



youthpost

'We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated.'
-MAYA ANGELOU

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Kashi Fire Warrior

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YouthConnect

Here at **Youth Post**, following in the footsteps of our older sibling, **Youth Connect**, we believe in putting you centre stage. You ideate, you create, we curate. Join us, as we set out to become the newsletter you'll want to read every month.



Collaboration

Collaboration is the key principle of our members between the ages 13-21



Visibility

Visibility is a benefit members reap through their published works on Youth Connect



Rewards through participation

Rewards in form of grants or funding, can be applied for



Opportunities

Opportunities of learning are aplenty through free members' only workshops

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



Hello Young People!

In a world riddled with a pandemic, self-acceptance and belief in one's own abilities can often heal us.

Henry Ford said, "Making a mistake is not failure. Failing to learn from that mistake is failure."

After all, how can any of us grow without failure? Failing and succeeding is all a part of life. Often, the human tendency to shy away from things beyond our control and comfort zone leave us shaken in our faith.

Do not fear making a mistake, instead learn something new from your experiences and use the knowledge to make the best of the current situation. Mistakes are nothing but proof that you are trying.

During times like these, I urge you to raise your head high and leave fear behind. Never step back when the storm comes, instead face it with the might and courage you hold within. Believe you always, then nothing seems impossible.

Warmly

SHILPA ANAND

Founder Trustee -Youth Connect

SAMRIDDI NANDI
Editor



Alvin Toffler is credited with saying, "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

In a world of paradigm shifts and fast paced information intake and output, it is important to stay relevant, updated and take charge of personal change and development. The process of unlearning applies to you, as you are the ones who have to make new meanings in things around you, as you see the world. You need to unlearn and relearn to thrive in the future!

This month, our writers have taken a sharp turn towards socially relevant issues which require us to unlearn previously built meanings of - caste, sexual orientation, self identity and upcycling. As we bring you more to ponder on, we also ask you this - what are you doing to become a part of this new reality?

By being a member at YouthConnect, you too can be a part of the creative revolution. The YouthConnect Writing and Publications team is currently on the lookout for a new Team Head who can bring their very best to the team - deft in the language, possessing coordination skills and a strong network with other creative minds. Reach out to us to find out more! Join us at the click of a button.

ABHIIR BHALLA
President
Executive Council



In North India, the monsoons came late. However when it finally rained, it poured. Certain cities in the country went from experiencing severe water shortages and droughts, to witnessing flooding.

We too have been flooded with expressions of interest from young people from across the world to be a part of our initiatives, and we heard you! Now, you can sign up to volunteer with any of our mentee initiatives via the forms on our website. This past month alone, we received over 40 volunteer applications! We've also launched another Instagram live series, through which we're making our audience more familiar with our mentee social initiatives and their work! All of this hard work requires more volunteers, and so we're looking for content writers and content creators who can contribute to our online awareness building and engagement efforts.

Readers, we know you are full of brilliant ideas. Our team is brainstorming on various possibilities, and need support from you - so let us know if you can help out, by reaching out to us on any of our platforms.

As part of our partnership with the UK-based charity, 'Help Rescue the Planet', we pulled off our third partnered event, which was a resounding success! We discussed the mounting crisis of deforestation and its implications, and emphasised on the need for greater involvement of young people at the upcoming climate change conference - COP 26.

With shifting monsoons, weather extremes and with Antarctica touching record-high temperatures, there's scarcely a bigger wake up call needed for climate action. We're working towards being the change we want to see, by supporting initiatives not just related to climate, but other social issues too. Check out our website and newsletter to see how you can get involved too!



Register using the link below to never miss a learning opportunity, to connect with other members and to get full access to our online resources!

www.youthconnect.net

Meet Our Executive Council

Youth Connect's core team consists of Council Members who meet and decide the direction of the organization. Members of Youth Connect are all between the ages of 13-21 years. Under the guidance of the Council, our members develop our policies, and set the agenda for our campaigns and programmes. We welcome you all aboard!



ABHIIR BHALLA
President

An international youth environmentalist, he is a passionate youth leader and an advocate for clean air.



KETAKI TYAGI
Team Head: Social
Entrepreneurship Incubation

This campaign mentor, brings her extensive experience in campaigning and crowdfunding among other talents.



TAARINI ANDLAY
Team Head -Social
Entrepreneurship Incubation

Her enthusiasm to look for new ways to ethically and sustainably lead social change makes her stand apart.



STUTI KAPOOR
Team Head -
Writing & Publications

With clarity in thought, she is an advocate for SDG's. Along with being a writer, she also works towards her own initiative.



KATYAYNI SINGH
Team Head: Social Media

She brings expertise in social media metrics, aesthetics and analytics. She is a passionate dancer, an avid writer and an interest in photography.

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Youth Connect is looking for young and motivated members to volunteer with the organisation to positively affect change. Join Youth Connect as a member today! Sign up here:

<https://youthconnect.net/user-registration/>

DESIGNED BY SAFIA ZAHID

A Will Forged in Fire

By Sanat Dayani

Identity is deeply ingrained into the human mind, through social forces, attitudes, food and culture. In India, despite its abolition during the independence, the caste system more often than not, determines identity. For those belonging to the Chamar sub-caste, which was traditionally considered to be one of the 'untouchable' castes, the prejudice runs deep. Atrocious acts such as being given water in a broken cup, or being barred from entry into others' homes, are banes of life and a frequent source of discrimination.

For Sagar James, a flow artist from Varanasi, his identity as a Chamar youth has certainly posed some challenges, but the 17-year-old has overcome a multitude of obstacles, and gives others a chance to be independent and carve their own path in life, just as he did.

For most, making a change in society involve organising drives and campaigns for the needy, but James has been turning the world into a better place through flow arts which involve movement-based activities like dance, juggling, unicycling, hooping and fire-spinning among others.

He is the founder of Kashi Fire Warriors, a flow arts group. "We started out as 'Happy Talent Group' where the three main criteria for joins were quite self-explanatory - they had to be happy, be talented and form a group together," says James, who takes young, usually abused or trafficked teenagers under his wing and trains them.

"Flow art is a kind of a circus, but people immediately associate bonded labour or inhuman conditions with the word circus. We are trying to change that perception through our art form," he says. "I started on one of the main ghats of Kashi when I was a child, but was always shunned by a few people and was made to feel lowly, as I am a Chamar. I never gave up though - I just moved onto a darker ghat and started performing with fire so it was visible from all the



"Through the money we earn, we help each other attain education and look out for others who are in need of our help."



river banks, and visitors and tourists gravitated towards it," he adds.

The performer's saga began when he was first taught the art by a UK based charity called 'Performers Without Borders.' While they hosted their travelling workshops across India, James was taught skills such as tightrope walking and juggling when he was a mere five-year-old.

He now works towards passing those skills onto underprivileged children in orphanages, in juvenile jails and even ties up with NGOs to help people stay mentally and physically active. "We try to boost their self-esteem, improve their quality of life and encourage active involvement in a creative form such as flow arts to keep them engaged," says James, adding that a core group member of the Kashi Fire Warriors was saved from child abuse.

Regardless of all the discrimination he has faced, he still walks with a spring in his step. As word of his performances grow day by day, he is even asked to perform at international venues. "Through the money we earn, we help each other attain education and look out for others who are in need of our help."

In the future, his aim is to provide people a chance to be independent so they can live their lives on their own terms. The noble intentions of Sagar James have definitely paid off in his own life and he wants to see this change in others.

Virtual Harassment: The Muting of Women's Voices

In a geopolitical landscape stabilised by systemic oppression, patriarchal paramouncy and unbridled disparity, women have been leading tangible change. These women have been burdened with the momentous honour and still greater injustice of mending a world that should have sheltered them, instead.

In Mary Beard's 'Women and Power; A Manifesto', she opens discourse regarding the muting of the voice of women and its barely-there relationship with raising awareness- she divulges how ancient literature and scriptures have irrevocably quieted women. This practice has yet to abandon the changemakers of today, as they strive to achieve some semblance of parity in a climate so socio-politically fractured.

The trajectory of human life, for the adequately privileged, has been driven with unassuming ease onto the path of virtuality. With the virtualisation of social institutions far and wide, sub-communities on platforms like Reddit that subtly or otherwise, rationalise misogyny, perpetuate the victimisation of women and conflate equality with misandry have risen. As the users of such platforms, as well as those who identify with such bigoted beliefs, take up the cudgels against women's right to voice their truth through truly violative & hurtful allegations as well as threats, a novel pandemic of virtual violence unveils itself within the preeminent folds of aggravated gendered violence women have eternally suffered.

While there are far too many cases that can substantiate just how damagingly prevalent this form of abuse is, it is important to observe the case of journalist Rohini Singh was targeted by law student and abuser, Kapil Viayan, simply because he found her approach of reporting the farmer protests distasteful. As a teenager and a young woman heavily invested in journalism and the media, it was deeply harrowing to witness the journalist being subject to rape threats and abuse for exercising a right so fundamentally invaluable as her right to freedom of speech. This instance not only proves that harassment endeavours



SEHAR CHOWDHRY is an aspiring journalist from Sanskriti School, New Delhi. A recently published author, she hopes to unravel all journalistic mediums while addressing intrinsic contentious issues relating to sociopolitical subject areas. She actively endeavours to accentuate the voices of others rather than encroach upon their narratives.

to openly quiet women but also portrays how normalised this culture of abuse is, for it to be perforating online spheres with extreme ease.

What allowed this man to post such heinous words with such a lack of apprehension, other than the propagation of sexist microaggressions that are so casualised by society as we know it?

A cross-sectionally diverse global survey (2021) of 901 journalists commissioned by UNESCO and conducted by the International Center for Journalists, revealed that 'women journalists are exposed to online violence, now, more than ever', with nearly 73% of all women surveyees indicating that they had been victimised by online harassers in the past. The report brought attention to multifaceted techniques applied to oppress women's voices by discrediting their work by undermining journalistic integrity through misogynistic comments, accusations of extremism, threats and digital security briefs that increase the possibility of subsequent physical risks of online violence (20% of the surveyees stated that the online abuse they suffered correlated to physical abuse they experienced).

Within the case study of a Filipino-American journalist, it was also revealed that most often, that woman of colour and queer as well as neurodivergent women underwent misogyny in conjunction with other forms of prejudice such as racism and homophobia.

Online abuse continues to be separated from tangible incidents of violence according to scholarship,

however, a lot of cybercrime literature excludes the gendered and psychological aspects of the violence itself. People often subvert the abhorring aspect of having a glimpse of another person's graphic want to inflict harm on the victim. In an interview with Amnesty International, activist Pamela Merritt stated that the influx of threats often targeting both her and her family made her fear before weighing in on anything. Journalist Shireen Mitchell adds to this by equating all abuse as real, regardless of the medium that operationalises it. Though there is a dearth of research addressing the psychological aftermath of online victimisation, many women have indicated to be in therapy to cope with the trauma of abuse, many fear interacting with platforms they were previously vocal on and suffer from anxiety as well as paranoia. Online violence has been largely successful in disempowering and taking away women activists' agency to voice their truths, leaving many feeling humiliated and invalidated.

As involved global citizens, our foremost responsibility lies with the survivors, it is very important to listen and believe them, to validate their experiences in a world that constantly impedes them. We must educate ourselves as well as those around us, the power to reduce the pervasiveness of casual sexism lies with the knowledge to recognise, examine it and halt it. Emphasis must also be laid on creating a culture of intolerance towards such behaviour, eradication of the highly normalised cycle of abuse can be advanced by the creation of safe havens to divulge and report instances, to give victims an advent to express the agency they have been divested of.

PROJECT CRIMSON: Menstrual Education Sessions by Enactus SVC

Enactus SVC, in collaboration with District Administration Rupnagar organized menstrual education sessions for classes 6th - 12th from 28 May - 7 June for both boys and girls under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign.

Volunteers of Enactus SVC, under their **Project Crimson**, aim to eliminate the stereotypes associated with Menstruation by educating and empowering communities to speak up and strive to make menstrual products affordable for all.

"We feel it is extremely essential for the new generation to normalise a natural body function which is deemed to be polluted and break these myths which have revolved around the sacred process since long. Aiming to target various areas of life; Economic, Social, Environmental, Health, we work relentlessly

to contribute to the society as responsible beings by generating employment and disseminating quintessential awareness among communities.

The sessions were inaugurated by the respected Ms. Sonali Giri, IAS Deputy Commissioner on 31st May, 2021 and were concluded on 7th June, 2021 by the respected Ms. Deepshikha Sharma, IAS Additional Deputy Commissioner who have both consented to grace the initiative with their gracious presence and encouraged us to

work harder to achieve our goals.

This collaboration would entail the education of adolescents on the topics related to menstrual health and hygiene by the end of which the children shall be better acquainted with the process and the choices available to them regarding their sexual and reproductive health. We aimed to engage the students with relatable questions and stories which could be shared back and forth to establish an environment of ease and comfort.



STARS WHO SHINE:

India undoubtedly has outperformed its previous records this year, with one gold, two silver, four bronze medals for various sports. Take a look at some of the winners:

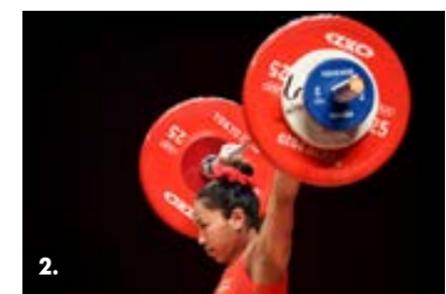
1. Neeraj Chopra, the 23-year-old from Khandra, Haryana made his mark at the 2021 Olympics. His inspirational journey from obesity to winning a gold for javelin throw has us singing his praises!

2. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, the 27-year-old weightlifter from Manipur, won a silver at the Tokyo Olympics in the Women's 49kg category.

3. Lovlina Borgohain, 23, won a bronze medal for her performance in boxing. The athlete who started out as a kickboxer, comes from a family of five, and both of her sisters are kickboxers. She is also an Arjuna Awardee.

4. P.V. Sindhu, the 25-year-old star badminton player is known for her agility. She won a bronze medal, against Chinese player B.J. He.

Additionally, **Bajrang Punia** won a bronze medal and **Ravi Kumar Dahiya** won a silver medal for wrestling.



The Sky's the Limit, Not Age

By Jheel Porwal

At the age of eleven, everybody says "you're just a child" which is true, and it is actually one of the greatest advantages one could have. **Manya Harsha**, a young upcycler and innovator has achieved great heights, from clean-up drives to recycling food waste - what can she not do? Hailing from Bengaluru, and brought up in her grandmother's house, she has been extensively connected to nature, so seeing it polluted whenever she goes out really pains her. The quarantine period during the pandemic has helped Manya take an active role against wastage of resources. She now makes her own paper, using vegetable peels and even old denim.



"On one side, I see nature blooming, totally green and on the other side I see it being destroyed because of man's greed." Manya observes how littering garbage everywhere and huge amounts of waste disposal really ruins the feel and experience of the place. When she goes to lakes and beaches, all she can think about is the heaps of glass and plastic waste that have been left everywhere. The plastic cups and wrappers which become usual to the eye at many tourist spots, is what stands out to Manya the most. This is the reason why the young innovator has started her own initiative during the lockdown.

Manya is a passionate recycler and really takes pride in doing so, as one should. She was struck with the brilliant idea of recycling vegetable peels into paper. "My first attempt at making paper with onion peels



was not very successful. The paper produced was rough, and fragile, but that did not stop me." She kept on trying and eventually excelled in this art. Now she is capable of making various kinds of paper, in different shapes, sizes and even various vegetable peels. "When you use these papers, you get a different feeling. The sheet might not look as bright or clear as factory produced paper, but the sense of achievement of it being self made gives me a sense of joy. Recycled paper exceeds the beauty a clear white sheet could give you."

The utopian society which we all imagine to be advanced, have flying cars, and space travel, is very different to Manya's vision. Her utopia is a place where everybody can spend time in harmony, in the lap of nature.

"It should feel like you are one with nature, that nature is you." For her, recycling is cathartic, it brings her a sense of peace and confidence in herself and the society. "I am helping my mother nature to recover and bloom, and in turn she is helping me to be happy and satisfied."

Despite her brilliant innovation, success did not come easy. Manya was confused about several things like 'how many peels do I use,' 'how long do I let this dry,' and 'how much water do I pour,' but she experimented and now feels the process is very simple. At just eleven, Manya is the living example of the phrase - "Why wait for a superhero, when you can be one." She has inspired many, and hopefully inspires more, to indulge in caring for nature because, "we don't need a handful of people trying to produce zero waste correctly, we need millions of people trying incorrectly."

HOW TO MAKE THE PAPER

5 step process

1. Collect around 10 (or more) peels that have been discarded as food waste.
2. Boil the peels in a large jar of water and a spoon of soda.
3. Grind them in a mixer under the supervision of an adult.
4. Drain the paper.
5. Dry it under the sun or on a flat surface.

Your natural paper is now easy to use. Adjust the quantity of peels according to the thickness of the paper you want.

The Third Gender - Deviant or Closer To Indian Culture?

Bhoomi Mishra is an avid reader, interested in gender, culture, education and media. During her tenure with **YouthConnect** as an intern, she shed light onto the challenges that the third gender face in the country.

September 6, 2018 marked the amendment of section 377 that criminalized homosexuality in our country. But does that change anything? Isn't the third gender still looked down on, in our country? The question to wonder about is that has this all been the same or have things changed for better or worse. And is it really against our culture and values, as people claim it to be?

The rich history of our country provides many clues to the present - Hindu relics have always spoken of the third gender. It is said that when Lord Ram left for his exile, the whole kingdom wept behind him and he said, "Men and women, don't cry and go back". Fourteen years later when he returned, some people were still waiting for him at the gates of Ayodhya because they were neither men nor women.

In same literary work, Lord Ram quoted, "Purush napunsak nari va jiv charachar koi, sarva bhav bhaja kapat taji mohi param priya soi" which means 'Men, queerfolk, women, even plants and animals, free of meanness, full of devotion are dear to me', this led to the equation of Lord Ram's reign to equality and inclusion.

Not only that, the Mahabharata, one of the great Indian epic stories, also has a brief reference to the third gender. When Arjuna was cursed by Urvashi, he hid in the women's quarters in the palace of Virata, king of Matsya, as a eunuch-dancer. He occupies the role traditionally given to hijras. Even in the Mughal era, humans of the third gender acquired great court and administrative positions.

But looking at the current scenario, not only before the amendment of Section 377, but even after that, hardly anything has changed in society despite the



they were so well-respected in the ancient times? It is believed that this started when India was colonized by the British. They imposed moral laws banning anything that was deemed impure in their culture. This led to the creation of Section 377 that made anything illegal that was against the "order of nature".

The Western culture's heavy reliance on their predominant religion Christianity, imposes the natural order for a man and woman to be together. This mono-culture was not present in Indian culture before they arrived with their moral standards. And ever since the concept has gotten a hold in the Indian society, it is not just their status that has downgraded, but they have been denied respect and opportunities which has led to the socioeconomic and medical barriers they face.

The stigma has become the root cause for them being a marginalized community. They are denied educational opportunities, jobs, and discriminated against in every area of their lives. Even with countless campaigns and protests, a major portion of Indian citizens stand against them. The battle is not just inside the courtroom, but also inside drawing rooms and classrooms.

It is not easy to come out and unlearn the taboo overnight. It is not easy to come out even after being blessed with supportive friends and family. It is not easy to come out and suddenly live with the fact that you felt ashamed of yourself at first - but one day the world is going to change for the better. One day, everyone will be respected regardless of who they identify themselves as, or whom they choose to love. As for the rest of us - let's try to make them feel belonged, loved and respected.

"THE BATTLE IS NOT JUST INSIDE THE COURTROOM, BUT ALSO INSIDE DRAWING ROOMS AND CLASSROOMS."

judiciary formally accepting them. Do we even have an idea how many kids are afraid to come out and live in their own true identity and form, because of the fear of being secluded, alienated, disdained by not just society but their own family and friends?

The question to ponder about then is, how have they been subjected to such hate and discrimination when

Your Space

You create, we publish!

Caste System: The Curse of India

Let me tell you about the greatest curse of the Indian civilization - the caste system. The term, 'caste' is used to describe the complex system of social divisions that pervades in India. This caste system finds its origin from the arrival of 'Aryans' who arrived India in 1500 BC.

In India, these castes are also known as 'Varnas':

1). Bhramin - priests and scholars [high caste] 2). Kshatriya - warriors and kings [high caste] 3). Vaishya - merchants and landowners [high caste] 4). Shudra - commoners, peasants and servants [low caste] 5). Dalits - untouchables, latrine cleaners, etc [low cast] I firmly believe that a person shouldn't be recognized by his caste, but by his deeds. 'Insaan Ki Pehechaan Uske Dharm Se Nahi, Uske Karm Se Hoti Hai'

Today also, in many parts of India, the lower caste is being criticized and insulted and if anyone raises his or her voice against these cruel actions, that person has to bare the brunt of his or her deeds. Its high time that we should change our way of thinking and treat everyone in the same way. There are many people in across the country who just sit back and criticize the wrong actions but don't want to make an endeavor to make a change. I have read somewhere, 'Be The Change That You Wish To See In The World'.

Caste System is indeed a curse and now its time to do something and for this, for this we have to understand about the problems facing by the people who have become a pray of this evil system. And for we need to swim in the same waters that have drowned these people in order to understand their problems.

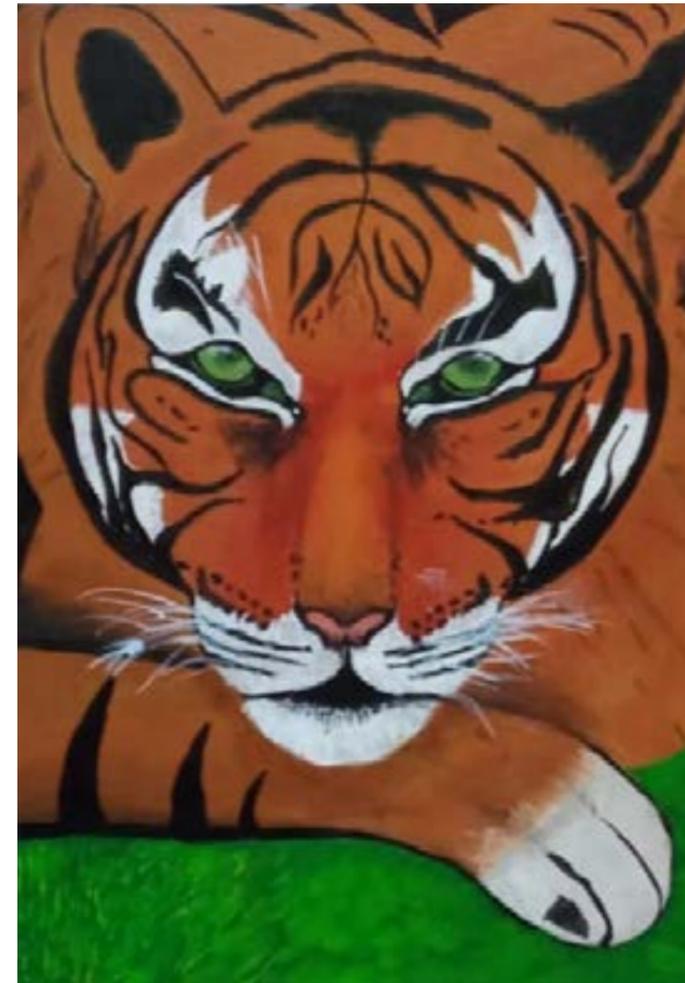
Ayushi Singh

15 years, Utpal Shanghvi School
Mumbai, Maharashtra

'King Of The Jungle... And Home!'

Mrudula Nagasampige

13 years
Madhav Kripa School,
Manipal, Karnataka



May I Please Start Again?

I began telling her of my love for her,
Love, as passionate as the rain.
And halfway through my speech
I wondered,
"May I please start again?"

I held my child in my arms one day,
The other, he was a grown man.
Tears welled in my eyes that day,
"May I please start again?"

I remembered the memories
of childhood,
The playground and the clay,
I laughed off the first grey hair
but my heart asked,
"May I please start again?"

My entire journey flashed in my mind,
Some synonyms, antonyms
and of course life!
Succumbing to death's embrace,
I asked her,
"May I please start again?"

Heer Nimavat

17 years, Anand Niketan, Satellite
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

'Lost' and 'Third dream'

Hala Yehia

24 years,
University of Damascus
Selemieh, Syria



Rainbow Coloured Wounds

*Held back by the shackles of society,
His love was masked with depression and anxiety.
From hidden glances to subtle affection,
His love was pure but worth correction.
For love like this was utterly forbidden,
A love like this must stay hidden!*

*Disapproving eyes and a judgemental gaze,
"You're not IN love, it's JUST a phase."
They'd hear bitter words and cheeky conversations,
But the bitterness would fade as if lost in
translation. The shackles held tight but their
love was profound, By a fierce passion, the two
were sealed and bound.*

*I'd always wonder why in a country so "progressive",
The laws are so broken and the thinking, oppressive.
It baffles me I say, you say it baffles you too,
How love is love, but with an exception-
or a few. How a girl can cross a street holding
hands with a boy, But gazes are drawn
when two boys are being coy.*

*When it comes to drugs and war and rape,
Laws and policies begin to shape.
But a human right taken away so coldly,
How can a country work so weakly yet boldly?
Where equality is concerned something's terribly
missing, This pledge for equality is not
worth dismissing.*

*Why did we let ourselves be taught,
Who to love and who to not.
Love is an experience and a human right,
Not a lifelong battle you live to fight.
People are people despite their parts,*

What truly matters is the love in our hearts.

Samira Bhayana

17 years, The Shri Ram School, Mousari
Gurgaon

The Butterfly Effect

By Jui Khatal



Aditi Saxena



Aashutosh Ingle



Hasmitha Mahadasyam

Aditi Saxena, 21, Aashutosh Ingle, 22 and Hasmitha Mahadasyam, 22 are not your average Joe's when it comes to pledging their stance against the destruction of nature. They initiated their passion for the environment through a fun, interactive platform. *Khakhed* is a Hindi slang word for mischief; the pet name give to Saxena and Ingle by their mothers. "Our mothers used to call our mischievous innocent acts "khakhedi," and from a very young age this gave rise to an entertaining world-changing idea. During the pandemic, the three college students encourage their guests to introduce arising environmental problems and their sustainable solutions.

Like all environmental passionates, they had their own epiphanous moments where they realized about the dire straits nature was in; while Saxena saw a beautiful sunset on a rainy day on her way to Pune, Ingle saw precious food being wasted and littered, and Mahadasyam witnessed the pollution made by hazardous firecrackers.

The most important thing was that they found unity in the ecosystem. At first, Saxena started writing articles to spread awareness. Later, she shared the idea with Ingle on a casual college day. After that, their podcast 'Khakhed' was

born, where Mahadasyam also joined in! The podcast discussed trivial things that can make your life better, cleaner, and more sustainable, along with relatable and interactive elements like memes.

With the help of zoologists, biologists, vets, and many other professions who contribute to the well-being of the planet, they often discuss ideas of making life more meaningful emotionally. Their podcast revolves around two theories: alternate life choices and the butterfly effect. In simple words, it encourages individual action and society helping in their small ways for a bigger change in the ecosystem. They believe in change. "The world can fix itself. It has been here before us, and it will remain after us," says Ingle. "We just have to let it be; without scraping off its healing process," chimes in Saxena.

Having ranked number two all over India on the Apple Music podcasts, and number sixteen in the United Kingdom, and thirtieth in Canada, the small *Khakhed* community is racing towards its success.

There are several events planned for the future; collaborations with marine

biologists, and several projects for the environmental community as a whole. Planning to take the initiative further, the *Khakhed* family is excited about their little victories on the way. In 2021, they were ranked in the top 20 wildlife podcasts by the WELP magazine. Their fresh take on making the youth aware about serious environmental issues, along with the right knowledge and inspiration, make learning sustainable habits easy.

From recycling properly to gardening, they promote zero waste action. "Our plans for the future are to partner with small businesses which are zero-waste to add value to things made by local producers," says the team.

Their parting words are, "The environment is something we all need to protect as a collective effort. World leaders can only make a change to a certain extent. After a point, it all depends on us. Let's all help the youth leaders who are trying to mend the mistakes of the system. Instead of adding impediments, let us help them with their passions. Hopefully, with the help of youth and great initiatives, we, together, can advance towards a healthy environment and society."

**"The world
can fix itself.
It has been here
before us, and
it will remain
after us."**

OUR MONTH'S PICK

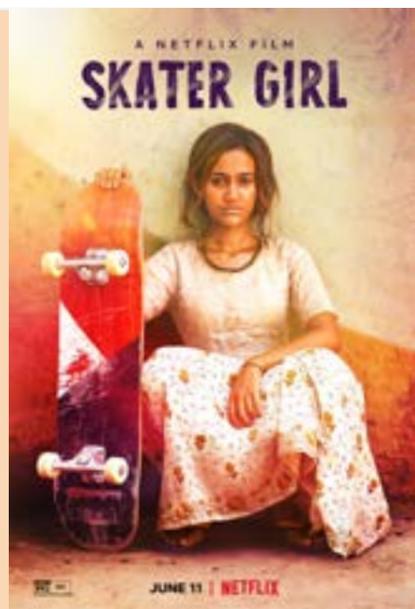
Avaneesh Raghavesh, a student of animation at Manipal Institute of Communication, MAHE, writes about *Skater Girl* by Manjari Makijany and Vanati Makijany.

Skater Girl is a coming-of-age Indo-American drama that stars Rachel Sanchita Gupta as Prerna, and Amrit Meghera as Jessica. The film was released on Netflix earlier this year. This coming-of-age film follows the intertwined perspectives of the two main characters, Prerna and Jessica. The contrasts on their characters give rise to several important elements in the film.

This film follows a premise of 'Perseverance, Courage and dedication leads to success,' and starts with showing us the life of Prerna, ridden with the struggles of caste and poverty. We are then introduced to Jessica, who learnt recently that this was the birthplace of her deceased father.

During her visit, Jessica is fascinated by the homemade and rustic yet useful inventions of the kids - one of which resembles a skateboard, she gifts the children real skateboards. For Prerna, this becomes a mode by which she can escape reality and feel freedom and joy. With this new introduction of skateboards in town, the lives and ways of the village are often disturbed, making them ban skateboarding.

Jessica then ventures out to make Rajasthan's biggest skatepark, aided



by the Maharani. In a foreseen and rather predictable set of events, she sets up a skating tournament along with a local politician. In this third act of the film, we see Prerna being married off by her father. But the runaway bride skates her way to victory during the tournament. Prerna's parents have a change of heart and understand her passion.

What's fascinating is that the production of the film took place in a village called Khempur, in Rajasthan and the production team-built the state's first and India's largest skatepark, as the central set of the film. The park still remains for the public to enjoy.

GIGGLES

1.
Q. Why can't you trust an atom?
Because they make up everything!

2.
Q. How did the hipster burn his tongue?
He bit into his pizza before it was cool.

3.
Q. What's a ninja's favourite kind of shoes?
Sneakers

MEME OF THE MONTH

Lionel Messi, the celebrated Argentinian footballer recently left FC Barcelona after the club could no longer afford the player's contract. Messi was seen announcing the news teary eyed, to the press. The sudden news affected fans around the world, and not long after, netizens around the globe started an online storm of Messi memes.



VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA



1. Several news media outlets and celebrities were trolled by netizens online after they shared pictures and news articles of **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu's** winning moment, but presented images of Indonesian weightlifter Windy Cantika Aisah's images. Some Northeastern activist groups have termed the act as racist and ignorant, despite their public apologies.

2. Social media platform **Clubhouse** is now open to all for use. User will not require an invite or be placed on a waitlist to join discussions! Similarly, Facebook now offers users an audio experience along with posts - now you can record your voice and interact with your online friends!



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