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YOUTH POLITICS IN INDIA: PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION



Aradhana Santoshi

Abstract: The increasing number of young faces in Indian Politics marks a gradual but definite generational shift in the country at large, dubbed 'YOUNGISTAN' by advertising and marketing by gurus targeting youthful consumers. According to Census data, about 2/3rd of India's 1.2 billion people are 35 or younger and half are 20 or younger. It is estimated that by 2020, the average age of an Indian will be 31, compared with 37 for China and 48 for Japan. Youth force is set to dominate the Indian Parliament with 79 young faces having elected to the 15th Lok Sabha. The Lok Sabha had only 34 MPs below 40 years age mark. While some MPs like Rahul Gandhi and Sachin Pilot have retained their seats, others like Ahmed Hamdullah Sayeed, the youngest member, Nilesh Narayan Rani, Varun Gandhi, Sarika Singh, Agaltha Sangma, Mausam Noor etc have been elected for the first time. The country desperately needs some young leaders who exemplify energy, enthusiasm, morality and diligence. No doubt, we have progressed a lot in the last 62 years but the development pace would have been completely different had some young torchbearers led this process of development.

Keywords: Politics marks , generational , diligence , achieve national .

INTRODUCTION

Only the youth can save India and the world from dismal gloom," said P.T.Nehru. They are the backbone of the nation, only the youth can help achieve national objectives, make century great and powerful. It is imperative, therefore, that every Youngman and women understand his or her responsibilities towards the nation and contribute in their own positive way towards nation building.

With the passing of the constitution (61st amendment) bill, which lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 years, the Indian youth cannot be kept away from the mainstream of national politics. They cannot be isolated from the nation's social and public life. In the past they responded to Gandhiji's clarish call for joining the freedom movement. Today, they form the backbone of the as it stands on the threshold of the 21st century. They are the designers of the forthcoming India and the future generations look up to them and bank on their caliber to give them a sovereign, secular and independent India. For this, it is crucial that they are conscious of the prevailing cross currents nationwide in all spheres.

In this fast changing scenario of events and movements, the youth of the country has a crucial role to play. The nation appears to be in a state of flux and the youth can certainly give it a positive direction. They can help build an India that is free from any traces of social, economic and political injustice. They can work towards binding the people of this vast and diverse land into one Single Unit. They can be the torch-bearers of our ancient culture and spread the message of goodwill and brotherhood in all corners of the country. They can effectively wand off such evil forces as those of casteism, untouchability and communalisms with

their enlightened out-look. The youth can also crush such fissiparous tendencies as linguism, regionalism, fundamentalism, terrorism by involving themselves in gainful activities and channelizing their dormant energies in the right direction. Once they take it upon themselves to fight such disruptive forces that divide our nation and threaten its unity and integrity they will have played a sterling role in giving the political life of the nation a new look. It will no longer be denigrated as a cesspool or the refuge of all scoundrels and riffraff from the society.

What the youth of today should beware of is, the dubious and exploitative role played by today's politicians in their lives. These self-seekers instigate the students to go on strikes and also incite them to incidents of violence to gain their own selfish ends. The youth must not fall a prey to such opportunists. They should organize their own unions and present only genuine demands and grievances to the authorities without any outside interference in their affairs. Only then will their initiation into politics be in the right spirit. If the youth allow themselves to be used and exploited by the present breed of politicians, politics will engulf them in its sphere and they will emerge no better than what the politicians are today, i.e., corrupt, self-seeking, arrogant, ruthless and unscrupulous. In that case the very purpose of their involvement in politics would be neglected.

The youth of today cannot and should not close their eyes to the happenings around them. They should be vigilant and mindful of the manipulation of politicians and the various forces working at loggerheads against one another.

Once they have understood the scene around, they should involve themselves in setting things right, This can be

possible only if their system of education and upbringing is in consensus with national ideas in addition to their own requirements regarding jobs and vocations; They must be assured of gainful employment once they complete their education. Only then will they whole heartedly work and only then will their participation and involvement in politics would seem meaningful.

Once the youth are guided in the right direction by involving them in the national politics, the possibilities' of betterment of their lot is immense and vast. This is not to suggest that they should give up their studies for the sake of politics. The point is that their potential energy should percolate down to other areas of life.

That is why Swami Vivekananda said, "My hope of the future lies with the youth of this country, youth of character and intelligence, renouncing everything for the service of others, who can scarifies their lives in working out my ideas and doing good to themselves and to the country at large". It is this all-round growth and involvement that the youth should aim at, they should not have a blind eye towards the political happenings round them. If taken in this spirit, the youth of the country certainly have a positive role to play in politics. The need is to educate and train them properly about their responsibilities towards the country and the world at large.



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