

Analysis of Wealth-flaunting Chinese Teenagers

Xian Chen

Guangzhou Zhixin High School, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China
510075.CXA2005@163.com.

ABSTRACT

In this generation, the truth is that a large number of teenagers in worldwide society are pursuing material rather than spiritual advancement. Money worship, ostentatious behavior in material things, and so on all have a strong influence on teenagers, particularly in China. Many Chinese teenagers love and pursue material life in an extreme way. In their social circles, showing their financial power also becomes a key factor in their social interaction and entertainment in their lives. With the collected data from the China Internet Network Information Center, this paper analyzes several types of Chinese teenagers who love flaunting wealth in a psychological way, the reasons for this phenomenon, and the solution to it. The paper finds that there are three kinds of Chinese teenagers who love flaunting wealth. The causes of their flaunting wealth are the historical factor, the education factor, and social and individual factors. These are the fundamental triggers of this phenomenon.

Keywords: Psychology, society, flaunting wealth, materialism and spiritualism

1. INTRODUCTION

China has made remarkable development, especially after the reform and opening up. The new generation of young people born after that enjoy the achievements; they dare to accept new and fashionable things and they pursue their desires and their fashionable culture. At the same time, a large number of people living in the free atmosphere do whatever they want, like extreme consumerism. So most Chinese, especially teenagers, find more things to achieve spiritual growth. We would rather satisfy our need for self-actualization now than in the past. There are some platforms like Weibo, Tiktok, Wechat and other network technologies. There is a Chinese APP named "Red Book" which is popular among teenagers.

From this figure, it is obvious that the first time of most people surfing the internet are over ten years old, which means teenagers are more prone to be affected by the Internet.

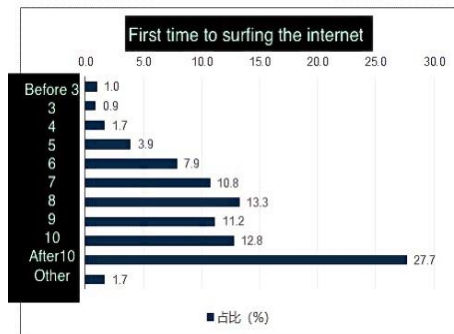


Figure 1 Teenagers first time to surfing the Internet

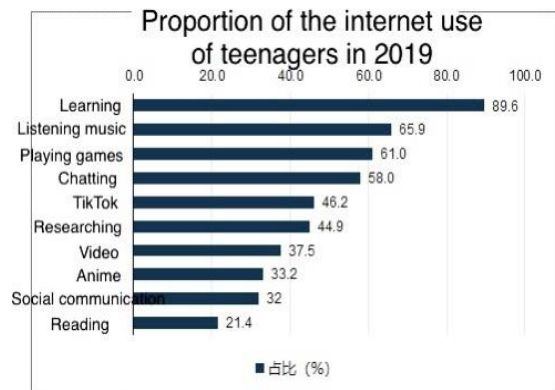


Figure 2 The proportion of the internet use of teenagers in 2019

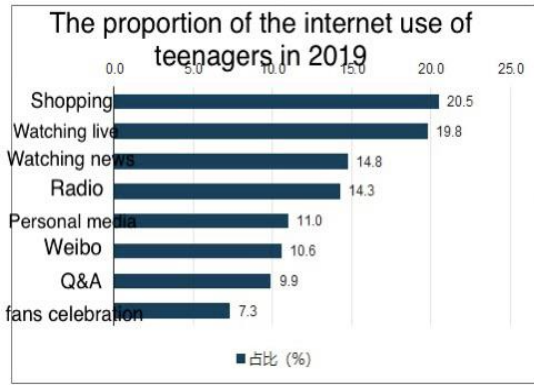


Figure 3 The proportion of the internet use of teenagers in 2019

From the above two figures, it shows that with the development and popularization of the Internet age, the youth have become the main users on the network, some of them flaunting material and pursuing consumerism. It is a perfect example of the trend of consumerism and people who show off their well-decorated lives and flaunt their wealth. Every day, people of different ages share the luxuries and expensive restaurants. phenomenon constantly stimulates the whole society and brings negative effects. Many people are emotional about this because even today, the gap and contrast between the rich and poor is serious. In some rural areas of China, when some teenagers from rich families flaunt their wealth and enjoy the good conditions, teenagers there cannot even get the satisfaction of basic necessities.

Based on some references about several types of teenagers who love flaunting wealth and the collected data from CNNIC, the paper explores several types of Chinese teenagers who love flaunting wealth in a psychological way, the reasons for this phenomenon, and the solution to it. It is a worthwhile study that is firmly based on Chinese social phenomena. This paper targets to convey positive value and to achieve a balance between materialism and spiritualism.

2. TYPES OF CHINESE TEENAGERS FLAUNTING WEALTH

People's behavior is the significant feature of analyzing a phenomenon. Maslow believed that all people have internal value, which is a potential or basic need similar to human nature and is characterized by the satisfaction of desire. He divided people's needs into five levels from low to high, the lowest two are physiological needs; the highest are the needs for self-esteem and self-actualization. When the low-level needs are satisfied, the high-level needs start to emerge and become meaningful. People who can flaunt their wealth generally have a better quality of life without worrying about basic necessities. Their physiological needs and safety needs are satisfied, so they will pursue

things at the top of this triangle, referred to as spiritual needs. We also know that the reflection of people's thinking is their behavior. There are several types of Chinese teenagers.

2.1 Lacking self-confidence and self-affirmation but possessing high self-esteem

The first type of them is teenagers who lack self-confidence and self-affirmation but have extremely high self-esteem. This kind of teenager, we call them a "type of extremism". Extreme confidence must be accompanied by extreme self-contempt. It is another real side of the personality. This kind of sentiment is a very interesting combination of superiority and inferiority. Flaunting wealth can satisfy the sense of acceptance and the feeling of being overlooked. They want to get the sense that they are mastering everything through money and status. Actually, the intention of them all is to cover up the pain. As a result, this type of person usually has a bad experience in their life.

2.2 The empty interior

Another type of adolescent is the "empty interior." They also want to cover up something and pursue a spiritual need. However, another type is "empty interior." Their empty minds lead to what they really want to achieve in relationships or careers, and anything can prove themselves in the virtual world. The virtual network gives them the platform from which they can show themselves, entertain, or enjoy their lives there. For instance, some of them are nerds in reality, but the internet gives them a different world in which to be different themselves. Some of them are caused by a lack of love in relationships or by a lack of emotional interaction in family life or marriage. Like a friend of mine, the only thing given from their family is not love, but material. So matter is not just matter in their thinking. Material things are a kind of supplement in their hearts to replace love and belongings. Thus, this can satisfy their needs for love and belongings. Due to Maslow's need hierarchy, although the extremists and the empty interiors all pursue self-actualization, there is a difference between them. Extremists prefer chasing esteem while empty interiors want to get more love and belongings.

2.3 The realist

The final one is "realist". These kinds of people are shrewd and sensitive about financial opportunities just like a businessman or businesswoman. Following the popular trend of using social media to get attention, they use it to gain profit. Their purpose is to make money and develop their careers because the social network has cultivated numerous internet celebrities in recent

years. This job seems to have a promising future and is accepted by most people. They come to the network not to pursue or find something that will make them feel mentally satisfied, but rather to think rationally that the network and social media are all ways to make money and satisfy their basic needs for money, food, and clothing [6].

3. REASONS OF FLAUNTING PHENOMENON

3.1 Historical reason

After the several types of these teenagers, thinking about the reasons for this phenomenon is important. The historical reason is an important factor. Due to continuous development after reform and opening up, and now it is the online age. We should more focus on the development of the economy than on the construction of spiritual culture. Many of the current high class members were born after the reform and opening up and are eager to realize their mobility to the upper class during the period of social stratification and finalize the design brought by the acceleration of social transformation, hoping to show their identity by consuming expensive luxuries with symbolic significance. They are only a generation of accumulation. Many people suddenly have a rich mentality, a lack of cultural accomplishment, a luxury wind prevailing, and their cultural taste is not high, compared with other people.

3.2 School and home education

Education at school is a crucial reason, and it brings the wrong definition of success, which is deeply rooted in many people's hearts. Most people there see people who can make lots of money as successful. In the past many years, society in China has gotten rid of poverty gradually and developed in many aspects. But today we still say we are a developing country. This means we are now pursuing the higher need in Maslow's need hierarchy. In my opinion, the system of our society that needs further development is not technology or science anymore. We have to focus on developing sophisticated systems in humanity that are also related to spirituality and morality, like creating a better education, which can balance morality and academic ability.

Family education is also important. There is a quote from Ronald Wilson Reagan's saying: One of the most important findings of family research is that it confirms that families do affect our social problems, and that is that ordinary people have a confused moral sense of right and wrong. And the best way to establish a moral sense of right and wrong in life is for parents to be good models in their daily lives. Due to the parents who educate their children, they must carefully examine their

own behavior. The original things in our lives are crucial. Education in our original family is the root of our life. Parents of teenagers who love flaunting wealth often have bad consumption values and behaviors, and teenagers are easily affected by them because adolescence is a critical period for both physical and psychological development of children. Many behaviors are the reflection of their parents or other family members. Moreover, the replacement of love in family life can be another factor. In some rich families, parents do not have the time and energy to love their children. So material seems like a supplement. The use of these supplements is like the compensation of family love in a superior way. But love is profound and as deep as our soul. Some teenagers only express themselves in this way because this is the expressing model of their lives. They got confused about spiritualism and materialism. [5]

3.3 Inadequate interpersonal relationships

At the same time, problems caused by interpersonal relationships and conformity are serious as well. Due to the theory of McLelland and social learning, we know that people have three main needs. The need for achievement, the need for power and affiliation. People have a desire to succeed and control others. Making money and improving themselves, like getting a higher status in a workplace, being a leader, a manager, or being a big boss. This can make them become influential. Others will listen to your thoughts and try their best to get you closer because most people love powerful people. These are the desires for success and power. The leaders of trends in our society are generally those who are powerful, with wealth or status. That's why many people work to get promoted and make money. Most ambitious people want to be the leader in their social circle.

As a result, when people who are satisfied with their basic needs pursue higher goals, their trends will influence the entire society. Other people in their social circle start to imitate and propagate their behavior. Besides, numerous followers have to imitate this in order to get more attention.

4. SOLUTIONS

4.1 Solutions for governments

Speaking of the solutions to this phenomenon, the author strongly advises the government to implement educational reform. The educational department of it can produce better moral education books for children and teenagers. They can write better content for it. The government creates more opportunities and raises the wages for some careers, which can improve the spiritual power in society. like psychology, education, or

administration. This means spending more resources on art and humanity instead of highly developing financial areas [8].

4.2 Solutions for schools

Besides, in schools in society, teachers should teach young people the right definition of materialism and spiritualism and cultivate their moral values. It is necessary to encourage young people to build positive minds instead of being morbid and purposeful. Teachers have a responsibility to teach young people the right definition of success. Having material possessions or money does not equal a successful life. Living meaningfully and morally is more important. For instance, public service and helping people in need are meaningful. This can affect the spiritual culture of a society. The right guidance in education can cultivate healthier personalities and mentality in order to cultivate useful people.

4.3 Solutions for families

The family is a natural educational institution, and its significance for human growth is self-evident. Parents' own cultural and educational upbringing and moral character have a great influence on their children. The "cultural capital" accumulated by families plays a decisive role in the cultivation of children's good moral character. Family education should pay attention to the improvement of cultural literacy, encourage children to do excellent work, cultivate children with a good environment, infect children with noble sentiments, and help children consciously resist the negative influence of the Internet, television, advertising, and other media on young people. Parents are a mirror of their children, and their children's online behavior is an external reflection of their parents' lives. Parents should do self-education and be a good model for young people to convey the right concept of consumption to children. Having great guidance for teenagers to see wealth in a rational way is great for them. Money is important, but it does not represent everything. When telling the importance of others except material things, if people only have money and do not have great culture, education, and moralization, the system of society is not sophisticated, and the souls of people are incomplete.

4.4 Solutions for teenager themselves

As for teenagers, the author thinks self-education is important as well. Having a clear mind to identify information is crucial for developing their own ideas and critical thinking [9]. Meanwhile, they have to learn media literacy. For example, do not be a follower of internet trends; instead, always question whether the trend is correct and positive. They should have the awareness of conveying good value on the internet.

Because all the behavior and words of an individual can cause the butterfly effect. Besides, it is better for them to improve themselves, like learning hobbies to improve their writing skills, debate skills, or dancing skills, which is healthy for personal growth. Besides, it is a long-term consideration for future development. Doing things in a more spiritual way, getting closer to the natural environment, is good for psychological health. In our lives, various kinds of ways can prove our personal value and make our lives more meaningful. While we are chasing material things and money, we should not forget to pursue spiritual culture and have a balance between spiritualism and materialism in our minds.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there are three main kinds of Chinese teenagers: types of extremists, empty interiors, and realists. In addition, the main features of the cause of their flaunting wealth are historical, educational, social, and individual reasons. The most important solution to this phenomenon is education, both in family education and school education. Solving problems in education is thorough and useful. Besides, governments' support and teenagers themselves are also necessary ways to solve this problem.

Like many Chinese teenagers in the early age of contact with the network, they are greatly influenced by consumerism. They worship material. As the new generation, Chinese teenagers should learn to balance spirituality and materialism. On the basis of material, teenagers should pay more attention to conveying positive energy and creating value for society, such as organizing public voluntary services, working hard to contribute to GDP and social construction, and using their ability or skill to bring benefits to the public. Another point is the importance of getting the right education for teenagers. If there is no good system of education, they will form bad values, even no sense of morality, and only pursue mundaneness.

In addition, this paper has some shortcomings in the data. The data is official, but the scope is too large, not systematic and careful, which would be perfected in future studies.

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