



Changes: Indian Youth and The Power To Vote

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(Courtroom scene: characters get into formation of table and chairs)

Judge: Order! Order! The next date for this case is on 19th March.

Character 1: The case prolonged for ten years. On the last day.....

Judge: Please call the witnesses again

Witness 1: They are lying

Witness 2: No one burnt the girl

Witness 3: I saw nothing I didn't even know them

Witness 4: The girl was having an affair with another man

Witness 5: She must have committed suicide

Judge: Sabuto aur gawaho ko madye nazar rakhte huye adalat is natije pe pahuchi hain ki ko baizzatbari kiya jata hain.

(props disassembles)

...

Character 3: I am.....I want to be a reporter. I have always liked to stand in front of the camera and get a lot of publicity and stuff. I went for a course on journalism to Delhi. That day I was coming back from college when.....

(empty street with a group of hooligans, characters form props such as street lamps)

Man a. E kya re , kaha ja rahi hain??

Man b. Masakkali , kaha chali?

Character 3: Rukiye! Rukiye! Saamne mat ana?

Man c. Are itna darti kyun hain?

(The formation collapses)

Character 3: I came back home, kept my bag, and opened the shower when I tried to scrub off, tear every part of my body where they had touched me. I took a knife and..... I did not want to do this I did not want to kill myself. I did not do anything wrong..... it were them. I wanted a revolution. I wanted a society in which some unfortunate girls would not commit suicide out of the fear that the society would not accept them. I wanted a safer society where a woman's modesty would not be violated. That would only be possible if we have a strong and efficient system where such criminals would not be allowed to roam about freely. I vote for a safer city I want to rebel against the present system by making use of my democratic right.

...

Character 4: Assalam walekum. I am Noor Begum a chartered accountant. I was in Biwanagar Gujrat when the riots took place. I was walking on the road when I saw

(riot scene. Two groups enter stage, hands take the mudra of a sword)

Group 1: Are you Hindu or Muslim?... Are you Hindu or Muslim?... Tell me? Tell me or I will kill you...

Character 4 sudders

Group 2: Are you Hindu or Muslim?... Are you Hindu or Muslim?... Tell me? Tell me or I will kill you...

(Character 4 takes out a knife from pocket kills one person from one of the groups. The knife is shown as pataka mudra. As the dead character falls, rest of the crowd freezes. Character 4 shudders)

Character 4: I had killed someone I was a murderer..... I had killed someone. That day I understood, no one is profited by these riots. Neither the Hindus nor the Muslims. Believe me or not, these riots are brought about by the most wealthy and powerful people. They are the ones responsible for killing my family.

I wanted to put better and secular people in power. I want a strong secular political party that can end to such riots. Off late there has been another great problem, terrorism. Many people blame us for the same. This is not right. I want a strong secular political party who can take stern steps to prevent such horrible events. I want a leadership under which all of us can live peacefully and united.

I vote for a change ... I wanted this thought to spread...

(Characters in straight line)

Chorus : I vote for a change ... I vote for a change ...

(Formation of a human peace symbol)

All: we are the youth of India, Honest, Conscious, Responsible, Respectful, Dutiful, Awakened. The power to vote is the greatest power in our hands. We have suffered enough. We will use our democratic rights to make society a better place to live in. Take it from us, generation next shall be completely changed!

(Characters exit)