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Youth Problems in India: Issues and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

It is well proved that youth have very special role in any countries development. India has the largest youth population and if we look on the past youth plays a very important role in Indian freedom fights and right from then it was well recognized that the youth power is very essential in the development of India and to make our country a better place to live. In Indian history we can take the example of Swami Vivekananda a youth icon. He taught us what a young should must have and values of life. Similarly Bhagat Singh who was the youngest freedom fighter who sacrifices his life for the freedom of our motherland. Apart from these many more inspiring actions are there which is done by the youth of India.

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Introduction

Issues and Challenges Faced by Indian Youth

Life has changed so fast in the last few decades that the entire social structure has undergone a big change. Besides overpopulation, political upheavals, unemployment, erosion in Indian values, influence of western civilization and too much commercialization has made life very complicated for the new generation.

Ever since the country went in for massive industrialization, the old joint family system broke down and became obsolete. It has been replaced by nuclear family system especially in urban areas.

- The rising cost of living has compelled many women to step out of the house and share financial burden with the man. As a consequence, the young are left alone to fend for themselves at a time when they need guidance, reassurance and encouragement. They being to depend more on their peer groups and sometimes are led astray. They take to drugs, alcohol and watching porn films to while away their time and nurse their hurt feelings.
- They are too bewildered to distinguish right from wrong. The absence of an adult to guide them makes it difficult for them to make the right choice and weigh the pros and cons of any act.
- Religion had played a very crucial role in the life of the people of our country. It is sad that of late we have started denigrating our own religious beliefs and age-old values and have started aping the west. This slow erosion in the values of life has added to the confusion. The young no longer understand the significance of certain beliefs and practices. Hence they reject them. Religion formed the basis of sound moral development.
- Today, the young have to face fierce competition in every sphere of life. They are expected to prepare themselves for the setbacks. Overpopulation has made life very competitive right from the time they enter secondary school.
- There is pressure from parents, teachers and peers to excel to enter the colleges and get admission in the most lucrative professions. However, more often they are unable to get the course of their choice because of too many youngsters competing for the same course. It leads to unhappiness and

frustration. Even if they manage to get into a college of their choice and come out with excellent marks and armed with a professional degree, they find it difficult to get a job. Their dreams are shattered when at every step they face corruption, nepotism and find the less deserving getting jobs. They feel disillusioned and disheartened when in spite of their best efforts they have to reconcile themselves to start either at a very low rung of the ladder or remain unemployed.

- The society has become very materialistic. Today a person is revered if he is successful in a position of power and riches. Wealth has become the yardstick of status in the society. The youth are also affected by these values and try to adopt short cuts to fast rise in life. Means are no longer important; it is the end that matters. Some idealistic youngsters who try to lead an honest life are soon disgusted to see the corruption at every stage. They are forced either to join them or suffer silently.
- Industrialization has led to commercialization. From a very young age, the children are exposed to television where innumerable products are advertised to start life with all the good things it has to offer.
- Today Boys do not hesitate to demand cash and other items along with the bride at the time of marriage, under pressure from their parents or to satisfy their own greed. The youth have to learn to take independent decisions.

Above all, our educational institutions are no longer able to fulfill the responsibilities of helping the young to understand life fully. The outmoded curriculum, burden of several subjects and poor teaching demotivate the young and they feel restless.

- Education should prepare them for life. It should help them to identify their interests and aptitude and give them a sense of direction; unfortunately education is unable to do so. Hence the youth skip classes and indulge in antisocial activities.
- Indian youth have become victims of political parties and end up ruining their lives. It adds to their disillusionment with the elders and politicians. In the absence of any real models to emulate they feel lost and confused.
- The youth, by and large, is more anxious and concerned about its future than how the present treats them. It was due to their fears and apprehensions about their uncertain future that they

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raised in revolt against the implementation of Mandal Commission Report by the Central Government. Their protests were not only persistent but heart-rending as well. Unknown and never tried before in North India, the attempts at self-immolation by some agitated youth, fully brought out the intensity of their anger and anguish against a decision. Which they thought would seal their future and make them irrelevant and ineligible for any future jobs and bread-earning avenues.

In a country like India where the problem of educated unemployment is already nerve-breaking, the nightmares unleashed by the report completely shook the youth and in no time they were up in arms against the establishment.

Independence was once an inspiring social ideal and the struggle for independence brought to the foreground some of the finest qualities of the Indian youth.

The nationalist struggle was undoubtedly associated with a moral ferment; it did throw up a leadership which had strong bones with the people and which rose to great heights of moral courage and dedication.

In the person of Gandhi, India did throw up a leader who became a symbol of Indian awakening. But Indian leadership in the period following independence has not been able to transform the challenge of national development into such an overpowering cause.

Social Work Intervention:

The programme of planned development has not caught the imagination of the youth nor has it released spiritual ferment and energy to any appreciable extent. The fundamental causes of this weakness are sociopolitical; they lie in the ambivalent attitude of the leadership to the challenge of development and moral rejuvenation. The leadership failure to inspire the youth with their ideal thinking and action has made the Indian youth either cynics or snobs, unable to cope with the day-to-day problems and predicaments. It cannot be denied that it is the young who are going to be the builders of tomorrow. Therefore, it is the duty of the parents, leaders and elders to look into the problems of the youth and to provide them a sense of meaning and purpose in life. Otherwise the boundless energy of the youth will be dissipated in the wrong direction and lead to chaos in the country.

Social workers can provide struggling youths and their families with:

- Assessment of the youth's and family's needs and strengths
- Information about and referral to needed programs and services
- Information about financial and legal issues and resources
- Names of reputable educational advocates and educational consultants
- Crisis intervention counseling services
- On-going psychotherapy for the teen, the parents, and the family as a whole
- Case management (helping staff from multiple agencies coordinate and communicate on behalf of the teen, and advocating for the family with these providers)

- Information about important "warning signs" of teens who are on a downward spiral and the steps needed to get help.

Conclusion:

A young leader is the role model of thousands of young people. Currently in India many youth organizations are running and they are doing great job for the welfare of our country. One such organization is Teach for India. This youth driven organization doing a excellent work by teaching under privileged children. Many young graduates of India joining this organization under fellowship program and as a volunteer to in light the life of thousands of under privileged children in various cities of India.

Apart from these if we have a look on the bad habits spreading among the youth, the data is quite high and it is increasing day by day. The main reason for getting indulges in bad habits is bad company of friends and bad environment around the person. Thus the point is that young people has so much of potential that if they use it in constructive work they can lead our India in a path of continuous progress and if they use it in destructive work they may destroy their own and others life too. Therefore my appeal to the youth of India is please use your potential in constructive work and in the development of our India; we all young can do this.

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