

INDIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION (BHARTI NAUJAWAN SABHA).

Draft Programme:

Present situation and relationships can be better understood by relating them to their history.

Race relations situations can be illuminated by comparison and juxtaposition. The historical legacy of Colonialism enters into important ways into shaping relationships between blacks and whites. The early conquests and trading relationships accompanied by Colonialism and enslavement and the extensive use of slave labour in Capitalist production.

The imperialists exploited the colonies and the countries exhausted and economically devastated. The imperialist countries required labour to man their machines and establish plantation & agricultural base. The migration of the labour force has been regulated by the needs of the Capitalists. In addition to this the economic hardships at home and colonial links forced the immigrants to leave their homes and seek work in the developed Capitalists states. Indians migrated to the near East, Africa, America & Britain. Britain actively encouraged & forced Indians to come to their colonies and later on West. Indians were recruited to man British transport & factories.

The Coloured people took up the hard, manual and low paid sweat labour, unwanted by the whites. Colonies and Colour are associated with inferiority. Race Relations are defined in power relationships and race ideologies are institutionalised. Inequality is transmitted from generation to generation. In this Urban deterioration & disadvantages mostly affect the coloureds.

Due to economic competition & crisis, racialism has the functional use to divide the Coloured & White workers. The degree of political participation in social, economic & political institutions is blocked and monitored by the dominant white group. Political Consciousness and radical political action is required to reverse the relationships of domination.

It is the children of these Coloured immigrants that form the youth of the Coloured Community. The youth can be divided into three categories:-
(1) youth which were born & brought up in India (and have solid Indian tradition);
(2) the half way generation - born in India but came in the early years & some education or schooling took place here; (3) those born, bred and educated here and are drifting away from Indian notions, have a greater gap and are even danger of losing their parent language, culture etc.

The last two categories are intermediaries between the older Indian community and the British Society at large. The "Westernization" (individuality) is threatening their identity and is intensifying the conflict and tensions in the social institutions. The youth is under two pressures - Home and the British structure.

In the beginning coloured people were welcome to man the machines and produce super profits. Pioneer immigrants are generally enterprising, adventurous and have initiative. But they face difficulties in jobs, in adjustment and suffer from various injustices.

Racialism and racism have existed in this society for centuries but it was put on the statute book through the Commonwealth Immigration Act 1962 and was institutionalised through other immigration laws especially of 1968 and 1971 by enacting restrictions based on colour and race. It has become respectably due to the appeasement policies (towards racialists) of the governments and "rivers of blood" speeches and "repatriation" slogans are the part of daily life.

First the government and top bureaucracy did not admit the existence of racialism - but later on it said that racial discrimination will decrease with the second generation. But it was misplaced trust and self deception due to false consciousness and also intended to divert attention. But the new laws & policies have encouraged the racialist groups.

The Capitalists utilise this colour division to safeguard their interests and the political parties also use it by direct/indirect ways (with consensus politics concerning it) and are worried about the votes. The crisis ridden system is endeavouring to distract and divert the attention from its capitalist policies. Through this colour & race division, Capitalists try to utilise the white workers and at the same time attack the working class as a whole.

Racialism is increasing and the harmonious race and community relations are under attack. The youth born and educated here are suffering more than their parents. Their future prospects in every walk of life are poor. The chances of power and responsibility sharing are decided by the dominant group. The political participation and entry into the decision making machinery are blocked and barriers are created.

The degree of latent and overt manifestation of racialism (ups & downs) are closely related with the economic situation and with the policies of the ruling class. The coloured people are the most exploited section of the working class and can be called a sub-proletariat. The white working class is also suffering in housing, jobs, education & promotion. They have no share in the power structure though the leadership of the Trade Union Congress make an effort to create the false image of sharing and fair deal.

Hostility and racialism from the political system and sections of the indigenous white society are prompting and forcing the youth to reconsider their attitude; their future and avoid the "assimilative" process. The race relations industry (means government institutions & capitalist backed bodies) are to serve as the buffer zones; tone down militancy; serve as a safety valve and thus smother and blunt the coloured leadership.

To counter this process, the coloured youth is to oppose racialism, paternalism, status quo and strive to preserve their identity. Identity is to help to fight for equality, non-racial and multi-cultural society and also to avoid rootlessness and powerlessness. The coloured youth are trapped in a conflicting socio-cultural situation as well. There is a widening generation gap in the socio-cultural sphere. The Asian home and the British school situations generate differences. The norms and values disseminated by the wider dominant society affect the coloured children. The Asian parents do not fully understand the (influence of the) changing situation and the children are not able to understand their parents. The generation gap (has always existed in every community though the degree and the intensity of the gap varies from place to place and time to time) has given rise to stress & strain, tensions and conflicts between the parents and the second or third generations. Even non-antagonistic conflicts such as individual freedom, social outing and activities, marriage or dowry and caste etc, pose problems though they can be resolved in a positive way. These issues do not necessarily signify complete break with the family or social institutions for ever. All these are the signs of socio-economic and political problems facing the coloured community. Parents are worried about "Westernization" but the youth also is not very keen to merge into "Englishness" due to racialism and certain disadvantages which specifically affect only the coloured youth.

Under the name of illegal immigration, the dependants of the coloured people, fiancée, visitors and students are considered guilty (or illegal), fraudulent or imposters and are harassed or refused entry. Some police officers also indulge in "coloured hunting" or other racist acts.

In education, coloured children are considered inferior, put in bottom streams or in E.S.N. classes and made low achievers. Their identity, cultural and parental language needs are ignored. Coloured children face more problems than the white working class children. The education system has colonial ideas and has failed to take note of multi-racial & multi-cultural nature of the present society. The youth and rising generation are the worst victims of racist situation and positive discrimination is required to rectify the situation.

The government and its race industry have avoided radical action. Rather they seem to be on the look out to disrupt coloured peoples and youth solidarity. They will try to divide them, entice them in financially aided non-productive and pop activities for their capitalist ends.

The National Front and National Party have been using all the avenues and have been able to incite people due to the capitalist economic and political policies of the Tory and Labour governments. The racists germinate on economic crisis, appeasement and anti working class policies of the state, stereotypes, colonial hangover and on crude illogical/irrational ideas and solutions. Many coloured youth and women have been knifed or killed. Coloured people are facing a very serious threat. Progressive sections of the white people: trade unions, students and even religious people have come out against racialism.

The anti-working class policies of the government are being challenged - the youth understands that the present inegalitarian social structure (Capitalist)

(continued..)

(continued..)

is based on class divisions in which handful of people control the nation's wealth and use various tactics to remain in power.

This "Wholesale Market Civilization", pop culture and pop literature are to misguide and to create false consciousness (& atmosphere) of freedom. It is to oppose progressive literature and to contain the youth movement.

Youth have played an important part in the national liberation movements of the world. In Britain, the main contradiction is between the Capitalists and the Working Class but the coloured people face an extra dominant problem of racialism along with the other problems of the working class.

For this struggle, the coloured youth need to maintain and preserve their identity along with radical political consciousness. To this end they will have to have their own organization. While fighting against racialism, they must avoid to close themselves in their own shell. It should not lead to segregation or division on the basis of colour, creed, nationality or race which will play into the hands of the Capitalists and the racialists. Identity is to avoid powerlessness and is to give strength to fight against every type of injustice. It is also to help in co-operating and uniting with the white youth to win equality, and defeat the anti working class policies. Black and white share many disadvantages, deprivations and injustices. They have common interest. The fight against racialism is an integral part of the class struggle.

Up to now pioneer immigrants, parents and many immigrant organizations did not pay any serious attention to the problems faced by the coloured youth (or have paid lip service). Some are not in close contact with the youth. Among the Indians, the Indian Workers Association-Great Britain (was found by the youth in 1938) has been associating and involving in youth problems and has been encouraging youth (since 1967) to establish their local and national bodies which will have close and unbreakable relations with the Indian Workers Association Great Britain.

The Indian Youth Association is broad based with a wide spectrum; encompassing all the youth but will work on and pursue progressive policies to fulfill its aims and objectives written in the programme:

INDIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION: Aims and objects;

To organise Indian Youth to:-

- (1) safe guard their interests.
- (2) fight to improve their conditions of life and work.
- (3) encourage them to join the trade union and **to promote co-operation and unity with the trade union and labour movement in Britain.**
- (4) strengthen friendship with the British and other peoples in Britain and co-operate with all progressive organisations to this end.
- (5) fight against all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, creed or sex for equal human rights and social and economic opportunities, and co-operate with other organisations for the same.
- (6) express solidarity with the people fighting for national salvation and promote the cause of friendship, peace and freedom of all countries and co-operate with other organisation, national and international, striving for the same.
- (7) keep its members in particular, and people in Britain generally informed of political, economic and social developments in India; and to strengthen the democratic forces there.
- (8) under take social, welfare and cultural activities.
- (9) to bring the Indian Youth in close contact with the youths of other nationalities and thereby help in building solidarity irrespective of race, colour, creed and nationalities.

Drafted by:- Gurnam Sangera,
National Gen. Sec.
Indian Workers Association
Great Britain.

N.B. Send comments to the above person (upto 15th May 1977).