

## **Challenges of Rural Youth Today**

**Prof. Dasharath .R. Albal,**

Professor. Department of Sociology,  
and Director School of Social Sciences,  
Rani Channamma University,  
Belagavi, (Karnataka state).

**Mr. Narayan .Y. Koujalagi,**

Research Scholar,  
Dept of Sociology,  
Rani Channamma University,  
Belagavi, (Karnataka state).

### **Intruduction:**

Modern day youth of India lives in the most interesting phase of the history. As the Indian economy went globalized and the internet is already an integral part of our lives, we have fairer chances of making it big than any of the previous generations. The youth is considered to be the best asset of any country and investment in the human resource promises flabbergasting returns. However, if we are to develop the citizens for a better nation tomorrow, we are supposed to not only develop their talent but also recognize and counter the challenges Indian youth is facing in present day.

### **Meaning of youth:**

y=young,  
o=objectivist,  
u=up right,  
t=trust-worthy,  
h=honest along with courage's, initiative, energy and activity.

Young force is steadily increasing in every part of the world including India, justifying the observation of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi reflected in the World Union Parliament that: "A new force has come into being the youth force.

**Methodology:** The Study is based on secondary data. It is the Part of my Ph.D topic entitled "yuvasangatane mattu grameen abhivridhiya ondu samaj shastriya adyayana"

### **Challenges of Youth:**

Following are the challenge of youths in Indian society.

### **Peer Pressure**

Blame it on the way Indian societies are crafted or any other possible factor, peer pressure is one of the biggest challenges faced by youngsters. The generation gap has widened to an extent that the views of the people of two generations repel each other. The varying interest of the young adults and high expectations of the parents and relatives mar the spirit of growth as a whole. This acts as a check on the enthusiasm of young mind leading to waste of the time and resource.

The elders need to understand that a little space and trust shown in them will open the doors of the opportunities for the youngsters. At the same time, children need to understand that parents care. There is no harm in learning from their experiences and the wisdom.

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

The drugs and the alcohol are other challenges that are faced by the young Indians. Failure, success or broken, drugs are taken as an easy escape from the life and the struggles related to it. Be it in the name of the success party or to overcome the failure, drugs are seen as a mandatory component of any party. Failing in a relationship or the end semester success parties, getting placed in the dream company or missing the entrance by a whisker; sadly, all the answers are searched in the lap of alcohol and weed.

Youngsters need to understand that life is not always a rollercoaster ride. If we plot a graph of same; it is a setup of highs and lows with steep curves. This does not mean that the body has to be handed over to be ruined by unrequited products. In the name of the country and their body, we need to overcome this challenge!

### **Cost of Education**

Young brigade aims to conquer the world and make India a superpower. The only way to make it happen is the education. If we look at the institutes today, privatization has increased the effective cost of education. Costly higher education in the private institutes and lack of basic amenities in the government or the government aided educational groups has proven to be a big headache for our young people.

The government need to raise the standard of the education and the provide all the resources for the basic learning. Apart from this, a check must be kept on the private educational institutions in the financial terms.

### **Top 10 Challenges Youths Face Today**

In this new-age society, kids enjoy more attention than their yesteryear counterparts. Despite being advantaged, they're a troubled species. These youngsters are surrounded by innumerable problems which in turn, makes them little rebellious too. The upsetting reasons could possibly be their individualism, sense of freedom or the ever growing peer pressure. Eventually, they face the hostile attitude of society. But the real standpoint is that youths are the pillars of social, economic and political developments. In addition to their intellectual contribution and the ability to mobilize support, youth brigade brings unique perspectives. We as a society should value the imagination, ideals and energies of young men and women, which are also the future stakeholders of these societies. Exploring some of the basic problems faced by today's youth, Top Yaps highlight top 10 challenges, youths face in current scenario.

#### **1. Juvenile delinquency:**

As we all know that the teenage behavior is extremely problematic and unpredictable too. There are many who are caught red-handed with petty crimes like arms conflicts, illicit affairs, substance abuse and various others. The status of urbanized women is also challenged; we come across various cases of MMS blackmails, rapes, murders and theft.

#### **2. Poverty:**

Although it's a shameful to say but we have to declare that sections of India are still poorest of poor. Even after years of being categorized as a developing country, we could not replace the label with developed country. Most of the homes cannot afford have good health and hygiene. Poverty is really killing us and youths are also getting victimized.

#### **3. Inadequate employment opportunities:**

In yesteryears, education was not everyone's forte. Those, who really had the knack for it, pursued it. But today, the scenario is different; everyone is studying along with full-fledged facilities.

In the past, even a high school pass-out or simple graduates would find work and live contentedly. In those days, one would not necessarily need to have a college degree to survive. But in today's times, youngsters with multiple degrees are unable to find work with good pay, to afford a decent lifestyle.

#### **4. Education Disparity:**

Education is a priority and everyone's birthright. We will not find any sound head, who will dispute this well regarded fact. A good education is like a boon in one's life, opening up a host of opportunities. Please don't get me wrong, I'm not debating over good school or bad school, rather talking of a value-based proper education system, and the discrimination in educational quality, which is categorized by financial status.

Swami Vivekananda said:- "The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle of life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy and courage of lion-is it worth the name?"

#### **5. Obesity:**

Recent trends show that approximately 25% kids are obese in India. There is a thin line between being chubby and being obese. Why so? What went wrong? Who's to blame? There are several questions which instantly pop up. Video games, TV, the internet and fast food can be blamed partially. Today, kids are spending more time watching TV, surfing the internet than running around. This sedentary lifestyle has dangerous consequences. The saddest thing is that they can feel socially awkward or being ridiculed by their peers. Apart from obesity-related health problems like high blood pressure, diabetes, other side-effects are low self-esteem, depression, etc.

#### **6. Materialism:**

It is sad but a bitter fact that we live in a society that promotes materialism. And we unknowingly encourage and instill this philosophy into our children. Surprisingly we teach our children that the success and happiness in life is measured by how much stuff or wealth you acquire? It is nothing but natural when kids ask for things which their friends may have. But instead of fulfilling their demands immediately, we should take a pause and think seriously. In which direction we are heading? Never mind, we satiate their demands which are within our financial limit, but that is not a good sign at all.

#### **7. Violence in schools:**

When we send our kids to school, we usually take a sigh of relief. Schools play a major role in teaching life skills to young minds and their endeavor must be recognized. It is reasonable to expect that these sacred places of learning would prove as safe havens for children. But increasing cases of crime in school makes us lose our sleep. No, these are no minor cases of bullying but serious full-fledged crimes like stabbings, fighting and suicides.

#### **8. Early Maturity:**

In earlier generations, kids enjoyed being kids. But today, with the advent of satellite television and internet, kids are bombarded with unwanted information. They are exposed to some adult-related content too, which is not at all conducive for their delicate minds. The concept of childhood becomes problematic.

#### **9. Substance abuse:**

"A cigarette in my hand...I felt like a man." Yes.....the famous anti-smoking campaign by Gary Lawyer did manage to scare smoking to some extent. Leave aside the society; cigarette smoking is not even justified in the world of cinema now. Smoking was cool, back then. But nowadays, the awareness to the danger of smoking has increased substantially. Unfortunately it is not the same in case of drinking and using drugs. They are still assumed as cool stuff. Youngsters literally hang

around booze. Apart from damaging their own health, they also risk the society. Under the influence of alcohol, these brats will rash drive and do several other anti-social activities.

#### **10. Single parent households:**

When kids see their parents living under different roofs, their adolescent mind suffers. Since last two decades, we have noticed the disastrous increase in single parent homes. The trend is dangerous. It is really tough to look after a child in divided home. The situation is far more difficult when kids are raised single-handedly. Even if it does not matter to well-heeled parent, but the children gets deprived of parental guidance, which may result in an unwanted number of problems, such as alcohol/drug abuse, school dropout, and teenage pregnancies.

#### **Focus of the portfolio:**

- Non-Farm Skills Development programs for rural youth
- Understand Labor Market Scenario in Karnataka

GRAAM team members are having an experience in implementing rural livelihood and skill development programs. The team comprises of researchers having expertise in agriculture science, rural development and management disciplines. GRAAM designed the Strategic Focus Document for Karnataka Rural Livelihood Mission (KSRLM) and also provided an complete establishment. The study conducted by GRAAM in collaboration with Cornell University's understanding impact of self-help group model in on Economic Empowerment and Well-being on Persons with Disabilities in the SERP Program, Andhra Pradesh, India also provided a wider understanding of rural livelihood programs for marginalized community.

#### **Programmers'/scheme for rural youth and rural development**

- Integrated Rural Development.
- Rural, Landless Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- Training for Rural Youth for Self Employment.
- Tribal Area Development.
- N. S. S
- Youth Services in Rural Area.

#### **Youth Welfare Services:**

- Bharat Scouts and Guides Organization.
- National Cadet Corps.
- Youth Tour Programmers.
- Youth Hostels.
- Youth Health Service.
- Bhartiyaam.

#### **Conclusion**

The role of youth is of most importance in today's time. It has underplayed itself in field of politics. It should become aspiring entrepreneur rather than mere workers. It can play a vital role in elimination of terrorism. Young participation is important because youth are the country's power. Youth recognize problems and can solve them. Youth are strong forces in social movements. They educate children about their rights. They help other young people attain a higher level of Intellectual ability and to become qualified adults.

Unfortunately no one is bothered to dream any s vision. Martin Luther has said, "I have a Dream" and the dream come largely true. If he had not thought of that dream he would have accomplished nothing in his life. Another problem is its indifferent attitude towards things, situation and politics .The new cool formula of "let the things be "is proving fatal to India's development .Lack of unity and spirit is the major setback . It's time the youth, the students have to realize their power, their role, their duties and their responsibility and stand up for their rights. Now it's time that instead of brain drain we should act like magnets and attract world to India.

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