

Youth Adrift in a Sick Society

***Dr. Arun Kumar Chaturvedi**

THE PROBLEM of youth unrest is not peculiar to India. Young men seem to be revolting all over the world. But in other countries the deviant behaviour among modern youth has some ideological basis. In India it appears to be without any aim or ideology. The disturbances are more frequent and more violent year after year. The campus unrest may be observed even in L.Ts and medical colleges.

In order to examine this problem in a deeper perspective, this author took a sample of 200 male students of Agra University, studying in five post-graduate colleges situated at Agra, Firozabad, Shikohabad, Aligarh and Mathura. Female students were not taken within the purview of this sample because it was thought that males were more prone to cause disturbances than females. Forty students from each of the above cities were selected by random sampling.

Educationwise, sixty per cent students were studying in post-graduate classes, and forty per cent in degree classes, Age-wise, seventy per cent students of the sample were between 18 and 22 years, twenty per cent between 23 and 27 years, and ten per cent above 27 years; 42 per cent of the respondents came from joint families and fifty eight per cent from nuclear families: fifty five per cent of them were married and forty five per cent un-married. Forty eight per cent of the respondents came from rural areas and fifty two per cent from urban areas.

Those from the rural areas had agriculture culture as their father's main occupation, while these from urban areas had business, profession, and service as their father's main occupation. Thirty eight per cent of the students were hostellers and sixty two per cent day were scholars. The hostellers spent between Rs. 250- and Rs. 600- per month. They take interest did not get separate pocket money from their parents. The day scholars who did not reside in hostels received Rs. 150 Rs. 250 per month as pocket money.

Out of this sample there was not a single student economically independent. Seventy four per cent of the students were studying because they did not get a suitable job elsewhere. Fifteen per cent were studying because they wanted to make their mark in society as officers and administrators, Eleven per cent were studying because they wanted to distinguish themselves as politicians and leaders, and the academic institution was a mini-training ground for this work.

Cinema was an excellent means of recreation according to the respondents' view. Eighty five per cent

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of the respondents were frequent cinema goers and they visited films 3 to 4 times a week. They spent a sizeable part of their pocket money or the hostel fund on this entertainment every month.

It would not be out of place to mention here that commercialisation of recreation has vitiated the whole atmosphere. The influence of the screen is one of the major factors developing delinquent tendencies in modern youth. Many vulgar and romantic films depicting erotic situations their language and action and they have a great influence on impression scrupulously jump to criminal action able minds. Youth takes a peculiar pleasure in teasing girls who dress themselves gaudily to capture attention.

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No Faith in Religion

Sixty seven per cent of the respondents studied in this sample expressed no faith in religion, and considered their own material prosperity, by any means fair or foul, to be more important than honesty and sincerity. They had little faith in norms and values of society which was riddled with double standards. The leaders, they say. Exhort a life of simplicity but themselves live in uncommon luxury; they plead for Hindi in everything but send their own children to English Medium Convent Schools; they speak against foreign education but send their own sons to foreign countries for education. Eighty five per cent of the respondents said that in violation of rules they follow the example of finer seniors when they observe teachers organising strikes and demonstrations for revision of their pay scales and automatic promotions, they see nothing wrong in demanding promotions without examinations for themselves.

Seventy per cent of the respondents admitted that their parents were indifferent towards their education. They did not inquire about their studies in colleges. They took interest only in their admissions and examination results. The indifference of parents encouraged them to bluff and fool them.

Forty eight per cent of the respondents of this sample were found to be agriculturists. Investigation revealed that twenty two per cent of these agriculturists had a monthly income ranging between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 4,000- Of late, sons of well-to-do farmers. With no educational background, have developed pride of their economic

The moment their emotions are aroused Seventy six per cent of the respondents want the continuance of Student Unions. Student Unions usually do not work for the welfare of students. Shooting and stabbing take place at the time of elections Even after the elections are over, perpetual bad blood among the rival groups continues.

Higher Education not for all

In view of the above findings, the author would like to make the following suggestions:

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- (a) There should be a check on higher education. Few students of extra- ordinary abilities should be allowed to drink deep at the fountain of higher learning. Others of ordinary intelligence should be sent for job- oriented courses.
- (b) The Government and politicians should not interfere in matters of educational institutions
- (c) The examination system should be reformed stress should be laid on original thinking and not on cramming, Dynamic methods of teaching should be introduced. There should be tutorials, sominars and discussions to develop the thinking capacity of the students,
- (d) Teachers of competence and character should be appointed.
- (e) There should be proper co-ordination between Student Unions and right type of leadership It Union leaders are chosen after a competitive written examination, and not on the basis of voting in elections, the 'Dadas' will be automatically eliminated.
- (f) There should be a provision of religious education.

If we work on the above lines the problem of unquiet campus can be solved to a large extent.

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