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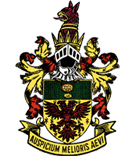
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**Raffles Institution**

**Secondary One Research Education**

**Interview Report**

An investigation into the effects of Facebook on social health of RI year 1 students

Raffles Institution Research Education

Done by: Mukund, Rasydan, Akmal and Louie

Class: 1E

Teacher Mentor: Mr. Edmund Chow

II. Introduction

a. Title/Focus of Topic

Our title of the interview is ‘ The effects of Facebook on social health of RI Year 1 students’. Our definition on social health is ‘the level or state of someone socialising with the community’. So, our focus is actually on how well a student who uses Facebook often socialise with his community.

b. Background of Interviewee

Our purpose of the interview is to investigate the effects of Facebook on social health of RI Year 1 students. So, the best person to interview would be the Counsellor of the school itself. Therefore, we had decided to interview Miss Jamie Ng Sook Wai, a Counsellor working in Raffles Institution. The reason we had for the choice of the interviewee is that she had a few experiences about the topic.

c. The 8 Questions

Our 8 questions are actually a guide for us to uncover the answers. These are our questions:-

1. What is your opinion on social health?
2. How does Facebook affect relationships?
3. How does speedy communication affect the nature of relationships?
4. 60% of our survey respondents stated that Facebook causes misunderstanding within the family because respondents cannot communicate properly with them. What is your opinion on this?
5. 35% of the survey respondents stated that they used Facebook 5 hours or more in a week. How does the duration of Facebook usage affect the user’s communication skills? What do you feel about this?
6. Since Facebook users communicate with people without actually seeing them personally, how does this affect their face-to-face communication skill?
7. You were saying that people of our age are so into Facebook that they think their real world is Facebook. Is this trend alarming?
8. What do you think parents and teachers can do to help these teenagers?

We actually had 10 questions but after a thorough check, we actually found out that 2 of the questions are similar to one of the questions in the list of questionnaires. So, we decided to only have 8 questions instead of 10 questions.

III. Transcript

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| --- | --- |
| Akmal | What is your opinion on social health? |
| Miss Jamie | My personal view, there are many young people your age who are extrovert by their temperament, and there also some people, because of temperament have are shy. They do not enjoy talking to others. Not a lot of confidence. Some people really enjoy relating and communicating with others. Love making friends. |
| Akmal | How does Facebook affect relationships? |
| Miss Jamie | It affects them in good and bad ways. It allows a person to communicate quickly and keep in touch with people. I personally have come across people who think Facebook, the cyber world, is actually the real world, and they think of the real world as a hobby. Because of this, I think Facebook does affect the relationship of the users because they do not relate with their family. However, if Facebook used for the right reasons it can be very good. Another thing that affects the relationships with friends or family is because in Facebook, a person can be rude. They can spam and flame anyone. This behavior would also reflect when they communicate with their family. They actually forget their manners. They are less thoughtful. |
| Akmal | How does speedy communication affect the nature of relationships? |
| Miss Jamie | Facebook allows a person to communicate on the go. For example, my friend said I broke up with my boyfriend. I thought that it was funny. So, I feel that this speedy communication does not enable someone to show care for others. Something like indifference. You broke up, so what do you want me to do? You know that kind of situation? I wonder whether I would take my friend seriously if she were to relate to me using Facebook. |
| Akmal | 60% of our survey respondents stated that Facebook causes misunderstanding within the family because respondents cannot communicate properly with them. What is your opinion on this? |
| Miss Jamie | If the family has an open communication with one another, this problem should not arrive. For example, someone were to gossip about your family on Facebook. If you actually believe it, there could be moral issues among family members, you get what I mean? I want to share something from my personal experience. My friend had a boyfriend. So one time on Facebook, someone told my friend that her boyfriend had cheated on her, because she had seen my friend’s boyfriend walking with another girl. This caused a huge misunderstanding between my friend and her boyfriend. They broke up soon after. So, as I said earlier, the root cause for this was the poor communication link between the Facebook user and his/her relatives. |
| Akmal | 35% of the survey respondents stated that they used Facebook 5 hours or more in a week. How does the duration of Facebook usage affect the user’s communication skills? What do you feel about this? |
| Miss Jamie | It does sound like a lot of time, taking into note of your homework and things like that. In Facebook, you do not take responsibility for your words. If you do say something bad, the most others can do is to ask you to shut up. It does affect our social skills. |
| Akmal | Since Facebook users communicate with people without actually seeing them personally, how does this affect their face-to-face communication skill? |
| Miss Jamie | For example, all of you guys are sitting here with me talking to me, like an enriching communication. However, in Facebook, there is a lack of courtesy and thought for others. There is also a lack of body language, so you don’t really know how the person is feeling. We forget about the tone of voice, consideration to people. So, all these bad aspects will reflect in face-to-face communication. Because this generation is borne into Facebook, it can be pretty bad if people forget how to communicate with respect to others. I will give you an example. There was this RE group which sent me an email. It said that they would like to interview me and they gave me a few timings. Then full stop. So what about my time? So this kind of thing is actually a clear reflection of inconsideration. But on the other hand, you guys actually took the trouble to come down here to tell me. I mean, that is a very good example of Face-to-Face communication skills! |
| Mukund | I would just like to bring up the point of what you said earlier. You were saying that people of our age are so into Facebook that they think their real world is Facebook. Is this trend alarming? |
| Miss Jamie | Good point you picked up there. When people are in that situation, it is pretty alarming. There is now way out. It is like a frog being boiled alive. You get slowly sucked into it. The problem is that you do not realize that you are being sucked into it. On Facebook, you can do anything and get away scot-free. So this gives users a delusion that Facebook is the better place to be in rather that the real world. |
| Mukund | What do you think parents and teachers can do to help these teenagers? |
| Miss Jamie | In terms of family, the parents actually can bring them on outings instead of being holed up in front of the computer. The parents can talk to their child about anything, just to keep a healthy conversation going. What teachers can do is that they can actually tell the pupils about the importance of communicating and relating with the family through CLE lesson. There is a lesson like that right? Parents must spend time with them to build a strong bond with the family. So the idea is to do what the whole family loves. This enables them to actually cherish the family’s presence. Friends can also do activities together like playing soccer. |
| Miss Jamie | The reason why teenagers your age go to Facebook is because they want someone to care for them. In some circumstances, parents do not have the time. So as they are sucked into Facebook, they become indifferent to others and they start to lack courtesy. So, parents play a key role in ensuring their child’s overall Social health in terms of communication and Relationships. |
| Akmal, Rasydan, Louie, Mukund | Thank you Ms. Jamie for your time. We appreciated it a lot. Hope to see you again. |
| Ms. Jamie | No problem guys have a nice day. |
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IV. Interview Field Notes

Interview Field Notes Template

Name of Interviewee: Ms Jamie Ng Sook Wai

Date of Interview: 22nd March 2011 Time: 11.00 a.m.

Position/Profession: School Counsellor

Age: N.A. Gender: F

Relationship: N.A.

Question 1: What is your opinion on social health?

Answer: My personal view, there are many young people your age who are extrovert by their temperament, and there also some people, because of temperament have are shy. They do not enjoy talking to others. Not a lot of confidence. Some people really enjoy relating and communicating with others. Love making friends.

Question 2: How does Facebook affect relationships?

Answer: It affects them in good and bad ways. It allows a person to communicate quickly and keep in touch with people. I personally have come across people who think Facebook, the cyber world, is actually the real world, and they think of the real world as a hobby. Because of this, I think Facebook does affect the relationship of the users because they do not relate with their family. However, if Facebook used for the right reasons it can be very good. Another thing that affects the relationships with friends or family is because in Facebook, a person can be rude. They can spam and flame anyone. This behavior would also reflect when they communicate with their family. They actually forget their manners. They are less thoughtful.

Question 3: Since Facebook users communicate with people without actually seeing them personally, how does this affect their face-to-face communication skill?

Answer: For example, all of you guys are sitting here with me talking to me, like an enriching communication. However, in Facebook, there is a lack of courtesy and thought for others. There is also a lack of body language, so you don’t really know how the person is feeling. We forget about the tone of voice, consideration to people. So, all these bad aspects will reflect in face-to-face communication. Because this generation is borne into Facebook, it can be pretty bad if people forget how to communicate with respect to others. I will give you an example. There was this RE group which sent me an email. It said that they would like to interview me and they gave me a few timings. Then full stop. So what about my time? So this kind of thing is actually a clear reflection of inconsideration. But on the other hand, you guys actually took the trouble to come down here to tell me. I mean, that is a very good example of Face-to-Face communication skills!

Question 4: What do you think parents and teachers can do to help these teenagers?

Answer: In terms of family, the parents actually can bring them on outings instead of being holed up in front of the computer. The parents can talk to their child about anything, just to keep a healthy conversation going. What teachers can do is that they can actually tell the pupils about the importance of communicating and relating with the family through CLE lesson. There is a lesson like that right? Parents must spend time with them to build a strong bond with the family. So the idea is to do what the whole family loves. This enables them to actually cherish the family’s presence. Friends can also do activities together like playing soccer.

V. Evaluation of Interview

a. Results and Analysis