



## Webchat: Live with Monique Coleman, UN Youth Champion and American actress best known for playing Taylor McKessie in the “High School Musical” movies

Chat held March 31, 2011, 5 PM (IST)

### Transcript:

Moderator: Calling the youth of India! Express yourself, share your views, thoughts, dreams and aspirations in a live web chat with Monique Coleman, UN Youth Champion and American actress best known for playing Taylor McKessie in the “High School Musical” movies, on March 31, 2011, Thursday, at 5:00 pm.

Moderator: Please submit your questions here.

Moderator: Hi! Welcome. We are soon going to start.

Moderator: Monique Coleman is here folks!

Monique: Hi everyone!!! I'm here at The American Center...so excited to chat with you all

surya bhushan sharma: what should be done to minimise the cross cultural differences..??

Monique: Great question. I believe that the theme of International Year of Youth speaks to this question. Dialog and Mutual Understanding!

TUNDUP DORJEY: HELLO

dinesh vats: Why old generation donot want to undrstand youth?

Monique: well...we are living in a very different world than those who are our predecessors. i believe that older people WANT to understand us, but sometimes don't know how

Roshan: Hey Hi monique :) how ya doin?

Monique: It's important that we find our own voices first...express ourselves politely and seek their wisdom

Roshan: hey monique! how are u ? how do u want to empower youth? on which matters are u concerned about ?

Monique: I want to help youth to empower themselves. Everything we need is already inside of us, we simply have to tap into that personal power

Swati Save: Thank you for visiting India & taking on this chat w/ the youth in the country. My question is: What according to you are the primary reasons for lack of opportunities and access to power for the youth in a developing economy such as India w/ those in developed economies such as United States or Europe?

Monique: I'm especially concerned about those young people who have NO voice...

Monique: Swati: I believe that inequity is present in both the developing and developed countries. There is a vast gap between the extremely wealthy and the incredibly poor

Monique: Also Swati, with the increase of youth populations around the world in countries such as India, there are many jobs that need to be created

Sanjukta: hey Monique! :)

Sanjukta: so how are you finding India? Is it your first time here?

Chhaya: What according to you the youth of today must do to remain positive and enthusiastic....

Monique: Chhaya: look around. There is so much beauty in the world and young people have the energy and creativity to make a real impact

Monique: That should be very inspiring to YOUTH

Monique: Sanjukta: I love India!!!! It's always been a dream to visit and being here is much more than I imagined

Shruti Sharma: Why is it that the youth of today feel so stressed because of XYZ reasons (primarily work and relationships) and get so involved in it that forget to pursue their interests or recreational activities...what can one do to keep ourselves reminded of the importance of renewal in our lives by means of pursuing our interests etc.?

Monique: Shruti: I completely relate to this. I think we can sometimes put so much pressure on ourselves that we forget why we are really here, which is to enjoy and experience life.

Monique: Shruti: I believe we need to slow down a little. This is very hard to do with how fast the world around us is...with social media, school, and the prospect of getting a job in this economy, life can become overwhelming

Monique: I suggest spend time with children and in nature....that always seems to put life into perspective for me

Saurabh: Good-Luck Monique; and well, I am sending you this question from York, the United Kingdom.

Saurabh: Hello Monique! How do you think youths from various communities today, see and adopt to the global 'one world' notion?

dinesh vats: how to face the wellwishers and society after failing in a big exam or dream exam?

Monique: Dinesh: You have to realize that failing an exam isn't failing at life!

Monique: Dinesh: try reminding the members of your society of how difficult these exams can be. Your best is ALL that you can be, so if you've done that, you will never fail

waheed ur rehman: Don't you think youth here are more constructive than in any part of world

Monique: Waheed: Interesting thought...I have been on this world tour for 2 months now traveling in varying places from Australia to Indonesia, Thailand to Bangladesh, and I find that youth everywhere are very constructive

Michelle: In the recent past, the three prominent early stages of growth in a persons life was "kid" then "youth" and finally "adult". Each of these were categorised based on age, behaviour, knowledge, energy levels, experience and so on and so forth....however in the recent years i've found it difficult to differentiate between these categories simply becoz, most "kids" or "youth" "know" more, "do" more and "see" more. Bearing this in mind, (apart from the age factor) what would you define as youth?

Monique: I love this question :) Michelle! I am 30 years old and therefore don't fit into the UN definition of the youth, so I ask myself this question all the time LOL

Rose: Hello Monique! What do you think about the places you have been in?

Monique: Rose: (pretty name by the way) I find that there is beauty everywhere and issues everywhere....a place is defined by its people

Monique: Great questions everyone! Keep em coming :)

Rose: How can youth of today face the troubles they're getting in to?

Monique: Well Rose, I think we have to figure out how they can avoid getting into these troubles in the first place. Prevention is as important and rehabilitation

BJ: Hi Monique, Among others, what is the one big difference you have seen between American youth and the youth of other countries during your world tour.

Monique: I think young people are simply looking for something to do, and if they found positive outlets, they would avoid many troubles

Monique: BJ: The main difference I've seen is primarily between youth in the developed world and youth in developing countries. Youth in developed countries often deal with more psychological issues such as bullying, self esteem, things like that

Rose: Monique: Thank You for he compliment and you have a pretty name too :)

Monique: In developing countries, youth are fighting harder to have basic needs met...like clean drinking water, healthcare, and education

rabiya farheen: what are the roles that a typical youth should observe?how do you feel being selected as the youth of the year?future plans?

Monique: Rabiya: I'm honored and excited to be the UN Youth Champion. In the future I intend to continue to advocate for youth and advance my website [www.gimmemo.com](http://www.gimmemo.com) As far as roles, young people should simply strive to be their best and contribute positively to society

dinesh vats: how can we work on our core strength to enhance or polish our efforts to the achievement of a goal?

dinesh vats: we are in a society where no dream is too big, but sometimes dreams are not realistic and we get frustrated?

Monique: Dinesh: This can be achieved through persistence and discipline. We mustn't give up after the first, second, or 100th try. The things we cherish most often don't come easily

Monique: Dinesh: true. that frustration is normal, but it cannot stop you!!!! You must chose courage and faith over fear and defeat. You really can do ANYthing you set your mind to

Moderator: We have time for one more question.

Rose: How can we avoid bullying? Or is it something to inform adults about

Monique: Bullying is one of the biggest issues going on around the world so I'm glad you brought it up. We must always tell adults

Monique: And, Confidence is the GREATEST "weapon" against a bully. Don't engage them and they will move on

Chhaya: What would be your message for the youth of India

Monique: Chhaya: I would like for the youth of India to figure out what their passion is and pursue it with their whole selves. Our dreams were given to us because they are meant to manifest. I encourage you all to follow your dreams and believe in yourselves that way that I believe in you!

Moderator: Thanks Monique.

Monique: I would love to stay and chat, but I must go and participate in a live program...

Rose: Thanks Monique :)

Monique: Thank you all for your insightful questions and for participating in this discussion. Please continue to share the message of the Year of Youth which is Dialog and Mutual Understanding

Monique: All the best to you :)

Moderator: Thanks much!

Monique: Please continue to follow my journeys around the world at [www.gimmemo.com](http://www.gimmemo.com), [facebook.com/gimmemotalk](https://facebook.com/gimmemotalk), and [twitter.com/gimmemotalk](https://twitter.com/gimmemotalk)

Moderator: The transcript of the chat will be posted here soon. Thanks for joining everyone. And thanks again Monique!