

## New v/s Old

*Saksha Hegde, F.Y.B.A.*

Generation Z refers to people between the ages 13 to 23, beginning with people born in the late 1990s. The main differentiating factor between Gen Z and the older generation is the amount of eye contact, and physical acquaintances that the older generation had which Gen Z lacks. The younger generation was born with a device in their hands while the older generation may interpret their lack of eye contact for this very reason.

Unlike previous generations, the youth belonging to this generation are more open and accepting and are ready to be there for each other. With this mentality, they tend to rally behind causes that resonate with them; often they are ready to fight for what they feel is right.

They have grown up in a diverse world and it's all they know. Neither race, sex nor religion matters to them

as they may have been for previous generations. People are equal to Gen Z. They are more likely to judge you for what you are, rather than for who you are.

While they may lack experience because that only comes with time, but they know how to adapt to change, they roll with changes and that's what makes them different from the older generation.

They are placed against the backdrop of COVID-19, the worst pandemic the world has seen in years. Hence, it is no surprise that Gen Z has a unique worldview. They have a unique point of view and they stand by it.

The old generation has their own set of experiences that helped them to live their life so they follow them whereas Gen Z always look forward to new experiences and change, so both generations will continue to be the same.

## The Internet Generation

*Sakshi Bhopale, F.Y.B.A.*

Being undefined is the definition for them, they're the Gen Z. Born between 1997 and 2012, these individuals run the world online and by that I mean they are inextricably tied to the this version of the world they've created to which their smartphones are a portal to. They share an unbreakable bond and have spent more time on the internet than any other generation ever has. Change is the only constant they know. From constantly trying out new trends to coming up with new slang terms and surfing endlessly through the memes, they are always looking out for something new. No matter how much an introvert someone is in real life, he/she always finds a way to forge new friendships and bond online with people from all over the world. Being proud of their culture, connecting with their roots and sharing it on the internet while learning about one another is a wholesome process we get to notice among them. Breaking the stereotypes and shattering the gender norms is a task they abide by everyday. If Gen Z preferred a phase in

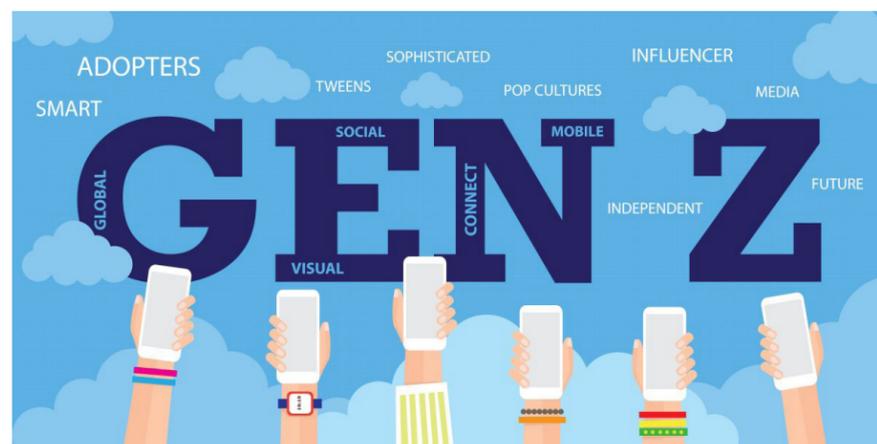
life, it would be the rebellious teenage one, always ready to fight for the things that need to be changed, things that need to be highlighted. They do not wait for society or parental approval to do things, they are quick and they make sure to do it. Internet is one of the quickest ways to spread information and this is being used to its utmost limit. Gen Z is raised quite differently than the millennials; they would choose experience over money at their jobs, more travel and less stress and even lesser thought of what society thinks of them. They seem to know how to make the most out of moments in life and capture it all while they are at it. A higher number of people from this generation are into business and media as opposed to the regular nine to five jobs. They are different from the millennials and generations before them for their ability to be non-compromising about their dreams and aspirations to match the reality of this world. Overall, Gen Z and the internet are a power duo that are changing the ways of this working world.

## GenZ : The Trend-setters

A generation surrounded by gadgets, technology, the internet and toxic competition. They are courageous to challenge the cultural stereotypes and societal prejudices. They believe in creating a path of their own in life instead of falling prey to the rat race. They are the ones witnessing global warming beyond the primary school textbooks.

Gen Z is the most accepting and open-minded generation. They choose to redefine life for how one 'wants' to live instead of how one 'ought to' live. They do not let social norms dictate their life decisions.

Gen Z continue to set an example in the world that no individual has to follow; a set of rules or a timeline in order to lead a life. Some graduate at 21 but land a stable job only by 25. Some drop out of college but end up creating multi-million-dollar businesses. There are individuals who get married at the age of 26 but



divorce in a few years; there are some who marry at the age of forty and live happily ever after. Some experiment with different professions, earn less yet find pleasure in what they do whereas some get paid higher wages just sticking around doing the same monotonous job but do not find contentment in what they do. Some are spiritual, some are religious and some are atheists. Some never take vacations to save money while others quit their jobs to travel the world, and so it goes on.

Gen Z has not only changed

perspectives, broken centuries long stereotypes and cultural norms through actions, they are also vocal about the problems they face as a society and take a step towards bringing about a change. They give a lot of importance to the environment. Beach clean-up drives, planting/gifting saplings for birthdays, turning vegan, water preservation, taking appropriate measures to reduce pollution from all aspects and stay as environment friendly as possible.

Gen Z realizes the value of human life for what it is worth. The only

*Hrithika Iyer, S.Y.B.A.*

generation that speaks openly and fights for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community on a global level. Feminism has come into action now more than ever. Optimum use of social media and the internet to make this world a better place is what this generation aims to establish. They believe in fighting for what is right than what benefits the powerful. They don't just challenge themselves but also society to be better.

Gen Z is often misunderstood as arrogant and self-centred but the reality is that they believe in a life free of regrets. This generation exists for one's individuality and not to be suppressed by the socio-political scenario. All they need is the previous generation to understand their intentions more than their approach. This generation is a trend-setting and adventurous kind along with some interesting social media lingo!

# Literature and the Modern Generation

Aryan Yadav, F.Y.B.A.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”. This line is arguably the most well-known opening line of any novel in the English literary canon. Written by Charles Dickens in his book *A Tale of Two Cities* in the year 1859, a century later, it continues to be one of the most widely read books of our generation.



Literature has always played an incomparable part in shaping our history, our society and our life. This human attachment to literature was never meant to fade away and it never did. But by the 2000s many alarmists started saying that libraries would be extinct in the coming years owing to the fact that no one would be reading the books that were accommodated in those libraries. The nature of these statements might seem absurd but one must remember that with the

introduction to home television years ago, the downfall in reading had already started. It didn't help the case when the internet along with personal computing became a household reality. There was fear that the upcoming generations would simply choose to abandon literature.

To the disappointment of many people, this generation didn't abandon literature. On the contrary they expanded and enhanced the horizons of literature. To understand the very extent to which our generation has absorbed literature one mustn't look any further than the social media, the platform of our expression. Social media pages are littered with quotes from belonging to a low caste family of Mallahs who are traditionally boatmen to quotes from the works of Oscar Wilde to beautiful lines from Maya Angelou and Emily Dickinson.

This generation's understanding of literature is evident from the countless discussions about them on the online platform. Writings of Homer among various other classics, ancient and medieval literatures are still heavily read and often attempts are made to

retell these stories with a contemporary understanding. These retellings focus on the fact that they don't exclude any member of the modern society. Contemporary works of fiction have grown to engage various schools of thoughts which were seldom mentioned in the previous works, creating an entirely new genre of modern literature. Along with many achievements, one that should be truthfully credited to this generation is its use of literature to reflect a truer understanding of social culture.

In this golden age of creativity, what is reflected is the propagation of literature by this generation. Poems are no longer an adventure that only a few get to experience; it is now a luxury that many get to enjoy. Technology of this modern world is easier than ever to showcase one's creativity. Poetry is no longer part of textbooks; it is also a part of a movement on social media.

Poetry has evolved into new poetics to better illustrate the feelings of the poets and to better convey these messages. How can one not mention the emergence of rap as a modern form of poetry that has oral usage more than

written. Rap is nothing but a new diversion poetry has taken to better accommodate this new generation which embraces both forms equally. Expression, which I think is the main objective of literature, is achieved successfully using these genres. A book written by an established author years ago still gets new interpretations by young writers on the internet sites with a different perspective chosen each time. Literature has become more inclusive with acceptance from various previously denied sections of society. Inclusiveness and diversity has changed literature to accompany every social aspect of this modern world and changed forever the way we convey a story. As long as humans know how to read and write they will do so. Literature continues to shape our lives and in turn we continue to shape literature itself.

Hence, there is no imminent threat to books or literature. Far from it, I reckon that it is undergoing an early modern renaissance of its time. Literature is the expression of society in a written form and this generation is definitely leaving a precise expression in the canons of literature.

## Proud to Belong

Ritika Jakhotiya, F.Y.B.A.

Generation Z - an open-minded, bucket list oriented generation; a generation that thrives to bring positive change in the world. A generation that refuses to have a defined identity in only one way. They keep discovering themselves in many ways- travel, social media, and interactions.

Generation Z is the generation that is all-inclusive. Being natives of the mobile and internet world, they have access to the whole world. This enables them to learn new stories, new truths which expands their knowledge and mind. This has led to the Generation Z being inclusive of people from different races, religions, cultures and sexual orientations.

Generation Z refuses to stick to rigid stereotypes and fixed timelines set by society. They have experimented with

different career options, formed many other career options that did not exist prior to our generation, dared to walk away from society's defined timeline of our life and have become the authors of our own story. We believe that it is our life story and we get to pen it down the way we want to. We are determined to turn our hobbies into our professions. Generation Z has been flipping the norms upside down. Feminism and gender equality has seen a great rise among Generation Z people. Many youngsters have been coming forward telling their own stories, coming out as LGBTQ person and not fearing of society's judgement, which wasn't that much seen in the earlier generations. We as a generation are more accepting of differences. Our generation have become less judgemental and more

radically and socially inclusive.

Generation Z is innovative, be it creativity, literature, technology or nature. Having to deal with deteriorating Mother Nature, we have become more careful of it and have been taking steps to preserve our planet. Volunteering in NGOs to clean various places, coming up with technological innovations to save our earth, we are giving our best.

Being the open-minded generation, we have the potential to exert a positive influence on generation Alpha (children born between 2011-2025). We can act as second guardians to this generation Alpha to make this world a better place.

However, we are not perfect. We have our flaws as a generation. Having access to social media, many youngsters follow social media influencers spreading wrong messages. This diverts them from their

goals. Many have turned into phone and social media addicts, and end up wasting their time. With the potential to positively influence Generation Alpha we ourselves are influenced by social media, which can either be positive or negative. If influence turns out negative, it turns out into things like addiction to alcohol, smoking, drugs, social media etc. Having access to almost anything with some taps on our devices, we have reduced patience but this is something we can work upon and solve.

This is the generation I am proud of, more so, since I belong to this same generation. Being radically inclusive, accepting of differences, flipping the norms upside down, carefree of judgements, caring for mother earth has made this world better and beautiful, and I hope that this positive change continues to exist.

## Changing the World

Venu Sharma, F.Y.B.A.

When it comes to social change, the Gen Z population has been at the forefront of it. During this peak era of the Gen Z, peaceful, political protests have risen by 64% and 86% of Gen Zs believe that political protests are essential part of government functioning. They are on track to be the best educated generation till now. Not only that, over 82% Gen Zs, themselves feminists, 92% are believers in LGBTQIA rights and 75% work directly towards some sort of social change. These numbers are enough to surprise the world, since it has been one of the highest recorded ever. Here are some Gen Zs who are



actively changing the world every day:

Malala Yousfzai, at the age of 18 became the youngest person to win a Nobel Prize. She has become a hero to young people across the group,

standing up to the terrorist activities of the most notorious organization Taliban. She fights for the rights of women and access to education. Despite her young age she has become a voice of equality across the world.

Joshua Wong, the pro-democracy activist, only 22 years old, is asking for free elections in Hong Kong. He was listed as one of the most influential teens by Time magazine. His efforts brought him two months of jail time for his involvement in the Umbrella Movement sit ins. Even more incredible is the fact that he was only 15 when he organized a strike to oppose the government's plan to introduce Chinese Patriotic Education in schools.

Elle Van Der Berg, the young 20 years

old wants to create awareness about sexuality and gender, in the nation of South Africa. As a non-binary model he has created much needed talk in South Africa regarding gender and dismantling the stereotypes that surround it.

Amika George is the creator of free periods movement, fighting a war against the stigma that surrounds this natural process. The Cambridge University student has also won a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Goalkeepers Campaign Award. She is lobbying for free menstrual products for low-income families.

All these are just a handful of change-makers who have decided that they will not accept the issues that are being handed down to them.

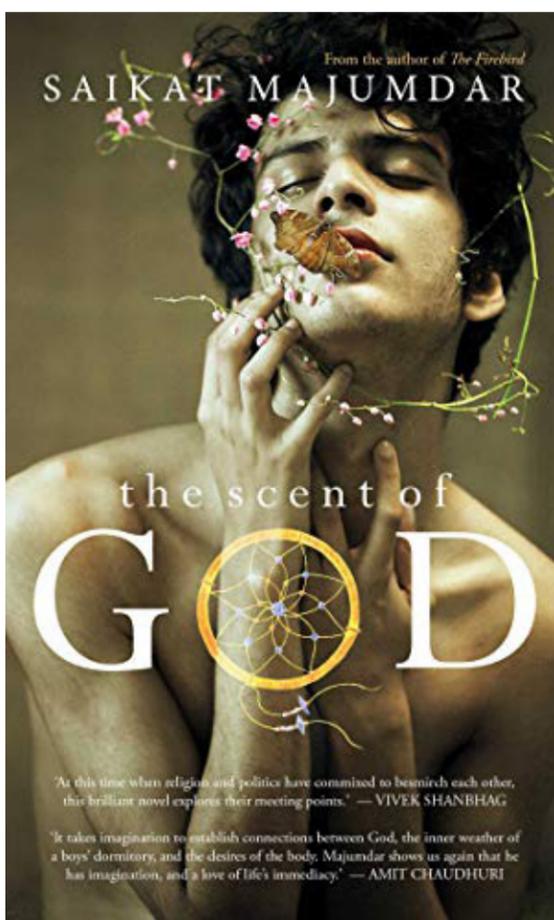


# A JOURNEY OF METAPHORICAL YOUTH

Venu Sharma, F.Y.B.A.

The Scent of God starts on a peaceful note. The book itself feels like walking through a street lined with flowers and scented with roses. It is a coming-of-age story but in a format that is more than unique. Anirvan is a young boy growing up in a Buddhist Hostel or an Ashrama surrounded by sages and men of gods. The reader has the chance of exploring the life of Anirvan. We explore a broken family, a school that feels like home and his growing infatuation for a fellow hostel mate. The book starts exploring more viewpoints from there on. The plight of the underprivileged, the shallow smelly slums right outside the scented Ashrama and politics of the local lands.

A work on the spiritual struggles of this generation, Anirvan almost a manifestation of the sorrows of youth. Exploring its own sexual side, this piece of literature is born from affection and decadence.



As the book proceeds, Anirvan from the first chapter starts to fade away. He becomes distant even to the reader and when he comes back, he is unrecognizable. His character development is drastic but not sudden. The change from the bottom to the top is predictable yet splendid. However, while there is a process of character growth given to Anirvan the same cannot be said for others. Everyone stays the same while Anirvan distances himself and rapidly grows in isolation. It could have been a great analogy to describe how growing up might feel to the young, an individual keeps changing while everyone around them seems perfectly stagnant. Very much the life of the generation that is the newest

of this era, Scent of God is about youth but not about it.

The ending is pleasantly unbelievable. However, there is a small streak of dissatisfaction associated with it. That does not mean that the overall quality of the book is undermined. The ending made a lot of narrative sense. From the eyes of a critic the conclusion was narratively perfect but from the eyes of the readers it was not pleasing enough.

The easiest way to describe this work is, a sandalwood scented journey of philosophy through the struggles of young age finishing on a note that was astonishing beyond belief. It makes one ask the question, are we truly what we have become or are we what we strive to be. Is love the answer to all sorrows and can spirituality be accepted like blood?

## CALIBRE CORNER



### MUSKAAN SYED

**Q.** What are you currently pursuing?

**A.** I'm currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program in S.K. Somaiya College of Arts, Science & Commerce. I'm in the second year and I hope to major in psychology.

**Q.** As a co-founder of Parcham, can you tell us more about this organization?

**A.** Parcham was established in the year 2012 by a group of friends. The name 'Parcham' is from a poem 'Majaz' which means banner. It started when we got an opportunity from another organization called Magicbuzz to conduct a football program for young girls. We then decided to form a girls football group from our locality but made sure we had diversity in terms of religion. I joined the organization in 2014 as a volunteer and became a co-founder in the next few years. Parcham tries to celebrate differences, break gender and social stereotypes that we see around us. Parcham has now grown and is based in 5 locations within Mumbai.

**Q.** What was the motive behind starting this foundation?

**A.** In the beginning we wanted to reach out to young girls and teach them about sports specifically football, allowing them to explore their

identity with sports. Slowly, we started reclaiming public properties for these girls which were mostly dominated by male sports players. Our very basic motive was to do things for girls from our locality that is Mumbra that wasn't already being done. Through this we wanted to promote women empowerment, and give an opportunity to young girls to grow.

**Q.** What is the goal or change that Parcham hopes to achieve?

**A.** Our goal has always been to accept and celebrate the differences among us. In this society where there is hatred towards each other we always tried to reduce differences and tried to make society an equal place for everyone and also provide a safe space for girls to talk about things that are often not discussed.

**Q.** Did your organization face any problems due to the pandemic? If yes, what were they?

**A.** Yes, our organization faced problems during the pandemic, more so because our work mostly revolved around teaching football to girls and outdoor activities. Since we were unable to do that due to pandemic, we conducted many virtual educational seminars about first aid, their body and also had a workshop by a nutritionist on how these girls could take better care of their health. We tried to keep them engaged this way which led to initiating more important and necessary conversations with them.

**Q.** What was your experience in volunteering and what skills have you acquired doing it?

**A.** Parcham changed me as a person. Before joining the organization, I was a very conservative and reserved person. Playing football was not something I ever thought about. Later, when I received an opportunity from Parcham and started playing, then late volunteering, that helped me personally in many ways. It helped me to question these set norms and stereotypes about women, which made me realize and made me more aware of my surroundings. Overall, it has taught me to be confident and also to be curious and ask questions.

**Q.** Was your family and community supportive and understanding about your work?

**A.** I consider myself very lucky in this regard, because my family has always been very supportive of me. In the early days, there were a few girls who didn't receive the same amount of support, so they didn't talk about their football practices to their parents. This was an issue because in our community, after a certain age, girls don't go out and play any sport. Now as a co-founder, during these times, I have seen a positive shift in the attitudes towards these issues in our community and society but still more needs to change.

**Q.** What inspires you to keep going?

**A.** For me inspiration has always been associated with the safe space that we created in Parcham where we could

talk about topics less discussed, our insecurities and much more which we in general could never do even in school. Moreover, the change that Parcham brought in our perspective towards the world and seeing so many girls join Parcham from different backgrounds and make themselves and society better is what truly inspires and keeps me going.

**Q.** What is the future you envision for yourself and your organization?

**A.** We as an organization have been an advocate for women in sports. So, we would like our girls to go ahead and pursue sports as a career. In future, we would likely be holding more tournaments and seminars, workshops for them. We would also like to set up an office with a library that is open to all. Personally, I would use the knowledge from my education to further help and support this organization, to start working here permanently as I won't be a student anymore.

**Q.** What message would you like to convey to our readers?

**A.** I would like to convey that it's alright to be different, we all have differences. All we need to know is how to accept and celebrate these differences. To all the girls reading this, I would like them to be independent, make their own choices, they will probably even make mistakes but that's alright. What is important is to just keep going.

**RESURGENCE**

(Thoughts on Quarantine)

*Aditi Jadhav, F.Y.B.A.*

Stuck in my room lacking catharsis,  
 But embracing the metamorphosis of my being.  
 Like a caterpillar remains in the chrysalis,  
 Who later evolves into a butterfly alluring.  
 Contemplating through the abyss of thoughts,  
 Certainly no one asked for this, I wonder betimes.  
 Abiding to this indolent, sluggardly life dross,  
 Enduring through such torrid times.  
 Might never explicitly assent to this,  
 But I believe we reasonably needed this.  
 Deem this as an interlude accorded to us,  
 We sorely needed in our lives boisterous.  
 Discern this as a significant juncture,  
 Learn from the past and prepare for the future.  
 Don't let your potential get stultified,  
 Recalibrate and build your stronger version  
 identified.

**ICARUS'S FREEDOM***Pragya Parakh, T.Y.B.A.*

My brother said Icarus was right,  
 He says maybe his father didn't give it quick-  
 Freedom.

He says Icarus's freedom rope was held by his  
 father,  
 In spite of knowing that, his father chose to hold on,  
 And one fine day, he let go  
 Too sudden.  
 Too impulsive.

A bird in cage is trapped,  
 Once the cage is opened, the bird feels the freedom  
 Which leads to its loss of direction - captivity does that  
 But if the bird breaks open the cage,  
 It flies without the fear of being lost,  
 For the joy of wind brushing past the body, is more  
 than looking up the sky pitying itself.

Icarus broke the rope,  
 To feel the warmth of nearing the sun,  
 To let go of the miseries,  
 To embrace what everyone's scared of approaching,  
 To seal it with a kiss - Freedom  
 To find himself falling,  
 It being called The Great Fall  
 He smiled all along.  
 And drowned to die.  
 Without regret.

to be a blissful year but it turned out to be a gloomy  
 and terrible year!

It has been 6 months,  
 Each day millions of people are fighting prob-  
 lems.

Everyone has different impediments to fight, some  
 people know how to overcome or tackle them but  
 some people don't know.

So, what next? Suicide?

We are born alone but we breath the same air with  
 billions of people who might have experienced the  
 same difficulties we are going through!! Suicide is  
 not a solution to any problem.

Never let yourself feel Lonely, reach out to people  
 who will help you overcome it.

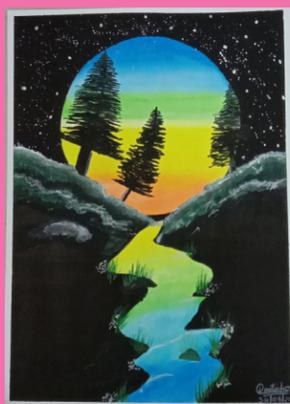
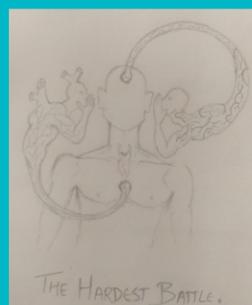
#saynotosuicide

**“JUST ME AND ME”***Shaheen Shaikh, F.Y.B.A.*

I can see the nightmare in the day.  
 My dreams are leaving me in the day.  
 I'm left with despondency and loneliness  
 Let's just say daredevil to reflect on myself  
 Let's just give me time, Let's just know me  
 Each phase starts with me  
 It's just me who will fight this battle and dash  
 It's just me...

**GLOOMY 2020***Shaheen Shaikh, F.Y.B.A.*

Every new year, millions of people wish to have a  
 blissful year. Eventually, people also wished 2020

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