



Imaging: Pankaj Mallik, GT Network

The story of a decade *The Journey of a lifetime*

INSIDE

Youth Power, a creative social leadership programme and an initiative of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, is now in its tenth year. The programme witnesses the ten participating teams from each branch of AIS across Delhi/NCR/UP working on a social cause through the year. This special edition, put together by the 10 participating teams is a glimpse into their causes, through their creative eyes.

AMITE poll

What is the most exciting thing about YP Grand Finale?

- a) The awards
- b) The speeches
- c) The performances

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POLL RESULT

for GT Edition April 9, 2018

Will IPL 2018 match up to its previous editions?



Results as on April 14, 2018

Coming Next

YP Grand Finale 2017-18

10 Years Of Youth Power- Walk Down Memory Lane

Vira Sharma
Managing Editor, GT

The decade gone by was one full of beautiful memories, of sensitising lives, of moments that scripted change, of victories and learnings, of courage and challenges, and of young champions who defied odds and pushed every limit. It was the decade of Youth Power. From nail biting to gripping, spectacular to speechless; every Youth Power is a fond memory etched deep into our hearts, minds and souls. Here are some pearls of 'Youth Power' learnings from the shell of times.

1 Change, with a change

Be the change, they say. But change the way you wish to bring the change, says YP. "What else can you do other than talking about the cause?" I asked the oft repeated question to a girl who was passionate about working on reducing use of plastic. "We can make Ravana out of plastic bottles, driving home the message that plastic is the new Ravana," she said. That young girl is called Sana Sawhney (AIS Noida), also the winner of YP 2012-13. Thinking out of box is all we need.

2 Passion knows no age

The year was 2008. It was the very first Youth Power. The best was chosen from each school. And amongst the best was a young girl, so young that we had to fix a small chair for her to reach the podium. Pitted against senior students, she went on to win the title of 'Youth Envoy' and the youngest YP winner. That girl was Ruchi Avtar (AIS Vas 6). That year, we learnt that age is most certainly a number.

3 Believe, it will happen

Quizzed by a jury member if she would give dowry if the demand came from the family of the boy she loved; she replied with a stern no. The audience erupted in loud applause. And there stood a proud mother - Chairperson ma'am applauding her young dynamite. That girl was Shreya Tayal, a student of AIS Vas 1 and YP participant, 2013-14. That year we learnt, the significance of leading by example.

4 Leadership is action

Echoes of 'Hamara neta kaisa ho, Vansh Saluja jaisa ho' still reverberate loud in the corridors of 'Youth Power' memoirs. When Vansh Saluja of AIS Saket was giving his YP 2012-13 interview, he kept on emphasising that he will talk to the government. "But why will government listen?" I asked. "Why not?" he said. That year he filed an RTI for two unprotected monuments; government acted on it. Today, Vansh Saluja is a social and political activist. Vansh taught us that firm belief in yourself is all you need.

5 Leap of faith

The year was 2014. Rehearsals for the final act of AIS PV were underway. Everything was smooth till one of the performers, a student of class III took a 'Leap of Faith' and fell down, yet she performed at the finale. Her commitment amazed us no end. I remember clearly how we all stood with bated breath on the day of the finale before AIS PV's performance. Such a stupendous act it was that everyone including Chairperson ma'am had goosebumps. The brave girl had taken that leap

of faith with faith in her team members. That's exactly what true leaders do.

6 Winner lose too

2015. A neck to neck fight between AIS PV and AIS Noida for the winners' trophy. Both the teams had put in their blood and sweat into the programme. AIS Noida lost by 2 marks. The team wept inconsolably and that was the time when Chairperson lifted up their spirits and said, "Haarna bhi aana chahiye." I realised that not winning would teach them a lot more, than what their victory would have.

7 Every loss is learning

A winner is a dreamer who never gives up. No one epitomised it better than a team of students in AIS Noida who had been trying to be the part of the YP programme since class VI but they would keep getting rejected in interview. Finally, when it was their last year of the interview, even before I could start asking questions they started answering. "Now you will ask what's different about this, and the answer is..." she went on. They had worked on every parameter they had been rejected for. Each rejection, had taught them a new way to do things.

8 The show must go on

It was the Youth Power Grand Finale 2010-11. Team Noida led by team leader Kripi Badonia was on stage. Somewhere technology failed us at eleventh hour and her PPT didn't work. However, undeterred, she shared her entire presentation through her flawless eloquence. That year, we learnt there's no stopping true leaders.



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Youth is the biggest power of the universe which has changed the world over centuries. With a mission to channelise the same power into the direction of positive social transformation, 'Youth Power' was envisaged 10 years ago. A decade down the line it is extremely heartening to see young minds striving to make world a better place. With each step in this programme, they learn, with each learning they grow, and with each growth the world gets a new leader. We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for future. This is the power of 'Youth Power'.

9 Our own padman

Much before Bollywood made India wake up to menstrual problems, we had our own 'Padman' from AIS Gur 43. The team of three girls and a boy had taken up the cause of menstrual hygiene and awareness, and the boy impressed one and all with his deep understanding and sensitivity about the issue and the eloquence with which he delivered the same.

10 It starts with a leader

Every chapter of change is scripted by a leader. The victory saga we call YP too has been penned by a visionary leader - Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity group of Schools & RBEF. I am extremely grateful to her for bestowing in me her faith to execute her pathbreaking vision. I remember her handing me Youth Power in 2008 - that year and every year thereafter that I spent under her guidance has been a learning for me and everyone at GT.