**“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.**

**Underage Driving**

**(JUHI JHAVERI 9th JK2)**

Contradictory to the broad outlook of some people, laws are NOT meant to be broken. Laws are made by certain governmental bodies for the safety of the general public. Laws are meant to be obeyed fir the security and betterment of the society. No matter how trivial it may feel, this disobedience of the law poses certain harms and threats to the people and oneselves.

There are many responsibilities which come with the privilege of driving a motor vehicle. One of the most important responsibilities of driving is safety. As a driver one is not only responsible for himself and his vehicle, but also for the safety of the passengers riding in the vehicle, fellow drivers and even pedestrians. It is for this very reason that the law prevents underage driving, as in their carelessness and callous attitude, they tend to overlook certain laws and are unable to make rational decisions while driving. The encouragement provided by friends and colleagues rekindles their spirit to believe that breaking the law is acceptable. Additionally, parents who allow their teen children to drive, add to the bravado, with which they flaunt their driving skills on the streets. With this heightened sense of confidence, underage drivers, who have not yet attained that level of responsibility, pose a threat to themselves as well as the public.

Although not all accident s are caused due to underage driving, underage driving does cause some accidents. One of such incidents caused due to rash driving, by one such individual, was in the case of a sixteen year old boy, Jeet, from Thane who, while showing of his brand new Apache motorbike, to his friends, lost control of the vehicle in a crowded street and ended up colliding with an old man. Jeet underwent a knee replacement surgery having experienced serious damage after falling, while the old man having had a history of brain ailments, suffered a serious case of brain hemorrhage. This incident, although a major one, surely impresses a sense of fear in other individuals, who engage in such unlawful practices.

To put a halt to such unfortunate events, serious measures should be undertaken by the traffic police, such as installing cameras in every street to prohibit any drivers without a helmet or without having a seatbelt on, as it is usually underage drivers who prefer not to follow these rules. Also the fine levied on such an occurrence, should be increased so as to instill a feeling of fear in these young minds. Checking licenses should be made mandatory in places with a high occurrence of such events. No licenses should be provided under the pressure o an influential person and strict laws should be followed by all.

It is hence absolutely necessary for such measures to be undertaken to regulate the menace of underage driving.