

The best thing I learned this year

The year 2008 was most enlightening for me. I was a witness to the historic change my country Nepal underwent, from absolute monarchy to most liberal democracy Nepalese have ever experienced.

In the run up to the formation of Constituent Assembly, people took to the streets. There was a sea of people pouring into the streets chanting against king Gyanendra. There was brutal suppression but after the death of 26, the autocrat knelt down. The sacrifice people made for freeing themselves from the clutches of autocracy and their success taught me people power is the most powerful and the most legitimate.

People do not want to easily give away the right to freedom- the right they are born with. With freedom, they can unleash individual creativity to resolve the toughest crisis mankind is facing in the 21st century.

This enlightenment will move me forward for the rest of my life.

Sabin Gnawali

Xavier International College, Nepal