**Free Speech should have limitations**

Several times in a classroom. I have seen students picking on someone. When someone tells them that what they are doing is rude, they generally reply saying, “I can say whatever I want. Freedom of speech protects me!”. Just because a person has the right to speak does not mean they have the right to use that power to hurt others. Undoubtedly, free speech enables people to speak openly, express diverse opinions, and exchange valuable insights, which are crucial for a democratic society, but freedom of expression should have limitations as it could hurt people and negatively impact the morals of society.

First, freedom of expression, when used carelessly, hurts people. Words have the power to build or to destroy. It depends on the speaker, how he uses his words. There are several examples of misuse of this basic right of free speech. For instance, Islamophobes use this right to spread their blasphemies, which hurts Muslims all over the world. Because of those hateful speeches, there is a disturbance and environment of violence in society. It is not just Muslims who suffer. Every community targeted by hate speech, be it based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other arbitrary line drawn in the sand, feels the sting of this misuse of free speech. It is a slow, insidious erosion of their humanity, their right to walk through the world with their heads held high, their spirits unbowed.

Another reason why freedom of expression should have limitations is its potential to damage the moral fabric of society. When free speech is used to propagate misinformation or morally reprehensible ideologies, it conservatively damages the moral compass of society. Lies that are mistaken for the truth have the power to distort our understanding of reality and sow conflict and mistrust. Hateful beliefs can mainstream racism and prejudice while posing as acceptable discourse, undermining the fundamental principles of empathy and compassion that unite us. Morality becomes flexible in such an environment, where words are altered to suit malicious purposes, and it changes step by step with the influence of the most powerful and misleading voices.

While the right to free speech grants the opportunity to articulate their views. The free flow of ideas allows diverse voices to be heard, marginalized perspectives to gain traction, and truth to emerge through vigorous debate. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that unfettered free speech can also lead to harmful consequences, including the spread of misinformation, incitement to violence, and the erosion of respect and tolerance. Therefore, it is crucial to acknowledge these potential harms and find ways to balance the protection of free expression with the safeguarding of individual rights and societal well-being. Only through careful consideration and responsible implementation, we can ensure that free speech serves as a force for progress and unity rather than a catalyst for division and harm.

To sum up, Free speech should have limitations as it has the potential to cause social, cultural, and religious harm, and can have a detrimental effect on the moral fabric of the society. Societies must strike a balance between protecting the freedom to express oneself and safeguarding the rights and well-being of individuals and communities.