

Individual factors such as age, gender, physical health, appearance, intelligence and social skills all have its significant influence on a person's real and perceived identity. Bhatt and Pujar (2019) reported that PUC II students who become more mature with age show better identity development than younger and less mature PUC-I students. With respect to gender, girls had better identity development than boys.

An identity can be dynamic as well as static. A person with static identity shows characteristics such as limited to goals, not helpful to others, believe in past achievements and make show of his or her power and position. On the other hand, a person with dynamic identity

believes in future potential and define themselves in terms of what they will become or accomplish, keep oneself updated and gain knowledge with time, attempts to serve the society and make changes to it for better life, never get frustrated and tries to learn from their mistakes, tends to be flexible and always ready to help others and focus on their responsibility. There are various Indian athletes and child prodigies with dynamic identities who achieved greater heights at a very young age, such as:

- **Saurabh Chaudhary:** He is a Meerut boy who became the toast of the nation when he scripted history by winning gold in 10m Air Pistol shooting event at 16 years of age in Asian Games, 2018. He had also broken the world record on his way by receiving gold medal in the Junior World Cup in Germany, 2018.
- **Shardul Vihan:** A fifteen-year-old boy showed nerves of steel by becoming India's youngest shooter who won a silver medal in Asian games, 2018. At 14-years of age, he had received four gold medals at the Shotgun National Championship, 2017.
- **Neeraj Chopra:** A young athlete of 20 years from Panipat, Haryana created a new national record by winning a gold medal in javelin throw at the Asian Games, 2018.
- **Anish Bhanwala:** A teenage prodigy of 15 years old who created history by winning a

gold medal at the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol final during 2018 Commonwealth games in Australia.

- **Vinesh Phogat:** She created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal in Asian Games, 2018 at an early age of 23 years. belongs to a Dangal-famed Phogat family. She also won a bronze medal in Asian Games, 2014.
- **Priyanshi Somani:** She is the only participant to have performed with 100% accuracy in addition, multiplication and square root in all 4 mental calculation world cups at the age of 12. Her name has been included in Limca Book of Records as well as Guinness Book of Records.
- **Arvind Chithambaram:** He became India's rising chess star at the age of 15. He was awarded with International Master by FIDE at the age of 14.
- **Angad Daryani:** He is famous for making affordable 3D printer at an early age of 13. He developed an 'eye-pad' for the blind with MIT in 2013.
- **Balamurali Amrati:** He entered the Guinness Book of World records as the world's youngest doctor at the age of 17. He graduated MD with distinction at the age of 17 as the World's youngest doctor in 1995.

Marcia (1966) stated that the exploration of various alternatives and the choice to become committed to one of the available alternatives are crucial dimensions on the pathway of establishing a stable identity. Adolescents may have different identity statues across different domains such as work, religion, and politics which are as follows:

- ✓ **Identity-diffusion:** Adolescents are said to be in a diffused status when they have not made a commitment to a particular identity and have not established any life goals. **Example:** A girl in her adolescence has to do a school project about the hobbies that she feels "define" her. She realizes she has never really enjoyed sports, played an instrument, or developed any other type of

hobby. She has a difficult time expressing how to define her.

- ✓ **Identity-foreclosure:** It involves committing to an identity prematurely without exploration or choice. This might occur when traditions are compulsory or parents are insistent on a particular identity, "foreclosing" conscious choice by the adolescent.

Example: Shweta wanted to pursue her career in medical field but due to parents pressure she took mathematics in Class-XI and pursued her career in engineering line without any interest in that field.

- ✓ **Identity-moratorium:** It is a stage of active exploration coupled with low commitment to a particular identity. This is an interesting, exciting, and potentially dangerous time for adolescents that often leads to conflict with parents or other authority figures.

Example: Sohan, a 16 years old confused child, suddenly begun to argue with his parents about his uncertain future profession "*I want to be a doctor, no... a teacher, no...a lawyer like my best*

friends' mom" which clearly indicates that, Sohan is not quite certain what he wants to become in future yet, but he is actively exploring different alternatives.

- ✓ **Identity achievement:** Adolescents are said to have achieved their identity when they involve themselves in a process of active exploration and strong commitment to a particular set of values, beliefs and life goals that has emerged from their active explorations. It makes them more positive and confident about their decisions and values. **Example:** After studying in Peru, Sunita realized on the basis of her capabilities and hidden potential that she cannot work for a large corporation rather she will prefer to be a nurse.

Thus, unique and dynamic identity development which develops as a result of more commitment and active exploration of individuals towards their identity plays an important role in PUC students life as it enables them to present their best version in various fields such as, academics, sports and other co-curricular activities.

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