



Professor Ghassan Aouad

Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, Past President ...
4d



Reflections on What I Didn't Have

As I interact with young people today (especially students and people at the beginning of their careers), I often find myself reflecting on my own past. It's heartwarming to see their eagerness to treat me well and expressing kindness in countless ways. However, these gestures often prompt me to share a bit about my own journey—one that was quite different from the privileges many enjoy today.

When I was their age, my world was much smaller. I didn't have a bicycle, let alone a car. My transportation consisted of my own two feet. The simple act of walking to school or the market was a daily adventure, filled with its own challenges and lessons.

My childhood home was modest but full of warmth—a small house where my family embraced happiness. I shared a room that served as my sanctuary, but it was also a reminder of our limited means. There wasn't much space to call my own, yet it was filled with dreams and aspirations.

In those days, a low salary was the norm. Money was tight, and luxury was a concept I couldn't afford. Simple pleasures, like going out for dinner or buying new clothes, felt like distant dreams.

When I think back to my youth, I can't recall a single holiday away from my village. Travel was an unknown world, and the idea of exploring new places seemed like a luxury reserved for others. The farthest I ventured was to sports events, local fields, or nearby towns and villages, where I found beauty in the familiar landscapes.

These experiences shaped who I am today. While young people often apologize for their privileges, I remind them that every generation faces its own struggles. What I didn't have taught me resilience, gratitude, and the value of hard work.

As I share my stories with the younger generation, I hope they understand that while I may not have had much, I gained invaluable life lessons. Each of their small acts of kindness reflects a world of possibility—a world I'm grateful to witness.

"Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment, full effort is full victory." -Mahatma Gandhi

**#Reflections #LifeLessons #Gratitude #Resilience #Youth
#Kindness #Nostalgia #PersonalGrowth #HardWork
#Inspiration**

