

Youth Unrest: Crisis in Ethics and Moralities

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ABSTRACT

THE YOUTH PHENOMENON, with all of its unrest, alienation, and rebellion, indicates serious difficulties deep in our culture. In order to fully understand what is happening, we must grasp the most fundamental features of the modern mind and the principles of its inner dynamics. Our major troubles today come from the successes of modern man. It is really a matter where the youth are vulnerable to outside influences & imitate others but this does not mean that the youth only follow a way of destruction, assault and get involved in terroristic activities. Youth unrest in the past did not go beyond a certain limits. But the present days are characterized by youth rebellion, the like of which was never seen in the past. One cause of youth unrest would be dissatisfaction among young people with the status quo and a desire to change it. Often young people (justifiably, I think) are frustrated with their inability to control their own lives, and the fact that older people, from their parents to politicians, are making decisions for them. They perceive that their futures are out of their control, and that decisions are made without taking their interests.

Keywords: YOUTH UNREST, educational planning, rebellion, assault.

I.

CONCEPT OF YOUTH UNREST

When we talk about “Unrest” simply it means “Present disturbed condition” Disturbed condition of present society, where most of time education comes first. Social unrest is the manifestation of collective disillusionment and frustration of group, if there is unrest among the students of one educational institute our university it is not perceived as the problem of student unrest as such. It is only when students all over the country feel frustrated on such common issues like examination, placement, jobs, content of any syllabus. Is it right to say that there exists the problem of student unrest of our society? We have reached the point where for a great many of the

youth of today, as well as for many of the older generation, the moral, political, and religious ideas and theories in terms of which we have for generations justified our institutions and found meaning for our lives have been reduced to just so much rhetoric with all the meaning drained from the words and symbols that once elevated life and bound us together as a nation. Michael Polanyi in commenting on what led to the destruction of Europe in the twentieth century, said that the development of their intellectual life cut the foundations out from under the moral and spiritual aspirations of the people. A Russian writer recently said, after extensive travels in our country, that America is coming to pieces because the people no longer believe their own myths.

With the great increase of technology and political and economic power in our society, it can be hard to value ethics and morals nowadays. People often ignore unethical and immoral events because we have become so engrossed in these aspects of our culture. Technological advances have become such an influential portion of our society that it often times can be hard to escape. At times, it can be thought to have taken over our lives which leave little room for the things that used to matter, like ethics and morals. Politics is another piece of our culture that seems to have taken people under control. Corruption and immorality have, in a sense, seeped into the governmental section of society and is definitely affecting our abilities to defend our ethical and moral rights. Ethics and morality seem to be the one massive thing that can keep technology and politics from taking over our lives completely.

The emphasis in the concept of social unrest is on “collective frustration” and disillusionment on common social issues of the groups in the society. On the basis of selected definition it may be said that youth unrest is usually characterized by three important standards

1. Public concern
2. Change in the existing norms

3. Active based on the feeling of injustice.

Our major troubles today come from the successes of modern man.

1. Consider the population explosion about which we are so alarmed. We have doubled the earth's population since 1900 and the present indications are that we will double it again by the year 2000. This has come about through our success in conquering disease and our ability to provide the material means for so many people to live. Without our scientific, technological, industrial, and business successes we would not have the problems of over population.

2. We are concerned about poverty in the midst of plenty in America. In developing our advanced, complex society to support the ever increasing population at higher and higher standards of living, an increasingly larger percent of the population lack the ability to earn their own support at an acceptable level of living. In a simpler society they might be able to provide for themselves in a tolerable way. Someone has calculated that in 1860 ninety-four percent of the energy used in work in the United States was muscle power, whereas in 1960, muscle power accounted for only six percent of the total. Most of those who have only muscle power to contribute to today's economy have to be taken care of.

3. The pollution problem we are just now becoming so conscious of is also a measure of our success. We have made it possible for so many people to live at such a high standard of material well-being that the earth simply cannot absorb our waste in usual ways without disturbing the ecology of the planet in a frightening way.

4. Furthermore, the increased destructive power of war, the threat of nuclear annihilation, and the arms race are measures of our success in acquiring power to impose our will upon one another and to get what we want.

5. But the greatest trouble of all, I think, is the moral and spiritual impoverishment accompanying the success of our culture in its struggle for consistency-an impoverishment revealed for some time in our literature and art and now in the plight of our young people. Our modern culture is an amalgamation of the classical humanistic culture, which was generated by man's total experiential involvement with his world but with a primary concern for what reality requires of him as a human being, and our modern scientific culture, generated by a primary concern to impose our will upon the world and to exploit it for our own purposes. This has been a contradictory and unstable mixture from the beginning and there has been a persistent

struggle for consistency throughout the modern period.

Ethics and Morality

When the idea of ethics and morality comes to mind, one often thinks of ideals and codes that are instilled in a person at childhood. However, many studies have shown that these values are influenced and developed far beyond childhood. Different factors that influence these principles can be society, culture, technology, politics, economy, impact of others, biology, and situational awareness. The annotations listed below summarize and accumulate these different influences on our ethics and morals, and why we make certain decisions.

The dictionary's definition of ethics is "a system of moral

principles; the rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of human actions or a particular group, culture, etc.; that branch of philosophy dealing with values relating to human conduct, with respect to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions and to the goodness and badness of the motives and ends of such actions" (Ethics). This shows that ethics is more than just right versus wrong decisions or way of life, it is a system, a set of rules, and a philosophy involving our human nature. Whether a person deviates from these set of codes for humanity depends on the person and the type of situation that person is involved in.

The dictionary's definition of moral is "of pertaining to, or concerned with the principles or rules of right conduct or the distinction between right and wrong; expressing or conveying truths or counsel as to right conduct; and

founded on the fundamental principles of right conduct rather than on legalities, enactment, or custom" (Morality). This shows that morals are more than how each individual human was raised. Morals come from who we are on the inside. A person's moral code may not always influence how a person reacts in a given situation.

Moral and ethical decisions are not universal, they depend on many different outliers. Society, culture, media, and unpleasing circumstances can be a large determinate of ethical and moral values. The certain religion a person believes in, the culture a person is raised in and/or practices they engage in, and also the society a person lives in can drastically affect the types of ethical and moral decisions a person makes. Paul Boghossian mentions that to a lot of people, eating beef is seen as a normality, but to Hindus it is seen as immoral and unethical. Media can also influence

our decision making skills; the visual effects a picture can have a person's ethical and moral values can have vast impacts on a person. For example, Susan Sontag talks about the use of pictures of diseased lungs placed on cigarette packages to make people question their decision to smoke and try to steer people away from it. She points out that, "Shock can wear off...As one can become habituated to horror in real life, one can become habituated to the horror of certain images" (Sontag 374). What was once considered immoral or unethical could be changing due to the always evolving state of our world today, outside sources such as media desensitize people and has a great impact. While society, culture, and media are impacting, expectations and pressures from peers can also greatly influence, and at times, drive our decisions. A disease or debilitating circumstances, atrocious and dreadful personal experiences, a group of overbearing and judgmental peers, and even technology, politics, and economic powers can influence our responses.

II. CONCLUSION

Ethics and morality, at times, feels like a less popular lifestyle for our civilization. This may be a particular reason why we live in an uncertain and doubtful culture. Much is being talked today about the causes of youth unrest and what ought to be done. It is somewhat true that lack of employment opportunity is creating ferment among the youth and that there has been little effort on the part of the society to give meaning and direction to life. It has therefore to be emphasized that from being a social liability, the youth utilize is force as an instrument of social and economic progress of the society and take an active part in the development programmes. For this purpose, the youths will have to be properly organized and oriented and every effort should be made to help them develop a positive outlook, acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to cope up with the burning problems facing the society today The need therefore for an educational and training programmes for a core group of youth leaders is imperative. The aim-of such programmes should be to make the youth leaders and their functional groups aware of the social evils of today and their far reaching consequences in the future generations and their responsibilities for protecting and improving upon it so as to make rapid socio-economic progress. Such educational programme should take the forrh of a campaign against the evils and bring about a new era in which every youth becomes a contributor towards building a new generation to hold the future of the country.

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