

GUJARATI RINGSIDE 2014

THE VOICE OF 65%

They do not want freebies, believe in merit and think law cannot alone bring about the desired change. The round table organised by Mirror yesterday saw young Gujaratis raring to change the 'order of the country'

PIC: MANISH MISTRY



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Election is numbers game and the youth have the numbers: an unrivalled 65 per cent. That they are leading the call

of change and can swing poll results compels all political parties to listen to the country's future.

From abolition of quota system to withdrawal of freebies, from investment to socialism, the young participants, who represented dif-

ferent institutes at Ahmedabad Mirror-organised round table on Tuesday, dissected the country's current scenario, and raised the issues they feel are plaguing the country.

Calling for a review of the Indian constitution in reference to

secularism and socialism, the participants also discussed several remedial measures that can change the face of India.

While a few said that the objectives of socialism are the best but its implementation is the worst in the country, some favoured privati-

sation of education for higher literacy rate and better employability.

Be it right to education or right to information, healthcare or caste, corruption or unemployment, the participants ensured no burning issue slipped off the table.

ANAMIKA DEVANI, 19

PANDIT DEENDAYAL PETROLEUM UNIVERSITY

The next government should ensure proper implementation of right to education. "The drop-out rate is still high in the country. Quality education and efficient teachers can play a pivotal role in changing the face of the country," she said. She recommended reservation for economically backward student. The PDPU student also suggested widening the ambit of RTI.



ANKITA SHARMA, 21

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF GUJARAT

Strongly opposing the quota, she called for total abolition of the system. "Every day, we hear demand from new groups, seeking reservation. To get the benefit, people tamper with the documents," she said. She also objected to a fellow participant idea of autonomy for the police department.



HARSH MEHTA, 17

B K MAJUMDAR INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The country must first simplify the tax system to achieve the desired result. "India needs tax reforms. The indirect taxes should be cut down because it prevents international companies from directly investing in the nation," he said. Harsh proposed the 'transfer payment' to raise the literacy rate.



KARAN PALA, 19

PANDIT DEENDAYAL PETROLEUM UNIVERSITY

On paper, India is the best country. "Instead of forming new policies, we must first try to look for lacunae in the existing system. According to him, population is the biggest challenge to the country. "I am not supporting the one-child policy per family like China. But there should be brain storming to amend the national population policy," he said.



JAYKRISHNAN SENGUNDAR, 21

AMRUT MODY SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Stil, a majority of the country's population lives below poverty line. They do not have access to basic amenities, and we discuss development," said the management student. Like in Gujarat, he advocated for a prohibition police across the country. "FDI should be allowed. It would bring down inflation," he said.



KUSHAGRA BARODIA, 19

HL INSTITUTE FOR COMMERCE

I cannot wait for 40 years to see development in India. I will move out. And because my vote does not count, I am not going to stand in a long queue in a hot summer afternoon to cast my vote," said Kushagra who believes only an economic push can bring the country out of the current crisis. "We don't want freebies. We want employment," he said.



PAL PATEL, 22

INSTITUTE OF LIFE SCIENCES

Creating a system for fundamental research and innovation is what according to Pal the government should pay attention to. "A better education system enhances the employability of a student. We need to create a conducive environment for promotion of quality education," she said. She suggested hiring more teachers.



SHAKTI PATEL, 22

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY

Awareness is the key which can bring about the change and also check malpractices, believes Shakti. "People in rural areas are not aware of their rights because of higher illiteracy rate. They do not know things like FMR. Education facility and awareness programmes can change their lives for better," said Shakti.

