Seeing them continue to promote girls' education even putting their lives at risk made me think hard what we could do.

☀ S.H (Student, Male)

I was just overwhelmed to learn that a girl who is not from developed countries like the United States could do this much. Yet I felt the weight of each word she spoke because she was from the place where the girls' education was forbidden. It is impossible to overlook the limit over the girls' education even though it happens in her country. It is more important to include women's opinions when discussing various matters among many countries as the globalization proceeds. And to bring out more valuable opinions from women, it is important for women to receive various educations. Having grown up in such a country as women's education is limited, Malala can be a big driving force to promote education for women. Malala as an individual was so brave and could take action without being afraid of changes; which I found enviable and felt frustrated as well. When I look back on what I did in my college days, it hit close to home as I wonder if I'd take action as she did without fear for a change. Nowadays Japanese people including myself seem to wait for a change to occur rather than effect a change. But unless you act, you won't be able to experience anything, nor move forward, and would end up standing still. Malala can exercise initiative in lots of different things without fear because she has been going through big changes. I felt I'd be the first to take action as to gain a wide variety of experience.

Meiji University

☀ R.T (Student, Male)

I found it very interesting as a story of Malala who received a great prize at such a younger-than-I am age was shown as a documentary format which included a side of her we never got a chance to see before. Not just the film but the animation inserted between scenes spoke to my heart deeply. Malala could hold hope for providing education to all girls because she has parents who never bowed to pressure from the Taliban. What she desires also represents what many of those girls who cannot raise voices against them hope for. I thought it was necessary to empathize with her so that she would not feel burdened with the task of carrying the hope of many people. No one should take away the rights of women to receive education. And we should make efforts to help people go home freely as she hasn't been able to do so. For this I realized again that every one of us needs to stop relying on others and take action with a strong sense of changing the world. I hope that her hope and belief will be conveyed through this film to many more people.

☀ E.K (Student, Male)

I strongly felt the strength of Malala's will and her sense of responsibility when I saw the film. She displayed a strong intention to say "the right is right" as the leader while nobody took action to protect the deserved right for girls to receive education. It would have been natural and much easier to be scared and give up when she was targeted by the Taliban. But she stood firm to her claim to the end. All this is no mean accomplishment and I really thought it was exceptional. There was no need for a child Malala to play a leading role, but she was willing to take action as to stand at the helm, and accomplished what she had to do to the end, and then became well known in the world as the Nobel Peace prize winner. This is a very good film to let us see how she went through all of this.

☀ K.L (Student, Female)

I thought that we live in the society which puts its big responsibility to a teen girl. Malala-san who is just an ordinary girl and also a victim of war has tremendous courage to stand up and speak for the children even when exposing her life to danger. While the world relies too heavily on her, Malala made it clear in the film it was her own intention to stay active. But I felt she said so because it is just too late to get away from what she has been doing. She is the only one who knows whether she is telling the truth or not, but for someone like me who leads a life of peace everyday it is very hard to understand why she keeps being active when endangering her own life. Yet if she has been doing everything on her own initiative from the beginning, then I could only show her respect as it is just honorable. As I learned about her and how things really are, I feel I would like to do anything I can.

Meiji University

✿ T.I (Student, Male)

From this film, it was made clear that Malala had strong beliefs about girls' education. I was impressed by her staying active to appeal the importance of girls' education while those girls had no rights to receive education unlike people in developed countries and even the Taliban regime disapproved of girls from going to schools. Malala showed an extraordinary will as she stood up again even after she was nearly killed. I had to realize again that we are fortunate to have many opportunities to "study" which we take it for granted.

The film showed us not only her tragic incident and how eloquently she spoke, but what she is like as an ordinary girl, how she spends time with her brothers or talking about her favorite actors. Some animation inserted between scenes like a picture book is impressive and her past story went straight to my heart. Having seen all of this, I could sense Malala-san's abiding passion from each word she spoke at the United Nation in the last scene when I listened to her speech again.

Meiji University

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Osaka Jogakuin University

☀ F.I (10's Female)

I was really inspired by this movie. I felt ashamed of myself by the fact that the girl younger than me had risked her life trying to change the world. I didn't know much about Malala, but this movie has changed my perspective about her. I hope a lot of people will see it. Below is her word that moved me most. "One child one teacher one pen and one book can change the world."

☀ M.U (20's Female)

Being featured by various media her presence seemed very special and distant to me, but through the movie I realized that she is a regular girl who has the same feelings, worries and troubles like us. I sincerely admire her determination saying "Nobody forced me. I chose my life" and wished to be like her. The movie made me realize that educational opportunities are not quite equal in the world and education is much more powerful than any weapon.

☀ S.A (20's Female)

Before the movie I've had only basic knowledge about her. I didn't expect that she lives a regular life like one of us. But she made me remember how important it is to "stand up, step up, speak up" for what you think is right. It was very inspiring.

☀ C.M (10's Female)

Though I had already seen her video a lot, the movie didn't fail to impress me. Greatly achieved, she still studies and reads a lot. I can't believe that she's almost the same age with me. And there's a lot to learn from her unique way of thinking. I don't think I can give a great influence to the world like her, but I want to become influential to the people around me.

☀ K.A (10's Female)

Great movie. I was so impressed by her action and determination, though she's just one year younger than me.

☀ M.T (20's Female)

Partly because I didn't know much about her beforehand, I was totally impressed by her strength. And I'm so glad to know that she's like one of us teenagers spending time with the family, dreaming about a boyfriend and sometimes fighting with her brothers. After the movie I wanted to become a person who knows what should be done, what you're capable of and state your own opinion.

Osaka Jogakuin Junior College

☀ N.Y (10's Female)

Malala is really caring for her family and brave. I was so moved by her risking her life to improve the world despite such a young age like me. I wouldn't be able to achieve what she did, but she made me want to contribute to the world. I'd like to improve the working environment for women in the future.

☀ N.O (10's Female)

I had thought that she worked as a girl's education advocate every day, but I felt closer after I find out she also lives a regular life like us.

Tamagawa University

☀ H.M (10's Female)

Before the movie, the only thing I knew about her was that she fought terrorists bravely despite her young age. But this movie made me realize that she's also a regular girl who loves to play with her brothers.

Tamagawa Seigakuin girls' high school

☀ A.K (10's Female)

Malala watching the movie on the tablet and playing with the family in the film made me realize that she's a girl like us before being a "Nobel Prize winner" or anything. The movie has taught me that the important thing is to start something on your own even though it seems beyond your ability rather than patiently waiting for someone great or powerful to achieve it instead of you. I want to become a person strong enough to fight for others with the power of book and pen, rather than weapons. The movie definitely gave me the courage to do it.

☀ A.H (10's Female)

This movie got me thinking deeply. We go to school as if it's a natural right, but I realized actually it's not. I'll be a college student next year and make it sure to cherish every day of campus life. Also I've decided to spend a meaningful time in the rest of my high school life.

Chigusa high school

☀ S.S (10's Female)

Malala looks a very friendly regular girl, but she's highly motivated and determined. If I were her, I would not have risked my life and tried that hard. Also it got me thinking that we're so fortunate that we can go to school. The scene where Malala and her father strongly shouted together was very emotional.

☀ S.O (10's Female)

I've found out that the English title of Malala's book is "he named me Malala" in the movie. I thought her father is such a great person. Watching the movie I couldn't stop thinking why they kidnap children and bomb schools and got very angry. But at the same time I thought to myself that there had to be something I could do for it. I hoped that I want to do something courageous as one of the natural things to do. I go to school every day. Now I have to try hard studying for those who can't, so I'd be able to give back to the world in the future. I want to improve the world so that every children can enjoy the right to education all over the world.

☀ M.K (10's Female)

It was good to know Malala's early life and thoughts.

Kyoto Kamigyo junior high school

☀ R.N (10's Female)

I was so moved by Malala's determination. I guess many Japanese don't really understand her hunger for education and I was one of them. But this movie made me realize how fortunate it is to go to school and study. I believe it's her strong will which wouldn't yield to Taliban's attack that changed the world. Nobody else could achieve what she did. To make my dream come true I think it's necessary to think about not only what I want but also what others need and what should be done. And I'm going to be strong enough to stick to what I think is right.

Yatomi city Yatomikita junior high school

☀ F.S (10's Female)

So impressed by the movie, I got speechless. I felt strange all the way until I got home. It's like everything was unreal though it really happened.

Waseda university graduate school

☀ Y.A (20's Female)

Great thanks to the 20th Century Fox. I sincerely appreciate the chance to see this movie even for free. It was after her being shot in the head that I got to know her for the first time. I remember that I was a little skeptical about her status as a symbol of Girl's education advocate by media up until her Nobel prize award in 2014. It's because I didn't know about her previous activities, risking her life way since before the gun attack and also her Noble Peace Prize award in 2013. The movie has helped me greatly to understand her opinion about girl's education. Thank you for the opportunity.

Tokyo university of foreign studies

✿ K.M (20's Female)

I'd had only limited information about Malala from TV news, but this time I could learn a lot about her thoughts and experiences through the movie. In the movie some Pakistanis criticize Malala drawing attention, but her word, "I am many..." indicates that she considers herself as a representative of a lot of children who desperately want to have education all over the world.

Doshisha University

✿ C.N (20's Female)

Younger than me, she's greatly achieved. But I got to know she's also a regular girl. Now I see her a little differently, but still respect her. The movie made me realize that words have such a power.

Tokyo university of agriculture

✿ N.F (20's Male)

I major in the International Cooperation, mainly Food issues at university. Through various case studies I learned that improving education even leads to the resolutions of many social problems. This movie has confirmed my belief.

Toyo University

☀ T.K (10's Male)

I liked Malala even more. Only Malala could speak up for the girls who are forbidden to have opinions risking her life to give the place to learn to them in the same situation like her. I was also moved by the generosity and greatness of her parents who had made up for each other's shortcomings, education and beauty. You can also tell that Malala has a great relationship with her brothers by looking at the way they play with her and talk about her. Now I'm 19 years old and I'm glad that this is the first movie that I saw since I've gone to theatre 7 years ago when I'm in junior high. I want to go more than once while it's in theatres.

HAL Nagoya

☀ Y.T (10's Male)

Malala's UN speech on TV gave me goose bumps and left a great impact on me. When I heard her documentary was in production, I couldn't wait to see it. After watching it I understand the great meaning of her name, "Malala" and her determination as an activist despite the shooting. The movie vividly depicts every one of them, but also reveals her charming aspect in the daily life. You can see her struggling with too much home work and enjoying life as a regular teenage girl. Interestingly enough through the movie you can get to know her very well including her early life.

Tokyo Metropolitan Harumi-Sogo High School

✿ C.S (10's Female)

I'm the same age with Malala. I've never met a person so determined and brave like her. I found it very beautiful and inspiring that she acts on her own belief to say out loud what she believes is right and fulfill the destiny. Watching her playing with her family and brother, I realized she's also a regular girl like us. The movie has taught me education makes everything possible and made me want to study harder. I'm going to be courageous enough to stand up for my belief like Malala.

Kojimachi Gakuen

✿ C.S (10's Female)

I was impressed by Malala.

University secondary school

✿ N.N (10's Female)

I'd had quite a lot of knowledge about Malala, but through the movie I got to know how great she is even more. I own 2 books of her which I've read over and over, but the movie successfully delivers more about her greatness. My school had taught us about her. Besides, she's well known because of the Nobel Peace Prize and Sakrahov Prize awards. I want everybody in the world to know her great achievement, so that more and more people would do great things like her. Of course I myself will contribute to it, even though it may be trivial compared to her achievement. She is the one whom I respect most and I want to learn from her. This movie is great!!