



Interview 9 Student

Beena Patel, Fine Arts student



1. What do you think about the new wealth in India?

It is really affecting my life, and I don't really like it. We are seeing so many things coming from America and Europe. So many new shopping malls and bars and clubs. On the weekends people walk up and down in expensive jeans. They change their accents and use this slang talking. Sometimes I don't know how to be.

At college it's all coca-cola. Even Aamir Khan (Bollywood) is drinking it. But I don't see why people are drinking this when there's beautiful lime juice to have. I can't tell my parents when I feel emotionally upset by how to be. They'd just come and take me home.

A few Bangaloreans might be earning megabucks, but most are not. And more people might be going in for dressing in jeans and tight clothes, but it doesn't mean our hearts are changing. First we need to have a shift in how we see ourselves.



2. What can the world learn from India?

We Indians have a deep moral code. We do what is right in the end. The most popular film here is 'Rang de Basanti'. It has a group of young rich Indians from the city fed up with all of this consumerism going on.

The world can learn that money isn't everything. For me, I want to be happy. I would like to travel and study in other countries. And then I want to come home and work with the poor. There are children in the slums, not twenty minutes from the IT parks who have never seen these buildings. They work all day, and they have pains across their stomachs from hunger.

Then, we have magazines coming out with features on how to lose weight. And we have KFC having another outlet. India needs to address this. We have to look at ourselves rather than racing ahead and trying to be like a western place.

Money is important to keep us away from hunger, but once you're past having some, how much more do you need? This isn't really about money. I don't want to be the richest stiff in the cemetery.

