**“There are too many people under the age of 18 driving cars and motor-cycles in India today. They are making our roads unsafe not only for themselves but also for the general public.” Bring out points and highlight the seriousness of the issue and suggest measures for the same.**

**The Youth Offence**

**(NAVYA GANATRA 9th JK2)**

The trending-fad now-a-days, under-age driving has had a terrified effect in all possible ways on the lives of people. In the zeal, warmth and excitement of driving cars or riding bikes in their adolescence, the young blood cares for no one – neither himself nor the general public.

No matter what, one must and has to follow the law of the land, however irrational it may be. The Indian Constitution does not permit children under the age of eighteen to drive independently. The same age restrictions are applicable for voting. But no one has ever tried to disagree that under-age driving is their unreasonable want and not their need. It is a law and it must be followed blindly by all.

This really is a matter of concern, the consequences of which are devastating. The young generation has warm blood that can be easily incited or influenced. This leads top rash driving which sometimes cannot be handled by them. All in all underage driving causes a tragic loss of life and threatens road safety. It may not always be their fault, but they lack the maturity, self-confidence and state of mind to take certain sudden decisions, like applying sudden brakes in uncontrollable situations which may harm them.

Moreover the young generation gets distracted very easily. These children when caught driving without a license are liable to pay heavy fines. One criminal record in their register of life can ruin their future. Inexperience is the reason why these drivers are more likely to underestimate hazardous situations. The high number of underage drivers transgressing the law by going for a joy ride can be attributed to peer pressure and a feeling of youthful invincibility. Somewhere it is also the fault of their careless parents who don’t pay attention to their child’s wants, needs and deeds. They support them in their childish behaviours.

Rash driving, racing late at night on highways, Drunk-driving………. What is all this for? Fun!! Something which can result in ghastly losses like death. Today, all that the newspaper reads is, accidents, drunk-driving, offenders getting younger and a lot more. These youngsters should understand that if they have warm blood, they should show their aptitude and warm blood in the development of the country, and not waste their energy and enthusiasm in under-age driving. As it is rightly said

*‘ When you gamble with safety,  
You bet with your life’*