The Confined

Pranjul Khatri GLA Fellow 2022-23 Alliance School of Liberal Arts Alliance University

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Con	tin	ea
COIL		vu

with plenty like me

in a wooden rickshaw

All caged and all similarities

the dresses,

school bags, even the way

we hold water bottles

But also

Daily I see,

kids like me, grounding

Their uniform with dirt

& joy

Although their dresses

Are of a different colour

& style

My pocket with the school logo

screaming its motto while

theirs shouts freedom,

but I am reassured

my uniform is the only

winning path

yet I couldn't shake

the feeling

That maybe, just

maybe, there is more

to life

than the conformity

of this rigid ride.

I role play

for the day

when I could break free

And find my own path,

my own destiny.

But for now, I will wear this uniform

with pride

And dream

of the day when I'll be

free

Free to decide.