



## Invest In Youth



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

The week gone was truly invigorating for me as I witnessed the promising and inspiring young change-makers of the world at the Youth Power 2020. I was greatly impressed with the knowledge, depth and dedication of these young

minds to bring the change in society, beginning with themselves.

India in the 21st century is hailed as one of the most promising and powerful nations in the world owing to its youth population of 356 million. And much of this is attributed to its young visionaries, hardly in their 20s and 30s and some even teenagers and school children who are adamant, and passionate for making this nation a super-power soon.

History is witness that the biggest path breaking, change heralding movements have ridden on the back of youngest visionary leaders of the world. Youth is the potential with immense possibilities, a right trigger and right mentoring can steer this huge potential into the direction of exponential growth which is constructive, inclusive and progressive. As a nation, it is our responsibility to rise up and nurture this precious wealth with right education blended with right virtues if we truly want this treasure to grow into a global change-maker. We need to empower our youth with education that gives them the wisdom to think and act humanly, an education that bestows in them virtues to serve society and nation above the self. I really felt proud to see how the Youth Power programme has nurtured these precious wealth of young thinkers who are always willing to take challenges head on. These young harbingers of change are our true pride indeed. [G](#) [I](#)

## Youth Power



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

It all started 12 years ago with a dream of our Chairperson ma'am to nurture the youth with compassion, courage and creativity, and thus was born 'Youth Power'. One of the longest running social sensitisation programmes for children,

Youth Power exemplifies its motto of 'be the change, bring change'. This change is the very soul of Youth Power, and this year we saw numerous changes in the finale. True to the driving force of Amity that the show must go on, we embraced the change and facilitated by technology we were successful in making the first ever virtual Youth Power Grand Finale a success story, with new energy and zeal. The virtual 12th edition of the YP Grand Finale was a real milestone as it resonated with the spirit of youth, stopped by no stone, deterred by no storm. A lot of inspiration for the same came from our own young change makers whose spirits remain undeterred and who continued with their social endeavours helping one and all in their small ways even in such challenging times. It is their zeal and enthusiasm which became our key driving force for conceptualising the virtual finale to engage their inner creativity. They took the road less travelled and so did we, they created milestones and our virtual ceremony was an endeavour to salute their spirit and keep them motivated.

Youth Power, over the years, has not just apprised young children of the social issues that exist around them but has also encouraged them to work for them. I am glad that we could once again engage and amplify the voices of the youth, for it is these leaders who will help make India a knowledge superpower as envisaged by our Founder President Dr Ashok K Chauhan. [G](#) [I](#)

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# Performative activism

## How Social Media Movements Could Be Equivalent To Silence

Shreya Madheswaran  
AGS Gurugram, XI

With the rise of social media in these recent years, many people, especially teenagers, keep up with current events through platforms such as Instagram and Twitter. Though most households subscribe to newspapers and have a cable connection, the internet has quickly become the main source of news for many. Issues and crises are brought to light through posts that circulate on people's feeds and stories. Through reposting useful resources and using trending hashtags, almost anyone can take part in raising awareness. But with everyone speaking out comes the problems of raised voices that are only there because it is, after all, the 'latest trend'.

### What is performative activism?

The term performative activism is defined as 'a pejorative term referring to activism done to increase one's social capital rather than because of one's devotion to a cause.' In other words, it is activism that is done to appear politically correct. This sort of surface-level activism can be seen everywhere as it is done by businesses and influencers, but also by your average social media user or influencer. This is the activism that doesn't really care about bringing the change, but rather cares more about people witnessing them taking part. Done to raise their own social image rather than awareness on the issue, little to no actual help is ever derived from this sort of activism, and once the latest hashtag



changes to something else, these performers also run away with it, leaving the problem as and how they found it.

### The real issue

At the end of the day, other than being somewhat insensitive to the victims, performative activism isn't inherently bad, but it is shallow and hollow. Taking part in tagging challenges and posting black squares on your profile does little to truly talk about the issue, and somewhere along the lines, they end up becoming games rather than activism. As almost every other person now believes this to be the way to go, the real problem is that public has

started believing that posting on social media is enough and is the equivalent of taking action in real life.

### How do I avoid it?

The situation causes a dilemma, as just posting about an ongoing movement might appear as a shallow attempt to show allyship, but not posting can make it look like you don't care. The solution is to not worry about how you come across to your followers, which is where the issue is rooted in the first place. The important thing is to ensure that you show your support outside of social media as well. It's understandable if

you don't have the means to protest against the wrongs or donate for the good, but before posting about it, properly educate yourself on the topic. When you do post, make sure it's useful, educational and true. Your job isn't done after making a few posts online; the sentiment needs to be transcended into your daily life. Spread the word, hold other people accountable to their ignorance and mistakes, and if possible, fundraise and donate a little. The conversation shouldn't just start and end on social media. Instead, social media should be a gateway to action on a much larger scale. [G](#) [I](#)

## The yellow day

Garima Minocha  
AIS Pushp Vihar, Alumna

That cute little girl  
In stripped yellow pants  
Radiant like the sun  
On her way to dreamland

On a school trip  
Off her mother sent  
Those days were bright  
Filled with hazy spells

Her eyes didn't droop  
Her forehead smooth  
Nothing could be done

To suppress her mood

Depression not seen  
Not one line made  
On a face so plump  
And so articulate

Pictures were taken  
Sometimes in mood  
Some in bright smiles  
And some subdued

She was eternally bright  
And her untouched mind  
Had no care of the world  
When turned an eye blind



She felt no pain  
Everything was fine  
Until one day it wasn't  
But oh, she didn't cry

With eyes still bright  
Was she out of mind?

Or maybe it just was  
For what she'd pined

No companionships  
Just solitary love

It was something  
She kept all above! [G](#) [I](#)

### Pearls of Wisdom

## The art of gentleness

Aryendu Singh, AIS VYC Lko, X

To be gentle has always been misunderstood and misinterpreted as to be soft and weak. In fact, considering present day and age, it is a virtue which is rare to find. But people generally focus on the 'brawn' trait, not understanding that it may lead to violence.

It is a no brainer that brain is wired in a complex manner. Violent or gentle, thoughts of a person compliment the action and vice versa. So, the point to be taken here is that your actions need to impart a sense of intensity and not



violence. In the evolution of one's action, the initial bit will always be violent, but as you become more experienced in life, you notice rough edges and tone your actions down to

make them smooth to the point of having no violence in action. Only naïve swordsmen go screaming into a battle while the experts will just flick the sword and it's done. As mentioned earlier, the person needs to let go of violence and hold on to the intensity in your actions. Hence, a person can evolve and become better with time, converting that internal violence into a sophisticated action. Gentleness is not something a person is born with, but one can always acquire the trait through his or her actions. After all, learning is a lifelong process.

GT M@il



Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the YP special edition dated September 7, 2020. As I flipped through the pages, I found each page to be just different, not just in terms of different social causes that the YP teams had signed up for but the way they had been presented. From YP findings to mind boggling facts to wise words of the experts to simple awareness games, the edition had everything to get an insight into the problems as well as ways to take small steps towards the same. It took me on a journey as I travelled from one page to another. This special edition stands as a testimony to the very programme 'Youth Power' as it has always been a platform capable of bringing change in the society by nurturing young minds. Cheers to all the bright and young changemakers! [G](#) [I](#)

Manasvi Kadian

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