Year 1 AC (After Coronavirus)
Pan India Online Essay Contest 2020

Essay Topic: What will be the role of young people in addressing the crisis caused by the pandemic and related issues, such as new balances in power, raising inequalities and reduced employment opportunities?

“It is not possible for civilization to flow backwards, while there is youth in the world”.

Helen Keller

Today, a virus has spread turmoil in the world.

It has made us realize how shallow the materialistic pleasures are in life and preeminent, the life itself. Before this, people in the world believed that the cardinal was the jobs they were doing, the places visited, the cars owned or the clothes worn. Most of all, the younger generations fall in this trap of creating a virtual reality for themselves while there is a war going on in the world, there is a sudden spur of radical nationalism in the country, or the forests are on fire. All that matters to most of the youth is the social life they are maintaining. Even after all of this, one cannot deny that young people are the drivers of change. They are the ones who shape the future. Time and again, it has been proven that whenever the world was in shackles, youth used to come forward, took charge and changed the course of history. Be it Malala Yousafzai, who took a bullet through her head to fight for educating women in Pakistan, and become an inspiration for millions of women around the globe who were denied their rights. Mark Zuckerberg, who established that it is not necessary to be 50 to build something as huge as Facebook or, be it someone as young as Greta Thunberg who protested in front of the Swedish Parliament building, giving rise to worldwide concentration on environmental issues like Global Warming.

Who would have thought that a mutant virus could crash the world economies and result in all people being locked up inside their homes? Yet, here we are, in this situation. It is time for young people to come forward and take charge. It is necessary to understand here that the enemy is invisible, it cannot be fought and it cannot be tamed. So how do we fight with an enemy like that? The answer is simple: by being prepared, by being sensitive, by becoming aware. The youth needs to focus on things that they were already doing before the
pandemic and how they can improve in their jobs to help the world regain what it has lost. Once normalcy is established, the world is going to face another crisis, which is going to be as challenging as this one if not more. A crisis wherein we face a lack of resources like decreasing groundwater levels, as well as a fall in economy like stock markets crashing, small businesses being vulnerable and high rise in unemployment rates. According to a study by the ILO, almost 25 million jobs could be lost due to COVID-19. As the youth is the biggest part of our workforce, everyone doing their part with utmost honesty and with a view of catering to others is going to be of utmost help in a situation like this.

Everyday life has been disturbed because of COVID-19 and the whole world is at a halt. When we look at the present situation, every person is confined to their own homes. The billions of dollars that we have invested in real estate are of no use at this time because we spent money on building fancy facades, ornate landscapes, tall structures, and posh amenities, but all we are doing now is staying indoors, and our houses are not efficient enough. Architects and builders have left us with inflexible spaces; our houses are neither well ventilated nor well lit with natural lighting. We are confined within compact and non-workable spaces. Had the designers paid more attention to these things, we would have had some comfort, workability and exposure to the outer world while staying inside. This is just one example of how we have failed as professionals in doing our jobs.

We need designers, professionals, business people and workers who bring a creative approach in doing traditional work and this responsibility lies on the shoulders of the youth. We cannot dismiss the consequences of this pandemic. Hence, if each young person focuses on working with more empathy and dedication in their work, the world will soon be able to recover from the inevitable losses that it is going to bear.