REPORT ON RISING YOUTH INTOLERANCE
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1. At a Glance

- As per 2012 Census, the total population of India is 1.22 billion out of which 628.8 million are males and 591.4 million are females and fifty percent of the total population comprises of people from 0 to 25 years.
- India has the largest youth population in the world that is poised to increase further in the coming decade. 70% of India’s population is below the age of 35 years.
- This phenomenal rise in the youth population has made India the youngest nation with a demographic dividend appearing to be a reality.
- Ironically, the data of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows that most juvenile crimes are committed by those in the age group of 16-18 years.
- The NCRB data also shows rapes committed by juveniles have jumped by 188%. The only categories of crimes involving juveniles for which, growth figures are higher are theft and robbery which recorded a growth rate of around 200% and abduction of women which recorded and exponential rise of 660%.
- According to a Home Ministry data, of the total of 33,387 juveniles apprehended in 2011, 21,657 were in the 16-18 age group, 11,019 of 12-16 age group and 1,211 between 7-12 age group.
- In year 2010, a district court in Chandigarh sentenced a 21-year-old boy to four years' rigorous imprisonment in a case of road rage.
- According to a survey done by Central Road Research Institute, youth in the age group of 19 to 25 were observed as most vulnerable groups for involving in road rage cases resulting to fatalities and accidents.
- Suicide rates in India are among the highest in the world. Most suicides occur between the ages of 15 years and 29 years, especially among women.
- Every 90 minutes a teenager tries to commit suicide in India. But every six hours, one succeeds.
2. Introduction

Youth in any country play an important role in its financial development and demographic evolution. Their population creates skills and labour force that replenishes a country’s human recourse. Youth also characterize age groups that form the foundation of demographic regeneration.

However, the youth of the nation—their abilities, awareness, approach, and behaviours, are essential to whether, and how well, the demographic dividend is successfully exploited and converted into constant increases in productivity and economic growth. Furthermore, the large and increasing numbers of the youth population in India makes it all the more essential that the nation ensures that the youth become a lively, constructive force that can address social and economic issues and contribute to a sustained governance and nation building.

Today, intolerance seems to be prevalent among the youth in our nation. There seems to be a phenomenal supply of intolerance among different individuals especially the youth who seem to have become immensely intolerant and come out to be fueling their own narrow perspectives.

Intolerance can be defined as unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, or behaviour that differs from one’s own. When unidentified, unrecognized and untreated it may take the form of violence, aggression, discrimination and even death.

Sociologists and psychologists have been very interested in studying the causes of youth intolerance and it has become clear that it is an intricate social problem. While it sometimes can be connected to tolerance of violence at home and within the community but it's not essentially the direct result of it.

The way of bringing up of children and youth in our country has changed and is further changing. The number of nuclear families has grown. With the result, children have become more isolated, reflect aggressive behaviors and indulge in crime and violence in schools and outside. Mass media has uselessly gripped them, and often attacks them with information, views and prejudice which these young minds can hardly distinguish or judge.

Peers also exert a great influence on values development. Drug abuse, irresponsible sexual behaviour, sabotage, commercialization, stealing, cheating, confusion between heroes and celebrities
as role models, are observed more often than ever before. In a general sense, parents, schools and public feel that our youth have lost qualities of civility, respect and responsibility. There is in fact a public call for education and action because of the degeneration of our cultural ethos.

**Objectives of the study:**

- To identify what attitudes youths hold in relation to their parents, peers, teachers, and of course towards their own self.
- To understand the fact that whether there is a correlation between intolerance and social background factors.
- To recognize how intolerance can manifest itself in a variety of ways and in environments, such as home, school, and leisure activities.
- To suggest ways of helping the youth of our nation and curbing the menace of intolerance.
- To provide a picture of young people’s attitudes on questions related to intolerance.
3. **Research Methodology:**

The survey was conducted in more than 100 schools and colleges of NCR and included 10000 students. Purposive sampling was done for collecting data for this study and respondents who were able to provide appropriate data about their lives were selected. Random Sampling method was used to collect data from these selected respondents. Under random sampling method, important data was collected from 860 respondents through the schedule questionnaire. In the schedule questionnaire, open-ended and close-ended questions were used for collecting data properly.

**Phases of Data Research:**

**Phase 1:** Determining the research objectives.

**Phase 2:** Conducting secondary research from the various reports produced by ASSOCHAM, inputs of ASSOCHAM LADIES LEAGUE, and various NGOs related to the same goal.

**Phase 3:** Designing quantitative parameters against which youth intolerance can be mapped and customizing the parameters according to our needs and then preparing a questionnaire.

**Phase 4:** The survey was conducted in Delhi-NCR region and included 10000 students in the age group of 8 – 24.

**Phase 5:** Analyzing and drawing inferences on the information collected.

**Phase 6:** Drawing conclusions and giving recommendations to improve status quo and address major challenges.

**Phase 7:** Submitting the report to ASSOCHAM for its further discretion.
4. Findings

Demographic Profile of Surveyed Youth

Male Female Ratio
The survey segregated the intolerant youth and further analysis was done on them. Amongst the shortlisted 860 youth, majority were males. A very small percentage of females were found to be intolerant. The Indian value system and parental grooming still plays a crucial role in making the females tolerant than their male counterparts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Type of family

Family is the key institution for children to learn the basics. It is a place where they co-reside and socialize but modernization and westernization of our societies has changed the very concept of a family. The data collected shows that most of the youth who have reported to be intolerant have been brought up in nuclear families which suggest that joint families function as organizations of socialization and also perform responsibilities in other areas such as occupation, education and leisure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nuclear</th>
<th>Joint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education level of parents

The study reveals that the education level of parents can have both direct and indirect impact on their children. It certainly has an impact on their style of grooming but it obviously does not have any direct impact on the intolerant behaviour of kids.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>10+2</th>
<th>10th</th>
<th>5th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Pie chart showing the percentage distribution of educational levels]
Employment Status of the Parents

Among the respondents studied majority of them belonged to working parents. When both the parents are working it becomes difficult for the parents, especially mothers to spend time with their children. With the result, children find themselves either alone or with domestic helpers who are neither trained nor experienced. Consequently, these children become lonely, isolated and introvert resulting in anxiety and intolerant behaviors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Father</th>
<th>Mother</th>
<th>Both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Youth and Television

Spare Time spent over
Over the years media has changed radically. It has entered into every home in varied forms and has influenced youth in many ways. Today, young people don’t spend time in pursuing their hobbies or sports but rather indulge in TV and internet. Television viewing is the most common leisure activity among youth reason being easy availability & low cost. On the other hand internet is mostly used for social networking and chatting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TV</th>
<th>Internet</th>
<th>Videogames</th>
<th>Outdoor</th>
<th>Social work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bar Graph of Spare Time Spent]
Hours of Television Viewing Per Day

With the increasing popularity of TV shows children are allured to gluing television. But psychologists and sociologists believe that repeated exposure to violence and aggression shown on these shows may affect cognitive and behavioural processes in the youth. It can make them, callous and intolerant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours of Television Viewing Per Day</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 Hour</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3 Hour</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 Hour</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 5 Hour</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preferences for Different TV Programs

The study reflects that majority of youth are interested in watching daily soaps, followed by reality shows, movies, music and cartoons. A very less number of children and young adults prefer to watch knowledge based programs. Heavy television exposure especially to shows that depict violence, objectionable content and hatred has become a noteworthy factor in causing antagonistic and intolerant behaviour among youth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Serial(%)</th>
<th>Reality Shows(%)</th>
<th>Movies(%)</th>
<th>Knowledge based Programs(%)</th>
<th>Cartoon Shows(%)</th>
<th>Music(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bar chart showing preferences for different TV programs]
Youth and Internet

Usage of Internet
In addition to television, internet is another source that occupies children and young adults. Among the respondents studied, majority of them agreed on spending one to five hours per day on the internet. Nowadays, young people don’t need space to hang out with friends, they can chat, spend time and build personal relationships while sitting at home and surfing through the internet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Spent on Internet Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 hours per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Pie chart showing time spent on internet usage](chart.png)
Place of Surfing Internet

Among the respondents studied, a majority of both males and females prefer to surf internet at their homes however a certain amount of males also like to go out to internet cafes to surf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Surfing Internet</th>
<th>Net Café</th>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Favourite Activities Online- (Purpose of using Internet)

Today young people spend most of their time on the internet. In this study, it was found that majority of young adults like to browse the net, followed by playing games, chatting, and social networking. These youth browse websites, play violent and horrifying games that do more harm than good. All in all, internet has more disadvantages when it comes to young adults. Lack of supervision and knowledge further aggregates the impact of negative internet surfing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Web Browsing(%)</th>
<th>Electronics Games(%)</th>
<th>Online Chatting(%)</th>
<th>Music(%)</th>
<th>Social networking(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Graph showing the percentage of activities preferred by males and females](image-url)
Usage of Social Networking Sites amongst Youth

The study reflects that majority of young adults spend less than an hour on social networking sites, even though they are quite popular. But spend quite a time on internet which makes them isolated, alone and thus intolerant and impatient.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usage of Social Networking Sites amongst Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less than 1 Hours: 64%
1-2 Hours: 27%
3-5 Hours: 8%
7-8 Hours: 1%
Youth and Outdoor activities

Time spent on outdoor activities
The study suggests that most of the youth spend less than 4 hours a week in any outdoor activity. Lack of outdoor activities results in less social skills. Social skills makes a person likable, pleasant and tolerant but lack of these skills make people intolerant, impatient and unpleasant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than 1 hours</th>
<th>1-2 hours</th>
<th>2-4 hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Pie chart showing time spent on outdoor activities]
Youth and Parenting

Time spent with Parents

Among the respondents studied, a maximum number of them agreed that they spend only one or two hours with their parents, reason being, that both their parents are either working or busy with household chores. According to psychologists and sociologists, children who spend less time with their parents tend to be aloof, are introvert and have less social skills which in turn makes them impatient and intolerant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>None</th>
<th>1-2 Hrs</th>
<th>3-4 Hrs</th>
<th>4-6 Hrs</th>
<th>More than 6 Hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Pie chart showing time spent with parents]
Relationship with parents

Nowadays children and young adults seem to be distant from their parents. The study supported this fact when majority of respondents agreed that they have a cordial but not a very close relationship with their parents. The study further suggests that young adults who are distant with their parents might as well be intolerant and callous towards others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very close</th>
<th>Loving</th>
<th>Genial, cordial</th>
<th>Somewhat distant</th>
<th>Estranged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Pie chart showing relationship with parents](chart.png)
Sharing problems with parents

Today youth spend less time in and with their families resulting in estranged relationships. The study revealed that most of the respondents rarely shared any problems with their parents. Thus, problems of communication, inadequate expression and lack of parental support, have been identified as relevant factors associated with behavioural problems in children and adolescents. Youngsters who don’t discuss important matters at home are often misguided by outsiders, which, adds to severity of the problem rather than resolving it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No of Siblings

Among the respondents studied 41% had a sibling, while 32% were the only kids of their parents. Studies have shown that children who are brought up with their siblings have good communication and social skills. Apart from that they also develop feelings of sharing and caring and are more tolerant towards others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two or more</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abuse in the family

Among the youth studied, as many as 46 percent of young men and women had observed or experienced violence in their families. Abuse and violence in families not only affects the psyche of a child but also hinders growth and development. Children from homes where domestic violence is occurring are also more likely to exhibit aggressive behaviour and tend to be intolerant and impatient.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Suggestions & Recommendations

- **Encouraging Youngsters to Express Themselves:** Parent can’t control every aspect of a child’s world, and studies show that children hold a number of stereotypes by the time they are 12. So it becomes increasingly important that parents remember not to stop talking as their children get older and conversations become more complex. Parents should look for opportunities to discuss difficult issues wherever possible and youngsters in becoming more mature, tolerant and well behaved.

- **Respecting a Youngster’s Opinion:** Parents should understand and respect their children’s opinion about matters that can affect and influence their personality. Nevertheless, tolerance and personal character should be a continuing conversation in the families and parents should try and create a supportive family environment so that good interpersonal relationships among family members are created. Also, due consideration should be given to the needs, views, and aspirations of the children and parents should accord them meaningful contribution in decision-making and problem solving.

- **Understanding Hatred:** Youngsters should be made aware about things related to religion, caste, color and creed. They should be taught religious sensitivity and unbiased approach towards peers, friends and people in order to understand the concepts of humanity and kindness. Today, there are thousands of hate sites on the Internet. It’s an alarming trend that has grabbed the attention of citizens and nations worldwide. Parents, teachers and schools should become effective tools in teaching tolerance. Schools and colleges should initiate youth development programmes that are free from all forms of discrimination – based on gender, caste, language, or physical or mental condition.

- **Controlling Prejudice and Gender Bias:** Prejudice and bias always happen in subtle ways, and in small amounts. Unfortunately, it has become an accepted part of our society’s fabric that it gets forgotten and neglected. Again, parents and teachers can and must play a crucial role in controlling bias by increasing sensitivity and tolerance towards women. They can promote gender equitable norms among youth and establish systems that address these issues by creating new methods of teaching in schools and colleges.
• **Drive Youth for Critical Thinking and Resistance:** Youngsters should be taught critical thinking: the ability to consider issues through evaluation and comprehension. It’s important to sensitize youth about the adverse effects of substance abuse. Schools can promote personality development programmes by integrating them in their curriculum. Also, ensuring positive peer pressure to urge youngsters for higher academic performance and towards other fields, such as arts and crafts can also be effective and helpful in making them, better and tolerant human beings.

• **Involving Youth in Community Services:** Parents and society should encourage youth to engage in development processes that affect their community by their active participation. The local bodies can help in strengthening the culture of patriotism among young people and help them to become responsible citizens of the country who care for their families and communities in which they live. They can also, promote strategies that are directed at improving the environment of the community in which the youngsters live thus help in building strong youth and strong communities. Youth participation in civil society can help in reinforcing secular attitudes thereby increasing tolerance and sensitivity among them.

In a nutshell we suggest the following:

• The study suggests that youth with highly educated parents and those in academic educational programmes had a more positive attitude in comparison to students with parents who were not so highly qualified.

• The study suggests that youth with both parents working spend less time with their parents and hence are less tolerant. On the other hand youth with only single parent working spend a good amount of time with their parents which makes them more tolerant.

• The study suggests that youth spend most of the time watching TV and less time outdoors. They spent time watching cartoons, movies and TV shows and consequently become addicted to it. Nevertheless, it is clear that there is a considerable amount of violence on television and that this violence on the small screen may translate into changes in attitudes, values, or behavior of the youth thereby invoking intolerance in them.
The study also suggests that TV and media are not the only causes for this problem, but it also depends on the parents whose behaviour has a more powerful influence on their children rather than isolated events and experiences.

The study suggests that we need to find ways to optimize the role of media in our society, taking advantage of their positive attributes and minimizing their negative ones. Furthermore, studies on effect of media, especially newer media items, on youth and about interventions to improve the role of media on youth should be increased. Such solution-oriented research is the key to improve youth tolerance.

The study even suggests that efforts must be made to create awareness among parents in terms of media exposure of their children.

The study suggests that most of the youngsters enter into substance abuse due to peer pressure and therefore parents, teachers and schools have varied but equal responsibilities to check and curb it.
6. Conclusion

Intolerance among youth is a burning issue that the country is facing. Parents, teachers and even leaders of the country are bothered and concerned about the matter.

In one of the addresses, President Pranab Mukerjee said, “Education-embedded in values of peace, tolerance and humanity, which is at the same time relevant to society and the economy-is the best antidote for violence, intolerance and inequality.”

Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh while addressing the inception ceremony of the centenary session of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) at the Calcutta University said that 'growing intolerance' was evident among the youth of the country cautioning that it might affect their 'creative instincts.'

Youth intolerance is a complex and changing phenomenon in our society which is expressed in different ways on different occasions. There is a thin line between tolerance and intolerance and tolerant and intolerant attitudes constitute the extremes of positive and negative approaches, respectively. Education system can play a major role in not only understanding these extremes but also in providing ways for societal transformation. The youth is an important part of our nation who influence and shape the future. Therefore education should not be restricted to classroom experiences only but holistic and experimental learning needs should be promoted and encouraged aiming at creating a better race of mankind.