

YOUTH WOKENESS AND THEIR IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

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ABSTRACT

The policies and choices made today will affect climate and sustainability outcomes for the rest of this century and beyond, and young people today have a significant stake in this future. Many young people are voicing their opposition to economic, social, and environmental policies and practices that have contributed to climate change. 14 participants were interviewed about their views relating to environment, activism and sustainability with the help of Google Forms between the ages of 20 to 25, and the data were analysed thematically. A literature review was done to get a deeper understanding of this topic. The results show us how youth are more politically conscious and concerned about climate change and how direct consequences affect their daily lives. We can also see the growth in the popularity of sustainability, social media activism, environmental innovation, waste reduction and local activism among the youth. We understand the relation youth has with the environment, their impact and what they are doing to bring about a change in society. They are tomorrow's future and this is to be an insight for where we are headed in terms of what environmental laws and their future impact will look like, and understand youth wokeness better. But more empirical research is needed to make a conclusive statement about how youth activism translates to legal changes.

Keywords: Activism, Climate Change, Environment, Legal Change, Youth Wokeness.

1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the study is to Find The Impact of Youth Wokeness on Environmental Laws with the hypothesis being that Youth has Positively Impacted the Environment and has brought about Legal Changes.

With the increase in issues relating to the environment the youth has become more vocal about their opinions and politically aware of the situation at hand. Here we look to analyse how this

wokeness has affected legal changes and how it has impacted the environment. With their future being at stake, we see changes in the approach taken by the youth to solve this problem. This movement has moved away from the screens and has been bought down to the streets in form of campaigns, protests, parades and activism, which has led to fundamental and structural change in the system for the better. This makes sense as the environment plays a huge role in our day-to-day lives and the repercussions of ignorance will be huge. 1.5 billion people, 16% of the population of today account for the youth, and they have been at the forefront of this change as their stake is considered to be higher. With the youth being tomorrow's future we need to understand where we are headed in terms of what environmental laws and their impact will look like.

Work by Dalton (2009) and others (e.g. Bennett, 2008) suggest that young people's move toward protest instead of more institutional political activity like voting and working through political parties results from changing dispositions about the meaning of citizenship and/or the unpalatable state of institutional politics. However, alternative explanations—such as the development of so-called movement societies—may also contribute to this shift. At its most general level, movement society theory holds that protests have become a normal part of Western democracies for both youths and adults (Meyer & Tarrow, 1998a; Meyer & Tarrow, 1998b). This “institutionalisation” of protest is observable through several metrics, including the ongoing persistence of protest (Caren et al., 2011; Rucht, 1998), increasing numbers of large protest events, the diffusion of protest to new groups (Caren et al., 2011; Soule & Earl, 2005) and/or new claims (Earl & Kimport, 2009; Soule & Earl, 2005), and the wide-scale use of “insider tactics,” such as petitioning and boycotting, which tend to be less disruptive, and/or on tactics embedded in everyday life (Earl, Copeland, & Bimber, forthcoming Fan activism).

With the increase in issues relating to the environment, the youth has become more vocal about their opinions and politically aware of the situation at hand. Here we look to analyse how this wokeness has affected legal changes and how it has impacted the environment. The rise of the environmental youth movement #FridaysForFuture started by Greta Thunberg has inspired millions of people around the world to protest for political action against the challenges posed by global climate change (De Moor et al., 2020; Sabherwal et al., 2021; Wahlström et al., 2019.). Early relevant research documented the critical role of young, often university educated, people in the Civil Rights movement, which included pivotal roles in the rise and diffusion of sites throughout the south in the early 1960s (Biggs, 2006; Morris, 1981) and participation in the 1964 Freedom Summer campaign that registered African– Americans in Mississippi to vote (McAdam, 1988) Youth also engage in participatory politics, in which political news and

opinions are expressed, consumed, and remixed peer-to-peer through online social networks (Cohen, Kahne, Bowyer, Middaugh, & Rogowski, 2012). And now this movement has moved away from the screens and has been brought down to the streets in the form of campaigns, protests, parades and activism, which has led to fundamental and structural change in the system for the better. As Tuck and Yang (2011) point out, the surge in public protest during this period led pundits to dub 2011 the 'year of resistance,' and many attributed social media the power to spark social revolution: 'Many have attributed the sweeping publicbyts ... to young people's access to technologies such as Facebook and Twitter' (p. 521). This makes sense as there has been tremendous growth in the use of social media over the years and generation z and young millennials play an active role in it. Youth are not politicised by others; political socialisation is something that they do for themselves (Yates & Youniss, 1999). Indeed, youth, in some cases, can even play a role in politicising their parents (Bloemraad & Trost, 2008). With their future being at stake, we see changes in the approach taken by the youth to solve this problem, which has led to fundamental and structural change in the system for the better. With the youth being tomorrow's future, we need to understand where we are headed in terms of what environmental laws and their impact will look like.

1.1 YOUTH WOKENESS

The UNFCCC attracts a growing number of NSAs to its conferences, enhancing perceptions of its inclusivity (Cabr  2011, Neeff 2013, Rietig 2016). Over 8000 NSAs attended COP21 in 2015 (L vbrand et al. 2017) . we have seen an exponential rise in the number of young participants taking part in conferences and conventions to champion the importance of the environment. Youth have engaged with the UNFCCC since the 1990s, first meeting outside of the process to share best practices, build networks, deliberate over policies and present statements to the COPs. In 2004, they requested the creation of a UNFCCC constituency of youth NGOs (YOUNGO) (UNFCCC 2010) which was created in 2009 and fully confirmed in 2011 (YOUNGO 2017). The youth has always played an important role when it comes to bringing about social change but now more than ever they are making their opinions heard and bringing about structural change. The most recent data lists 72 YOUNGO-affiliated organisations (UNFCCC 2019a), ranging from large transnational networks such as the World Alliance of Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations to small voluntary groups such as the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and Cameroon League for Development, although organisations from the Global North dominate. The amount of YOUNGO accredited organisations has almost doubled since 2014 (Thew 2018) and the number of youth participants attending COPs is also growing. At COP 22, youth represented 5.2% of NSA observers, making them the fourth largest

constituency. Youth wokeness refers to the awareness of and actively attentive to important facts and issues (especially issues of racial, environmental and social justice).studies have demonstrated that youth are more likely to develop dispositions conducive to civic engagement when they are raised in environments that emphasise social responsibility and relational agency (Flanagan, 2013; Kennelly, 2011; Lovell, 2003; Sullivan & Transue, 1999). And hence The so-called snowflake generation is mobilising issues of social importance.

1.2 YOUTH WOKENESS IN INDIA

Being inspired by western activism and seeing the need for change in their society, the youth of India has also taken part in activism related to the environment. Beyond participation in movements, we have seen waves of young people actively involved in social activism and community engagement (see Brown, Larson, & Saraswathi, 2002; Checkoway & Gutiérrez, 2006; Robertson & Tani,2013; Yates & Youniss, 1999). As mentioned in Youth activism through Social media in Assam: An Exploratory Study | Dev Sanskriti Interdisciplinary International Journal we see a surge in campaigns and rallies held to spread awareness about the environment. With manmostava being an important festival the youth participates in activities related to the betterment of the environment from grass root level with local activism. About 17% of the Indian population are between 15 and 24 and they are experiencing the changes brought by the New Media technology. In examining the practices on social media, the authors focus primarily on “Facebook”, which is the most popular social networking site in social media.

1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

The 2030 agenda for sustainable management adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. With its 13th goal focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. In order to reach a sustainable society, it is necessary to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning. And they have given crucial importance to youth and their activism in it. The “I am a Youth of a Small Island” international competition was organised by the United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

Pacific (ESCAP), and other UN Partners to mark the mid-term review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway). Through this, the voices of the youth from underrepresented areas were heard and given a platform to amplify their opinions and concerns. The associated targets of SDG 13 focus on the integration of climate change measures into national policies, the improvement of education, awareness-raising and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warnings. SDG 13's alphabetical targets also call for the implementation of the commitment undertaken at the UNFCCC and for the promotion of mechanisms able to increase capacity for effective climate-change-related planning and management in the least developed countries and Small Island Developing States.

1.4 INDIAN LAWS ON ENVIRONMENT

The directive principles of state policies states that (Article 48(A)):

Protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country. By the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution, the Parliament, with the object of sensitising the citizens of their duty, incorporated Article 51A in the Constitution, inter alia, requiring a citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including the forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.

Environment And Its Relation With Citizens:

The Constitution of India has made a double provision:

1. A directive to the State for protection and improvement of the environment.
2. Imposing on every citizen the form of fundamental duty to help in the preservation of the natural environment. This is the testimony of the Government's awareness of a problem of worldwide concern. Since the protection of the environment is now a fundamental duty of every citizen, it is natural that every individual should do it as a personal obligation, merely by regulating the mode of his natural life. The citizen has simply to develop a habitual love for pollution.
3. Apart from these, there are also laws that govern protected land and species and international deals and commitments to be followed.

1.5 IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Social media plays a very crucial role when it comes to youth wokeness and their activism. Much of the media coverage of the walkout highlighted students' use of social media and text messaging as organising tools, with the New York Times referring to the protest as a 'civics lesson in the Internet age (Hu, 2010). It plays a pivotal role in organising and communicating information. Social media played such an important role in the popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt they were later dubbed 'Twitter Revolutions.' It plays a central role to gather youth and have a consensus on their plan.' Director of digital journalism at Columbia University, Emily Bell, added, 'People make the revolution, but new media puts it on steroids and transmits it.'. Several studies have documented the use of social media and texting in organising student walkouts (Otero & Cammarota, 2011; Weiss, 2011; Yang, 2007). These studies provide examples of what Yang (2007) refers to as 'fast organising': through the use of social media and texting, a single youth can disseminate information and coordinate action for dozens of other youth, and any number of other youth can simultaneously disseminate the same or similar messages (p. 17). Some researchers have argued that these new technologies have changed the character of youth organising, making them faster and more efficient (Otero & Cammarota, 2011). Others, however, have pointed out that social media activism may create an illusion of spontaneity that masks deeper patterns of organised group behaviour (Yang, 2007), and youth activists still rely heavily on face-to-face relationships in developing activist projects (Evans, 2013; Gladwell, 2010; McDonald, Geigel, & Pinguel, 2011; Shirky, 2011). Not just environmental but issues like gender and racial eg. black lives matter, abortion ban rallies, and awareness for voting are spread through social media. Axford, B. (2011). Talk about a revolution: Social media and the MENA uprisings. Globalizations, Boyed, D. (2007). Why youth (heart) social network sites: The role of networked publics in teenage social life. In D. Buckingham (Ed). MacArthur Foundation Series on Digital Learning - Youth, Identity, and Digital Media

1.6 IMPACT OF YOUTH ON LAWS

With activists like Greta Thunberg attending UN conventions for climate change, the youth has rallied for change in laws to better the problem of global warming. Xiuhtezcatl Martinez has been particularly vocal against the effects of fossil fuels and was one of 21 plaintiffs in Juliana v. the United States, a lawsuit filed in 2015 against the US government for the continued use of fossil fuels and their failure to act on climate change. The 21-year-old campaigner (and hip-hop artist) has made speeches at the United Nations on multiple occasions – in English, Spanish and his native language Nahuatl – to highlight how global climate action plays a part in the wider fight against injustice and inequality. Some other activists are Nyombi Morris, Licypriya

Kangujam, Qiyun Woo Autumn Peltier Ella and Amy Meek Lesein Mutunkei. Luisa Neubauer One of the main organisers of Germany's Fridays For Future climate strike programme, and often referred to as the 'German Greta Thunberg', Luisa Neubauer is advocating for climate policies that surpass the goals set out in the Paris Agreement. She has previously campaigned for the University of Göttingen to stop investing in fossil fuel industries, as well as educating and endorsing policies such as degrowth. Neubauer is now a member of the German Green Party as well as its youth wing to continue her lobbying efforts. Another trend to look forward to in 2021 is youth climate activists around the world suing their governments for violating their constitutional right to life, health and equality by taking insufficient action against climate change. Cases are on foot in the US, Korea and Canada. Of note is the case of *Sacchi et al. v Argentina et al.* filed in 2019 by Greta Thunberg and 15 other children against Brazil, Argentina, France, Turkey and Germany for violating their rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to the child's best interest by perpetuating climate change, which is still pending before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. It will be interesting to see the results of these cases in the coming year and whether governments will be penalised for their continuing inaction on climate change. Similar youth climate cases have had mixed success in the past in courts. In 2018, the Supreme Court of Colombia ruled in favour of 25 youth activists, who argued that increased deforestation of the Amazon violated their rights to a healthy environment and life. Conversely, in 2020, the Canadian Federal Court dismissed a case brought by 15 youth activists claiming that their constitutional rights to life, liberty and equality were violated by the Canadian government, which had not done enough to prevent climate change, finding that Canada's response to climate change was a purely political matter for the legislature and executive to decide, not the judiciary.

PROCEDURE

The aim of the study was to Find The Impact of Youth Wokeness on Environmental Laws. with the hypothesis being that Youth has Positively Impacted the Environment and have actively brought legal changes.

Participants - 14 participants were interviewed with the help of google Forms between the ages of 20 to 25 with 7 male and 7 female participants.[A mix of working professionals and students]. The type of data collected was qualitative. Thematic analysis and literature review were the methodologies used. Participants were asked various open-ended questions regarding their views on the environment and the answers were analysed. Thematic analysis is a method of analysing qualitative data. It is usually applied to a set of texts, such as an interview or transcripts. The researcher closely examines the data to identify common themes– topics, ideas and patterns of

meaning that come up repeatedly. I chose this method as it was the most convenient for finding quality results.

RESULTS

The aim of the study was to Find The Impact of Youth Wokeness on Environmental Laws. with the hypothesis being that Youth has Positively Impacted the Environment and have actively bought legal changes. The first table contains themes and their definitions, the themes were found by theamitically analysing the participant data and through literature review. The second table contains participant data from the conducted survey. The third table contains empirical evidence to support the claims and opinions.

TABLE 1

| S.no | Theme | Definition |
|-------------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | Green Energy | Green energy is any energy type that is generated from natural resources, such as sunlight, wind or water. It often comes from renewable energy sources |
| 2 | Ecology | Ecology is the study of the relationships between living organisms, including humans, and their physical environment |
| 3 | Direct Consequence | A direct consequence is an act or instance of following something as an effect, result, or outcome. Environmental consequences are concerned with the impact on the environment of various types of product releases that affect humans directly and negatively. |
| 4 | Climate Change | Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in the solar cycle. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. |
| 5 | Political awareness | Politcal awareness refers to the political information and political knowledge that someone possessed. Political awareness might differ from one individual to another. |

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| 6 | Grassroots change | A grassroots movement uses the people in a given district, region or community as the basis for a political or economic movement. Grassroots movements and organisations use collective action from the local level to effect change at the local, regional, national or international levels. |
| 7 | Social Activism | Social activism is working with other people to bring about a change in society. The word “social” applies both to “society” and to the idea that activism fosters opportunities for participation. It reflects a personal choice to engage in society. |
| 8 | Waste reduction | Waste reduction also known as source reduction, is the practice of using less material and energy to minimise waste generation and preserve natural resources. |
| 9 | Local Activism | An activist is a person who works to bring about political or social changes by campaigning in public or working for an organisation. |
| 10 | Energy Saving and Innovation | Innovation is the practical implementation of ideas that result in the introduction of new goods or services or improvement in offering goods or services. Energy conservation is the effort made to reduce the consumption of energy by using less of an energy service. This can be achieved either by using energy more efficiently or by reducing the amount of service used. Energy conservation is a part of the concept of Eco-sufficiency |
| 11 | Sustainability | Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. a societal goal that broadly aims for humans to safely co-exist on planet Earth over a long time. |

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| 12 | Collective Action | Collective action refers to action taken together by a group of people whose goal is to enhance their condition and achieve a common objective. Collective environmental action is a process whereby youth and adults create environmental and social change while building their capabilities for future civic participation (Schusler et al. 2009). |
| 13 | Scepticism/Legitimacy | Scepticism or scepticism is generally a questioning attitude or doubts towards one or more putative instances of knowledge which are asserted to be mere belief or dogma. |
| 14 | Financial Consequence | Shocks resulting from climate change or repeated extreme weather events could impair the value of certain financial assets, increase the cost of credit via higher-risk premiums, or result in higher operational losses. In turn, these could lead to decreased employment and output in the economy. |

TABLE 2

| S.no | Theme | Participant Data 1 |
|------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Green Energy | Participant 4 mentioned "With the shift to renewables and governments incentivising and protrizing green energy through meetings and conventions and setting of new goals" hence giving us the explicit theme of green energy |
| 2 | Ecology | Participant 14 mentioned "As much as i can I try to watch the news and read papers I recall the issue about rising sea levels and its threats to coastal cities" |
| 3 | Direct consequence | Participant 14 mentioned " We have to we have been handed the short end of the stick and have to mend the situation " |

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| 4 | Climate Change | Participant 14 mentioned "Because of global warming the temperature is increasing causing inconvenience" |
| 5 | Political awareness | Participant 10 mentioned "That youth is more aware of current situations " |
| 6 | Grassroot change | Participant 11 mentioned "What i understand is caring for the environment and taking steps to improve the society" |
| 7 | Social Activism | Participant 8 mentioned "Yes. I engage with posts and news related to the environment " |
| 8 | Waste reduction | Participant 3 mentioned "Avoiding polythene bags and instead carrying cloth bags from home". |
| 9 | Local Activism | Participant 10 mentioned "Yes. Van Mahotsav, parades, rallies and school and college activities " |
| 10 | Energy Saving and Innovation | Participant 1 mentioned "I'm a first-year engg student. And currently, I'm working on a project- Solar Charging Station for Electric Vehicles, in which we are trying to develop a charging station run by on-grid solar power, so that EVs run on electricity generated through solar power rather than the one through burning fossil fuels (coal in India). Apart from that, saving and managing water, using minimum plastic and a few other daily practices, is how I feel I'm contributing." |
| 11 | Sustainability | Participant 4 mentioned "By being more conscious about consumption and by reducing reusing recycling [buying less and separating waste, hand me downs etc]" |
| 12 | Collective Action | Participant 11 mentioned "I try to buy locally and more sustainable products and i am a vegetarian so by not consuming meat products as they too contribute to harm " |
| 13 | Scepticism/ Legitimacy | Participant 2 mentioned "maybe not sure as legal change is a tedious process and takes a lot of time" |

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| 14 | Financial Consequence | Participant 1 mentioned "Yes it affects me. The season pattern has changed, which affects the crops hence the cost of food is increasing. Summers are becoming unbearably hot... AC... Bills are increasing. " |
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TABLE 3

| S.no | Theme | Empirical evidence |
|------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Green Energy | Kalayani et al. (2015) authored a paper called green energy the need of the world in which they describe the effectiveness of renewables and how it has a positive impact on the environment. Looking into various types of green energy technology and stating how it is the only way forward towards a sustainable future. |
| 2 | Ecology | Thomas Dietz et al. (2020) authored a paper called climate change and society where they explore the ideas of ecology and its improvement. They look at it from a micro and macro perspective focusing on the ecological effects of climate change on society. |
| 3 | Direct consequence | Chu EW& Karr J. (2017)explores the idea of direct consequences of climate change on the living [intelligent and non-intelligent life] biotic and abiotics in the environment. Looking into Degradation of water, Soil depletion, Chemical contamination, Altered biogeochemical cycles, Global climate change, Overharvest of non-renewable resources, Habitat fragmentation and destruction and how all of this directly affects Emerging and reemerging diseases, Human migrations, Loss of cultural diversity, Reduced quality of life, Independent of race or economic class and much more. |
| 4 | Climate Change | Lee, K et al. (2020) explores climate change and the impact of youth in mobilising change in policy-making, protests, and campaigns, and looks at the increased participation of youth at international conventions. O'Brien, K et al. (2018) Do a great job at deeply |

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| | | understanding youths' activism and their contribution toward fighting climate change. |
| 5 | Political awareness | Shamsinar Rahman 1a et al. (2018) explore youth behaviour and their participation and awareness regarding politics in their paper Political awareness among students. Social Media and Political Awareness in PaMuzaffar M et al. (2019) look at political awareness using descriptive statistics to find out the youths' enhanced political awareness to float their political ideas. |
| 6 | Grassroots change | Mihaylov NL & Perkins DD (2015) looks at grassroots change from a deeper perspective as individual and community, place and region, humans and nature, experience and technology, fate and power. They describe the growing significance of grassroots change and the power it holds in society. |
| 7 | Social Activism | Jordan Fullam (2017) Becoming a youth activist in the internet age: a case study on social media activism and identity development, International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education look at the importance of social media and its complex and dynamic relationship with the youth from using it as a source of entertainment to organising and communicating important information for social movements. Boulianne Shelley et al. (2020) Looks at youth participation and analyse their social activism. It allows us to rethink how social media platforms are transforming political engagement by offering the younger generation—agency through the ability to voice their concerns to a global audience. |
| 8 | Waste reduction | Heesup Han et al. (2018) Youth travellers and waste reduction behaviours while travelling to tourist destinations, Journal of Travel & Tourism Marketing looks at youths' environmental awareness and studies sustainable decision-making process and behaviours at destinations of the youth that contributes to waste reduction. Halder P, Singh H. (2018).looks at Indian youth and their opinion and approach toward recycling and waste reduction and shows how the youth has given high priority importance to the environment's wellbeing. |

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| 9 | Local Activism | Mihaylov NL& Perkins DD(2015) looks at the importance of local activism to a community and the impacts it has on it. Lubell Mark(2002) Digs deeper into the mentality of think global, and act local. It provides information about how environmental activism may also provide material, social, and psychological selective benefits and costs. |
| 10 | Energy Saving and Innovation | Wit B Dresler et al (2021) research paper describes how Smart growth, Sustainable development, and Inclusive growth are the only way forward when it comes to technology.Youth Climate Solutions and Innovations from Biofilm for instant noodles to Ink made from carbon emissions and Light Bulbs powered by bacteria. |
| 11 | Sustainability | Ting, C.-T.(2019) looks at sustainability from the consumer's perspective noting the shift towards sustainability and how green room hotels have a role in their satisfaction.Vivake Tiwari & Shivani Thakur (2021) Look at the characteristics of sustainability. |
| 12 | Collective Action | Alexandra Segerberg & W. Lance Bennett (2011) authored a paper to understand Ecologies of Two Climate Change Protests via Twitter, the Communication Review looks at collective action on social media regarding twitter protests and its influence on the cop conferences and denotes its importance. Aldy Joseph E (2001) Talks about how international cooperation and collective local action can lead to change. |
| 13 | Scepticism/ Legitimacy | Karlsson C Hjerpe (2012) shows us how there is scepticism towards environmental laws and international treaties and deals to bring about an effective change. Kuh Katrina Fischer.(2019) Rightfully describes how more judicial engagement and political awareness and strictness in the implementation of environmental law is needed. |

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| 14 | Financial Consequence | Stechemesser Kristin, et al (2015). Talks about the dire impact on the economy of climate change and how it affects the future of the world and trading. Campigli Emanuele (2018) Authors about how climate-related financial risks have rapidly expanded in recent years and their impact on macro and micro economies and how it negatively affects the purchasing power of an individual. |
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DISCUSSION

Aim of the study was to Find The Impact of Youth Wokeness on Environmental Laws Hypothesis being Youth has Positively Impacted the Environment. And have Actively influenced these Legal Changes.

14 participants were interviewed with the help of google Forms between the ages of 20 to 25 with 7 male and 7 female participants.[A mix of working professionals and students]. The type of data collected was qualitative. Thematic analysis and literature review were the methodologies used. Participants were asked various open-ended questions regarding their views on the environment and the answers were analysed. Thematic analysis is a method of analysing qualitative data. It is usually applied to a set of texts, such as an interview or transcripts. The researcher closely examines the data to identify common themes – topics, ideas and patterns of meaning that come up repeatedly. I chose this method as it was the most convenient for finding quality results. A literature review is an overview of the previously published works on a specific topic. The term can refer to a full scholarly paper or a section of a scholarly work such as a book, or an article.

A detailed explanation of the results has been mentioned below:-

1. Green energy

Green energy is any energy type that is generated from natural resources, such as sunlight, wind or water. It often comes from renewable energy sources. Kalayani et al., (2015) authored a paper called Green Energy the Needs of the World in which they describe the effectiveness of renewables and how it has a positive impact on the environment. Looking into various types of green energy technology and stating how it is the only way forward towards a sustainable future. The youth has been mindful and has championed the development of green energy through

campaigns and a call to increase funding with a mandate on the use of renewables. Green energy has huge potential and is considered to be one of the most booming industries with it being given mainstream importance due to our move towards sustainability. With legislatures incentivising and promoting technologies and laws related to it. It can be a one-shop stop to humanity's problems as energy usage is predicted to increase exponentially and that cannot be fulfilled by fossil fuels alone. The potential of green energy is unrealized but the advancement is being made in its research and till then it's our responsibility to make the infrastructure ready to make the transition more effortless because we are past the point where planting trees is going to help the environment and this is one of the best ways to approach damage control and avoid worse consequences.

2. Ecology

Ecology is the study of the relationships between living organisms, including humans, and their physical environment. Thomas Dietz et al. (2020) authored a paper called climate change and society where they explore the ideas of ecology and its improvement. They look at it from a micro and macro perspective focusing on the ecological effects of climate change on society. It is in the best interest of the environment to have a balance between biotic and abiotic characteristics coexisting in nature. Natural calamities and disasters have had a huge unprecedented surge in the last 2 decades due to climate change. Change in the environment has become very apparent. Scientists and activists have been talking about this for decades and action need to be taken or else natural calamities will keep getting worse to the point of mass extinction. A recent example is the extreme heat wave across Europe due to ecological changes. With temperatures reaching record-breaking numbers this is another one of thousands of Wake up calls are given by nature, with future summers predicted to reach higher temperatures. The balance of What Ecology is very fragile and humans have been toying with the system since the industrial revolution since immediate effects cannot be seen we are now experiencing the overtime harm of our actions.

3. Direct consequences

Direct consequences are an act or instance of following something as an effect, result, or outcome. Chu EW & Karr JR. (2017) Looking into the Degradation of water, Soil depletion, Chemical contamination, Altered biogeochemical cycles, Global climate change, Overharvest of non-renewable resources, Habitat fragmentation and destruction and how all of this directly affects Emerging and reemerging diseases, Human migrations, Loss of cultural diversity, Reduced quality of life, Independent of race or economic class and much more. Environmental

consequences are concerned with the impact on the environment of various types of product releases that affect humans directly and negatively. With rising sea levels, increase in temperature and erratic rainfall of these are direct impacts leading to major problems for everyone. With the Youth being the future of the world, direct consequences affect them Harshly more than any extent compared to other previous generations. And hence as a quest to take control of their future the youth has been actively involved in every aspect of the environment. it can be justified as a selfish act but is for the greater good. Youth faces the entire wrath of harsh climate and will have to deal with it in the future. These consequences are not minor or unnoticeable, rather have an impact on all Spheres of life including political, economical, social, physical and mental. There is a sense of responsibility and urgency among the youth due to what can be justified as either selfishness or panic.

4. Climate change

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in the solar cycle. Lee, K et al. (2020) explore climate change and the impact of youth in mobilising change in policy-making, protests, and campaigns, and looks at the increased participation of youth at international conventions. O'Brien, K et al. (2018). Does a great job at deeply understanding youth's activism and their contribution toward fighting climate change. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. And has led to serious and irreversible damage to the environment leading to what many believe is the next mass extinction. Climate change is not a buzzword, it is a grave topic that scientists since the nineties have been warning the policymakers and the public about, explaining its consequences and disastrous effect that it will have on the environment, wildlife people and society as a whole. since the industrial revolution, there has been an astronomical search for the use of fossil fuel to meet the unlimited needs of humanity and this has led to the issue of Limited fossil fuel being used to fulfil Limitless wants Leading to ozone layer depletion and an increase in greenhouse gases pollution of water bodies deforestation and destruction of wildlife reduction in the air quality Sound pollution increase in landfill and global warming leading to climate change. Most of the developing countries rushed to be as developed as the best, considering it as an epitome of human advancement but what is needed is looking at the effects that it has on the climate. Humanity will require at least 7 hours to fulfil all their demands at this rate. With the rise in global temperatures, sea level and the erratic patterns of changing seasons like rainfall snowfall, extreme heat and droughts, climate change has never been more real than ever. And hence the youth has been protesting To bring about structural change in the society with the help of laws as

being the minimum the government can do to protect your future they themselves are being more mindful of climate change. Organising Rallies protest campaign awareness programmes volunteering activities social activism ect We can see the effect this has had with the increase in the number of young people attending International conferences and voicing out their opinion to those in actual policy making and legislation bringing change. may it be from the Cop Forum all local and national legislation.

5. Political awareness

Political awareness refers to the political information and political knowledge that someone possessed. Political awareness might differ from one individual to another. Shamsinar Rahman 1a & Che Hamdan Che Mohd Razali1b (2018) explores youth behaviour and their participation and awareness regarding politics in their paper Political awareness among students . Muzaffar M et al. (2019) looks at political awareness using descriptive statistics to find out the youths' enhanced political awareness to float their political ideas. Knowing what's happening around us is very crucial to bringing about a change as those facts determine how the problem is handled. The youth with the help of social media has been very keen on keeping up with current issues. Political awareness is simply an understanding of the 'power webs' and an ability to navigate them, and therefore get things done. Being politically aware plays a huge role when organising a social event for a change. Climate change and global warming at this point have become a political issue as well as being included in the agenda of all politicians running for office. And hence researching knowing the facts about the current situation ways to mitigate these problems through resourceful tactics and solutions policies of different parties, their approach towards climate change, their belief and actual groundwork which is being done is being considered seriously. The youth has been very Political aware and has voiced their opinion regarding many important topics like racial inequality, gender inequality and climate change. Holding policymakers accountable and demanding for action is a part of being politically aware and also includes Social awareness about things happening in our surroundings. And social media is the most crucial towards this development.

6. Grassroot change

A grassroots movement is one that uses the people in a given district, region or community as the basis for a political or economic movement..Mihaylov NL & Perkins DD (2015) looks at grassroots change from a deeper perspective as individual and community, place and region, humans and nature, experience and technology, fate and power. They describe the growing significance of grassroots change and the power it holds in society. Grassroots movements and

organisations use collective action from the local level to effect change at the local, regional, national or international levels. And these movements are the heart and soul to bring about change as they make the voices heard of those who are facing the consequences and the underrepresented underprivileged population. Change from the base is required as it only makes the foundation stronger. The Chipko Movement of 1973 Is one of the best examples of local activism it was started in a small village and sent waves across India Gathering momentum and preaching headlines eventually lead to policy change in a similar manner to activism at Grass root level bringing substantial changes. This was the goal of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan too with activities being conducted in school colleges and local bodies. The people living in that environment best know their needs and how to tend to them and hence grassroots environment plays an important role taking the example of natives and tribes who have been sustaining themselves with the help of their nature using wood as burning fuel, with knowledge passed on from generations they know the correct quantity of wood to be cut down and the correct species of it unlike compared to industries that rake havoc For fulfilling their monetary goals. Local activism gives a sense of personal achievement and a sense of authority and an incentive for people to work hard for their own benefit.

7. Social activism

Social activism is working with other people to bring about a change in society. The word “social” applies both to “society” and to the idea that activism fosters opportunities for participation. It reflects a personal choice to engage in society. Jordan Fullam's (2017) *Becoming a youth activist in the internet age a case study on social media activism and identity development*, looks at the importance of social media and its complex and dynamic relationship with the youth by using it as a source of entertainment to organising and communicating important information for social movements social media and the international youth protest on climate change."Boulianne Shelley et al. (2020) *Looks at youth participation and analyse their social activism*. It allows us to rethink how social media platforms are transforming political engagement by offering the younger generation—agency through the ability to voice their concerns to a global audience. Activism especially on social media is the core to youths' wokeness as they are the most active demographic, being more connected than any previous generation. Social media plays a crucial role when it comes to activism. It is the main ground for communication and organising social movements. It is a place for engagement and gathering a crowd for a mutual cause. With people being in the tune with what is happening around them and using social media as a major inlet for this build a community stronger than ever before. It has the widest to reach and every person in this day and age Uses social media to know the

happenings of the world paying attention through the screens youth captures the attention of the masses and has weaponized this attention and Uses it to their benefit with an example being Greta Thunberg Fridays for Future or Global climate Strike of Mumbai And many others. Social media furthers the reach of the public, allowing members to influence shifts in the environmental sector on every issue from moving away from fossil fuel dependence to renewable energy or changing the dynamic of current conversations on climate change. To understand the potential of social media, we can look at the numbers. The world population currently stands at 7.8 billion people. Out of this, the number of social media users worldwide is estimated to be over 3 billion people. Facebook alone boasts of about 2.5 billion monthly active users at the moment. The majority of the users (over 90% on some platforms) are under 35 years old – the youth. How much can be reached with environmental content via social media? How much can be done or attitudes and behaviours can be influenced through social media? The answer is a lot.

8. Waste reduction

Waste reduction also known as source reduction, is the practice of using less material and energy to minimise waste generation and preserve natural resources. Heesup Han et al., (2018) talked about Youth travellers and waste reduction behaviours while travelling to tourist destinations, *Journal of Travel & Tourism Marketing* looks at youths environmental awareness and studies sustainable decision-making process and behaviours at destinations of the youth that contributes to waste reduction. Halder P & Singh H. (2018) looks at Indian youth and their opinion and approach towards recycling and waste reduction and shows how the youth has given a high priority importance to the environment's wellbeing. Reducing consumption and being mindful of the resources that are being used play a very crucial role when one is trying to reduce their carbon footprint to better the environment. With the burden on landfills Increasing day by day reaching a choking point with no way to turn around but dumping it in the ocean and letting it rot in economically backward areas waste reduction place a very important role in solving this problem. Reducing reusing recycling is basically a waste reduction Mantra. With thrifting having a resurgence in fame Especially among the youth it is a better and cheaper option towards sustainability.

9. Local activism

An activist is a person who works to bring about political or social changes by campaigning in public or working for an organisation volunteering at a ngo, vanmostava rallies campaigns protests for-profit organisations activities organised at school colleges and workplaces and swachh Bharat Abhiyan are some of the examples of how youth contributes to local activism.

Mihaylov NL& Perkins DD(2015) looks at the importance of local activism to a community and the impacts it has on it. +Lubell Mark(2002). Digs deeper into the mentality of think global, and act locally. It provides information about how environmental activism may also provide material, social, and psychological selective benefits and costs. Local activism gives a sense of personal achievement and a sense of authority and an incentive for people to work hard for their own benefit. Organisations like Scouts and Guides and NCC which are made up of students and young individuals are a part of local activism. It is one of the major outlets as it provides opportunities for the everyday Jo students to get involved in it as seen in this research paper Where most of them mention participating in these activities. Schools organising Earth day and other celebrations for teens organising volunteering projects to help the environment, local activism has always played an important role as it addresses the issue at Grass root level with the people who know their environment the best working toward its betterment . By giving local Panchayat and activist authority it gives incentive for people to work towards a common goal for success.

10. Energy saving and innovation

Innovation is the practical implementation of ideas that result in the introduction of new goods or services or improvement in offering goods or services. Wit B Dresler et al (2021) research paper describes how Smart growth, Sustainable development, and Inclusive growth is the only way forward when it comes to technology. Youth Climate Solutions and Innovations from Biofilm for instant noodles to Ink made from carbon emissions and Light Bulbs powered by bacteria. Energy conservation is the effort made to reduce the consumption of energy by using less of an energy service. This can be achieved either by using energy more efficiently or by reducing the amount of service used. Energy conservation is a part of the concept of Eco-sufficiency. The youth with their ingenuity and skills are innovating products that solve major problems practically and are feasible for adoption for the greater good. Technology being The future it is important for sustainability and bettering of the environment. By making machinery more efficient, major problems can be solved as there will be less wastage of resources. With a huge push toward electric cars and solar, the future is brighter than ever for innovation. We can see the popularity of courses such as environmental engineering and sciences and how the number of startups relating to environmental betterment has increased. With the help of these older technologies can be improved and better sustainable products can be made. In recent years, eco-innovations have arisen mainly in the field of renewable energy sources, improvement of waste segregation techniques, recycling, treatment of polluted water, reclamation of a devastating natural environment, energy-saving construction, electromobility of the automotive industry, etc.

11. Sustainability

Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Ting, C.-T.(2019), looks at sustainability from the consumer's perspective noting the shift towards sustainability and how green room hotels have a role in their satisfaction. Vivake Tiwari & Shivani Thakur (2021). Look at the characteristics of sustainability. a societal goal that broadly aims for humans to safely co-exist on planet Earth over a long time. This concept is being widely popularised as it is easy to adopt through small changes in our day-to-day activities but the collective impact that it has on the environment is enormous in meeting today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Exponential population growth has led to increased farming, which leads to greater greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation. Industrial and technological growth means we need more power than ever. Yet our planet is reaching a breaking point. We are beginning to see the consequences of global warming on ecosystems and communities. That's why now more than ever businesses need to invest in environmentally sustainable and socially responsible practices, like using clean energy and paying living wages, to secure a livable future. There has been a shift in companies' approach towards sustainability Do it is blatant green washing we can still see the efforts and the message spread around about sustainability. the use of sustainability is a key factor as the ability to meet future generation needs is there's more than ever with a headline such as "There will be no clean water by 2050" e affect them more than others and it is their future at stake so efforts have been made to make day to day life more sustainable.

12. Collective actio

Collective action refers to action taken together by a group of people whose goal is to enhance their condition and achieve a common objective. Collective environmental action is a process whereby youth and adults create environmental and social change while building their capabilities for future civic participation (Schusler et al. 2009).Alexandra Segerberg & W. Lance Bennett (2011) The Communication Review looks at collective action on social media regarding twitter protests and its influence on the cop conferences and denotes its importance. Aldy Joseph E (2001) an agenda for global collective action." Prepared for the conference on the timing of climate Change policies. Talks about how international cooperation and collective local action can lead to change. like the saying goes every drop makes the ocean collective efforts towards improvement is very important. Communities as a whole are mobilised when there is a threat to their environment apart from that the unity that is seen in the youth is commendable as they are facing its direct consequence. As the saying goes every drop makes an ocean that is how collective action works, a small group turning into a huge audience leading to change. Here we

see that youth is great at banding together to get their needs fulfilled. We can see it in social movements like elections racial problems like black lives matter, gun policies and environmental redds and matters. This pressure on the government to act right and hold themselves accountable is what motivates and drives collective action leading to legal changes. patterns can be seen from the social right movements in India for their Independence like the Simon movement Dandi March first war of Indian independence and in western countries rallies for lgbtq rights and civil Right movements. These movements might seem bigger in terms of issues when compared to the environment but with the recent development of the decades, the need has become more prevalent than ever. With collective action leading to protest and changes for the betterment of the climate.

13. Scepticism/legitimacy

Scepticism or scepticism is generally a questioning attitude or doubt towards one or more putative instances of knowledge which are asserted to be a mere belief or dogma Karlsson C Hjerpe (2012) shows us how there is scepticism towards environmental laws and international treaties and deals to bring about an effective change. Kuh Katrina Fischer.(2019). Rightfully describes how more judicial engagement and political awareness and strictness in the implementation of environmental law is needed. There is a question of legitimacy among the youth regarding whether we are doing enough. Do their opinions matter? Does it lead to actual change? And are we in a place where the environmental damage is irreversible? The question still remains about the irreversible damage done to the environment and how we cannot go back but we can do damage control to avoid disasters. What these activists want are pretty reasonable demands but they are ridiculed by the policymakers as being a Utopian land dream, where in the actual sense if I take enough effort can actually reap great results. And this futuristic view can be seen in many countries that have implemented environmental policies and have prioritised environmental well-being.

14. Financial consequence

financial consequence are shocks resulting from climate change or repeated extreme weather events could impair the value of certain financial assets, increase the cost of credit via higher-risk premiums, or result in higher operational losses. Stechemesser Kristin,et al (2015) Talks about the dire impact on the economy of climate change and how it affects the future of the world and trading. Campigli Emanuele (2018) Author about how climate-related financial risks have rapidly expanded in recent years and their impact on macro and micro economies and how it negatively affects the purchasing power of an individual. In turn, these could lead to decreased

employment and output in the economy. The repercussions of climate change can be seen in all aspects of life with most of our day-to-day activities being affected, but when put in monetary terms it has disastrous effects on governments, individuals and society as a whole. Economists have directly linked inflation to financial consequences and this result is not shocking as over a period of time these natural disasters have reached havoc in the economy going as far as causing a recession. A sharp fall in prices of assets destabilised the economy and reduces the purchasing power of an individual. Apart from the damage that climate change causes, additional financial responsibilities are added to the government to mitigate these changes and to find a remedy to the problem.

The youth is keen on climate change and is politically aware and trying to mitigate the situation as best as they can. The participants in the study showed Interest relating to the environment but more research needs to be done to find the exact details. The reasons can be due to it being a small pole of participants also counting in the factors like socio-economic conditions geographical location extra, but there is enough empirical data that proves that youth has actively contributed to the legal change that improves the environment and is concerned about the environment than compared to your older counterparts. We can see that every participant has mentioned direct consequences and is facing some of the other issues that are directly or indirectly related to climate change. there is a general sense of responsibility that they feel towards bettering the environment even through small actions contributing to sustainability. The financial consequence is also prevalent with many noting the effects it has on them. literature review shows us how social media activism has brought about a change and collective action is growing in popularity e leading to those in authority have to listen and make changes. There is a lot of emphasis on a green future and sustainability as climate change has become more real than ever and the consequences that were spoken about for decades are coming true. A Team Spirit can be sensed among the youth moving past the point of being just a tantrum but an actual important issue brought to the Limelight. The Clock is ticking and a future for young people today will largely be decided by generations that will be gone before the most severe impact of Climate Change is felt hence the youth is trying to take back as much control as possible to navigate their future on their terms.

1. Hypothesis 1 stands to Prove that youth has positively impacted the environment.
2. Hypothesis 2 stands to be proved that youth impacts environmental laws but this particular hypothesis requires more research

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to find the youth's impact on environmental laws with the hypothesis being that youth has positively impacted the environment and led to long-lasting structural change that will improve the climate and be a step towards a greener future. 14 participants were interviewed with the help of Google Forms between the ages of 20 to 25. They were asked to answer questions related to the environment and their participation, and the data was analysed thematically, giving us a bird's eye view. The literature review gave us a deeper understanding of this issue and the real-world impact and changes that are happening. However more Imperial research is needed in different geographical and social contexts to identify how youth weakness affects the environment which is both evolving and changing cultures. there is no doubt that the values, visions and beliefs of young people have been seen and have to be prioritised and heard through climate change activism. Young people will experience stronger consequences of climate change in their future adult lives than older people are facing today. And hence the youth is doing what deems fit to save their future. But more but more active steps have to be taken to fulfil the goals that are set. Looking to Greta Thunberg as a representative of modern youth resistance we see a new generation of climate activism emerging for the youth and how role models play an important role in facilitating these changes made be true local activism or social media. We also see how social media is effective to drive attention and make a difference. We can hence infer that the youth is taking back control of their future and bringing about change for the betterment of society. We understand the relation youth has with the environment, their impact and what they are doing to bring about a systematic change in society for the better. They are tomorrow's future and this is to be an insight for where we are headed in terms of what environmental laws and their future impact will look like, and understand youth weakness better. Youth has positively impacted towards activism and climate change and working towards legal changes but more research needs to be done on this topic. and social media plays a key role to make this difference.

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