

## THE ROLE OF YOUTH

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According to the cliché, the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Youth is a crucial and impressionable stage of life and very often convictions, beliefs and views on life as a whole, are moulded during years of fun, turmoil and apprehension. It is a crossroads in life with sometimes few, if any, "road signs". As such, the innocence of youth should be guided constructively, allowing self-renewal towards the love of the world, which youth will inherit for themselves and succeeding generations.

In a world creating a myriad of distractions and possibilities, there is a strong need to generate a greater awareness amongst youths on issues and concepts of bios (life) and its importance and relevance in the contemporary world. Such a task is, in our opinion, not an entirely awesome one. Already, the trends around the world are such that more and more young people are becoming interested in what is happening around them, their environment and in the quality of their lives. Indeed, many are demanding the right to be actively involved in areas of decision-making in matters affecting their own lives.

Having said that, however, we must hasten to add that realisation and awareness alone are not enough. There is a real need to supply youths with the necessary knowledge and information about bios. We must help them to understand and appreciate bios. This is where education plays an important role - by education, we mean not only formal education in schools, but also through the family unit and mass media. In addition, there is a need for young people to participate in their own education through activities like the Model United Nations where students play the role of a United Nations member state. These students grapple with such biopolitical issues as the effects of radiation, pollution of the environment, child survival and the impact of rapid industrialisation on the environment of developing nations.

Education, as defined above, is a gradual and accumulative process. However, such a process must start somewhere and soon. We cannot allow young people to grow up without the benefit of having the opportunity of availing themselves of the progress of biopolitics.

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