

The problems of youth

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It is said that the most beautiful period in our life is when we are teenagers. It seems that teenagers have no problems as they do not have to work, care about their families or have any duties. But it's not true, they have many problems in fact.

One of the problems is their parents; they do not understand the problems of young people. They usually do not trust them.

The problem of generation is one of the most serious ones. There are problems of unemployment, homelessness, the problem of housing for young married couples. There are such problems as delinquency and drug-abuse. There is always problem of money. The problem of equal social opportunities is one of the most important problems which the modern young people are facing.

I think that teenagers' problems starts from the first cigarette. And from that time they want to try more and more. I mean drugs. drug-abuse is a great problem in Russia, because it's connected with robbing, pickpocketing, murdering and so on. And nobody knows what to do with that. Nobody can stop teenagers from doing such things. And, from my point of view, if they start they won't stop in the future, may be only for a period.

I think that from the childhood children must be told by their parents, that the word "DRUG" means Death.

Of course future of our generation will be soon out of control. As statistics said there are more that 20% of drugdealers in our country. It means that from year to year the number of them will be grow up if nobody can stop them.

If a man takes drugs, he will do anything to get another dose. He can even kill somebody to get it. But some people do it not only because of drugs. They do it because of their live: some of them came from dysfunctional family and some of them are just got in with a bad crowd.

The number of crimes such as burglaries and thefts occurring in private flats, houses and the public sector, has in recent years increased greatly, giving rise to situation whereby police are unable to guarantee safety to citizens at home or in the street. Although this situation certainly calls for stronger action by our police force we must pay attention to own behavior to be sure we are not inadvertently provoking crime and making the criminals' life easier.

AIDS!!!

More than twenty years ago mankind was sure that infectious diseases did not represent a danger to the civilised world anymore.

However, at the beginning of the '80s, with the appearance of AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome – this conviction was essentially shaken.

According to the USA AIDS statistics, 'only 29 deaths occurred prior to the year 1981. In 1981 we can see a rapid growth of death cases due to AIDS – 121 deaths during that first year. Since 1981 the number of deaths increased progressively. This process continued until 1996. Since that year, in the USA there has been a marked decline in AIDS incidence and deaths. This was associated with the widespread use of potent combinations of antiretroviral therapies.

However, the rates of decline in AIDS incidence and deaths slowed the latter part of 1998 and 1999. At the end of 1999 in the USA there were 320.000 people living with AIDS.

For example, in Russia, at the end of 2001 there were 170.000 people living with AIDS. But these statistics include only those officially diagnosed. The real figures are estimated to be much worse. Among all the regions of Russia, Moscow region and the city of Moscow occupy first and second place in number of AIDS cases.

Nowadays AIDS is found in practically all countries of the world. At the end of 1999, there were 34.3 million people throughout the world living with AIDS, and without doubt the number of cases has increased over the last two years.

To begin with, AIDS is a difficult scientific problem. Even theoretical solutions to the task of clearing the genetic mechanism of traces of virus information have not yet been worked out. There will be no complete victory over AIDS without solving this problem. This disease has posed a lot of scientific questions for research.

Furthermore, AIDS is one of the most difficult economic problems. Billions of dollars have been spent on fundamental scientific research, both to protect people from AIDS, and to cure those who have already contracted the disease.

To sum up, AIDS is not only a problem facing doctors and public health authorities, but it should be solved by scientists in many different fields, statesmen and economist, lawyers and sociologists. It is the consequence of a global moral crisis.

AIDS is one of the consequence of alcohol and drug addiction among young people. The roots of these problems are found in families where children do not receive the love and care they need. In these families, children feel alienated, and begin to search for substitutes for love such as alcohol and drugs, which affect the nervous system. These narcotics and stimulants thansport young people eaway from real life into a world of illusion. Using and abusing alcohol and drags, young people no longer control their actions and thoughts. Moreover, they have the illusion that in this way they can get rid of any psychological complexes of being a teen.

So, losing the feeling of self control, young people are able to engage in casual sexual relations with total strangers. And if a young man fall ill with venereal disease some time after such an experience, it is very difficult for him to remember who he caught ot from.

Now we can observe the rapid spread of AIDS in Russia. In Western countries, the majority of people spreading this disease are homosexuals; but in Russia 75% of AIDS cases occur among drug abusers.

Evidently, the reason for these problems is in the feelings that are so typical for reenagers. At that age a person is not a child any more, but he has not yet become an adult either. He needs a mature person to understand him and help him to cope with his problems. He needs a person who can support him and lead him in the right direction.



SUICIDE: PAS AND GON

Have you ever stood at the edge of the precipice? What did you feel? You had a dilemma: to throw yourself into the precipice or to walk away.

But what can lead us to such a situation? Death of close people, loss of money. Should any of these reasons cost you your life? No, of course, not. Life is something so precious that was given to you by God and your parents. It's disrespect to your mother to leave life. Did she give you birth in order to lose you after 15 or 30 or even 50 years? She had been bringing you up through difficulties, tears, and sleepless nights. Every mother will tell how it's painful when her infant is ill. She is gasping near the bedstead during days and nights. Can you imagine her state when she learns about your absurd death? It seems to her that her own life has become meaningless. I consider this treatment towards parents to be a crime!

But life is different, and you may not have any relatives. It's a hard burden and not everybody will agree to ask for help. Your question is: "What am I living for then?" Life was given to you by God and you must bear all its trial with virtual, you must do everything to change it for the better.

I'll tell you two different stories.

The first one took place in a village. A healthy, middle-aged man had a wife and two little children. Some time after he was dismissed from work, his wife earned very little money. They were always short of money. Half-starved children, a hard working wife, successful neighbours. The man couldn't cope with himself. He committed suicide. His wife was very upset, she was crying over the coffin.

At first was surprised when I heard the opinion of their neighbours. They said the man was very weak, that's why he abandoned this world and left his family alone to suffer. Now I agree with them.

The second story is rather short. An ordinary woman lived with a husband and a one year old son. Once the boy fell seriously ill. He was twice between life and death. The doctors said that he was hopeless. But the mother didn't give way to despair; her husband also cheered her up. Later on, the son recovered. But the woman had to retire from work and couldn't return to it.

Now the boy has grown up and that woman is still staying at home. But she is very happy and proud of her son. That woman is my mother. If she had lost control of herself at that time and had committed suicide, there wouldn't be my brother and me now.

I reckon if you are a strong person you would fight up to the end. It's easy to make one step towards the precipice; it's hard to go a long way back to a happy, successful life.

Don't despair; always believe in your future and your strength. It's not mere words – it is the truth!



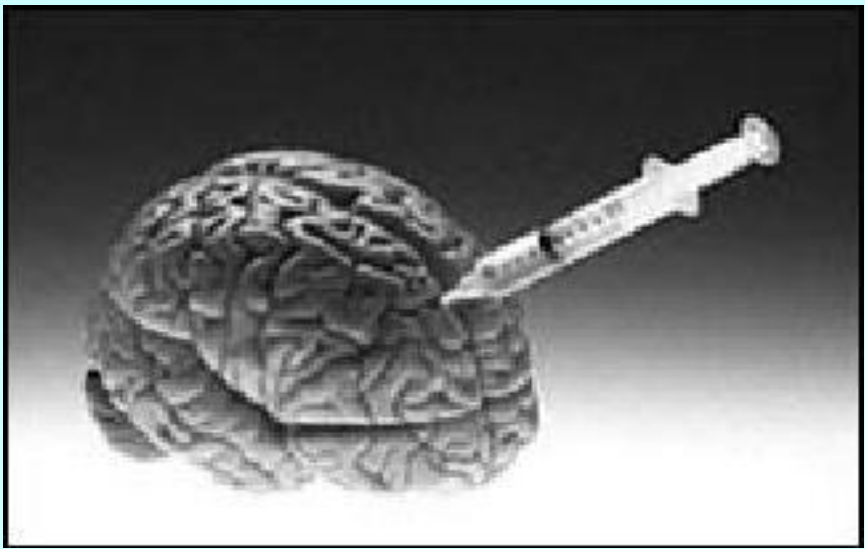
Thesis

Teenagers are influenced by the pop-culture industry, ads on MTV and the Internet. That is why the biggest thing for them is wearing name-brand clothes. If you even think of wearing a non-name brand, you have guts. The coolest brands among both boys and girls are Nike and Adidas. Looks are really important, too. If you are not pretty, people won't hang out with you. Some girls with dark hair even dye their hair blonde to look cool.

Everything is just one big competition. Some girls leave the house wearing one thing, and then change into tight, short skirts. Dressing alike is a refuge, a way of hiding in the group. That is why at 16, the majority want body piercing, keep extreme diets and wear similar clothes. Many have part-time jobs to pay for their clothes and entertainments. Peers' opinions matter a lot. The school is divided into different groups which often have their own uniforms, hobbies and habits. To be popular in high school either you have money and can throw a really great party, you look good or you play football.

Half of high-school seniors have used illegal drugs at least once. Many of them start doing drugs out of curiosity or because they want to be accepted. Others find in them a way out of their problems. The drug epidemic is also encouraged by popular culture, especially by rock and rap music. In a recent study of 10- to 17-year-olds 76% said that the entertainment industry encourages illegal drug use. They say, “Almost every song you listen to says something about it. It puts it into your mind constantly. When you see the celebrities doing drugs, it seems okay.” Children receive pro-drug messages through their computers too. On the Internet, they can find detailed instruction on how to use drugs.

In the teenage years, parents start discussing the most important issues with kids, such as alcohol and drugs, violent situations and AIDS, ect. Teens know that drugs do a lot of harm to their brain, lungs, memory, coordination skills. Addicts become lazy, skip school, feel depressed. Moreover, drug addiction is linked to criminal behavior. More than half of arrested juveniles tested positive for marijuana.



Teenagers usually create their own secret worlds and invent private codes of style and behavior. Adults are excluded. New technologies and the entertainment industry have more deeply isolated grown-ups from teenagers. The net, videogames and music are creating new worlds, almost a virtual reality without adults. With the computer often in the teen's bedroom, kids are unsupervised, looking at whatever they please. They have more access to any information online which they are able to evaluate, A lot of teenagers have gotten hooked on violent videogames which can be more harmful than movies because the player becomes the aggressor, the one who does the killing. Such games are easily accessible to kids.

Another problem that is caused by late TV-viewing and Internet surfing, is lack of sleep. The teenagers who are hooked on these activities, usually get from 2 up to 5 hours less sleep than they need. They face difficulties at school because they are irritable, impatient and can't concentrate and follow directions.

Every day 14 children die in gun accidents, suicides and homicides. At this pace, guns will replace cars as the nation's most deadly product. Hundreds more are wounded, many crippled for life. Some teenagers kill their buddies or commit suicides trying in this way to settle their conflicts. Some get shot in shooting accidents or while playing with their parents' guns. Even the best-behaved kids might try to get a gun when afraid or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Gun homicide is the main cause of death for young African-American men. The U. S. teen-age murder rate is seven times higher than any nation in Western Europe.

Many teens are really scared. They don't feel safe and try to avoid trouble while on the streets: travel in groups, leave valuables at home. More than half the 3,000 students polled, said they could get a gun if they wanted to. Many high schools have security guards who check pockets and bags or use metal detectors.

Psychologists say that Americans are raising a generation of children in a culture of violence in which guns solve all problems.



In the junior high school, teens begin to move away from their families. They find support and comfort among their peers. Different subcultures cliques develop around particular interests: pastimes, music, fashion, attitudes to school, cars, or drugs. Researchers speak about jocks, burnouts, and nerds.

Jocks enthusiastically participate in all school activities, in school government and strive to achieve good academic results. They disdain smoking and drugs. Burnouts accept school only as a necessity. They smoke in parking lots, tend to avoid school activities and be independent. They hate the jocks' interest in achievement and student government.

In high school the most popular students are athletes and those with good looks. Many high school students dread being labeled as nerds, who are good at many subjects, but actually have no friends. Though in the last twenty years, teen geniuses have won at least a little more respect.

Lately, high schools have grown larger and a diversity of gangs and cliques has also increased.

People complain teenagers are no good. They make too much noise in shopping malls, they drive recklessly up and down America's main streets and cut glasses. They are too self-centered, irresponsible, sex-driven, booze-drinking. They can be angry, aggressive and rebel against parents and other adults. All teens take risks because they want to be independent, but often they are not able to assess danger. Some get engaged in high-risk behaviors including drinking, drug use, stealing, violence. Boys often hurt themselves or others because they are bullied by their peers and feel excluded or humiliated. They want revenge, they need to feel strong and powerful. Many teens are eager to keep up with the others and follow their example. But peers can also influence teens in a positive way.

Parents and other adults should encourage young people to take healthy risks such as playing sports, traveling, going on camping trips or even bungee jumping. Parents need to teach them to distinguish between healthy and dangerous risks. But often parents are too hard on their kids: they set strict rules and expect too much or press too hard for good grades and perfection.



Literature:

English 10-11 student's book

<http://www.native-english.ru/>

<http://english-language.euro.ru/>