

## **An Open Letter to the Youth of India**

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Young Minds,

You are young in age, but not in your thoughts – you think fresh, you put those thoughts into actions, you translate those actions into successes; but more often you don't get the fruits of those success as your senior takes away your hard earned success and claims it to be his own. So is also the state of Indian politics, where all activism is done by the youth, all social works are done by the youth, all the pains of doing ground level hard work for the political parties are done by the youth and yet when it is time for the youth to represent the leadership of the party, we see that the party leaders (who are mostly aged) do not want to share their position of power with the youth in the name of youth being impulsive and inexperienced. This is an open letter written to the youth of India to express some of my views as the founder member as well as National President of Youth Party India.

Yes, I have a political motif to write this letter. I am a social worker and a political activist who dreams that the youth of India be given the prominent space in the helm of political affairs of the nation. We can do it only if we get into the electoral process, but are there any political parties in India which allow the young minds to enter the election if he or she is not the son or daughter of an established political leader or an actor or an industrialist?

Can you name a young leader from the present political leadership of India who does not belong to a political family? Young leaders from political family join politics as it is a business for them. They do not want others to enter the coveted space of political leadership as they think they might lose their political grounds. So the common youth like us are left to carry their political flags, march behind them and do all the hard work for the party and to merely obey the dictates of these leaders who think that they are feudal lords and the young people like us are their slaves. Since independence, this is the way things are carrying on where we youth are made to do all the work and yet we are the ones who are most neglected. We carry on working as slaves to the political leaders and they enjoy the fruits which essentially are result of our hard work and political acumen.

Do you want to remain forever a slave to the present political leadership? Do you feel that this leadership will let you grow up to attain any position of power? Do you think you can be a part of the decision making authority of the nation? Will you be able to contest and win elections from these political parties to be in the State Assemblies or in the Parliament? Do you think the present political leadership will make you significant ministries even if you win election by your own charisma? These are some of the questions which you need to ponder on. Probably many such questions have come to your mind often and you just swept them aside as you wanted to remain a *bhakt* or a *chamcha* to your leader.

The answers to the questions stated above or the questions which probably had come to your mind often is a simple “NO, They won’t.” The established leadership, especially the aged ones, will not leave their power, privilege and position – they will not accept you, they will not invite you to their group, they will not let you in to the corridors of power. They will be an impediment to all your efforts to break in into the leadership stage even though you may have all the potential to be so. They will tell you that time will also come for you – that you need to wait for the right moment and then it is your turn. They will tell you that if you carry on being obedient to their whims and wishes then one day you will get the coveted position, though it may never arrive in your life time.

Therefore, there was a need to make a political outfit which will keep the interests of the youth in mind and give them a necessary platform so as to showcase their talent, their leadership skills, their political acumen, their social activism, their intellect, their social mobilization skills as well as their personalities. I am not saying that you do not get the chance to showcase these in your career or job. You probably do. But are your voices heard by the nation? Are you listened to by the government? Are you made a part of the electoral process as the leaders to represent your area in the State Assemblies or Parliament? It is therefore necessary that we think out of the box and made necessary changes in our mindset and become conscious of our political life and be part of the politics.

From our childhood, it has been told to us by our parents and well wishers that we need to stay away from politics and be focused on our education and then our career so as to earn enough money for ourselves and our families. We are being told that politics is an arena of ‘gunda-badmaas’ or that of the political families and therefore as common people we should keep ourselves far from it. Often the question is put to us in different forms – whether students should be part of politics; and many scholars have given their opinion about it. One fails to understand that politics is not merely what happens in the

corridor of powers, but it is manifest in our lives in every day as every decision of the political leaders affects our lives. It is therefore necessary that the young people are made aware of the world of politics early in life and they should join politics to clean the system as well as to bring freshness of spirit and thought to the present political scenario. If politics is about 'gunda- badmass' or of political families, it is because we have let it to be so. We need to break that nexus and make our presence felt. We need to take the right initiatives into the political arena and then only change will occur.

No one is going to change your life, if you yourself do not make the efforts. Similarly no political leadership is going to make you have your due till you yourself make efforts to get things for yourself. Rights are there, but to enjoy the rights you need to seek them. You have the political right to become the part of the election process as you attain the age of voting; but you should also be aware that it is not being voters that you can change much; you need to be elected to the State Assemblies and Parliament to get your voice noted and emerge as a true leader for your people.

Youth Party India is inviting all young people across the nation to come to join the political bandwagon of the youth leadership so that we can make the changes that is required to make our nation stronger as it has never been. Youth Party India is providing you with the platform – the necessary support and infrastructure as well as all possible help to be the part of this social and political revolution of the youth to transform India. We believe that the Indian nation comes before our individual will and therefore for the sake of India and its sustainable progress and development we encourage all young minds to come forward and be part of the progress we are making for the national interest.

It is not that only young minds can do everything. We also need the experienced people for our Party. We also invite them to come and join us in our efforts. The experienced people can be our guide (*marga-darshak / path-pradarhsak*). It is not that we do not value our fathers and fore fathers, it is not that we do not value our elder generation. We do worship them with all our respect; we value their contribution in our lives. We know that it is because of our parents that we have reached where we have. They have given up many of their hopes and desires so as to make us reach where we are and still continue to suffer for the sake of our happiness, welfare and progress. In Youth Party India, we will similarly have our experienced people at the helm of our think tank as they can be given proper guidance so that we are always right and ethical in what we are doing and will do. Therefore it is also a call to all people to come and join us – youths as our future leaders and the experienced ones as part of our think tank.

The youth should know that great Indian stalwarts like Swami Vivekananda, Bhagat Singh, Chandra Sekhar Azad have achieved much at a young age as they had the courage, the determination as well as the enthusiasm and intellect to transform India. We have such great souls to emulate and we seek our inspiration from these world leaders who through their efforts have proven to the world that Indian youth can do wonders if they determine themselves to succeed. Following and worshipping these leaders will not only be our guiding principle; but we will make ourselves equipped enough to take on the challenges of the newer world – the globalized world and will innovate ways together so as to face any challenges that comes to our success in leadership.

We will not be bosses to command and we will not expect slaves to be at our feet to work for us; but we will be true leaders who will work together to attain progress for *Hindustan* and will make sure that we reach to each and every section and corner of India so as to make our presence felt in the national politics. We, the youth, by the grace of God and by the blessings of our elders who we invite to be in our think tank, will try and negotiate with all challenges and overcome them to be part of the coming elections and make a mark in the future of our nation.

India is at a juncture when Indian youth can dream big and achieve those dreams for sure. They need a platform. I, Deepak Sharma, the National President of Youth Party India want you to occupy the platform. We together can achieve many things – we together can change the course of India – we together can mould India's future. I once again urge all youths of India to come forward and join the revolutionary process that we have already initiated. We want you to come and realize your potential as a true political and social leader of India and rise and shine. Your rise will be the true rise of India.

Wishing you all success in the world of politics and transforming India through your political will.

Come forward and be a part of your journey to the world of power and prestige.

Deepak Sharma.