



YOUTH: ENGINE OF INDIA'S PROGRES

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Abstract:

The present research paper aims to highlight the importance of the young generation in India's development as a strong nation. The youth of any country is its future power. In short, a country's growth depends on its young people. Youth is a transitional phase between childhood and adulthood. India is estimated to be the most populous country in the world, with a large number of young people. Educated youth can transform the nation's image through their skills, intellect, knowledge, and hard work. Without educated youth, a nation cannot progress. However, when they fail to achieve their dreams due to limited job opportunities, they often feel inferior and stressed. In India, growing unemployment is fueling a mental health epidemic. The adoption of AI in industries like robotics and art often leads to job losses in some sectors. To combat this, it's crucial to focus on skill development and entrepreneurship among youth. India's iconic figures like A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Subhas Chandra Bose, Swami Vivekananda, and Bhimrao R. Ambedkar inspire young Indians to chase their dreams through hard work and determination. Ultimately, this research paper suggests that India's future will be shaped by its youth.

Key words: youth, skills, intellect, knowledge, inferior, stressed, unemployment, robotics, iconic, determination.

Introduction:

The development of any country depends on its mass, especially on its young generation. If a nation's young generation is educated and healthy, that nation can grow fast. In other words, the youth of the nation is important for its development, as the healthy minds of youth can innovate new technologies, and they also can change the old order of the nation into a new and positive one. It is hard to colonize a country that has a brave and fearless youth population in it. It is people who help a nation to develop by their creative skills, their intellect, their hard work, and their attempt to maintain unity among each other. In short, without masses a nation cannot exist, but without educated and skilled youth a nation cannot grow.

So, what is youth ? In Oxford English dictionary youth means "*the period between childhood and adult age.*" (Soanes 646) To put it differently, "*Youth is the time of life when one is young. The word youth can also mean the time between childhood and adulthood (maturity), but it can also refer to one's peak, in term of health or the period of life known as being young adult.*"(Kulloli a421)The period of young adulthood is one of most important



time when a person can enthusiastically contribute to his/her country. Since during this time they not only can work more actively, but also they can focus on their goals without being tired. Also, it is time for them to know about the new world as they start to search for jobs and settle themselves in the new atmosphere of the job market. However, failure to settle into this new stage causes them to feel inferior and stressed. In other words, lack of jobs and lack of business guidance sometimes fail them, causing distress in their personality. There are many countries in which youth are facing this kind of problem due to the lack of job opportunities, e.g., Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, African regions, etc.

In the current time, Indian youth are also facing the crisis of jobs and business, either due to a lack of understanding of their field and lack of literacy or due to the spread of corruption nationwide. Still, at some point, the thoughts of eminent personalities of India encourage the young generation to work hard for their dreams. Such as A. P. J. Abdul Kalam beautifully states in his book *Ignited Minds* that:

The great minds of the country had the ability to make others join their endeavour to convert dreams into reality. For them the nation was bigger than themselves and they could draw thousands to act upon their dreams. (Kalam 40)

The following passage addresses the youth of India explaining the importance of the dreams of each person together making a big achievement in the progress of the nation. Kalam believes that “great minds (great thoughts)” of young generation can transform dreams into reality which can further change the image of nation from developing to developed nation. In other words, India’s youth hold the key to unlocking the nation’s true potential and achieving greatness. As he also argues that these great minds/educated people can attract other to join their attempt to take part in country’s growth by working hard and smart for their dreams. In contrast to this, illiterate or half-literate youth fail to achieve their goals and they remain distracted. They don’t care about their own dreams as well as nation’s growth. But in India there is many educated people who fail to achieve their dreams in current time due to more population of youngsters in compare to job vacancies. This kind of situation create mental health issue among them which somehow affect nation’s growth. Sometimes, they start to feel inferior and hatred towards themselves as they fail to reach their goals, to quote Subhas Chandra Bose: “*I know there are people amongst us who still believe that “youth is crime.” The greatest crime, they think, one could commit was to be young in years as well as in mind*”(Bose 155). These lines are taken from Subhas Chandra Bose’s important work *The Mission of Life*, in which he suggests that at some point many youngsters start to ponder that “youth is crime,” “the greatest crime” as at this point, they fail to achieve their dream which often breaks them. Maybe because they often fail to master the modern skills and technologies that causes unemployment among new generation. The increasing use of AI in industries like robotics and art is likely to lead to job displacement in certain sectors and lack of knowledge of new technologies. Another reason is high population of nation and the spread of corruption in India which produce joblessness among educated youth which further



results in psychological problem for the modern generation. Additionally, in India, the new generation is glued to their screens, posing a challenge for the nation as social media's negative impact on youth which has become increasingly concerning. This kind of situation somehow provides way for other to shape the desires of youth as they wish as Gayatri Chakravarty Spivak critically states in her work *Can the Subaltern Speak?* that:

When Foucault speaks of the interests of the population, he does not follow the Marxist distinction between interest and needs. Instead, he suggests that needs are always already shaped through governmental technologies. This means that the manipulation of subjects by shaping of interests does not occur in the first instance at the level of socioeconomic class and through ideology. Manipulation and calculation already takes place at the physical level of the fabrication of needs themselves. (Spivak 186)

Through this it can be argued that the desires of Indian youth are also being shaped by governmental technologies, which often distract them from their true likings and their true desires. In addition, manipulation of individuals doesn't happen only at the social-economic level or through ideology; it begins at the physical level of creating or fabricating needs themselves, influencing people from the very foundation of their desires. Here, as an example, it can be said that the need for free rations shows the government's failure to provide adequate employment. In some cases, young people become lazy due to low self-confidence and hard competition, which also becomes a reason for their unemployment. Their needs often make them follow the wrong path at some point, and they often take the path of crime. They start to become like what Frantz Fanon says in his famous work *The Wretched of the Earth* that:

The colonized man is an envious man. The colonist is aware of this as he catches the furtive glance, and constantly on his guard, realizes bitterly that: "They want to take our place." And it's true there is not one colonized subject who at least once a day does not dream of taking that place of the colonist. (Fanon 5)

He argues that every colonized subject wishes, at least once, to occupy the position of the colonizer, meaning they aspire to the power and status denied to them. Uninspired and unguided youth often aspire to grab power and authority, thinking it will give them the status they crave. Without mentorship, the young generation could lose their path of dreams and vision. They live without purpose, as they don't have a clear vision of their future, which further affects nations' growth. It can be said that aimless youth are more likely to get into trouble, or they lose motivation. Thus, it can also be argued that youth without goals can fall prey to negative influence easily. This can lead to a desire to emulate the powerful, like Fanon says about the colonized man who dreams to take the place of the colonizer. However, not all Indian youth fit this pattern; some educated youth draw inspiration from Indian



revolutionaries and great leaders. Their noble thoughts inspire them to innovate new things, to develop new skills and to contribute in nations growth. Such as the following passage encourages new generation to move forward by working hard. To quote Bose:

“We have brought in with us the divine gift of hope and zeal, renunciation and courage. We have come to create things because in creation is real joy. We shall carry on our creative work with all the physical energies at our command, and all our creation will be instinct with the spirit of Truth and Beauty and Good, which we have realized in our own being.”(Bose 1)

Here, Bose considers that ‘hope,’ ‘zeal,’ ‘renunciation,’ and ‘courage’ are essential qualities for a meaningful life. Further he argues that creating things, the act of bringing something new into existence is a source of true happiness and he also suggests that art and creation should be guided by a pursuit of what is true, beautiful, and good. This kind of view can fill the positive energy into country’s youth which is most important. India's youth can draw inspiration from this type of thoughts to unlock their potential, embracing qualities like hope and courage to drive positive change and shape the nation's future. It can be said that by embracing these qualities, they can break free from limitations and achieve great things. It's all about harnessing their energy and creativity to build a brighter future for themselves and the country. This type of thoughts emphasis on creation and values can guide them in making a meaningful impact and make India an advance knowledge society again as Abdul Kalam states that:

Ancient India was an advanced knowledge society. Invasions and colonial rule destroyed its core competence. Its people have been systematically degraded to lower levels of existence. By the time the British left, our youth had lowered their aims and were satisfied earning an ordinary livelihood. India is essentially a land of knowledge and it must rediscover itself in this aspect. Once this rediscovery is done, it will not require much struggle to achieve the quality of life, strength and sovereignty of a developed nation.(Kalam 119-120)

In the following passage, Kalam argues that ancient India was advanced and had a rich tradition of knowledge, innovation, and excellence in various fields like science, philosophy, arts, and mathematics. Invasions and colonial rule had a devastating impact on India. In other words, foreign invasions and colonial rule disrupted India's progress, eroding its core strengths and competencies and its rich cultural heritage. The foreign invaders and colonizer’s constant suppression led people to the systematic degradation. It can be said that India's people were systematically marginalized, leading to a decline in their confidence and aspirations. After independence, in the post-independence era, people started living peacefully, but their zeal to achieve something also started disappearing. Thus, during the



post-independence era, the youth had lowered their ambitions and were content with just earning a living, rather than striving for excellence. Here, Kalam indicates to rediscovering India's true potential through the educated youth. He further emphasizes that India's strength lies in its knowledge heritage. If India can reclaim this space, it can achieve greatness. By rediscovering its strengths and focusing on knowledge, India can attain a high quality of life, strength, and sovereignty as a developed nation. In short, the passage is urging India to reconnect with its rich past, revive its strengths, and channel its energies towards becoming a developed nation.

Conclusion:

Thus, India's youth are the driving force behind the nation's growth and development. As A.P.J. Abdul Kalam emphasized, India's strength lies in its knowledge heritage and its young minds. To achieve greatness, India must rediscover its true potential and empower its youth with education, skills, and opportunities. By harnessing their energy, creativity, and idealism, India can overcome challenges like unemployment, corruption, and social inequality. As Subhas Chandra Bose inspired, hope, zeal, renunciation, and courage are essential qualities for a meaningful life. By embracing these values, India's youth can shape a brighter future, making India a developed nation with a high quality of life, strength, and sovereignty.

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