

# EMERGING PROBLEMS OF YOUTH

## Lecture 6

- India, one of the youngest countries in the world, where youth accounted for 20% of the total population in 2011, according to the Registrar General of India. However, youth unemployment remains high in India.



## ROLE AND VALUE CONFLICTS

- In such a society, where the youth came from various strata of the society, with diverse cultures, religions, economic status, language and life styles, the youth experience difficulty in adaptation to the changing roles and value systems.
- This results in alienation, withdrawal, interpersonal relationship difficulties, depression and even suicidal behaviours.
- The problem gets aggravated when the parents come from different religions and cultures and expect their children to be mature and develop their own value systems and roles without appropriately guiding them



## PRESSURES FOR PERFORMANCE IN COLLEGES

- The parents, make higher demands on their children to study hard and get good marks or ranks.
- The admission fees at various levels, both in public and private institutions have increased considerably which makes a heavy economic burden to the parents. Having made such payments, the parents create guilt feelings in the children as "bad boys", "bad girls", and, "irresponsible children".
- Such demands from the parents and the society serve as stresses upon the youth



## CAREER DECISION AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- The inflation rate is also increasing. To cope up with the economic demands of life, the youth experience a conflict between economic survival in a competitive society in regard to the pursuit of inner human interests and services to the society
- Hypertension, cardiac problems, psychoneurosis, depression, suicide are rising among youth as also other behaviours including joining anti-social groups such as terrorists, naxalites etc. Alcoholism, drug addiction, smoking, and rash driving behaviours have increased. These behaviours are to take revenge against the society which has made the youth develop low self esteem due to unemployment or not being able to be a productive member of the society.



## EMOTIONAL AND INTIMACY ADJUSTMENT

- The sexual drive is highest at this time of life, which the youth need to be able to control and sublimate through socially approvable behaviours.
- This is a period where right interaction with the opposite sex is learned. It has been estimated that reproductive health problems are steeply rising - teenage marriage and pregnancy, teenage pregnancy outside marriage, sexually transmitted diseases
- (2/3rd of STD problem is estimated to be affecting the youth); AIDS is reported to be a critical problem among the youth in major metropolitan cities and drug addicts; high rates of anaemia in female adolescents after menarche. Accidents are also steeply rising
- Smoking, alcohol and drug abuse



## COPING WITH PRESSURES OF LIVING

- The youth today is face with much greater pressures of coping with living as compared with their parents. In most cases they have to move away from their parents to urban cities, some of them even settling in foreign countries. Housing, transport, medical services, number of children, care of the children, education of the children are some of the issues facing the youth before marriage. Lack of social/ familial support and guidance lays great personal responsibility on the youth to evolve their own life styles to successfully adapt to the society, keeping in view the social and family norms and expectations. Many a youth do not wish to conform to the social and familial norms and they wish to live in the society with unconventional value systems

## PRESSURES OF DOWRY

- Many young girls feel that they are an economic burden on parents and commit suicide. The girls are also exploited by the in-laws to ask for continuing favours from their parents. This results in emotional conflict and psychiatric problems in the female youth.





## GAMBLING

- Risking something of value when an element of chance is associated with the outcome.
- 4-6% of adolescents presently exhibit a serious gambling problem
- Adolescent prevalence rates of pathological gamblers are 2-4 times that of adults
- Entertainment
- Excitement
- Escape
- Economics
- Ego



## Unequal gender norms

- Even among young adolescents: “It is more important for boys to be educated” because boys have to do a job and girls don’t have to do so... Girls will go to their in-laws one day but boys will be here forever....Boys can serve the parents when they grow ill...They can support them...They will get money for them...Girls can’t (13-14 year old boys)



- Fear of failure
- social rejection
- bodily sickness
- bullying or abuse
- childhood memories
- thoughts of a better life
- separation with family
- worries about the future




- alcohol/substance/drug abuse
- pointless work done
- teasing or low self opinion because of body, accent, clothing
- imperfection of the work as a whole, as in negative comments from family, friends or peers



## DATING VIOLENCE

THE PERPETRATION OR THREAT OF AN ACT OF VIOLENCE BY AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF AN UNMARRIED COUPLE ON THE OTHER MEMBER WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF DATING. THIS VIOLENCE ENCOMPASSES ANY FORM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, AND VERBAL OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE.



# DATING VIOLENCE

- Estimated prevalence of nonsexual dating violence:
  - 22% among male & female h.s. students
  - 32% among college students
- females more likely victims
- 80-90% of rapes on college campuses committed by someone victim knows
- characteristics of perpetrators: sexually aggressive male peers, heavy alcohol or drug use, dating violence normative, traditional sex roles, rape myths, family history of observing or experiencing abuse

