Youth, are more often perceived as someone, who wave flags on Independence Day or watch a ‘Bhagat Singh’ and forget about it. If you are one of those, stop right there and take a closer look. Youth today is not about owning the trendiest of mobile or wearing the coolest clothes.

Be it spending time at NGO’s or organising campaigns to support civic causes, youngsters today are totally going by – ‘THE MANTRA’ Monila Sahe, who works for an NGO makes sure she spends two hours every Sunday with the kids. “I have no time the entire week. But I make sure that on Sunday’s I go and spend time with the kids. I help them with their English. Later we all play in the garden or do other activities. Till I started I never knew it could be such fun.”

With so much happening in the suburbs, it is really not very difficult to find a cause you believe in and support it. There are many NGOs as well as online sites available which helps you to find out something of your interest. Aakruthi, is one such guiding factor. The organisation teaches street children with the help of college going youngsters. Sapna Bang who has spent time at the organisation feels that the whole idea is really good. “Whenever you have some time on hand, you can go and work with the children. It’s not just textbook teaching. There are a whole lot of other activities which makes it a truly fun experience.”

The youth of today, is no longer looking at the society as a mere spectator. They are actually pitching in and doing their bit in their own way for the society. Another example of the active interest of youth in civic issues would be of IIT Powai. They are a group of people who are dedicated to saving monuments in and around Mumbai. They make it a point to go to such places and clean the surroundings as well as try to wash off the graffiti on the walls.

As for all those who simply cannot spend their time doing these activities, they have found out an altogether different medium of helping the society- The Internet. So be it starting a signature campaign to being a virtual volunteer online, youth today are trying to give back to the society in every way they can. Vaibhav Shah, who is an employee of Ness Technology, regularly donates Rs 1200 to World Vision, which is an organisation who helps less privileged children getting an education. “Though shelling out Rs 1200 is quite a huge amount that it can’t be managed. And the satisfaction of being responsible for a child’s education is simply amazing.”

So be it organizing fund-raisers or helping online, youth today are really taking an active interest for the betterment of their society. The Bani Bandh project last year, was an apt example of how the youth can really make a difference!

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