

## Section 2

You'll hear a conversation. First, you have some time to look at questions 11 to 20.

Now listen carefully and answer questions 11 to 20.

Interviewer: Welcome to our program on Indian youths. Our young Indians, different from their elders. Smarter, lazier, less obedient, we have invited an Indian sociologist, Mr. Singh to share his views with us. Mr. Singh, many Indians complain that the new generation of Indians is too westernized and has lost touch with its culture. What's your opinion on that?

Mr. Singh: Whenever a country modernizes there is speculation that the new generation will be dramatically different from those that preceded it. In particular, more westernized. Much of that speculation is based on superficial observations regarding rock music and the like. However most studies show that new generations retain much, though not all, of the core values of their culture. Cultures change very slowly. What is changing quickly is the environment in which they

live, their living standards, opportunities for advancement and self-fulfillment. Young Indians certainly have more opportunities today.

Interviewer: Where does your information come from?

Mr.Singh: I have two children in their early 20s. I see their generation at close quarters. I often travel to both rural and urban places in India and I see the young people there. The current generation has by and large rejected politics as a primary concern. They have grown up with a TV and a telephone either at home or in the vicinity. They have watched MTV, but they still go to the temple and most of them seriously believe that God exists.

Regarding the opportunities that Mr. Singh mentioned for the first time, it is acceptable in India for a kid to say that he or she wants to be an actor, a singer, a fashion designer, a writer, a cricket player as a profession without parents losing sleep. It also means that they have many choices of role model. When I look at young people around me, I see more hope than helplessness.

Interviewer: Mr. Singh. What is the main advantage that young people in India have?

Mr.Singh: The biggest advantage the youth of India have is mobility. It is very easy for them to move about the country and follow opportunities. An edge, the Chinese youth for example, do not currently have. Also young Indians are quickly adapting to new technologies and English is now being more widely accepted and spoken than ever before. India's youth have a very unique advantage, a combination of mobility, language and knowledge of technology. Add to that, a country that has an entrepreneurial spirit and a very clear intent to adapt to western culture.

Interviewer: Are there any problems as far as you can see?

Mr.Singh: I think that the biggest overall problem is with infrastructure. But as far as things that directly affect the younger generation are concerned, I think that the main problem is that parents from the growing middle class are pushing their children ever harder at academic activities. They believe this is the only way to stand out and survive in a system which is cutthroat because of the exploding population and as education becomes more and more accessible to the masses. However, many parents are granting their children more choice, particularly in the area of choosing their own careers, the youth of today are definitely more aware of the choices available to them.

Interviewer: Do you think that competition is a problem?

Mr.Singh: Not at all. It leads to creativity. The younger generation is more creative. Competition ensures that creativity is likely to be the best way to get ahead. Though it is largely believed that the culture and values system, torch bearing youth are losing their way. I still believe that relates to a small percentage. The combination of the Indian value system and the western approach is a winning one. And if the Indian youth can manage to achieve the right balance, global organizations will want their skills.

Interviewer: Mr. Singh, you sound very confident?

Mr.Singh: I am. Every generation will experience change. This will be more dramatic especially in the context of development. Simply put, young Indians are more aware about the world, they live in. They are more materialistic. They are consumers in the true sense. They are exposed to satellite TV, the internet, freer access to social interaction and mobility. They are global citizens. Adoption of styles and fashion from anywhere, particularly America is quick. But as several surveys have shown, this openness and confidence does come with some sense of humility and purpose. I feel confident that they can dream and achieve. My generation could only dream.

Questions 11-20

***Question 11-15***

**Answer the following questions** using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR NUMBERS** for each answer.

11. According to Mr. Singh, on which thing do many people make superficial observations?

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12. According to Mr. Singh, how do cultures change? .....

13. How many children does Mr. Singh have? .....

14. According to Mr. Singh, what are young Indians not concerned about?

.....

15. According to Mr. Singh, what great advantage do young Indians have?

.....

***Question 16-20***

**Complete the following sentences** using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each gap.

16. According to Mr. Singh, the biggest problem for young Indians is that their parents

..... them too much at school.

17. .... is becoming more widely available to people in India.

18. Mr. Singh believes that the best way to be successful is to be .....

**19.** Mr. Singh believes that Western methods plus the ..... are an excellent mix.

**20.** Mr. Singh says his generation could only dream, but the new one can ..... too.