
OBSTACLES FACING 21st-CENTURY INDIAN YOUTHS AND THE INDIA CONSTITUTION

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Abstract

The multifaceted challenges facing Indian youth today are both profound and pervasive, encompassing social, economic, political, cultural, and educational dimensions. Despite gaining political independence and a well-structured constitution, India has witnessed an exacerbation of issues like casteism, communalism, regionalism, illiteracy, socio-economic inequality, and corruption. The political class has often utilized youth as mere vote banks, failing to address their pressing socio-economic and educational concerns. This has led to widespread disillusionment among young people, who grapple with unemployment, malnutrition, and a deficient education system. The Constitution of India provides a framework for addressing these issues through Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. However, a lack of awareness and implementation of these provisions has hindered real progress. The youth, despite their critical role in various sectors, remain underutilized and misled. To remedy this, there is a pressing need for youth to engage actively with constitutional principles, promote literacy, challenge superstitions, and advocate for socio-economic reforms. The ultimate goal is to empower young people to demand and effectuate the principles of equality, justice, and welfare outlined in the Constitution. By embracing the values of knowledge, wisdom, compassion, character, and friendship, as propounded by historical figures like Lord Buddha, youth can drive transformative changes towards a more equitable society.

Keywords: Youth Challenges, Socio-economic Inequality, Constitutional Rights, Political Disillusionment, Educational Reforms, Empowerment

The issues that young people encounter are complex, varied, and endless. Social, economic, political, cultural, educational, psychological, religious, legal, judicial, environmental, and administrative are essentially the characteristics of them. The kids are surrounded by these serious issues and their

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frequency has significantly grown. Since the government has recently been confronted with agitations from civil society members seeking to eradicate corruption in politics and the state's administrative apparatus by demanding a strong Lokpal, who will check corruption in public life and facilitate the process of establishing civil society in India, they posed a great danger to the state, society, and various economic, political, cultural, educational, psychological, religious, and legal systems of civil society.

We had believed that all of our issues, along with their long-standing, wretched situation, would either disappear or come to an end once we gained political independence, were freed from foreign rule, had a written constitution, and had a democratic government. However, this hasn't occurred. Conversely, throughout time, a number of socioeconomic, political, cultural, educational, psychological, religious, legal, and security issues have gotten worse.

Issues Facing Young People in the Current Situation: Let us enumerate the problems that the Indian economy, society, and politics are now confronting. These are the exact difficulties and risks that the young of a developing country face. The following are the grave challenges before youth, these are casteism, communalism, sectarianism, regionalism, illiteracy, socio-economic inequality, ignorance, rampant superstitions, (social, cultural and religious) linguism, poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, regional imbalances in economic and industrial development, economic disparity in income, rampant-corruption in government, administration, police, judiciary, politics, education, higher education, military, media, private sector, internal terrorism, cross border terrorism, religious fundamentalism, fanaticism, naxalism, environmental pollution, caste corruption, intellectual corruption, mental corruption, non functioning of governments at center and state level, decline of parliament, state legislatures, mistrust in political institutions on the part of the people (i.e. political parties, pressure groups, socio economic employees associations) growing crime, violence against women, children and Dalits especially belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In summary, today's youth face the aforementioned challenges, and they are bewildered and confused because they are not aware of the real situation due to a flawed educational system that has not given them the social, intellectual, academic, or moral orientation they need to comprehend, evaluate, and act rationally and scientifically to overcome these obstacles. Religious orthodoxy and conservatism



still permeate the current educational system, from elementary school to higher education. India's educational system, which serves to uphold and defend the interests of a few number of wealthy individuals at the expense of the vastly suffering impoverished majority, has to be cleaned up. Despite the fact that India's constitution includes the secularism principle, the tremendous impact of casteism, communalism, fanaticism, and the failure to separate religion and politics has prevented the country's youth from experiencing social, mental, cultural, or intellectual liberation even after 65 years of independence. Secularism was completely mocked by the ruling class, legislators, bureaucrats, judges, academics, and all other institutions of socioeconomic and political life. Secularism actually ought to have been the governing principle for public officials, legislators, and intellectuals. Unfortunately, caste Hindus poisoned public life and politics by combining religion and politics. As a result, this made it difficult to execute public policy, revolutionary legislation, and the Indian Constitution in our nation. The Constitution's embedded secular fabric of Indian politics has been completely undermined. The young of this country are suffering because, despite making up 34% of the population, their issues are not being addressed. Young individuals, both male and female, make up the youth. Youth often refers to those who are between the ages of 18 and 24. The age of 35 might be included in this definition of youth. A youth is a stage of life that falls between childhood and maturity. It's also referred to as childhood, adolescence, or teenager. Youth is associated with energy, vitality, charm, enthusiasm, spirit, strength, power, and a bright future. Youths play a major role in many government and private security forces, including the army, air force, navy, police force, and paramilitary forces like the Coast Guard, BSF, CRPF, SRP, RPF, ITBP, NSG, Rapid Action Police Force, and many others that are periodically constituted. Without youth, it is impossible to envision these forces existing. The nation's young play a crucial role in the functioning of the public service system, be it in the form of State services, all-India services, or class I to class IV services. This demonstrates the important and prominent role that youngsters play in the country's existence.

In addition to being confused, today's youngsters also suffer from severe depression, disappointment, and discouragement as a result of the aforementioned difficulties. In actuality, the constitution's authors had included the answers to these issues in their original draft. Sadly, however, young people



are ignorant of the Indian constitution. The constitution has not been intentionally explained to him or taught to him. Since our nation's constitution went into effect, young people have been deprived of knowledge about the plethora of laws, plans, projects, and programs it contains for the welfare, development, and empowerment of young people. The constitution has not been intentionally explained to him or taught to him. Since our nation's constitution went into effect, young people have been deprived of knowledge about the plethora of laws, plans, projects, and programs it contains for the welfare, development, and empowerment of young people. The state of the young class in our nation is not only pitiful but also wretched; they suffer at the same rate as other oppressed groups, for whom the Indian Constitution has not been applied in full throughout the course of the previous 62 years since it was draughted. In actuality, people in charge of affairs are to blame for this deplorable state of affairs.

Using Young People As A Voter Bank Tool Politics: They were solely utilised as a tool by the ruling class, succeeding governments at the federal and state levels, administrators, policymakers, decision-makers, politicians, political parties, and political institutions for their evil political schemes. Youths were viewed as a potential voting bloc by the political elite and political offices. Simultaneously, other societal institutions such as social, economic, cultural, educational, and religious life failed to contribute significantly to the youth's sensitisation, enlightenment, and education in order to direct their energy, strength, spirit, and enthusiasm towards the development of the nation and the establishment of a civil society. Over the course of more than 62 years, the political elite has been successful in tricking and fooling the public by winning their support for a self-serving, evil plan while ignoring their socioeconomic and educational issues. Both the current and previous administrations have utterly failed to guarantee their political involvement in national governance as well as their share of the riches, power, and knowledge of the country.

Youth's Responsibilities: The Indian Constitution itself provides solutions to the problems facing young people. Some essential rights have been granted by the Constitution. These rights are civic and political in character. Political democracy has been founded only by these civil and political rights, but the harsh fact of social existence is that political democracy is useless without social and economic democracy, or social and economic equality, at its core. The Directive Principles of State



Policy were previously included by the constitution's drafters. These tenets are directions from the Constitution that the federal government (the Centre and the States) must adhere to in text and spirit. Directives are social and economic in character, and they impose political and constitutional obligations on the state in addition to being simple suggestions. When formulating policies and enacting laws for the benefit of society, the government's legislative and executive branches must bear these priceless constitutional mandates in mind. Since these directives are manifestos of the constitution's goals and intentions to bring about revolutionary social and economic reforms in the current caste-ridden, communal, oppressed, and capitalist Indian society, they are more significant than fundamental rights. It would be a constitutional deception to just state that the ideas underlying directives are not legitimate or enforceable in the same way as basic rights. Young people with a good education should make an effort to comprehend the plot that the ruling class has concocted in cooperation with the media, bureaucracy, court, and so-called intellectual class. Overall, it seems very evident that those in positions of authority choose to disregard state policy directives, which have the power to alter the long-standing, discriminatory social and economic structure and uneven social order of Indian society in favour of establishing a new, egalitarian system of social and economic justice. The biggest task facing the country's youth, especially the more educated ones, is to thoroughly familiarise them with the revolutionary living document that is the constitution, which is the most important document in an Indian citizen's life. Now is the moment to unite against the evil scheme of a small group of governing elites who oppose these life-giving principles and to demand that directing principles be put into effect. Youth in the class, especially those with education, are responsible for this. When it comes to youth obligations, they are supposed to take on the enormous responsibility of eliminating ignorance, superstitions, illiteracy, and filth in their neighbourhood. It is also anticipated of youth to impart moral and constitutional principles to those who reside nearby. The adolescents might take on the responsibility of educating the populace in slums and underdeveloped areas of cities, villages, and towns that are typically filled with filth and stench. Instilling in young people the value of cleanliness and educating them about the dangers that dirt and general uncleanness pose to their health and the environment may go a long way towards



persuading and educating rowdy individuals. Additionally, it is required of the youth to accept the national literacy mission and make it their life's work to literate at least one person.

Areas of Priority Work for Youth: Some of the top issues that young people should focus on are literacy, filth, superstitions, ignorance, alcoholism, drugs, intoxication, casteism, communalism, fundamentalism, fanaticism, and the instillation of democratic and constitutional values in their community. A young voter and citizen of this country should exercise his or her civil and political rights with great care and caution when casting a valuable ballot in the general elections, whether it be for the Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, or another local self-government body, given the numerous issues the country is currently facing as previously mentioned. In order to share in the democratic advantages of the constitution, he or she must be informed of the fundamental rights, rights guaranteed to them, and obligations and responsibilities they have under it. He should put pressure on legislators, leaders, and those holding positions in the executive, legislature, and administration to improve their socioeconomic and political circumstances in order to transform the directive principles of state policy into fundamental rights through the process of amending the constitution in parliament. It is imperative that young people engage in organised civic engagement in order to expand the scope of fundamental rights through the transformation of directive principles into official policy. The young should demand that political parties, national or local, link electoral politics to concerns of expanding the scope of fundamental rights and transforming guiding principles through constitutional amendment. When elections are approaching, young people from underprivileged backgrounds need to prioritise pressuring and coercing political parties to include the expansion of fundamental rights in their platforms. In reality, it is the responsibility of political parties to bring up this matter in state and federal legislatures on behalf of the young people who are severely affected by unemployment, a lack of social security, and a complete lack of government policies that are meant to protect them. The issues facing young people have not been resolved even after 65 years of independence and more than 62 years of the Indian constitution being in effect. Consequently, these issues have gotten worse over time. Now is the perfect time for educated youth to become aware of and assert their rights by questioning politicians, political organisations, and leaders of social



movements about their political and socioeconomic plans, policies, and programs that benefit the oppressed masses, such as women, children, farmers, labourers, SC, ST, and OBC.

The Directive Principles Manifesto of Objectives and Aims: The guiding principles of state policy are a manifesto of goals and objectives, and this is as evident as day. It is a unique element of the Indian constitution, according to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the creator of the constitution. "The directive principles are the life-giving provisions of the constitution," asserts L. M. Singhi. The agenda for social and economic justice, collectively known as the "directive principles," outlines the goals of the contemporary welfare state and sets it apart from a purely regulatory or negative state. The country will only be able to attain eternal values—liberty, equality, fraternity, social, economic, and political justice—through the implementation of directive principles, as well as national unity and integrity. Last but not least, the conservative Indian society will never completely change, and the goals and objectives of the constitution will never be fulfilled in the coming years, unless the youth of India embrace and follow the path of Vidhya—Knowledge, Pradnya—Wisdom, Karuna—Compassion, Sheel—Character, and Maitree—Friendship—promoted by Lord Buddha more than two thousand five hundred years ago. Both those in charge of state operations and so-called academicians and intellectuals convey the idea that the guiding principles are just rules that administrators and rulers must follow. It's false propaganda that miscreants who oppose social, economic, and political justice as well as liberty, equality, and fraternity are constantly spreading. The youth, therefore, must draw inspiration from the life-giving provisions of the constitution and reject the ignorance, superstitions, casteism, communalism, fanaticism, conservatism, and blind faith that are pervasive in India. The political class is only interested in keeping the country's youth ignorant on social and economic issues in order to further their anti-people agenda by making the poor and defenceless people poorer.



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