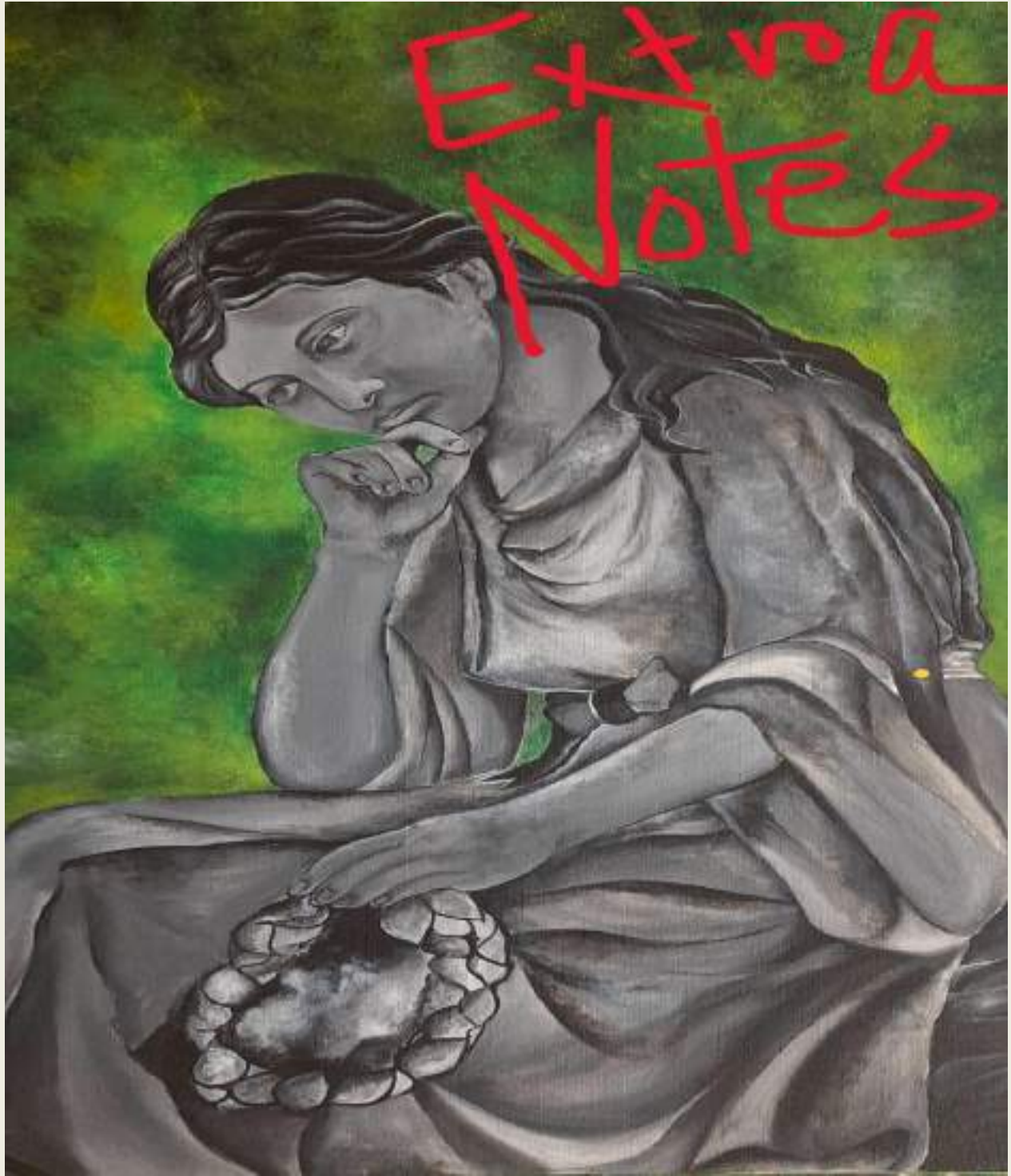


**Extra Notes:** *Essays on Literature, Culture & Society*

Department of English Gour Mahavidyalaya

Issue 1, 2023



*The Thinker* by Swarnali Goswami

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## Editorial

We are glad to publish the new issue of *Extra Notes: Essays on literature, Culture and Society!*

The short essays collected here were submitted by the students of the Department of English as part of the Essay Competition organized by the Department.

The planet earth is facing a crisis today. Our age is the age of climate emergency- of global warming, polluted rivers, droughts and flash floods. Scientists have variously characterized the present age as *anthropocene* or *capitalocene*- the age in which capitalist greed, plundering of earth and excessive use of fossil fuel has made human beings the agents of geological change. Earth days are celebrated, ENVS projects are collected every year by teachers, seminars and talks are ritualistically delivered, politicians daily promise and COP conferences are annually organised. And yet the crisis seems to be deteriorating every day.

We are, however, not despairing. Young people across the world have shown way. Greta Thunbergs are our hope. Instead of reducing ENVS into project reports carrying 8 marks we propose to make the students think about the present crisis. One way of doing this is to ask them to write about it and to suggest possible ways to minimize the damage. Today, we are aware of the power of new media. Can it serve as fora for consciousness raising in this regard- and about other societal issues? With these objectives in mind we organized the essay completion 2023. And we are now glad to publish the essays.

We thank Swarnali Goswami for the cover image! The pictures are from Google Images.

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## **New Media, Digital Sphere & Indian Youth**

Pradipta Mandal

India is a country of youth, with 65% of its population under the age of 35. The younger generation is naturally inquisitive, and they demonstrate a remarkable aptitude for adapting to modern technologies & that is why it is unsurprising that the new media has gained such prevalence in the nation. The new media has drastically changed the way in which Indian youth interact and consume content. It has presented them with access to a variety of digital tools, platforms, and technologies that have enabled them to create, share, and access information from anywhere in the world. This has resulted in a dramatic shift in the way that Indian youth communicate, stay informed, and express themselves. As a result, the Indian youth of today have a greater sense of global awareness and connectivity than ever before. Nevertheless, it is necessary to acknowledge that every blessing has its drawbacks.

New media, such as online social networks, blogs, and video sharing sites, has a tremendous influence on the views and opinions of Indian youth. Social media has provided a platform for Indian youth to express their opinions, discuss current events, and connect with others. Through social media, Indian youth have been able to share their stories, connect with and learn from others, and have their voices heard. Additionally, new media has allowed Indian youth to access information quickly and easily, and to engage in online debates and discussions. This has enabled them to form and express their opinions and develop their own unique perspectives on the world. Indian youth are using new media to promote social causes and raise awareness on various issues. They are using platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter to spread messages of social justice, promote environmental protection, and support marginalized communities. They are also using these platforms to raise funds for various causes. One such incident happened in 2018, when a grandfather of a seriously ill young girl wrote a post online detailing the financial difficulties that the family had to endure while

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attempting to procure the money required for the girl's operation. Despite their efforts, they were unable to raise the necessary funds. After the post was shared, a large number of people generously donated money to the family and they were able to collect an impressive 16 lakh rupees in just six hours, ultimately saving the girl. Young people are also using new media to build virtual networks and support systems to help each other in times of distress. Additionally, Indian youth are using new media to engage in online activism, educate themselves on important topics, and promote leadership and advocacy.

In addition to the many benefits the new media provides, there are some obstacles that need to be addressed. The ease of access to new media can lead to addiction, which can reduce the time spent in more meaningful activities. Cyber bullying is a major problem among Indian youth, and new media platforms are often used to spread malicious rumors and engage in bullying. Around 85 per cent children in India have reported being cyber bullied and it is the highest in the world, according to a recent survey released by global computer security firm McAfee Corp. New media can have a negative impact on mental health as well, as it can often lead to feelings of isolation and depression. Privacy is a major concern for Indian youth, as new media can be used to track and monitor their activities and affect their job prospects. Fake news is a major issue among Indian youth, as they are often exposed to unreliable and false information on social media platforms. The most common way social media is being used to mislead Indian youth is through the use of click bait. Click bait is when a headline or post is designed to draw attention and entice people to click without providing accurate information. This often includes sensationalized headlines that are often unrelated to the content of the article. Other common methods of misinformation include posting false information, spreading rumors, and sharing manipulated images. Some social media users also create fake accounts to spread their agenda, while others use bots to amplify certain messages. The result is an environment where false information can quickly spread, leading to confusion and mistrust. This can have a negative impact on the perception of news and the credibility of public institutions, while also effecting the public's trust in the democratic process. Many political

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parties & organizations around the world are using social media to spread their agendas and religiously motivated thoughts among the youth. This includes using platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube to post content that is tailored to the interests of younger audiences. These contents often include videos and images that evoke an emotional response and encourage engagement, as well as articles and posts that discuss the party's views on various topics. Some parties are also using social media influencers and celebrities to promote their messages, as well as running campaigns to engage with and recruit young people as party or organization members. Additionally, institutions and parties are creating their own apps and websites to provide a more tailored experience for their youth base. On the other hand, social media and other new media platforms can be distracting and can lead to decreased focus on studies. Increased reliance on new media can reduce the development of social skills. Online Data security is another huge concern. Recently social media platform, LinkedIn, suffered a data breach that compromised the personal information of 165 million user accounts. Moreover, prolonged use of new media platforms can lead to physical health issues such as damaged eyesight, obesity, sleep deprivation, and poor posture.

So, clearly there are two sides to this issue. Then, what is the solution that would ensure the safety of the younger generation? Well, the answer lies among us. The authorities & the society both need to be responsible. The Indian government has taken a number of steps to address the potential influence of new media on Indian youth. The government has launched initiatives such as the Digital India Program and the National Digital Literacy Mission which aim to provide access to digital tools and resources for all citizens. The government has also established the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to ensure that online content is appropriate for young audiences. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has also issued guidelines for online safety, including restricting access to certain sites and services, as well as introducing parental control systems. In addition, the government has implemented a number of partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders to promote digital literacy and responsible use of the internet. In fact, the government recently declared in the budget that



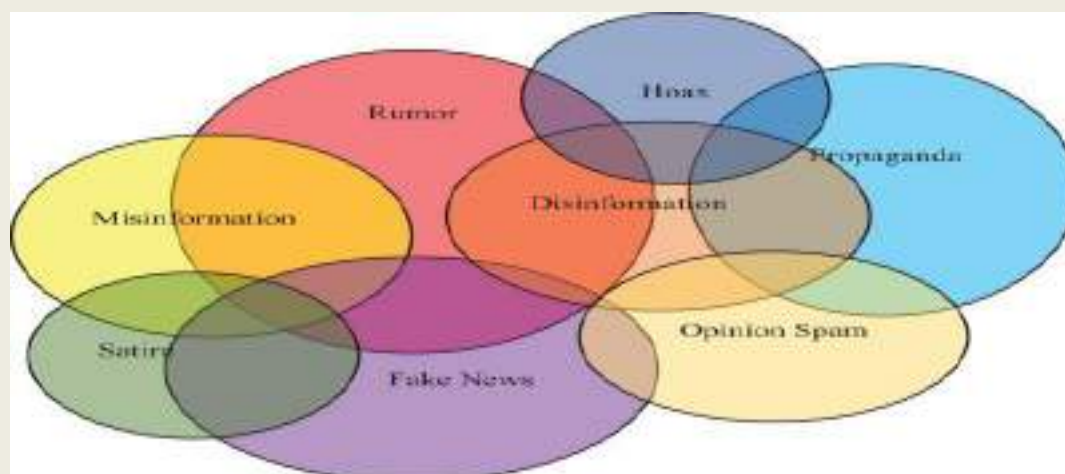
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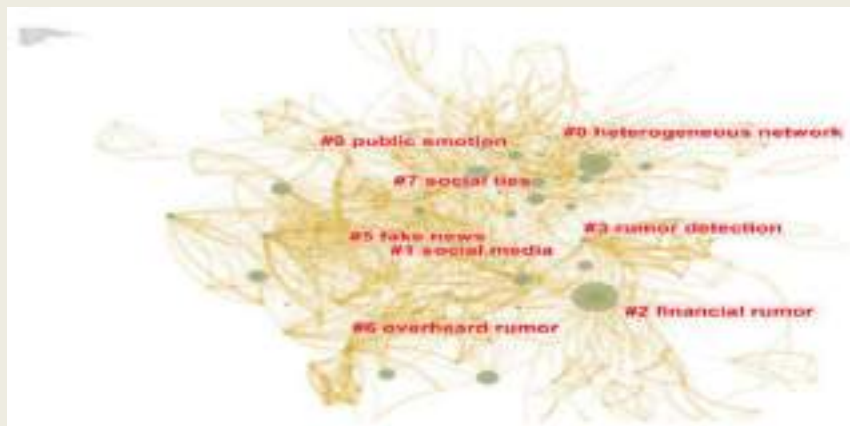
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additional online labs will be established to offer reliable sources of information to the young people. On the other hand, the parents & the matured generation are making the youth aware of the misuses of the new media by setting boundaries and guidelines for their children, monitoring their online activity, teaching them about digital safety, and having conversations about the potential risks and benefits of using the new media. They can also help their children to be responsible online citizens by modeling good online behaviour, encouraging them to think critically about the content they consume. Additionally, some parents are utilizing the parental control apps to block certain websites and apps, limit screen time, and monitor their children's online activities.

In conclusion, the new media has become an integral part of youth culture, and its impact is undeniable. It has provided young people with unlimited access to information, communication, and self-expression, creating a new landscape of opportunities and challenges. As the new media continues to evolve and shape our lives, it is essential that we remain mindful of its positive and negative effects, and work to ensure that all youth can reap the benefits it has to offer.





### **Indian *Mediascape* and the Youngsters Today**

Farhin Nisha

In the present time, social media is a platform where a lot of people spend their precious time. The majority of people use social media more or less now. Particularly those who are young, spend more time on it. It has become one of the most popular forms of entertainment. Social media has been ingrained into our society today to such an extent that it is virtually impossible for people to take you seriously if you are not on any social media platform. Almost every person becomes a frenzy when it comes to socializing online. Even the corporate world has jumped on the bandwagon and companies are very active online. Posting regular updates, notifications for their customers and answering queries. A survey done in 2022 points out that there are 467 million social media users in India.

Social networks can have a positive impact by creating peer motivation, inspiring young people to develop healthy habits, learn new skills, follow their dreams, and speak out about things that matter to them. Teens can also find positive role models online. In addition, a wide variety of

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apps offer instruction and support for developing a more positive Outlook and building healthy habits such as meditation and exercise.

There are many social networks to choose from. Some of the popular ones include Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram. As the popularity of social media keeps on spreading all over the country, there has been mixed feelings about these networks and how they impact on the youth in India. Young individuals aged 18 to 24 spend excessive time on these applications. Facebook and Instagram have 97.2 million and 69 million users respectively from this age group alone in India and it clearly shows growing dependency on social media. 5% of these are addicted to social media and 24% have problematic uses of the internet. Addictive internet behavior is an obsessive tech-related behavior or recurring compulsion by an individual to become involved in digital technology. A meta-analysis of 91 studies of high school students' problematic uses, reveals the presence of loneliness, anxiety, and psychiatric and sleeping disorders. The group found out 18 percent of internet users had lower self-esteem and were more socially disinherited and their interaction with people is narrowed preventing them from having a new and different social environment.

However multiple studies have found a strong link between heavy social media usage and an increased risk for depression, anxiety, loneliness, self-harm, and even suicidal thoughts. Social media may promote negative experiences in young people such as a lack of confidence about their life and appearance. Even if they know that the images they are viewing on social media are manipulated, it still makes them feel insecure about how they look or what's going on in their own life. It decreases their self-esteem and they become slightly unconfident about themselves. Although they are all aware that other people tend to share just the highlights of their lives they follow it instead which affects their mental peace. A study at the University of Pennsylvania found that high uses of Facebook Snapchat and Instagram increase the feeling of loneliness. The study also found that reducing social media usage can actually make them feel less lonely and isolated and improve their overall being. Human beings need face-to-face

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interactions to be mentally healthy. Nothing reduces stress and boosts one's mood faster or more effectively than eye-to-eye contact with someone who cares about you. The more people prioritize social media interaction over their personal relations, the more this start to develop disorders such as anxiety and depression. Studies show that 13 to 66 percent of Indians users are facing depression due to access uses of social media.

In addition to elevated CRP levels, results suggest that higher social media usage is also related to somatic symptoms like headaches, and chest and back pains. Social media usage can lead to decreased physical activity levels. This is because people who are engaged in social media are often sitting down and not moving around. Social media also leads to unhealthy eating habits. For example, if they see someone post a picture of a delicious pizza or any other unhealthy meal they start to crave it. Nowadays social media is full of odd food challenges like Mukbang Video which shows a person eating a large quantity of food and addressing the audience. Youths see this and it attracts them to try it. When they are looking down at their phone their neck is in an unnatural position. This can lead to neck pain and stiffness. Poor posture also leads to headaches. This is because the muscles in your head and neck are strained when you are not holding your head up properly. Slouching can also cause back pain. This is because the spine is not in its natural position when they are watching. The blue light of the computer or the mobile screen can create Serious damage to the eyes. Unfortunately, social media and sleeping habits don't mix well. Excessive use of social media reduces bedtime and increases the risk of multiple sleep disorders. Approximately 21% of adults say that they wake up to check their phones during the night living them at an even higher risk of losing sleep and developing a sleep disorder like insomnia.

Social media leads to losing a sense of real life but also drastically reduces the opportunity of the youths. Spending time with friends and colleagues on the other hand can help you maintain a physical lifestyle that helps you develop new ideas. Being addicted to social networks also

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leads to significant time loss. Youth is too much addicted to video games which affect the youth significantly. They are so much addicted to it that leads to mood swings and depression.

Nowadays, we see how social media is full of negativity and hatred as well. Also cyber bullying or cybercrime rates increase day by day. This kind of crime is much likely to affect the youth more. About 37 percent of young people between the ages of 12 and 17 have been cyber bullied. 30 percent of the victims had experienced multiple attacks. Also, many young people who experience cyber bullying are at a greater risk of self-harm and suicidal tendency.

In this world of virtual reality and open sourcing, knowledge has become free and available to everyone. On the one hand it has a positive impact on the youth as they can venture in any field they want. But on the other hand it affects the authenticity of the knowledge and distracts the truths. Social media in a way help in spreading knowledge as we can find information at our fingertips. But the misuse of that very information can be disastrous. The constricted knowledge given in the social media is limited and can be used for harming sentiments of the people and spreading ideology. The youth must depend on their own judgment before believing the information acquired through the social media.

In this post-modern world relationship are rampant and short-lived. The youths must think twice before mingling with strangers and control their emotions and passions before engaging in any kind of relationship through the social media. The online fraud is another thing that is exerted through the social media very effectively. The frauds use social media platforms for cybercrimes and they share malwares to hack into the machines of their victims. All the vital information including passwords for bank accounts and other social media profiles are hacked through this for further misusing and exploiting the victims. No doubt the social media is a revolutionary invention of the present time and the world become a truly 'glocal' space but it has also taken all sorts of dangers directly into our private space. The youths of the society are more vulnerable in these matters and need proper guidance to prevent the misuse.



## **Debating the Canon: Deconstructing the Syllabi**

Pubayon Karmakar

The concept of the "canon" refers to a set of works, artists, or literary and cultural traditions that are regarded to be of significant value and importance to a particular culture. The traditional literary canon has been a subject of debate among scholars, educators, and the public for a long time. While some argue that the canon provides a shared cultural heritage and a set of works that represent the best of human thought and creativity, others contend that the canon is inherently biased, exclusionary, and irrelevant to contemporary society. In this essay, we will explore the arguments for and against the traditional literary canon and consider whether it is still relevant in the 21st century.

The traditional literary canon typically refers to a group of works that are considered to be the most important in a particular literary tradition. These works are often taught in schools and universities, and are seen as a way of passing on a shared cultural heritage to the next generation. There are valid arguments on both sides of this debate. Proponents of the canon argue that the traditional literary canon represents the best of human thought and creativity, and that it is important to study these to understand our cultural heritage. They argue that the

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canon includes works that have stood the test of time and continue to be relevant today, and that studying these works is a way of developing critical thinking and analysis skills.

On the other hand critics of the canon argue that it is inherently biased towards the perspectives and experiences of a selected few, typically white, male, and Western authors. They argue that the canon reinforces existing power structures and sustain inequality by excluding works by women, people of colour, and other marginalized groups.

To address this issue, many scholars and critics have extended the canon to include works and perspectives that have been historically excluded. For example, feminist scholars have tried to incorporate more works by women and explore feminist themes in literature and art. Similarly, postcolonial scholars have sought to explore the perspectives of writers and artists from non-Western cultures, and to challenge the Eurocentric bias of the canon. Many have called for a more open and dynamic approach to literature and art, one that recognizes the diversity and complexity of human experience. This approach seeks to challenge the notion of a fixed and stable canon, and to explore the limits and possibilities of literature and art in all its forms.

However, as society has evolved and become more diverse, the relevance of the traditional literary canon has been called into question. One way to do this is through what has been called "decolonizing the canon." In recent years, there has been a growing movement to expand the canon to include works by underrepresented groups, and to prioritize works that speak to contemporary social issues. Some argue that by doing these the canon can become more relevant topic and can better reflect the diversity of our society.

Another approach is to embrace what has been called "world literature." This involves looking beyond national and cultural boundaries, and exploring the global dimensions of literature and art. The traditional literary canon has played an important role in shaping our cultural heritage, and has provided a bucket of works that are recognized as classics for a reason. These works

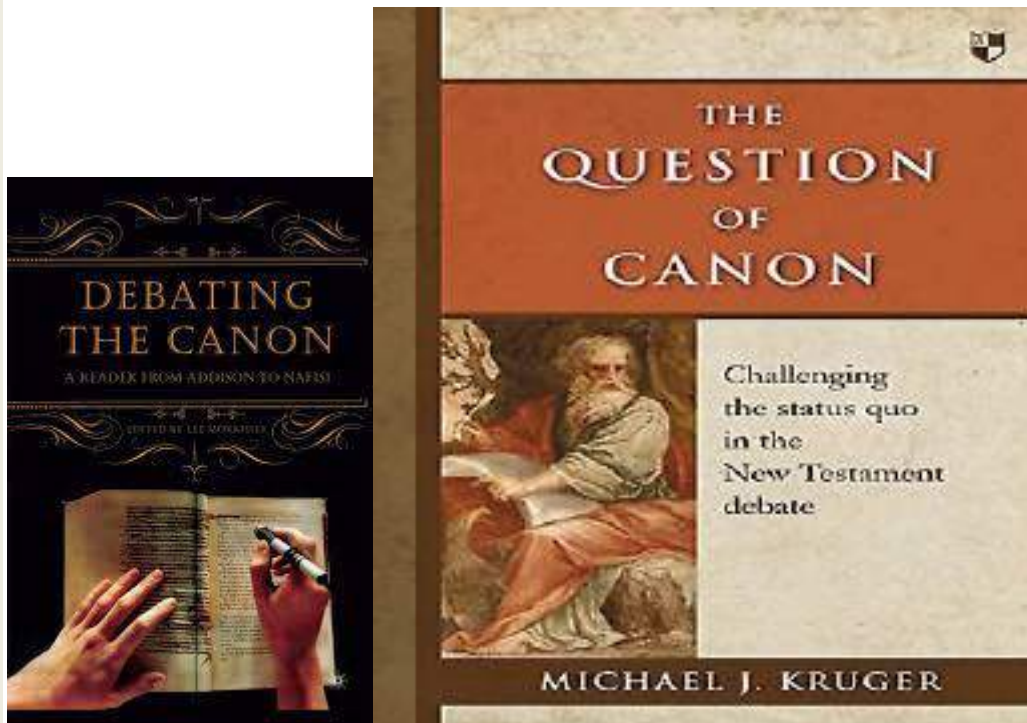
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have been studied and analyzed for generations, and have provided a framework for understanding the development of literature and culture over time.

In conclusion, the debate over the canon is a complex and ongoing one, which raises important questions about the nature and value of literature and art. While some argue that the canon is exclusive and limiting, others see it as a marker of cultural authority and power. However, regardless of where one stands on the issue, it is clear that the canon is not a fixed or stable concept, but one that is constantly evolving and being challenged. As we continue to explore the limits and possibilities of literature and art, it is important to remain open and critical, and to embrace the diversity and complexity of human experience.



**Why English Studies So White!**

**Why Hollywood is so white!**

**Where are the Muslims / Adivasis/ Dalits in Bengali Literature!**

**Let's decolonize decolonial studies!**





## **Anthropocene and Youth Leadership**

Prasenjit Das

“Two years back, I lost whatever I had. I have a family of seven people. There was no other option for me except coming here and doing this.” – This is the story of Sunil, who is currently working as a day labor in a brickfield in Malda. But just a couple of years ago he had a beautiful house and a well-earning job in Supaul. Sunil lost his livelihood and his house too when a flash flood emerged his village and villages around. Flood and flash floods now have become a part of their lives for the people of Bihar. Some of the villages have the record of being flooded 60 times in a single year. There is hardly any year in which there was no incident of flood in Bihar. Not only Bihar, from Bengal-Odisha to Kerala we have seen flood all over the country. But flood is not the main concern here. That is just one side of the coin. Where some places are getting drowned, there are places where a drop of water is as much precious as someone’s life. What is the reason behind these natural disasters. The real issue is the rapid change in climate of the world. The graph of temperature is getting even higher each and every year. It will take not so long when most of the cities of our country will be under water and many places of the country will turn into wastelands.

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Humans are not the only victims of climate change. Animals too are being affected due to global warming and climate change. A species of turtle, which is found in Australia, is on the brink of extinction. The gender of the turtle is determined by the temperature of the soil where the turtles lay their eggs. If the temperature is 18<sup>o</sup>C to 22<sup>o</sup>C the gender of the turtle is to be male and if the temperature is more than 25<sup>o</sup>C the turtle comes out to be a female. As the temperature of the whole world is rising rapidly, most of the turtles are now female. And if this continues, this species of turtle will be completely gone. There are other animals too which are getting heavily affected due to climate change. Some species of birds used to visit India and the South-East Asia during the winter. But now we can hardly notice those birds now. Not only animals even the plant kingdom is also a victim of climate change. Many of the hydro-plants have been extinct and much more are very close to extinction. As the temperature of the sea is rising, they are losing their natural habitation. Though most of us hardly pay attention to these issues but it is a very serious matter and we should be concern about it. Any ordinary species, which we don't find useful in our lives or even don't know about it, plays very significant role in the Eco-system. If any of their role is not done properly the balance of the whole Eco-system gets disrupted.

Not only that, climate change is also causing new kinds and types of diseases. New variant of many common diseases are coming out as the climate of the world is changing. Recently, in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'Center for Studies in Social Science' Dr. Dipesh Chakrabarty has stated that, because of climate change a new kind of fungus are evolving in the area of Sundarbans in West Bengal. And the women who live in this area are getting infected by this fungus which is causing them to do surgical contraception. In "The Climate of History: Four Theses", published by The University of Chicago Press, Dipesh Chakrabarty emphasizes on the term '*anthropocene*'. The word was coined by Eugene Stormer and Paul Crutzen, which means 'new man'. But Dipesh Chakrabarty has used it in a complete different approach. According to Chakrabarty, human now are consuming a lot more natural resources than they had been doing a hundred years ago. The consumed amount is so vast that the earth cannot regenerate it

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comparatively. As a result, the world is lagging behind and soon all the natural resources on earth will be consumed. And as the consumption has increased so has the emission of carbon footprints. People, now days, are causing more than double of carbon emission that was done during the industrial revolution. This anthropocentric approach is a result of capitalism and modernization. People are so focused on urbanization that they don't even realize how much damage they are doing to the world. To prevent the world from this catastrophe, creating awareness among the people is very much essential. Many people are sacrificing their whole lives to this sole purpose. Amitav Ghosh is a very popular name in this field. He continuously is trying to create awareness against global warming and climate change through his writings. In his book "The Great Derangement", Ghosh has explained how climate change is the biggest threat to the world right now. In the three books – 'The Nutmeg's Curse', 'Jungle Nama' and 'The Living Mountain' Amitav Ghosh has shown how many are looting the natural resources for their selfish reasons which is one the biggest reason of climate change. Recently in the 'Kolkata Cultural Meet' Ghosh has stated, "In the lust for the mines, who are destroying forest in Odisha and Madhya Pradesh are mostly pure vegetarian. Their religion and culture is completely against of what they are doing. But even after destroying a whole Eco-system they do not have a tiny bit of repentance."

People, now-a-days, people have become so selfish that they don't even think of their own future generations. It is our duty to create a better world for our upcoming generations. The responsibility relies mostly upon the shoulders of the youths. Only the youth has the capability and capacity to make a change. It is the strongest force of any nation. Comparatively, youths are more focused, determined and has the gut to go against the odds. So it is high time to take the leadership in our hands and lead the nation to build a better world. Being youth, we have the advantage of doing various things that others cannot do. Far from being passive victims, young people all over the world have begun to fight back on a scale never seen before. Take Greta Thunberg. In 2018, the 15-year-old from Sweden sparked a global movement of school-age students demanding greater action from governments to fight climate change. Now

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millions are marching to demonstrate their support. Whether through education, technology, science or law – young people far and wide are tapping into their skills to speak up for climate action.

*“We are the last generation that can end climate change. We can and we will.”*

- Khishigjargal, 24, Mongolia.

As stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, every person under the age of 18 has the right to participate in the decision-making processes that impact them. This includes a public forum to express their views, and support for them to do it. To help fulfill this right, UNICEF has created Voices of Youth, a dedicated platform for young advocates to offer inspiring and original insights on issues that matter to them. Alexandria Villaseñor, a 14-year-old activist based in New York who is part of *#FridaysForFuture* – the global movement of young people striking from school to call for climate action. Sathviga ‘Sona’ Sridhar, a 21-year-old artist from Chennai, India, was inspired to take action on climate change after her community was hit by devastating floods in 2015. In a competition arranged by UNICEF, her winning character ‘Light’ – a half tree-half human who uses special powers to save nature from a warming planet – was ultimately turned into an educational comic book. In Mongolia, air pollution is a source of health problems for many. Here, young people have been trained to monitor air quality, and use the data they collect to call on their government to take action. Empowering youth to monitor air quality is a first, and often powerful, step in providing them with the information that they need to advocate for their rights.

We too can do this kind of leadership activities in our schools, colleges or even in our localities. In colleges, we can build an ‘environment welfare fund’, where all the students and the professors will contribute and the amount will be used for creating awareness campaign and also to help the victims of natural disasters. We can arrange free classes for the children where we can teach them how to reduce carbon emission in our everyday life. We can create groups of few people who can do the field works like visiting any industrial plant and making a

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survey how much is their carbon emission. We can arrange social campaign where we can enlighten others about what climate change is and how we can stop it. Reaching door to door and creating awareness is the main target here- specially, in the rural areas where people do not think much of this problem. We need to make them understand that how serious this problem is and why they need to fight against it. Beside social awareness campaign, we need to build organizations to protect the natural resources. Government has already brought some laws in order to protect the nature and its resources. It is our duty to make sure that people do follow these laws. Reporting any activities, which are against the environmental legislation laws, are the primary job. But before that it is very important that we ourselves are well aware of these laws.

First of all, we need to understand how grave the issue of climate change is. There is no time to waste now. This is not the kind of problem that we post on our social media and then forget about it. If we observe carefully it is very clear that most of the natural disasters are occurring because of climate change. Climate change is the reason the balance in the Eco-system is losing. It is also the reason behind new and deadly diseases. Over all, it is the biggest issue in the world right now. So, if we do not take actions now it will be very late and there won't be a world to live in for our future generations.



**Our Future is at stake!**

## Climate Changes and Youth Leadership

Swarnali Goswami

Climate change is one of the most critical global challenges of our times. Recent events have emphatically demonstrated our growing vulnerability to climate change. Climate change impacts range from affecting agriculture, further endangering food security, to sea-level rise and the accelerated erosion of coastal zones increasing the intensity of natural disasters, species extinction, and spread of vector-borne diseases. This issue is of immense importance for every global citizen. Hence it requires an initiative against it globally.

Youth can help stop climate change in their own simple yet purposeful ways. Such as: joining environmental organizations or groups; participating in various governmental, non-governmental school or community programs and projects against climate change; joining clean-up drives at school or in community; participating in tree planting and go-green activities; garbage picking and recycling initiatives; getting involved in environmental protests and campaigns; using social media like Facebook, Twitter or Instagram in promoting climate change and environmental awareness to the public; limiting the use of plastics; helping report illegal activities to authorities; walking or biking in short distances instead of riding fueled vehicles; segregating garbage at home and lastly, encouraging our friends, schoolmates and our family to do what we are doing.

Doing those things can help mitigate climate change. Today, we should realize that we have a moral responsibility towards our environment and our planet. Stopping climate change is not easy. But if we work together as one, our micro-efforts will have a macro effect on our environment and our planet. The survival of every living being on this planet depends on our

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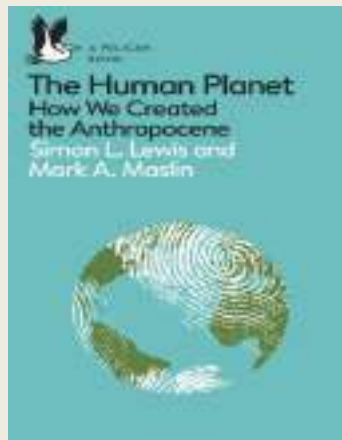
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serious and sincere effort to deal with the climate crisis. So, we are to blame if things go wrong in our planet. To me and to all the youths around the world, let us act now. As a young generation, let us help the former generation in shaping our environment. Let us stand together in stopping climate Change. The world is home to 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 to 24 — the largest generation of youth in history. Young people are increasingly aware of the challenges and risks presented by the climate crisis and of the opportunity to achieve sustainable development brought by a solution to climate change.

Young people's unprecedented mobilization around the world shows the massive power they possess to hold decision-makers accountable. Their message is clear: the older generation has failed, and it is the young who will pay in full — with their very futures. Young people are not only victims of climate change. They are also valuable contributors to climate action. They are agents of change, entrepreneurs and innovators. Whether through education, science or technology, young people are scaling up their efforts and using their skills to accelerate climate action.



**Behula is dead- Mahananda is dying !**



## **The Climate Crisis: Challenge and the Future of the Planet**

Dibyojoti Roy

The Earth is in crisis, and the need for action on climate change has never been more urgent. As we know Earth is made of gas, water, and soil which all are interrelated with each other. So, each step of humans deeply affects the climate. Such a high use of natural resources from the very beginning has covered Earth with several injuries. Coal, oil, and gas fossil fuels are the largest contributor to global climate change accounting for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions. As greenhouse gas emissions blanket the Earth, they trap the sun's heat. This leads to global warming and climate change. The world is now warming faster than at any point in recorded history. Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of nature. This poses many risks to human beings and all other forms of life on Earth.

Young people are the victims of Climate Change but they are also the agents of Change and Climate Actions. As young people are among the least responsible for climate change and are often among the loudest calling for action that is why the voice of youth plays an important role in climate change meetings. Thus, an agency of the United Nation named UNICEF provides humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide and cares for the climate. In 2022 UNICEF held a conference in Egypt named COP 27. All of its member countries set different



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goals in this meeting. Our country pledged to reduce carbon emissions by around 2050. As we are a developing country, we have no choice except to use natural resources. Despite this, India is trying to grasp control over carbon emissions by focusing on Green Energy, like solar power, wind power, and Water power. Most of the state of India has already been fully shifted to green energy, but still many are left. Other developed countries pledged to help by funding all those countries that are now developing, at a minimum cost.

But this is not the problem here. People know that the climate is changing but they are careless in this matter. Politics, Chasing Money, Upgrading the Economy, and many other matters they are concerned about, but on this matter, they are less concerned. Awareness is important before making any scheme. As the root of the tree is the most important, likewise our generation's root is our new generation. By educating young people, we can raise awareness and encourage them to take action to combat climate change. They will bring control over all irregular works that causes harm to Earth, by spreading awareness to the people about climate change. there are lots of unaware people than aware people. Children and youth try to aware people by camping at a climate awareness camp or hosting a summit or workshop.

### **Some causes & effects of climate change:**

Generating power: - Generating electricity and heat by burning fossil fuels causes a large chunk of global emissions. It produces greenhouse gas in huge quantities.

Cutting down forests: when trees are cut-down, release the carbon that they have been storing. Each year approximately 12 million hectares of forest are destroyed. Since forests absorb carbon dioxide, destroying them also limits nature's ability to keep emissions out of the atmosphere.

Using transportation: - Most cars, trucks, ships, and planes run on fossil fuels. As transport is a sensitive matter in India it contributes to greenhouse gases, especially carbon-dioxide emissions.

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Powering buildings: - Globally, residential and commercial buildings consume over half of all electricity. They emit significant quantities of greenhouse gas. Effects: -

Hotter temperatures: - As greenhouse gas concentrations rise, so does the global surface temperature. The last decade, 2011-2020, is the warmest on record. Higher temperatures increase heat-related illnesses and make working outdoors more difficult.

More severe storms: Destructive storms have become more intense and more frequent in many regions. As temperatures rise, more moisture evaporates, which exacerbates extreme rainfall and flooding, causing more destructive storms. The warming ocean also affects the frequency and extent of tropical storms.

Loss of species: - Climate change poses risks to the survival of species on land and in the ocean. The world is losing species at a rate 1,000 times greater than at any other time in recorded human history. One million species are at risk of becoming extinct within the next few decades.

More health risks: - Climate change is humanity's biggest health threat. Climate impacts are already harming health, through air pollution, disease, extreme weather events, pressures on mental health, and increased hunger and poor nutrition in places where people cannot grow or find sufficient food.

Weather change unusually- There is a serious disruption in the weather cycle. Sometimes summer stays too long and sometimes the rain comes too late. Recently we heard the news NH 34 in India (Raiganj-Malda) facing a low visibility situation. It is mostly impossible to see this much fog in springtime. And it is not also coastal land to consider this situation as normal.

Poverty and displacement: - Climate change increases the factors that put and keep people in poverty. Floods may sweep away & destroying homes and livelihoods. Heat can make it difficult to work in outdoor jobs. Water scarcity may affect crops. Over the past decade (2010- 2019), weather-related events displaced an estimated 23.1 million people on average each year, leaving much more vulnerable to poverty.

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Effect on Particular region: - Climate change can be seen very viral in the Sundarbans. Some cases of the state of Joshimath do not match the sense of history and science. According to the Historian Dipesh Chakrabarti, many women in the Sundarbans region are forced to undergo sterilization surgery due to climate change. On the occasion of the “Centre for Studies in social science,” he discussed the matter further on the topic of ‘the planetary futures of human science’.

### **Youths Leadership:**

The world is home to 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10-24 The largest generation of youth in history. Young people are increasingly aware of the challenges and risks presented by the climate. Why is Youth leadership so important for climate change? Why UNICEF has decided to empower our Youth in this problem? And so many questions like this come arose over the topic. UNICEF is an executive body. It always looks for children’s development and many other humanitarian works. They found that youths can lead and come up with brilliant initiatives regardless of age. What youth need are space and a chance to show their maximum potential. That is why UNICEF has created Voices of Youth, a dedicated platform for young advocates to offer inspiring and original insights on issues that matter to them. Empowerment is not only supporting young people financially but also includes sharing relevant knowledge, teaching new skills, and creating green jobs.

Youth Initiatives: Challenges and risks open opportunities to achieve sustainable development goals. And it brought solutions to climate change. Their message is clear: the older generation has failed, and the young generation will pay with their very futures. Our youth are increasingly active in various stages, whether it be online media or offline media they are equally participating in both. They raise questions on burning issues like ---

- Deforestation

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- Disaster management
- Government charity against Natural disaster
- Endangered species
- Pollution control
- Funding for community tribes
- Children's health etc.....

Moreover, they are effectively participating in climate change policy decision-making processes. Such as.....

The United nation development program implements the global environment facilities which provide funding for projects on mitigation or adaptation to climate change proposed by the Youth organization.

With the Youth exchange initiative UNESCO and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) support youth projects on sustainable lifestyles in 45 countries around the world.

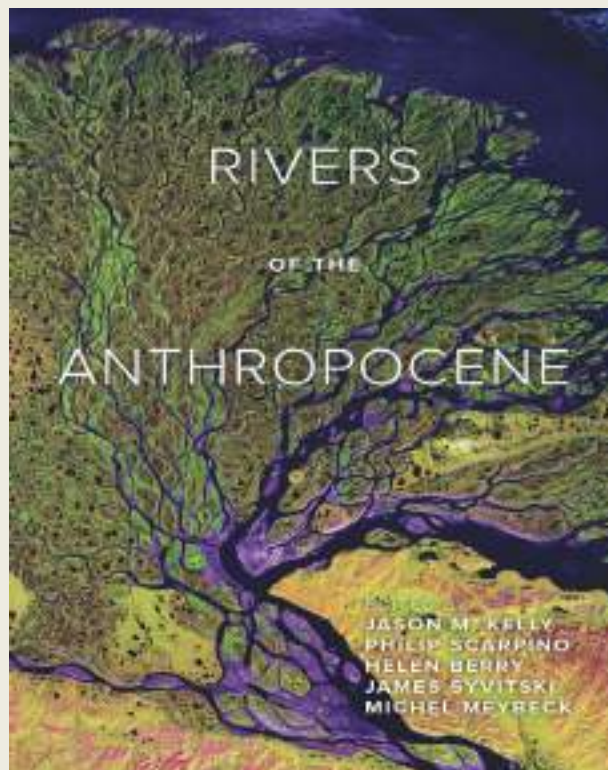
UNEP adopted a long-term youth strategy for engaging youth in environmental activities in the areas of capacity-building, environmental awareness, and information exchange. With a vision of environmentally conscious citizens, so that they could take positive action. One Indian writer Amitav Ghosh wrote all this in his book "The Great Derangement". He has mentioned in his book that as humans, our inability to comprehend present problems, will undoubtedly haunt our future generations. They will have to live with all these problems. Climate change is often labeled as propaganda created by the American and European powers in most parts of Asia. Ghosh disagrees with this idea he quickly comes out to a new point. Why always the west contributes to it? Asian countries also can participate due to the boom in industrialization. And so, on he mentioned in his book. In conclusion, climate change is the most pressing issue of our time. Youth leadership emerges as a crucial factor in the fight against climate change through youth-led initiatives, activism, and advocacy. The next generation is demonstrating the power

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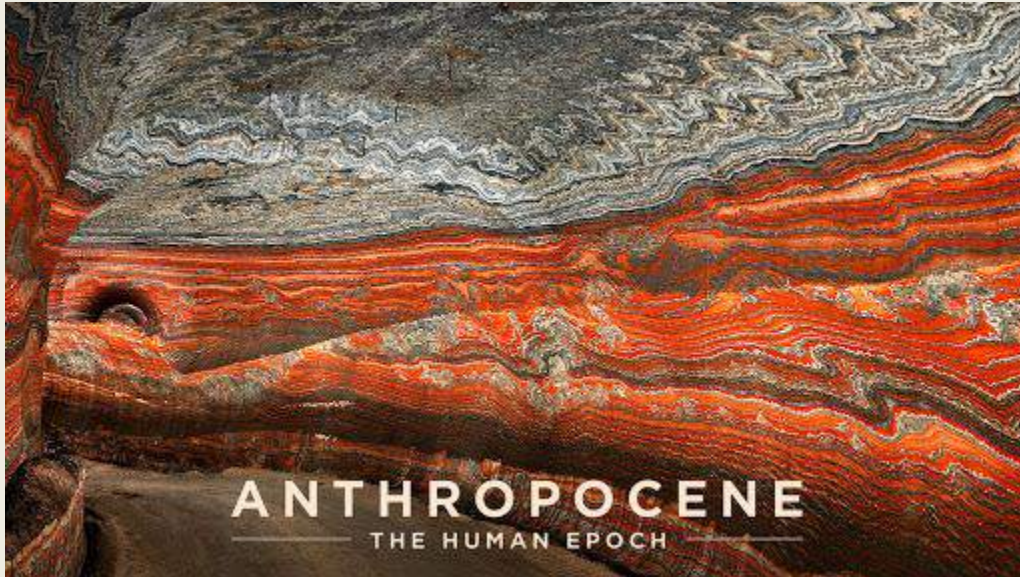
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of collective action in the urgency of climate action. It is not only the work of youth but also of individuals. Individuals also can participate in this program by reducing their carbon footprint. Simple changes in their daily lives, such as using public transport or reducing meat consumption can help only. It is our responsibility as a society to support and empower our youth in the fight against climate change and to work together as a unity towards a more sustainable just world for all.



**Siva teri Ganga maili ho gayi....!**



## **Earth-thinking during the Climate Crisis**

Arghadip Haldar

Juswant Singh, a little farmer hails from Ahmedabad, used to cultivate his own land. He was flourishing day by day. He wanted to get his son admitted to a good school. But all his crops were destroyed due to drought. All his dreams were about to be destroyed. But youth leadership played a vital role to fulfill all his dreams. Here Juswant Singh has been a victim of climate Change.

Like Juswant Singh, climate change is affecting millions of lives. Climate change has become a major challenge for us. Having seen the condition of Juswant Singh, let's examine what do we mean by climate change? How it is affecting millions of lives? What can be the role of youth leadership in tackling climate change. And in the end, we will explore some way forward.

### **Meaning of Climate Change :**

Climate change refers to the long-term change in the expected patterns of weather and temperature. Climate change happens due to both natural and human made activities (burning of fossil fuels). Fossil fuels increase carbon dioxide, methane and CFC in the atmosphere.

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Temperature rises because of this and it causes floods, drought, cyclones etc. According to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report over 45% of the global population are living in areas highly vulnerable to climate change and about 35 million people could face annual coastal flooding by 2050. Now we will move on to the consequences of climate change.

### **Multidimensional Consequences caused by Climate Change :**

Climate change has various consequences such as Social, Economical, and Psychological etc. Climate change affects our bio-diversity also. Climate change affects our society in many ways. Here we have to save us and the world from ourselves. This may sound strange but it is true. In a society poverty is the main reason behind climate change. Amartya Sen calls poverty the "Uncertain Glory". Now the question is how? Since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels. Another reason include deforestation and jhum cultivation where crops are burnt by farmers. According to NITI Ayog, around 13 million hectares of forests are being lost every year due to deforestation and rising demand for the forest based product. This is why Mahatma Gandhi has said that " The Earth has enough resources for our need but not for our greed ". And this is why we need to save us from ourselves. Here we need youth leadership to mitigate this problem. Let's see some consequences of climate change.

### **Social Consequences :**

Our society is largely affected by this phenomenon. Climate change is creating so many issues such as education, health etc. All these sectors contribute to the development of a country. Now let's see how climate change is affecting all these sectors - Impact of climate change on education is huge. Climate disasters negatively affect a child's ability to learn. India is one of the vulnerable hotspots which is facing a very high risk of climate disasters such as flooding, heat-waves etc. Mumbai, Ahmedabad are facing this problem. So many schools, colleges are being laid in ruins due to this phenomenon. In 2020, nearly 10 million were displaced from schools due to climate change. This lack of education creates unemployment. Education which was

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regarded as a blessing for children became a curse. Because a proverb goes that 'education builds peace'. And this peace is being disrupted. Recently Africa is also facing educational problems due to climate change. Health sector also gets affected by it. School displaced children due to climate change suffer from malnutrition since they are not getting a mid-day meal. In urban areas the warmer atmosphere creates an environment that increases the amount of smog. This smog causes so many health problems such as heart disease, lung cancer, dengue, malaria etc. Climate change increases mental health problems. According to the World Health Organization, climate change may cause 250,000 additional deaths per year due to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and extreme heat between 2030 and 2050. Having seen the social consequences of climate change, let's move on to the economic issues.

### **Economic Consequences :**

India is the fifth largest economy in the world. But it is declining due to climate change. Economic sector includes industry, agriculture etc. Last year India's carbon emission was estimated to be the highest at 86 dollars per ton followed by the US and Saudi Arabia. Carbon emissions from industry and agriculture are high. People from Arunachal Pradesh are very familiar with jhum (slash and burn) cultivation. This cultivation is the root cause of greenhouse gas emissions. In this type of cultivation farmers cut the forest then they burn the land and after some time they start cultivating there. There is low productivity in this cultivation. As a result, food prices rise. To decrease the global temperature by 2 degree celsius Paris Agreement 2016 was held. Amartya Sen in his book " Poverty and Famines " has said that famine comes when there is low productivity and rising food prices. All these things affect our economy. If action is not taken, climate change could cost a huge loss for the global economy.

### **Psychological Consequences :**

Psychologically people are facing problems because of it. People who have lost their lands are suffering from mental health issues. Psychologically, the society lacks harmony, mutual trust and cohesiveness. This weakens the societal structure and its unity.



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### **Youth Leadership :**

Now we will move on to the role of youth leadership in tackling this challenge. Youth is the future of this world. If this situation continues then our future generation is at risk because 'our earth is not an inheritance from our ancestors but a loan from future generations'. Though the situation is not in the right direction but changes are possible. So many changes are happening through youth leadership. Climate change is a global phenomenon and it is not possible for one nation to mitigate this problem. That is why youth from different nations should come forward and take actions. We need sustainable development so that our future generations cannot face any problem. Youth can make various camps through which they will be able to create awareness among people about not to use too much petrol, biodiesel etc. They can provide education on climate change. They can create awareness among farmers about Jhum (slash and burn) cultivation and how it is leading us to climate disasters. They can make people aware of some government schemes. Apart from these they can bring forth some way forwards to tackle climate change.

### **Way Forward :**

So many solutions are there to tackle this climate challenge. Youth should use their all potential and leadership qualities to implement all these. i) India has 5.9 million tonnes lithium. Since lithium is used in batteries, people can use Electric Vehicles which do not emit greenhouse gases and pollute the air. ii) Afforestation is another solution. People should plant more and more trees to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. iii) Youth can spread awareness and provide basic education to all people about climate change by making camp. iv) In urban areas roof top planting can help ease the heat in cities. v) We can make people familiar with some government schemes such as solar energy etc.

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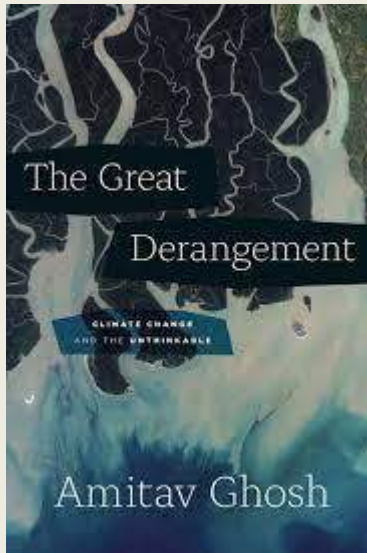
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### **Conclusion :**

Martin Luther King has said that " If we cannot do great things, we can do small things in a great way". The above solutions are the little steps that can bring huge change in the world. Many changes are happening gradually. And if we implement all the above way forwards properly then so many people like Juswant Singh would be benefited.



‘Was this why the clay was raised?’



## LITERATURE AND CRISIS

Dipika Roy

When I think for writing about literature and crisis, the first question comes to my mind, “what is the relation of literature with crisis?” If we try to find the answer, we must know what is literature and crisis. We can define crisis as the situation of a “complex system” (family, economy, society). When the system functions poorly an immediate decision is necessary to stop the further disintegration are not immediately identified. Crisis are unexpected and create uncertainty. Apart from the natural crisis most of the crisis that we face is created by human beings. On the other hand literature is a written or spoken text since it has different genres which either made to be read such as : Fiction and short story or to be spoken as Poetry and Drama. The language that used in literature is either completely symbol or partly. Literature has to deal with human life by using of the writer’s imagination to shed led on the side that cannot

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be recognised by the scientists. And since the literature deals with human life in general, thus the literature is universal not special for single group or people.

Writing poetry and literary text in general terms; is one of the way in which writers who go through a crisis try to make sense of it and gain a deeper understanding of it . Literature is a medium in which language, emotion, reason, perception and imagination interact. Through literature, writers depict their experience of a crisis and communicate to others a view of it. Reading literature written in the context of any crisis helps people to interact with the author's experience of that crisis and understand the writer's view of it. If the reader is a contemporary of the writer, and its experience, the same crisis, reading may lead to deeper understanding either by engaging with a different prospective of it or by having one's own experience of it expressed in powerful words. If the reader has not experienced the particular crisis, the writer is portraying , experience of it and relate it to crisis they have gone through . In this sense, reading is a bridge that invites reader to consider what different crisis have in common and whether a writer's understanding of a particular event may not help shed light on a different one .

“Poetry is nearer to vital truth than history” – this line of Plato explains that from the beginning literature has been the mirror of contemporary society. Poetry or literary work portrayed the social, economical and political aspect of the time very precisely. Though in the past there was a trend of poet laureate , whose writing was the celebration of royal family, but there was also poet who write about the common people and their crisis. The life of common people was the main topic of writing . In ancient Greek , there was writers who wrote about the people and their conduct. In that time when people become greedy, corrupt and merciless, writers write about the society and point out to the people the crisis of that time. The trend has been continued, now in modern time literature also portrayed the contemporary, the crisis of the time. Throughout the ages literature side by side with being a entertainment piece, it also has been the reflection of the crisis of the time .

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The literary author takes up the canvas of contemporary as a central focus of their work, not only because it will quickly arouse the interest of the audience. That may be a consideration. People like to read about what immediate. But such literary works provide a certain author – mediated continuity milieu. They seek various kind of resolution may be cathartic, hopeful or dystopic. But through them the author inevitably emerged as a mediator in the struggles of the present, one who shows continuities and some causes ruptures with the recurrent time. The author arises not only as a sociological and historical documenter of the time but as a conjurer who contains the power offering release. If the contemporary is a cage we are all trapped in together, the author offers some terms of negotiation.

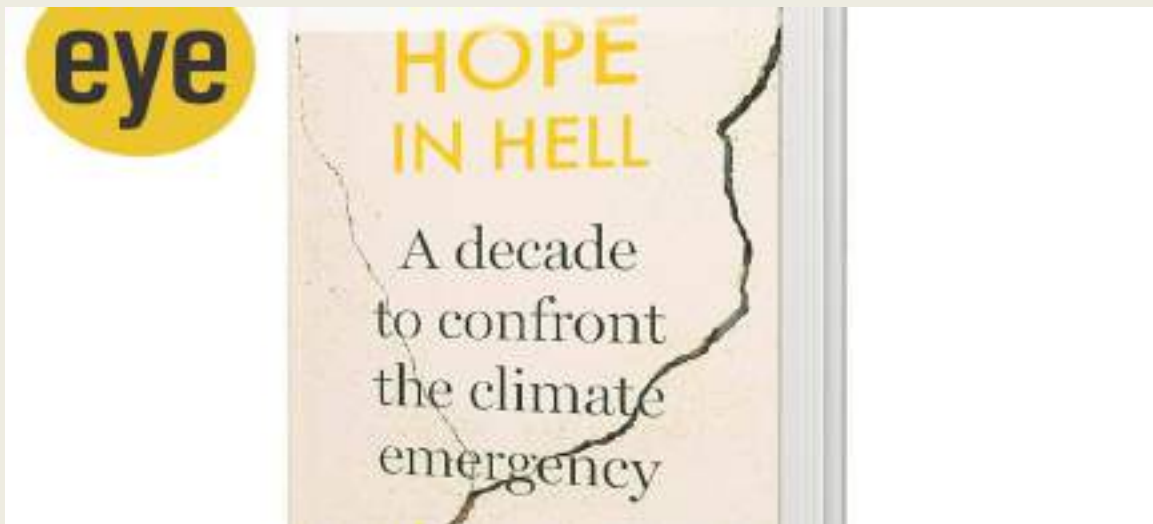
Elizabethan to modern era, Shakespeare to Eliot wrote about the on-going crisis. They portrayed the current crisis very vividly. Although we did not experience the crisis but we can still feel that situation. In twentieth-century when the whole world comes to destroy, the whole humanity was in edge, T. S. Eliot and other writers wrote about that crisis. In the beginning of the twentieth century the first world war took place and it destroyed the human faith and proofed that human are becoming dangerous for humanity. The aftermath of the world war caused a huge change in the world. The first world war followed by the second world war in 1939. There was more crisis took place in twentieth century such as Spanish Civil War in 1936 and the global economic crisis in 1929. All the events took place in literature which make us aware of this event. In 1929 Ernest Hemingway's book "Farewell to the Arms", depicted a large picture of the first world war. The gruesomeness of the war in the life of an individual, has been shown in the novel. Through out of hid novel, he tried to prove how a necessary the war is and the aftermath of the war is how faithful. The great poet of twentieth century T. S. Eliot wrote about the ongoing crisis. In his poetry, "The Hollow Man", he wrote about the hollowness in human life, the dilemma of their life. Human being became hollow in the society. He wrote more poetries to describe the contemporaries. His poetry "The Waste Land" talks about the big crisis of the era. The crisis of humanity, how human being was becoming barren in that time that they became unable to produce love, mercy and pity.

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Sometimes we became unable to recognise the on-going crisis or its vitality. Sometime people also become unable to recognise the effect of on-going crisis on the human life. Or most of the people stay unknown about the crisis which is causing problem on an individual's life. Just because some people have not experience the on-going crisis, they cannot understand the vitality of the crisis. Or sometimes people have experienced it but in a minor way that they did not consider it as crisis. Literature helps us to recognise the crisis and to feel its vitality on human's life. Writers always write about on-going crisis and the cause of it. In their writing they portrayed with some symbols and metaphors that for what the crisis are causing and also shows us the way to prevent it.



**"He prayeth best who loveth best  
All things both great and small..."**

**-Coleridge**

## **New Media & Indian Youth**

Aniket Sikdar

We are living in the era of modern technology. Technology is a great boon in our life. In this world social media plays an important role in our daily life. There are various networking sites. Among them Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, Instagram are the popular ones. Social media has become a part & parcel of our life. It is used for gathering knowledge, entertainment purposes, communication, running a business and so on. We can get any news, informations from the platform. Using Social Media we can easily communicate with anyone, anytime at any place. The social media has cut down the communication barriers and made our life much easier. It helps us to make relation with new people. According to the UN data, 564 million people of India use internet and India is the second after China in terms of using internet. Today's youth are too much connected with social media. They spend much of their time in the social media platforms. Everybody has different opinion over the pros & cons of social media. But it depends on how we use it.

We can see both positive & negative impacts of social media on the youths and others. Social media has helped a lot in education. The students can get any information on any topic very easily. They can attend online classes at their home and can learn anything what they want. They can get respectable degrees by doing online courses. The youths can get the notifications of any job recruitment and can apply easily. They also can promote about their business through the online platforms. By using the social media apps they can connect with their family and friends from any part of the world and also can do online shopping. The youth use social media platforms for their entertainment most. They can show their hidden talents and creative works by using the social media platforms. During the pandemic, the media platforms have helped the youth to continue their studies and work safely at home. The media has also helped to provide medical help to us during this crisis. Through the social media the youth can get the informations about the politics of our country & all over the world. They get interest in the

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politics and the political leaders. This leads them to be a politician in future. Thus we can get chances of getting powerful and eligible leaders of future among the youth. Social media platforms have also become the earning sources to us. Here we have got some of the pros of the media platforms in our life.

But there are a lot of cons of the media platforms on the youth & others. Overusing of the social media is creating stress, depression, anxiety & insomnia among the youths & others. They are feeling lonely, depressed. Seeing others sometimes they are getting jealous & depressed. Thus they are taking wrong steps. The youths are too much addicted to the social media. They are not leading a healthy life and their behavior is getting changed. They are sometimes becoming violent. We can see the increasing of sexual content in advertising, magazines, television shows and music videos. These media products are also creating a bad impact over the mental state of the youth. They are getting diverted from their goal and are doing various crimes. The new generation is living a fantasy life. They are trying to show themselves through the social media what they are not in actuality. Thus they are losing their mental peace. The sexual contents at the media platforms are encouraging youths toward watching pornography and getting addicted to this, the youths are losing their moral sense. The rape cases are increasing and the girls are becoming unsafe. Sometimes we can get a lot of wrong information and rumors at social media, these create trouble in our life. The youths are getting physically and mentally weak by using a great amount of time daily. These all are some of the cons of media.

Social media is a very useful & helpful way to communicate with world. But the Indian youth are too much addicted to it. Therefore their parents or guardians must be alert about the limit of their using of social media and the contents which they are watching or consuming from internet. The youth must be provided the knowledge of what to consume or not. The knowledge of using the media platforms must be included in the education system as the general studies. They must know how to use the platform in an appropriate way and how to



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use it in their self development. Thus the youth will be alert about the pros and cons of social media and the media platforms. If the youth grow themselves, the country will prosper.





## **Climate Change and Youth Leadership**

Trisha Chakraborty

There are many reasons why I have chosen this topic. Climate change refers to the environmental conditions of the earth. From diminishing snow and ice to increase temperature to rising sea level to more frequent and destructive extreme weather events, 97% of scientists agree that climate change is happening and it is obviously man-made. Today's climate change is reached into a dangerous position towards man and its effects are clearly proved. So if we continue on our path, these trends are expected to accelerate. In this case it must be said that young people takes many actions about this climate changes. They act an important role in it. According to my perception, to control today's climate changes. The young people even we may say young leaders must be taken a great responsibility on it to protect our whole environment. Basically we all know that Youth Leadership is a part of youth development

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process and supports young person in developing. So, this event climate change is also a part for them to work out in it.

Today's young generation is more aware about the climate changes than older generations, and more engaged in responding to it. To avoid the worst of climate changes, the youth leaders must deploy some important solutions much further than before like – we have an array of constructed and natural climate solutions with proven potential to reduce greenhouse gases and faster climate change resilience, from renewable energy and electric vehicles to reforestation and climate-smart-agriculture. And fortunately, we have talented and continuous group of climate readers ready to make this happen.

So, here are some ways in which the young leaders can take the responsibilities to control our future and protect our environment, our relation with nature and whole ecosystem. The main ways to stop climate changes are to pressure government and business too ----

1. Start your own Initiative with Environmental Organization :- Whether it's something small like starting a community clean up group or building a large social organization with significant reach and impact taking initiatives for environment. Although there are many successful youth-lead environmental organizations and NGOs across the globe, that are leading by example today. There are many several ways in which the young leaders can get involved, from running online awareness campaigns offering practically help like beach clean ups, and fund raising events.

2. Keep Fossil Fuels in the ground: - Fossil fuels include coal, oil and gas – and the more that extracted and burned the whole climate change is misbalanced by it. All countries need to move their economies away from fossil fuels as soon as possible.

3. Recycle paper :- Recycling unwanted paper will reduce the raw material demand for paper production, thus conserving trees and forest ecosystems. Youth leaders can take some actions like this and they can also follow this type of events to protect the earth. But on the other hand

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we have to thankful to the appearance of technology for online activities, writing e-exams instead of use of papers. By making use of smart technologies that are available today, we can effortlessly shift away from paper board-activities at all levels.

4. Switch sustainable transport:- Petrol and Diesel vehicles, planes and ships use fossil fuels. Reducing car use, switching to electric vehicles minimizing plane travel not only helps to stop climate changes, it will also reduce air pollution too.

5. Protect the Oceans:- Oceans also absorb large amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which helps to keep our climate stable. But many used it for oil and gas-drilling or threatened by deep mining. Protecting oceans and the life in them is ultimately a way to protect ourselves from climate changes.

6. Protect Forests:- Forest are crucial in the fight against climate change and protecting them is an important climate solution. Youth leaders should be very careful about it. The youth leaders have to deal this event with others people who are not aware about protecting forests. They have to aware the people the result of cutting trees for unnecessarily, which can be invoked horrible environmental circumstances on the earth. Yet companies destroy forests to make way for animal farming, soya or palm oil plantations. Governments can stop them by making better laws.

7. Reduce Plastic :- Plastic is made for oil and the process of extracting, refining and turning oil into plastic is surprisingly carbon intense. It does not break down quickly in the nature, so a lot of plastic is burned which also increases air pollutions. In this case it must be necessary to say that, youth leaders should make people aware about plastic usage.

8. Only by what you need :- Lastly, we should think about our purchasing habit. We should be very clear about that. We have to reduce to buy unnecessary extra things which can be caused pollutions. As natural resources are limited, our excessive consumption can be counter-

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productive and undermine our planet's Biodiversity. So we must be aware about our movement.

### **Conclusion**

At the end, according to my perception it is a biggest problem to the Young leaders and also the fact that it's easy to feel overwhelmed and to feel that climate change is too big to solve. But we have already have answers, now it is a question of making them happen. To work, all of these solutions need strong international cooperation between government and business, including the most polluting sector. In this case youth leaders must do these actions with fearlessly, piteously, consistently to improve our relation with nature and whole ecosystem. It will help them to meet the challenge and hit the target.

**"The world is too much with us; late and soon  
Getting and spending we lay waste our powers..."**

**-Wordsworth**



### **Social Media in the *Youngisthan***

Najmin Mirza

Social media is the new medium of connectivity and information sharing. Apart from the existing mediums of information sharing such as print media and electronic media, the newly emerged social media has occupied the major chunk of mediascape today. Of the various platforms mention must be made of facebook, whatsApp, Twitter, Snapchat etc. The young generation is glued to social media- from private to professional everything is on their social media page. With the social media people are sharing their views and comments on various socio-political issues of present times.

Are we then witnessing a democratization of the public sphere? Do social media help us address our pressing socio-political problems? Or are we being trapped in the world of fake news, mis/ disinformation, rumor –peddling? Do social media then strengthen our democracy or is it bad for the health of our polity?

Such questions cannot be answered by ‘yes’ or ‘no’. As we are witness to the ramifications of social media for our personal and social life, we can say that it is a mixed blessing. Obviously, social media has provided the common people a platform to express their views and discuss issues relating to the society and country. Such discussion and opinion formation are good as it takes into account the voice of the people which is often ignored in the mainstream media. We

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have witnessed that popular opinion expressed in social media often force the people in power to take necessary steps to solve issues. Thus, we can say that social media has helped democratize the existing media eco-system and encouraged people's participation.

But such blessings have come with huge negatives. Social media has become the space for rumor-mongering. Fake information is being dished out to millions of unsuspecting people through social media every day. This has led to widening of the social- rift among communities. Although it has opened up new vistas for discussion, there is hardly any mature discussion. We can see that it has encouraged people to only tweet/ talk/ post and hardly to listen. The 'public reason' Amartya Sen talks about is hardly strengthened. We are only busy in posting our choicest pictures and wait for likes and 'wow' moments.

### **Socia Media & Indian Youth: What is the Way Ahead?**

Youths are the backbone of society. India has the highest number of young population in the world. As a democracy India can prosper if its young generation can responsibly use media platforms. But today's Gen Z, even the Millenials are addicted to social media sharing intimate / private moments just to draw people's attention. But there are also exceptions as many social media users use their platforms to discuss politics, social evils and promote social harmony. This we can say make a vibrant public sphere as conceptualized by German philosopher Jurgen Habermas. Communication scholar Gerard A Hauser defines public sphere as a "discursive place... a theatre in modern societies in which political participation is enacted through medium of talk." So, social media plays an important role in politics, and in countering fake information. Indian youth therefore has a huge responsibility on their shoulder in terms of taking the advantages of the new media.

In conclusion we can say that we should take advantages of the new technologies. But we need to be cautious and use social media responsibly. Whether it would be a boon or a curse depends on us.



## NEW MEDIA & INDIAN YOUTH

Tulika Roy

Since the dawn of civilization, humans have been gathering information and today media is a rich repository of information. In this golden age of technology media has a tremendous impact on the Indian youth as well as on the Indian society. Media in the form of newspaper, magazines, television, internet etc. is playing a significant role in the spreading awareness and information among common mass. New media described as communication technologies enable or enhance interaction between users. Lev Manovich, a famous author of books on new media, proposes five principles of new media. These are numerical representations, modularity, automation, variability and transcoding.

Like a coin media has also two sides. It has both the positive and negative impact on youth. On one side is contents people worldwide and allows interaction and exchange of knowledge; on the other side, it may promote deceptive posts, messages, conflicts, cyber-bullying and mental and physical health issues.

### POSITIVE IMPACTS OF NEW MEDIA ON YOUTH:

**1. Provides information & Enhances knowledge:** New media equips a youth with social and practical skills by enriching his knowledge and providing opportunities to gasp new information on regular basis.

**2. Source of entertainment:** Entertainment is a very essential part of an individual's life in the form of music, dance, film etc. Media brings amusement in their monotonous life. Platforms



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like Facebook, twitter, YouTube, whatsApp etc. provide a new enthusiasm to the youth.

**3. As an asset for research:** New media also works as an asset for research at the time of any kind of research a youth can take help from media . They can search anything on google and may get details that they require. Thus media paves the way of many new inventions and make the youth reach the highest peak of success.

**4. Gives freedom from loneliness:** It also reliefs the youth from their loneliness. It shows a new direction to the youth who feels isolated in this present busy age. It allows the youth to communicate with many friends and stay connected and thus become able to share his ideas and thoughts with others .

**5. Provide inspiration:** New media sows the seeds of inspiration in the field of a youth mind. It can help the youth of India to enhance their confident and creativity. Media inspires the Indian youth to contribute more to society. A study has shown that the young people who express their opinion on social media experience increased social being.

### **NEGATIVE IMPACT OF NEW MEDIA ON YOUTH:**

lies beneath the flame of lamp new media has also some negative impacts on the youngsters of India.

**1. Physical and mental health problems:** As per as study, it is shown that one of fatal effects of social media is addiction. Today, youngsters have got used to of it. That is why they spend an excessive amount of time on social media. This may lead to improve sleeps, headaches, mental stress and other health issues. These all are harmful effects of social media on youth .

**2. Obnoxious and inappropriate stuff:** In the negative site of media there are lots of obnoxious and inappropriate stuff on social media to which youngsters have become addicted. Sexual content in the advertisements, magazines, radio programs and television shows are a few examples of obscene stuff.

**3. Cyber-Bulling:** A dangerous crime that comes to mind when we talk about social media is cyber-bulling .Cyber bullying earlier existed in the form of trolling on forums, chat rooms, spreading rumors online and more. This gets even more dangerous when the bullies provoke the youth to commit suicides, commits crimes or when they fall prey to terrorist activities etc. It has been noticed that youth who commit acts of cyber bullying are more likely to report substance use, aggression and delinquent behaviors.

**4. Loss of Privacy:** Almost all youngsters are connected to social network. Participation in social

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media networks leads to a loss of personal information on a scale not previously thought possible before. Plagued with advertisers stealing user information, these networks restrict on what can't be shared and give anybody the power to report what their friends are doing anytime. Social media has an important impact on society due to the rampant abuse of personal information and the loss of privacy.

**5. Behaviour Issue:** Social media affects behavior negatively by depriving kids of important social clues they would usually learn through in-person communication. This can cause them to be more callous, anxious, and insecure. Social media affects social skills by replacing some of kids' direct contact with their peers.

The power of tool lies in the way how a user uses it. In a country like India have majority of the population is illiterate, new media can be a great blessing to them. It is significant part of our lives today. The youth must actively and profitably involve themselves in this online ecosystem. The effect of new media on Indian youth is important because these effects will color their adult behavior and the way future societies will behave. Like all technologies, new media has obvious benefits and potential harmful effects. As fire is an essential element in our way of life but it also can burn us, media is also, so we have to use it carefully.

