



Netiquette

The Internet has become a fundamental part of our everyday life – especially teenagers' lives. As a part of our project we did a survey on the internet habits of a group of students whom we interviewed. The results were intriguing.

In our questionnaire we included the topics of cyberbullying, use of social media, the effects of the online world and keeping privacy. Our target group was a class of boys and girls, aged 16-18. Most of them spend 2-4 hours on the internet a day, but in our opinion this might not always apply in real life, as we see many teenagers constantly glued to their phones. Surprisingly, answers showed that almost everyone asked, said that they only post on social media once a month.

What's more, they stated that they sort out carefully what they share with others, based on if they look good in the picture, or if the information is not too private. Unfortunately, still many young people can't see this clearly and make poor choices when it comes to sharing their lives. The people we asked



claimed

that they think people who give out every little detail of their lives are delinquent and it happens because of the lack of their life experiences outside of the online world. The mandatory assumption we have is that these teenagers admit that social media consumes their lives and it is tough to communicate with

others in real life. They agreed with us on the fact that real connection between youngsters is gradually losing its importance.

The conclusion we made from what we heard is that most people post the highlights of their lives, sometimes with an intention to brag or to get positive attention. We believe this can generate jealousy and lack of self-confidence in some. This is an issue which is a result of social media: as everyone is trying to conceal the bad and only show off the good, it creates a false image that the youth believe is reality and they feel the pressure to fit into society.

However, some of them said that social media can strengthen people's confidence if they get a lot of positivity from others and this can make them conceited. While the other way around some people can get hate from others and this can make them insecure and in extreme cases can even cause depression. This act of hating on someone through social sites is usually referred to as cyberbullying. Our target group said that they have never been cyberbullied though have heard stories about it. We also proposed a question. Had they ever received or had themselves given mean comments to others. The number of 'yes' and 'no' answers was almost equal. This may add an interesting argument to the debate about the idea that 'you get what you give' and that being hurt by the words of somebody doesn't stop one from causing the same pain to somebody else.



Concluding everything we collected, we found some interesting statements about the habits of today's teenagers and how they treat others and themselves on the internet. From what we found and our opinions the internet can have a bad and good influence on teenagers' lives depending on how they use it. It's very important to educate youngsters about the possible dangers of the internet, cyberbullying and how to keep their privacy.

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