

The Obsession With Korean Wave

(by Au Chun Kei F.4A)

Recently, Korean culture, like K-pop and soap opera, has been getting more and more prevalent in Hong Kong. The Korean wave has captured many people's hearts and minds. A myriad of youngsters place a lot of emphasis on the trend. Undeniably, Korean wave is nurturing a new generation of trendsetters and has indeed triggered off a widespread discussion. In light of this phenomenon, as a youngster and committed citizen, I would like to comment on the merits and demerits of this trend.

To commence with, let us discuss the merit brought by the obsession with Korean wave. Korean wave can increase teenagers' self-esteem. As the trend of Korean culture is now prevailing, youngsters are under its pervasive influence, like watching the drama series and joining the mass dance. By doing these with the other teenagers, they get to know more about Korean pop culture in order to be regarded as trend followers. With more knowledge about their favourites, they are likely to enhance their self-esteem.

Apart from growing self-esteem, Korean wave also enables teenagers to make more acquaintances and widen their social network. As enthusiastic teenagers, they need to keep pace with the trend in order not to be trend losers. They then develop friendships by sharing the same interests and talents. In other words, they can widen their social network under the influence of Korean wave.

Despite the aforementioned advantages of following the Korean wave, some people hold an opposing view towards them. Their worries are twofold in terms of academic performance and family relationship.

First and foremost, it is patently obvious that the more often one follows the Korean wave, the less often one improves academically. Many teenagers are prone to immerse themselves in the Korean culture. Obviously, their time devoted to academic studies will be greatly reduced. If this addiction continues to spread, teenagers' academic results may dwindle. Hence, the obsession with Korean wave is detrimental to teenagers' academic performance.

Besides that, it will also jeopardize the teenagers' harmonious family relationships. Imagine if your parents do not allow you to get access to Korean culture, you are most likely to get involved in a quarrel with them. As a result, parent-child bond is broken and cannot be repaired immediately. It is hence not conducive to the development of any relationships. In fact, how can parents and teenagers resolve their conflicts and gain a better mutual understanding?

In my opinion, I am inclined to disagree with teenagers being obsessed with the trend. As a student, our priority is to study well in order not to let our parents down. In pursuit of such trend, it is definitely a waste of time. Of course, someone may doubt that we need to acknowledge different aspects of culture and widen our horizons. This argument is seemingly built on a rational basis, but unsound, shortsighted and hasty. We can acknowledge the diversity of cultures by reading different kinds of books instead. By and large, it is not worthy for youngsters to pursue the Korean trend.