Who Cares?

The denigration in the moralistic values and nationalistic feeling of the youth of Mumbai are eating into their character. National pride and nationalism are a thing of the past. Tanaya Adarkar conducted a survey which represents this trend.

Does the youth care about the society they live in and if they do, how much is their basic contribution to it? We spoke to a few, from the age group of 15 to 26, across Mumbai, which lead to a shocking trend of - “Who Cares?”

The survey conducted clearly showed that few groups of our younger generation are turning their back towards their social responsibilities. Mrs Rao a school teacher said, “I am very disappointed that the young today are avoiding their social responsibilities and are more interested in careers abroad than contributing towards their fellow countrymen.”

The research highlighted an astonishing fact and which is that people are fine with helping those whom they know. So is the infamous dialogue, ‘Insaniat ke khatli (on the grounds of humanity)’ vanishing?

With the aam janata coming together to ask for justice in Jessica Lal’s or the Mathoo case, goes to show people want to help but without burning their own hands,” says Radhika a student of management. She adds, “People help to clear their conscience not to solve others problems.”

Mumbai has been witness to many cases like the acid and stabbing attacks and also a lady burnt on a crowded road at the peak hours of the day; what were the people doing standing on the road?

While all these people were in trouble and asking for help what stopped those standing around them to rush and help. While the city showed its true spirit during a city calamity, (water flooding on 26/7) to question the spirit of the city is unfair. Meena Thappar, a teacher, says, “Mumbaikars are very helpful. But helping has some parameters and this is seen mostly in Mumbai where people are so short of time for themselves that they feel that involving in such legalities will deprive them of the little time they have for themselves.”

She adds further, “It is sad that people gather to watch all of it happen but fail to push themselves to help those who need it the most at that point.”

But when we say that the youth of today is broad minded, vigilant, and have such strong views what stops them from making an effort to take the witnessed cases to their logical end.

Meena Thappar says, “Parents are so petrified at their wards interacting with persons unacquainted, which is leading to interaction of the youth of today.”

She says justifying this attitude, “Due to cases like Adnan Patrawala, parents are more conscious. This is impacting the society. The bond between two unknown people is diminishing.”

Mehrosh, a tenth standard student says, “My mother always says that you should travel in a group and not alone because in case of help people will come forward to help you. This statement has gone for a complete toss. My mom does not say it any more she has instead given me chilly spray.”

Shilpa, 21, student of psychology says, “Anyone’s immediate reaction would be to help, but their constraint with the realisation of the various complexities, they would have to face after the incident like repeated calls at the police station and years of court cases as witnesses, restrain such youth from lending a helping hand.”

Most youth feel that such a cooperation with the establishment could cause an impediment in their future career.

The trend shows a very scary view of a society, where interaction among various communities to help each other in the time of need would be impeded by such social structures like legal/police impediments, parental impediments and futuristic impediments for students.

Meena Thappar says, “There should be a certain section of society who should bear a social responsibility to come out in the open and not to leave the politicians to use their devices to meet and their political ends and citizen committees should be formed so as to put a social pressure on government and societies so that a civilized society could exist and the youth of this country could be given a direction towards a strong successful and powerful India.”

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