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Young minds in politics

Yamini • Jaya Mrinalini • Prity Bala
• Sneha

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Corresponding Author : Sneha

Abstract : *India has large productive and young population as her asset and this young generation is the driving force of any nation. The major problem that has always been faced by Indian politics is misallocation of resources and incapable leaders at the top. It is stereotypical to think that only people with grey hair can become successful politicians. The younger generation do not have any platform to show their leadership.*

If we truly believe that the future of any country lies in the hands of the youth, then we need to take a step forward in their direction. Only youth can change the pace of the course of our nation's progress and make India a global giant. If we want to see a better India is time to take charge. We have to build a foundation now for a prosperous future. Unless the youth feel concerned and get involved in politics at all stages, we cannot expect a nation to grow.

The likes of young politicians like- Rahul Gandhi, Milind Deora, Sachin Pilot, Agatha Sangama add life and a fresh set of ideas to the decision making bodies. It is the young generation X (next), Y (youth), and Z (zealous), who can resuscitate India. The youth has to become a part of politics to facilitate the reconstruction of a better society and a country free from corruption, violence, black marketing, fraud etc. Thus, if we as a nation have to move ahead and build the country of our dreams, we have to use politics as a medium to ensure that government remains sensitive and accountable to the people.

Yamini

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2008-2011,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Jaya Mrinalini

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2008-2011,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Prity Bala

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2008-2011,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Sneha

Assistant Professor, Department of History,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : sneha.kishore2@gmail.com

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Introduction :

India is the seventh largest country by geographical area and the most populous democracy in the world. India's history and culture is ancient and dynamic spanning back to the beginning of human civilization. India has witnessed the rise and fall of two major civilizations of the world namely Indus valley civilization and Vedic civilization. It has also seen the glory of major dynasties such as Mauryas, Guptas in the early period and Delhi sultanate and Mughal dynasty in the later period.

With the decline of Mughal dynasty, a glorious period of India received a setback and administration and polity was now transferred to the British. Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 with the objective of obtaining a greater share in government for educated Indians. A great number of youths participated in the meetings of the congress and thus started in India a new phenomenon YOUTH POLITICS. Youth politics is a category which involves impact on the youth. It is the young generation who can resuscitate India.

The major problem that has always been faced by Indian politics is the misallocation of resources and incapable leader at the top. It is true that with age comes experience, but the likes of young politicians like-Rahul Gandhi, Sachin Pilot, Milind Deora adds life and a fresh set of ideas to the decision making bodies. Thinking and contribution from the youth is fresh, as it is not influenced by any political view of reality. J.K Rowling has aptly said "Age is foolish and forgetful when it underestimates youth." In today's knowledge based economy, what you have is more important than what you have experienced. But in India, very few young people possess a Voter Identification Card and very few from among them actually go to vote, all of which result in a degraded majority and a wrong party in power. However, there are some important programmes which are trying to attract the youth to politics like – Bharat Uday Mission is one outfit

of Indians who are planning to enter politics at a certain point of time. Culturally there are movies aimed at promoting youth in politics like Yuva, Rang de Basanti, Rajneeti etc. But, for our generation, politics as a career comes way down in the career option list. Rampant corruption, criminalization of politics, lack of accountability, lack of family support etc are some of the reasons behind this.

Thus, if we as a nation have to move ahead and build the country of our dreams, we have to use politics as a medium to ensure that the government remains sensitive and accountable to the people. After all, our nation needs developed and young minds instead of corroded and corrupt minds.

Objectives :

The general objective of doing this project was to study the changes our government witnessed with the involvement of young minds in politics. They bring fresh and new ideas which in today's fast growing world requires for the development of the country.

The specific objective of doing this project is to examine the influence our young leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Milind Deora, Sachin Pilot etc. have on the young minds, as it is said that "people of similar age are able to make one another understand things in a more convenient way."

Hypothesis :

- Politics has always remained a controversial yet interesting subject. Every century and place has its own politics and something different from others. The youth in politics have ensured positive and fresh changes in the political scenario of India where decisions could be implemented very quickly. Still the youth of India consider politics as the last option in their career list. Hence, we wanted to study the reasons behind the why the youth do not participate in politics and their views about politics.

- The charismatic and zealous personality of young politicians affects the young minds of the country who are more keen and likely to follow their footsteps and, thus, this would definitely lead to the increased participation of youth in politics. Hence we have undertaken the study of the young minds to assess the impact of young leaders on them.

Methodology :

- We have done CASE STUDY on UPA government to bring forth the impact of young passionate leaders on the young generation.
- Secondly, we have done EMPIRICAL STUDY to act more understanding of the views of youth in today's era.
- This project also contains primary as well as secondary data.

United Progressive Alliance :

The **United Progressive Alliance (UPA)** is a ruling coalition of center-left/centrist political parties heading the government of India. The coalition is led by the Indian National Congress (INC), which is currently the single largest political party in the Lok Sabha (the lower house of the parliament of India). The Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, and the Council of Ministers are drawn from members of the UPA. INC's President, Sonia Gandhi, serves as the Chairperson of the UPA. Every 5th person in India belongs to the age group of 15 – 24 Years. This population is identified by United Nations Population Fund, as youth or youth population. The youth population which typically constitutes the labor force is expected to bring freshly learned and updated skills that help to remove and improve the countries stock of human capital. India has the largest youth population in the world today. The youth in any nation are critical for its continued economic development and demographic evolution. Youth can be seen as having distinctive political interests, more inclined to change than older generations, more idealistic in their goals and

less loyal to established traditions. The youth today is called by many names; it is this generation X, which is going to lead the nation and the world. 'Leaders of tomorrow', is what they are called. Some of the prominent young leaders who are active in present political scenario are;

- Rahul Gandhi (born in Delhi, 19th June, 1970).
- Milind Deora (born in Mumbai, 4th December, 1976).
- Sachin Pilot (born in Saharanpur, U.P, 7th September, 1977).
- Agatha Sangama (born in New Delhi, 24th July, 1980)
- Omar Abdullah (born in U.K., 10th March, 1970)

Findings :

Youth have fresh perspective which can bring much required change in politics, the only thing required of them is to take initiative, have dedication in their work for the right cause and love for the country. They can bring change in the political scenario of India by creating a new system that is unbiased, not corrupt and interests everyone. Besides, they can also bring change by being in the system and change it. If they come forward to take the reigns of the Government in their hands then it would be like another freedom for India from the orthodox politicians who have their own vested interests. Youth should take politics to root out three grave evils of caste, crime and corruption. They are the future of India, so to translate people's expectation into reality a large number of committed youth are needed. They should accept the responsibility to free the people from injustice, corruption and divisive trends. Seventy percent of Indian population is young as per the recent demographic trends but very few of them possess voter-identification card and very few from among them actually go to vote. They should realize that voting is the powerful tool that

can prevent wrong party coming into power. Thus, they can also show their responsibility by voting for a right party. At last, it can be concluded that with the participation of youth in politics, we can imagine a system where things will get implemented quickly as politics needs power to take decisions which only youth can efficiently provide.

Suggestions :

- Seventy percent of Indian population is young as per the recent demographic trends but very few of them possess voter-identification card and very few from among them actually go to vote. They should realize that voting is the powerful tool that can prevent a wrong party to come to power. Thus, they can also show their responsibility by voting for a right party which has ethical values.
- They are the future of India, so to translate people's expectation into reality a large number of committed youth are needed. They should accept the responsibility to free the people from injustice, corruption and divisive trends. One of the elder statesmen of India C.Rajgopalachari once said, "if there is vacancy and if good men did not come forward, bad men will jump to occupy the slot."
- The younger generation doesn't have any platform to show their leadership. Changing dysfunctional behaviour is difficult but not impossible. If we as a nation have to move ahead and build the country of our dreams, we have to use politics as a medium to ensure that government remains sensitive and accountable to the people.

Conclusion :

If we truly believe that the future of any country lies in the hands of the youth then we need to take a step forward. Only youth can change the pace and width of the course of our nation's progress and make India a global giant.

If we want to see a better India it is time to take charge. We have to build a foundation now for a prosperous future. Unless the youth feel concerned and get involved in politics at all stages, we cannot expect our nation to grow. Remember, it is not good for a nation when its citizens only complain and expect someone else to fix their problems.

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