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MODERN YOUTH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY: NEW OPPORTUNITIES, NEW PROBLEMS

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Change can be defined as the act of making something different, to do that which is unusual and deviate from the norm. Change is a commonly occurring phenomenon that somehow despite of its frequency; individuals always struggle to adjust to it.

Change exposes our minds to endless opportunities that lie before us; it challenges our capabilities and trains us to achieve better things in our lives. With change comes a new line of thinking (perspective) and very often conflicts on whether to allow it to adjust our lives or continue with what we are comfortable with.

With the continuous rise of advancements in science and technology modern day living has vastly changed from when it was a

century ago; let alone ten years ago. Daily living seems to be getting easier day by day and everything is more accessible yet for the 21st century youth it's all a new challenge and has its own challenges that older societies cannot begin to comprehend.

Since the beginning of time the 21st century is the clearly one in which young people are the most involved in businesses, in administration, are highly educated and know almost everything about and anything. The century is characterized by:

- high technological advancements;
- easy global communication;
- implementation of inclusive rights;
- early age of independence of young people.

The down sides of the century mainly being long hours of labor for the working class minorities; economic decline of many countries, morality decline in communities and people always looking for ways to isolate themselves from the rest of the populations to acquire wealth.

With all this, young people of today have a hard time finding their place of belonging in the world; unlike the previous centuries, they simply cannot follow what their parents' careers or just remain at home and look after the household, they recognize now more than ever that they too are individuals with opinions and need to live their lives the way they think is best and makes them happy.

Some of the problems they encounter are as a result of the following reasons: culture; generational gap; broken family background; drug and alcohol abuse; the struggle to fit in; poor choices.

In many societies, culture is what defines people; it controls how people interact with each other, how they solve conflicts and how they live on a day to day basis. While they still do the same roles today, with the ever evolving world in both science and technology, many of the rules are not applicable in young people of today. For an example in many African societies a young lady can only leave her parents' when she gets married; however in the world of today, man children study abroad meaning they leave the nest early.

Negligent to the fact that the world is in era both socially and economically, many they still expect their young people to follow the old way of living which seems to “old fashioned” to the young people.

Others feel that their cultures hold them back from achieving their dreams, particularly those in societies where women do not play a huge role in the administrative sector of the community; where child marriages are still practiced. Many are left to lead unhappy lives only wishing that they had been born into a different world and some even running away in search of better living conditions.

Attributed to culture as well is the struggle to break family norms i.e if a person came from a family which is of a particular caliber it becomes difficult for the individual to venture out and do something

different. Their lack of skill, knowledge and guidance in the field they want to go to puts them at a point of disadvantage. In addition to that, the high levels of corruption in many places makes those who do not have money to bribe or do not know someone on the inside, not able get into schools, get a job, etc.

Each generation/ century is characterized by different kinds of events and developments that occurred. This has a great influence on people's perspective of the same thing and even more if they were born in different eras. It is the main reason why young people and older adults are always in conflict, not necessarily meaning that either party is wrong but different circumstances have influenced their views.

Young people are often rejected from many spheres with older adults not only because of their difference in opinion but also their innovative ideas hence older people feel challenged. Others are simply unwilling to accept change and want things to remain they are, it is what they know and are comfortable with. They think that by allowing the young people's ideas go forth they will lose their spot and end up at the bottom.

Parents sometimes have unfair expectations for their children, that since life is easier now, they should achieve more. This pronounced in choices of career and marriage partners, yet in as much as parents are the primary counselors and mentors of their children, they should not be in a position to make the decisions for him/her as an adult. Young people have

their own dreams and goals that they want to accomplish and must be given the opportunity to do so.

Apart from the family set up, societies have not yet evolved into a world which caters for the every individual both young and old. Young people still find it hard to get jobs on the market because of lack of experience even though they have good grades. Governments are not inclusive of young people which influences a one sided direction of choices being made

Studies have shown that most children who come from a home which is unstable tend to perform lower than those who have stable support system. It also not difficult to understand that family is the most influential in building up a person's life. With the high divorce rates, families are torn apart and children are left in the middle not knowing on whose side they should stand on. As young adult, they fear marriage because of their family history or go with grudges against parent because of the difficulties thy faced.

Members of the family often fail to give each other the necessary attention they need creating poor family bonds which also influences the choices they make. Some will venture into drugs and alcohol abuse, crime and robbery and for the most of the population- bury themselves in activities that consume family time like social media, their jobs etc.

I an attempt to restore or build up family structures, as young adults they try very hard to be perfect in order to impress their parents in both school and work. Sometimes they may make decisions that are not in line

with what they want but because it is what will make their family members happy and satisfied in them. This has a great toll in their own their own health and social life as they have little time to themselves.

As result of the challenges that are mentioned, it is not surprising to see manifestation of these problems as consequences:

- alcohol and drug abuse;
- teenage pregnancies;
- high crime rates due to unemployment;
- suicide;
- stress related diseases;
- poor decision making.

Solutions:

- spending time with young people;
- engaging in activities which bridge up the generational gap;
- creating more job opportunities;
- providing centers of guidance and counseling;
- allowing room for change in individuals;
- promoting healthy life choices;
- learning to balance work and pleasure;
- abuse of social media.