

## Do Adults Feel Threatened by Teenagers?

It is often seen that a teenager criticizes an adult for 'not understanding' a particular situation. This has been going on for several generations and it is not subject to the current generation alone. The struggle between adults and youth is unlikely to end anytime soon. Kids are often stereotyped by adults, who judge them on the basis of the dressing style, and this is often one of the primary reasons behind the widening gap between the two generations.

Author Thomas Hine in his "Goths in Tomorrowland" claims that adults have been taking the youth away from older sections of the community and this has resulted in the teenagers maintaining the same gap. In many ways, the adults display a fear about teenagers and this is likened to the fear of an unknown entity. Adults feel that the youth of today have not been able to understand the culture, while the youth also hold a grudge against the adults over the lack of involvement in the adult society.

The misunderstanding between the two generations has been a key factor behind the growing gap. Most of the teenagers end up spending a significant part of the younger life-seeking people who can understand their mind. In the search of this period, many even give up due to the lack of knowledge. Adults also do not tend to bridge the gap as they are of the opinion that kids do not understand them. One of the common reasons for the continued gap is the lack of effort from large section of the adults into bringing together young people to the world. Many of them make a mistake of disregarding youngsters from key decisions largely because of the differences in dress code.

The closed-minded nature of the adults is not the only reason to blame, as young people also make the mistake of putting themselves as immature and irresponsible. Adults are of the opinion that young people are only taking into the rock and metal heads. The expression through clothes happens to be quite a powerful medium in widening the gap between the two factions. However, is that the reason for gothic-dressed youngsters becoming adults is extremely scary? Or being feared at the prospect of becoming the adults with the existing disadvantages that scares them most?

Youngsters also try to quickly assert themselves and this ends up frightening the adults. The body alterations are simply not doing the sufficient best in order to show to the adults that such weird creatures are close to becoming adults themselves. The body alterations in the producing more restrictions and respect and have been counter-productive.

Even though youngsters may feel that they are showing off their ability to come up with an own identity, it has become counter-productive to the efforts of becoming important in the eyes of adults. Even though others make the mistake of not giving a free reign to youngsters straightaway, the problem rests within both sides. In the end, the youth of today are being pressurised into keeping the emotions in check and not being able to come out with the free opinions. Youngsters are now guarding the psychic space more closely than ever before, as adults are starting to control every aspect of the life.

The inability to come up with opinions is a major differentiating element between the youth of today and the adults. The former have been restricted to speaking their mind and this is creating a 'Teenage Wasteland' according to Donna Gaines. Adults are holding youth responsible for everything that they say and this is sometimes not possible to restrict – given the lack of experience. This has the potential to come up in the wrong possible way, as youngsters are starting to share the dark and deep secrets with many today. The rise of social networking has allowed this possibility, but youth should be taught to

keep such secrets to themselves and only share it with those who are capable of understanding the same.

The misunderstanding game being played between youth and adults has been going on for a long period of time. They are being considered as two sections of the society and it is highly unlikely that this action will change the situation in the next couple of decades. Adults fail to understand the mind-set of teenagers and vice versa. However, it is difficult to blame both sides, as neither are making the effort to understand each other. While adults make the mistake of not accepting the youngsters within the own mind, the youth are not ready to step into the world of the adults. This vicious cycle does not appear to have an end in sight. It is best that adults live their own life while letting youth to have their own. At the same time, it is important to protect the children from harmful sections of the world.