



The Prophecy

The only people who see the whole picture are the
ones who step out of the frame.

- Salman Rushdie



“Nature has every colour, so play with all colours....”

Gauri Sawant is a transgender activist from Mumbai who is also the director of Sakshi Char Chowghi that helps the transgenders. In 2014, she became the first transgender to file a petition in the Supreme Court of India for adoption rights of transgender people. It was a privilege to have such an inspiring and eminent personality engage in a private discussion with young minds along with her partner, Raj Patel.

On being posed with a plethora of questions, she joyfully responded, eager to respond, she said, “let’s start my exam”.

How did you feel when you underwent transition?

“Oh! Lovely! I felt like a butterfly; complete and sate. I didn’t just eat, I was satisfied with what I ate. My parents weren’t the ones who gave me my true form, I created my own body and that is why I was completely satisfied with myself.”

In your speech at the opening ceremony of JIRS MUN 3.0 today, you mentioned that you were under the care of your guru. What role do Gurus play in the life of a transgender?

“When we leave our homes due to the lack of acceptance in our families, we do not have any place to go. So, we have to go to the other transgenders who accept us and take us in. These transgenders show us the way of living, provide us with food and education, and train us to earn money by giving us *diksha*. Those who do that are our gurus. Gurus play a vital role in our lives and the transgender community runs on this system of *guru* and *chela*. Accepting the LGBT community superficially is not the solution. When these situations are faced by individuals, they tend to turn into hypocrites. The fact

that families deny our personal right is the problem at hand that should be looked into. They say family has four pillars: sister, brother, father and mother, and when this support is not provided to us, it becomes extremely difficult for our survival, but the Gurus offer us the support that we require and provide us a safe roof to be ourselves.”

What moments in your life have touched you?

“I don’t have any answer to that question. I have felt everything in my life just as any other human would. Whether it was the sad and gloomy feelings of being seen differently or the love offered by my better half and the happiness received from my daughters, it is the same feeling that every individual would encounter. The moments that mean the most to me is the time I spend with my daughters. Even when I did the Vicks advertisement, all the people started addressing me as “mother”. I think I had always been a mother to all my *chelas* and my *guru* was always a mother to me, but I am still awestruck that people started referring to me as “Vicks Mother” only after I adopted an orphaned girl whose mother was “heterosexual”. I feel motherhood is not

something confined only to women but a behaviour of trust, care and sacrifice that can be enjoyed by any individual.”

Can mindset be blamed for the wrongs done against the transgenders? What is your opinion regarding the same?

“The society has to be blamed for it. There’s nobody else who is responsible for it. The only way this can be changed is by altering the educational and employment systems and giving us a place among the rest of the populace. I believe that if children are made aware of the transgenders by employing them as their “*ammās*” in the school, they will be educated and will never be frightened by us.

On a concluding note, a wonderful informal discussion left all of us feeling light hearted from a hard day’s work. Before adjourning, she ended with saying “ *Nature has all colours, so play with all colours*”



THE NECROSIS OF A TYRANNICAL MANIFESTATION

'Those who deny freedom and equality to others, deserve it not for themselves. -Abraham Lincoln.' Vikram Chandra Sekhar, reporting from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), under the auspices of Sustainable Development Goal 5, embarks to chronicle the origin and perpetuation of gender stereotypes, and analyses how it has culminated in gender inequality and injustice.

Before delving into this labyrinthine issue, it is imperative to get a degree of lucidity pertaining to certain terms which are inadvertently facile and riddled with intricacies. Firstly, it is imperative to state the contrariety between sex and gender. Sex refers to that facet of a person's identity which is characterised by their outward physical characteristics and reproductive nuances. The misconception that sex is often bound to a dichotomous scale has been blighted by the recognition of a third category of individuals who possess sexual characteristics of the male as well as female sentient body. Gender, on the other hand, is an euphemism for the sex of a human being, often intended to accentuate the social and cultural, as opposed to the biological distinctions between the sexes. Patriarchy, is another such term which essentially asserts that men are superior to women. Feminism, on the other hand, reiterates that beyond the superficial lamina, women and men are equal. Queerness is an almost outright contradiction to these alleged gender stereotypes and questions the very fabric of what constitutes male and female.

A brief clarification with regard to these terms is of utmost importance as the of social stigmatisation and violence that we see in the world today is because of the pre-conceived notions of duality of the sexes.

This is based on the presumption that heterosexuality is the only legitimate form of affection which can persist among rational beings. People fail to realise, much less acknowledge the fact that, amorousness in its various nuances and incarnations cannot be restricted to any single entity's arbitrary biases. Passion and adoration among two individuals is an intimate matter which admonishes unsolicited advice or opinions. India, as an apt example, has been a country which, since the dawn of the Vedic liturgical tradition has accepted and harmonised with the notions of gender fluidity and queerness centuries before the Western world had even attempted to reconcile with these terms. Before the advent of Christianity and Islam, other pre-Abrahamic religions of the earth like the Greek and Roman epics were also adorned with bountiful tales ranging from homosexuality to pansexuality and everything in between. The most intriguing aspect of the human intellect is that, our perception of love and sexuality is so multi-faceted that it is remarkably arduous to make distinct demarcations between its variegated aspects. The spectrum of gender too, is undoubtedly as diverse as the human populace and sexual orientation is an issue which is often discombobulating to the naïve mind.

The crisis of gender inequality and cultural imperialism has arisen primarily due to the tendency to dominate and enforce our will upon another being or collective group. On the outset, this is done without the faintest contemplation regarding how these individuals are sentient, rational beings who have the liberty to pursue their quest without the burden of our judgement. The archaic law which erstwhile criminalised homosexuality in India was a reflection of how the perception of righteousness by the majority culminated in moulding the juggernaut of social opinion eventually compromising the dignity of the minority. This was an apt embodiment of how Anglican catechisation and the preponderance of patriarchy have degenerated social perception to the pits of preposterous delirium. The governmental institutions of our time have been entrusted with the paramount duty of safeguarding our liberties and protecting us from unscrupulous exploitation. If these esteemed bodies themselves degrade to tyrants atop the hill and compel us to exist as mere puppets to their whims and fancies, then what purpose does the sanctified word of democracy serve at all. Thus, the historic ruling which struck down this arbitrary law in India and even the legalisation of analogous same-sex marriages in certain countries enlightens the

masses of how we can push frontiers and not be swept by the capricious currents of social morality. This catalyst of change in social perception and gender stereotypes around the world heralds the end of aggrandised manipulation and serves as a beacon of hope for millions.



HERCULEANS OF THE WORLD

"Love has no labels," Siddhi Agarwal, reporting from Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Council (SOCHUM) talks about putting an end to the violence and discrimination faced by the LGBTQ community.

'Labels', a word commonly used in day to day life but one that we fail to understand the meaning of. It is an influential word that differentiates a lot of people on the basis of gender and society. One community

that is subject to such differentiation is the LGBTQ. This very community suffers from enormous issues in the modern era whereas, was respected and trusted during the medieval era. Every living being on this

Planet deserves a life of dignity and should not be forced to live in secrecy. No one should be forced to suppress their identity because of the society that surrounds them. It is not only society, but also the families of these people that do not accept their identity or their choice of gender.

In today's world, there are numerous incidents of homophobia. Most of the cases lay emphasis on the physical, sexual or mental harassment faced by the members of this community. Many cases around the world highlight the injustice done to this specific community. To prevent injustice, a lot of legal measures have been adopted. However, the question arises: is this measure sufficient? Without making society aware about these situations, crimes against this community will eventually increase. Inhumane treatment meted out to these people should be made punishable. This would enable them to live freely without fear. A change in mindset of people would facilitate this. If people would accept them for who they are, the world would be a better place to live in.

Creating job opportunities for this community would incentivise them to enroll themselves into something constructive like education. It would also allow them

to gain positive recognition and dignity. This would eventually save them from exploitation. It is time to stand up and take initiatives to induce progressive decisions for the betterment of these people.

This community is now forced to get into sexual work because no one accepts them for who they are; as a result of which they are losing their health as well as their dignity. This generation is not doing anything apart from writing about this community but instead, should join hands and try to provide better quality of life to these people. Philanthropic funding projects must be directed towards empowering these individuals by providing for formal education. In accordance with the aforementioned, these people truly prove that they are herculeans of the world by fighting for their rights. They will continue to fight against the injustice done to them and will eventually gain their freedom.

Everyone in the world is entitled to the right to live without any kind of violence and discrimination. Love is one of the most simplest and purest thing in the world and must not be made impure by discrimination. Everyone has the right to make their own choices and be happy in their own way. The

society around doesn't have any right to question their choices and discriminate them on the basis of the choices they make. Let all of the world stand united against all the evils and achieve the goal of humanity.



THE DOWNFALL OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

"At the end of the day, the goals are simple: safety and security.-Jodi Rell." Reporting from the United Nations General Assembly - Disarmament and International Security (UNGA- DISEC), Urvi Jalan talks about the downfall of international security in the Middle East.

The end of Gulf War in 1991 caused political instability in the Middle East while putting security at stake as well. The ongoing Civil War in Syria also contributed to this. It gave an opportunity for the

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) to gain popularity amongst the people and become a powerful terrorist militant group that has seized control of large areas of the Middle East.

Infamous for its brutal violence and murderous assaults on civilians, this self-described caliphate has claimed responsibility for hundreds of terrorist attacks around the world, in addition to destroying priceless monuments, ancient temples and other buildings, and works of art from antiquity.

The roots of ISIS can be traced back to 2004, when the organization known as "al-Qaeda in Iraq." Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was originally part of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda Network, founded this militant group.

The 9/11 attacks and the onset of crisis in Iraq, Iran's consolidation of its political-security role in the Middle East, and its impact upon regional and international security systems has been the focus of international security studies.

Israel is the world's only Jewish state, located just east of the Mediterranean Sea. Palestinians; the Arabs that hail from the land Israel now controls, refer to the territory as Palestine and want to establish a state by that name on all or part of the same land. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is about acquiring territory and controlling it. Though, both Jews and Arab Muslims date their claims to the land back to a

thousand years, the current political conflict began in the early 20th century. An early United Nations plan to give each group part of the land failed, and Israel and the surrounding Arab nations fought several wars over the territory during the period of 1948 to 1967. The primary approach to solving the conflict today is the so-called "two-state solution". The alternative to a two-state solution is a "one-state solution," wherein, all the land becomes either one big Israel or one big Palestine.

The aforementioned capture the reasons for the downfall of the political and social condition in the Middle East. However, the current situation of the Middle East is not very good either. The situation in the Middle East has rarely been as fluid as today and it is challenging to comprehend considering the array of news reports received from the region everyday.

Since early 2011, heads of state of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya have been driven to exile, put behind bars or lynched by a mob. The Yemeni leader was forced to step aside, while the Syrian regime is fighting a desperate battle for bare survival. Other autocrats dread what the future might bring and, of course, foreign powers are closely watching the events.

Even though the current situation is not at its best,

it is still better than what it used to be. Countries in the middle-east have now found their leaders like Iraq's current Prime Minister, Nuri al-Maliki. Many have accomplished a lot since the wars and the terrorism; Israel has accomplished political stability, Turkey has accomplished democratic stability, etc. But still, there are many middle-east countries that are yet to accomplish any stability; be it socially, economically or politically. Lebanon still has a high risk of political and religious violence whereas Iran has tensions with the West.

In the future, any decision made by the Middle-East countries should prioritise the country's safety and security. Some measures should be taken towards peace-making with other countries and the others, with people of their own country. Policies should be implemented to ensure stability in social, political and economic areas. People of the Middle-East countries should be assured of their safety and security. Terrorism should be dealt with strictly.



ORGANISED CRIME IN THE GOLDEN CRESCENT AND GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGIONS

Reporting from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Shrishti Jalan writes about the current scenario of organised crime in the golden crescent and golden triangle regions and suggests remedies for the same.

Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin. For decades, the Golden Triangle, consisting of the mountainous region spanning

Myanmar, Laos and Thailand, and the Golden Crescent, a mountainous area of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan have dominated the global opioid

market. Opioid production in the Golden Crescent has increased tremendously since the 1980s and Afghanistan has emerged as one of the major players in the global market for opium and heroin. Afghan opioids have caused public health crises and has had a destabilizing effect on neighbouring countries. Despite the efforts of both, domestic and foreign counter narcotics agencies, the illicit opioid market continues to flourish in the country. However, regional counter-narcotics agreements have increased in the recent years, presenting a glimmer of hope in the fight against the drug trade.

Supply of the Afghan opioids to neighbouring countries has greatly destabilized the regions. For example, in Iran, health ministry officials claim that the growing drug problem has become a national epidemic with an estimated 2.2 million drug addicts in a country of 80 million.

Under these circumstances, states in Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe have not only strengthened their own domestic counter-narcotics programmes, but have also agreed to increase coordinated regional initiatives to combat drug trade under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Through the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, UNODC

aims to build counter-narcotics capacity of states through various programmes that foster cooperation and information sharing.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons occurs in all parts of the globe but is concentrated in areas afflicted by armed conflict, violence and organized crime, where the demand for illicit weapons is often the highest. The golden crescent and the golden triangle regions are parts of such areas. The ranking of countries like Myanmar and Laos fell in the annual U.S. human trafficking report. Increasing rates of human trafficking are indicators of the decreasing level of socio-economic lives of the citizens.

Human trafficking is done mainly for sexual exploitation, organ selling, forced begging and forced marriages. Trafficking of children by armed groups is done to abduct them and use them as combatants.

In countries like Pakistan, where human trafficking cases have become common headlines in the newspapers, the government is taking steps to reduce the number of women and children being trafficked. The government increased the number of investigations and prosecutions of trafficking groups and individuals.

Measures need to be taken to further prevent the rise of human, drug and arms trafficking in these areas. Governments need to pay special attention towards diminishing the poverty rates and taking strict actions against the traffickers. Spreading awareness about the adverse affects of opioids and warning the citizens about the traffickers can also help to a great extent.

To summarise, organised crimes like drug, arms and human trafficking, and criminal organisations are a result of the continuous violation of human rights which have not received the required amount of attention and have been neglected by the respective governments. These have thus, disturbed the economic and social functioning of the state and its neighbours. With more policies like the UNODC's and by paying more attention towards factors responsible for the flourishing of these trades, future adversities can be avoided.

PRO TIPS FOR NEWBIES

1. Background Guide is the Bible.

The background guide is the most important thing for your MUN. It forms the foundation of the debate. Your background guide contains all the information about the agendas and procedures. If you haven't read it yet, do it now!

2. Wiki is your frenemy

Wikipedia helps you to get your basic knowledge about the agendas and countries but always keep in mind that you can never quote information from it.

3. Like work smart, read smart

Reading can be done in two ways: hard reading and smart reading. One thing you need to keep in mind is, it is smart reading that will chisel out your skills. Reading smart means reading only what's relevant.

4. Use Advanced Search Engines

You are representing your country at a global level and it is better to have as much as knowledge you could get your hands on so you

will never feel like, "What the heck is going on?". All you have to do is check out: top think tanks, google scholar and you can figure the rest out.

5. Research is not all

What's more important is to use your common sense and think on your feet.

6. Start with speaking lil'

Understand what the other delegates and chairs have to say. Slowly, build on your opinions. Back them up with strong evidences and arguments. Observation remains the key.

7. Stick to your foreign policies

You don't want to say something that lands you up in further trouble. So, know your foreign policies and adhere to them.

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