

YOUTH UNREST AND YOUTHS OF PRESENT AGE: PROBLEMS & CHALLENGES FOR THE TEACHERS OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN HANDLING THE UNREST

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Abstract:

Youth unrest is a growing concern in contemporary society, reflecting the changing dynamics of the youth in the present age. This article examines the underlying causes of youth unrest, including socio-economic pressures, political instability, and educational stress, which contribute to the discontent among young individuals. In particular, it highlights the role of higher educational institutions and the specific challenges faced by teachers in managing and addressing such unrest. The article explores the impact of this unrest on the teaching-learning process, student-teacher relationships, and overall campus environment. It also discusses strategies and approaches for educators to navigate these challenges, including fostering open communication, promoting mental health awareness, and creating an inclusive, supportive learning environment. The study emphasizes the importance of equipping teachers with the necessary tools and skills to address the root causes of unrest and to transform potential disruptions into opportunities for positive change.

Keywords: Youth unrest, higher education, teaching challenges, student-teacher relations, socio-economic factors, mental health, educational institutions, student engagement, youth discontent.

Introduction:

Youth unrest is the most dangerous evil in our societal system. In the present day world, it is raised as a serious and major problem in society. In the country like india, this problem has been creating a serious threat against formation of good, healthy and ideal societal environment.

In our state Assam, especially during the last two decades, the unrest among the youths becomes a severe problem, not only to the educational institutions but also to the society. But the root cause of increasing youth unrest is the faulty education system as in our higher education system. There is no scope of imparting value

education. As a result youth unrest takes a severe form in colleges and other higher educational institutions of Assam. In this regards, the college teachers have a great role to play.

Aims/Objectives of the Study

- a) To study the youth unrest and the impact of higher education system on it.
- b) To study the problems of youth unrest in Assam.
- c) To study the role of college teachers in handling the youths of today.

Research Methodology

The study is carried out with the help of books, journals, magazines internet or e-sources and other secondary sources and after that the data and information are processed systematically for further explanation.

Discussion

a) Youth Unrest and the Impact of Higher Education system on it

In the higher education system in Assam, the youth unrest is the major and severe problem. It is identified as a serious evil that has influenced on the higher education system and scenario of the state of Assam.

Dr. Kapil Dev Sharma, an Associate Professor CET-IILM, Greater Noida, U.P. through his research paper on “ Modern Indian Youth: Reasons and Result of Unrest and Core Agitation”, has opined that “Unrest” simply means “present disturbed condition” . Social unrest is the manifestation of collective disillusionment and frustration of a group of youths. If there is unrest among the students of one educational institute or a university, it is not perceived as the problem of student unrest as such. It is only when students all over the country feel frustrated on such common issues like examination placement, jobs and content of any syllabus. The emphasis in the concept of social unrest is on “ collective frustration” and disillusionment on common social issues of the groups in the society(Sharma, K, 2014),

On the basis of selected definition, it may be said that youth unrest is usually characterised by four important standards.

- 1- Public concern
- 2- Change in the existing norms.
- 3- Frustration based on the feeling of injustice.

4- Collective discontent.

It will not be out of place to explain the concept of student indiscipline, disregard to elders, deviation from norms or rejecting to accept control. We should remember that a committee appointed by the UGC in 1960 presented the view of three major categories of behaviour of student indiscipline.

- 1) Believe to destroying property
- 2) Misbehaviour with female student
- 3) Disregard for teacher/Professors.

The UGC committee of 1960 pointed out a number of reasons for student agitation—

- 1) Economic cause, for example, demand to reduce fees and to increase the amount of scholarship.
- 2) Demand for changes in the existing norms pertaining to admission, teaching and the process of examination.
- 3) Poor administrative functioning of college and universities.
- 4) Inappropriate teaching in campus, hostel and inadequate academic infrastructure.

Besides, the above reasons which mainly emphasize on the student agitation. Sometimes this type of agitation may lead to student unrest. In case of higher education system in Assam, the youth unrest has emerged as the major burning problem. For college teachers, it is very difficult to handle the youth of today.. It is not justified to generalise that all the youths of the entire society become unruly. But some youths who are also students of colleges and higher educational institutions become very unruly, create disturbances on a different occasions like college functions, events, cultural shows and day to day academic environment of the college or any higher educational institution. Today's majority of the youths have not any moral values and feelings of cultural entity. They do not have respect to the elders and seniors, teachers and other aged citizens. They do not want to follow rules, regulations and social and cultural norms, values, etc. For such reasons the higher education system of Assam is about to demoralise. The academic environment is totally disturbed because of the youth unrest in the state.

b) Problems of Youth Unrest in Assam

The state of Assam has severe problem of youth unrest. The socio-cultural background and impact of globalisation are also responsible for present day youth unrest.

The materialist ideology and consumerist based society have tremendously influenced the youth mentality that results in unrest. Today the youths do not obey the rules and regulations of the society as a result of which in higher education at college level of the state, handling the youths becomes quite difficult. Majority of the youths are unruly and they have not followed the ideals of honesty, morality, human and spiritual values.

The materialism and growing consumerist society have been fuelling to increase various forms of youth unrest. Some youths being drugs-edicted have lost their good sense of how to honour and respect the seniors. Besides some of them attend night club party and bar dancing participating in huligunism, eve-teasing, fighting with others, adopt worst ways of earning money, stunting two-four wheeled automobiles and bikes. Thus they are transformed into a distorted culture. As stated above, faulty education system is the chief cause for youth unrest. There is no scope for learning and teaching of moral education and spiritual values in the syllabi of elementary and secondary levels. So, from that stage, they have not learnt and aware of those valued education. Then it becomes difficult to train and teach them in the higher education at college level.

Lastly the lack of awareness of human values, morality, cultural feelings among the gurdians of various professional classes of the society as well as intellectuals and educationists also have created constraints against eradicating youth unrest and handling of the youths of today.

C) Role of College Teachers in Handling the Youths of Today

College teachers have a great role to play for handling the youths of today. But it is very difficult to handle the youths in recent times. In this regards, the colleges and higher educational institutions of the state have faced various problems because of the rising youth unrest among the youths of the societies, colleges and higher educational institutions of Assam have been so disturbed that it becomes very difficult to maintain healthy and ideal social environment.

In Assam, specially during the last two decades, the unrest among the youths becomes a severe problem not only to the educational institutions but also to the society. But the root cause of increasing youth unrest is the faulty education system as in our education system basically in elementary and secondary level, the curriculum does not include like human values, moral education, spiritual thoughts and cultural feelings. There is no scope for studying those valuable aspects.

Therefore, the students who become youths has not been learning regarding human values. So, they become rootless and their thoughts and feelings are not responsible to the society. So, the college teachers must take some steps urgently for eradicating youth unrest from the societies. For handling the youths of today, the college teachers themselves must have attained some qualities and must strictly follow some social and cultural norms, rules and regulations. College teachers must have the qualities like discipline, honesty, punctuality, sincerity, cultural feelings, social, spiritual and humanistis values and should given importance on morality for creating ideal, healthy, peaceful academic as well as socio-cultural environment.

College teachers may organise some training programmes for the youths and to provide value education to them comprising, morality, spirituality and demonstrating for learning and maintaining the social norms, cultural and human values and honesty for higher educational institutions and colleges as well as societies.

Counselling of every student of colleges and youths of the societies is another good step that could be taken by college teachers. Counselling of every youth with respect to their mental conditions, their aims and objectives of life, how they can deal with societies from various perspectives, their feelings, sentiments, ideology and thinking in present day context and in future.

For total elimination of youth unrest and handling the youths, college teachers may also apply strict punishment according to rules and regulations. In this case, the respective Govt. Authority and university and college authority have more responsibilities for doing right way to handling and controlling the youths.

Conclusion:

The paper is concluded with the following observations and suggestions.

Youth unrest is the burning social evil and it becomes difficult to handle the youths of today who become restless and problematic. In this regard the college teachers have a responsibility to give more importance on production of good human resources in the true sense through proper training, guidance, counselling, advice and valuable practical suggestions. Then it would be possible for handling the youths or younger generation in a proper way for the interest of creating a good social environment at large.

The moral and spiritual education must be introduced at the elementary and secondary levels.

Creating awareness regarding youth unrest among different classes of people in the society is most important for tackling this problem.

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