

INTRODUCTION

As from 12th January, 2010, 14 students took up the initiative to represent the school in this Global Teen Group, namely: Atiya Harunani, Cecil Adede, Gary Howai, Kashyap Gohel, Lubaina Adamjee, Nausheen Sumar, Rishad Kabar, Sajni Malde, Salima Mitha, Stephen Kimanzi, Arjun Singh Asan, Zilna Shavdia, Nafisa Abdulhamid and Tasin Sheikh.

We came up with a topic dealing with technology and its effect on youth, since we saw that as an emerging issue. Therefore we decided to explore the effects and controls of adult and offensive materials found on the internet.



We raised the following questions:

1. What do you think is the causes of people deviating into surfing on offensive sites on the internet and looking at the offensive material?
2. What are some of the effects of this on the youth mind, and give adequate examples. Personal though anonymous accounts are also accepted.
3. Do you think cyber cafes and school libraries should give privacy to people and students respectively? Debate on the positive and negative effects of both.
4. Do you have any blocking programs in your school to bar you from accessing certain internet sites? what does each blocker do, and how does it disrupt your researching?
5. What in you opinion can you do about stopping people from accessing those sites without crowding into their privacy?

We are pleased to say we got very fruitful answers from most of our group classmates.

END VOLUME, FINAL ISSUE

NEWSLETTER: 16TH APRIL, 2010

In this issue:

Ms. Nancy Ngowa

Ms. Fatma Al Maamari

Mr. Anthony Gioko

Mr. Abdesalam

Special points of interest:

- * This is a summary of all our experiences and activities in this Global Teens Initiative.
- * We also highlighted the results we have obtained through interaction with fellow global teen group classmates.

SECONDARY STORY HEADLINE

QUESTION 1:

Some people take it as an opportunity to satisfy their curiosity about some matters, e.g. when adults prevent teens from watching a movie that other kids have watched, even though the movie is not meant for them, so the desire to know what they had been denied causes them to surf on these offensive sites when they find opportunities to do so (whether at school or in a cyber café).

Others find it an addiction, even though they discovered these sites by mistake, for example, from adverts flashing on the side of a serious site's window. Some of these sites are appealing and take root quickly in highly fertile minds such as those of the youth.

In a different perspective, we can also take peer pressure is a significant factor to teens and adults alike surfing into offensive sites. We may be egged on to going to the sites by being intimidated with threats of looking cowardly when we refuse.

QUESTION 2:

The youth mind is like a young tree sapling. When negative influence starts so early in the life, when one gets older, the negativity becomes something worse. Some youth may become rude, adopt uncouth attire or behavior and consequently decrease performance in schools and colleges as they spend more time on surfing the internet.

Some teenagers are also affected by the wrong use of technology, for example, when they spend much time on computer, TV program, radio or mobile without any attention to what they do or what they gain from that activity.

QUESTION 3

Positive:

It gives a chance for some shy students and people alike to have their own haven(peace area) to work comfortably in, without fear of interference from others. It gives a person freedom to work independently for once.

Negative

The obvious reason is that the person may succumb to trying out the site, and like the forbidden fruit, it tastes good and is addictive

When the person is strong minded-When this person is given privacy, he/she is always tempted to venture and this serves as a distraction to the work being done. The standard of work drops.

QUESTION 4

We have a program called 'Open DNS'. It blocks almost all entertainment, blogging, and some research sites. This is to prevent students from going to social sites like Facebook, Twitter, etc. Its disrupts researching when some file you want to view is legitimate, but just because it is found in a non-legitimate website, you can't view it. It also hinders research like a stumbling block when you try to investigate the actual entertainment that is blocked, e.g. the effect of facebook on the youth.

QUESTION 5:

We think a direct but gentle approach to helping the youth understand what the negative effects of that are will make them stay on the right track. To add to that, peer counseling will help a great deal in solving any such problems that would arise in a person. Lastly, when a child is educated while young, they grow up more responsible. Invasion of their privacy will just push them to waste time in looking for more crooked ways of getting what they want.

Finally, teenagers need to be controlled either by themselves or teacher, good friends and parents to use technology in a good way that enhance their skills and abilities towards their lives. They should keep in mind technology is for all and it is a good tool to communicate, learn, discover and invent new things.

CONCLUSION

The issue of using the internet for wrong purposes was a close topic to us and was highly applicable to the modern day society, where we see technology invading all spheres of life.

When we look back at the experiences we had interacting among ourselves, discovering new ideas and creating a forum for researching on newer ways of thinking about some issues, we certainly appreciate that such an opportunity was presented to us.