Loitering Culture: Need Or Want

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ABSTRACT

Quality of life becomes an emphasis in the process to reach vision 2020. However, the loitering culture among Malaysians as early as in the primary school until the higher level institution is still be a critical issue. Therefore, this paper aimed to investigate the factors that influenced secondary school students to loitering. This research involved 261 students from two daily schools in Pahang. Among them, 159 involved in loitering activities by which it means in every 10 students, six loiter. The finding shows that the main factor for them to do loitering is to release tension, and then followed by no activity to do, having fun with friends plus no complete recreational facilities around the community. These four factors may contribute to social problems such as vandalism, young smokers and baby dumping because negative attitude will occur among them whereby, they are starting to smoke and getting involved in other negative values. Besides that, family background and school also contribute to students to start loitering. Thus, the finding of this study is hoped to provide useful information in improving the quality of life especially in the rural area whereby the number of crimes among youngsters is increasing.

Keywords : loitering culture; quality of life; social problems; student.

1.   INTRODUCTION

Loitering culture among teenagers is common in Malaysia. Loitering is negative culture involves school leavers and non school leavers as well as university students, gathering with their friends without do something beneficial to them. According to (Rahim, 2011) in his report by Department of Education, during the early year of 2011, about 500 students were absent from school as they went for loitering in shopping mall around Kuala Lumpur without the concern of their parents. In the effort of achieving the Vision 2020 that emphasizes on the

quality of life, this loitering culture must be stopped wisely. There are many activities formed by schools or universities to prohibit students from joining the loitering activities but failed to stop the culture from continuously occurring. This research mainly conducted for getting the feedback from students in terms of want or need for them to loiter and what are the factors contributing to this want or need for loitering.

Students might have different reasons for considering their want or need for loitering. Some students might think the reason for loitering is just to have fun with friends and do nothing as long as they are happy and not disturbing others. This thought may influence them to do loitering activities within certain limits whereby those activities might not annoy others. But for those that think they needs to do loitering to release stress or dissatisfaction might involve in serious loitering activities that could harm others. This could be related to those problematic students that do loitering for showing rebellious actions on certain problems. These students might lack of self control or are under a lot of pressure and enjoying the loitering activities to annoy others or to take revenge towards those that have insulted them or pay less attention to their needs. As in (Cheung, 2007) these rebellious actions could be avoided if those students have high self control and tolerance for frustration even though they might not like discipline or restriction towards their behavior by others. As suggested by (Mohd Radzi, Hamzah, & Udin, 2011) in their study, students are human capital for the future and they should be nurtured with generic skill to develop positive moral and high self-awareness.

However, through this research, factors contributing to want or need for loitering among students are analysed for getting the real reasons for these students to get involve in loitering activities and what are the effects of their want or need for loitering towards the quality of their own life and others.   This study was carried out in two of the daily secondary school in Malaysia. Useful and beneficial information to students, educators and parents in improving the life style among teenagers in secondary school is hoped can be provided from the finding of this study.

2.   LITERATURE REVIEW

Loitering activity among teenagers not a new subject, it is exists since the long years. Currently, loitering brings more on negative elements. Public look at loitering as something negative because they always see teenagers stand or walk around somewhere for no obvious reason. (Hall, 1904) stated teenagers were individual groups that crowded with emotional stress and also with many problems. While, according to (Harre et. all, 1983) stated that teenagers were loitering because being adjusted with the complex environment such as in their family, peers, teachers, daily social activities and those who according to with their feeling. In his study, (Abd Rahim, 2006) stated that loitering occurred where teenagers try to adjust themselves with varieties of factors such as environment, family, social environment and culture that design their development and attitudes.

In addition, (Arieff et. all, 2006) stated that teenager's behavior is more concern on emotion and feeling which form teenage behavior framework itself. However, these teenagers still need parents' attention as observer and monitor on their behaviors. One of the factors leads

to bad manners behavior is lack of communication and attention from their parents. Consequently, according to (Arief et.all, 2006), explained that teenagers behavior that lack of attention from parents leads them to loitering with someone that understand them better. (Abd Majid et all, 2009) stated, the previous researchers found that the modern family nowadays did not act as nurturer and guidance for their children's emotion when finally their children will embark into a chronic problem with friends. Indirectly, their lifestyle changed by spending hours with friends' and talking junk, leads to wrong doings and caused decline of morals. They are easily influence by negative activities such as drugs, shoplifting, disturbing public, gambling, pornography, free sex that leads to AIDs desease and many other problems.

(Ismail et all, 2010) stated that loitering activity also popular and becomes practice which violates ethic and norm among someone who like to high speed with no direction using motorcycle. They are loitering at night while playing guitar and sing aloud in group yet tested their motorcycles abilities until disturbing locals with noise that produced. Furthermore, (Zainuddin et.all, 2011) in his research show that statistical reported by Universiti Malaya in 2000 regarding adolescent towards social problem in Johor indicated that there were 39.8% embarked into sexual activities, 34% drugs addicted and 49.9% involved in loitering. Indirectly these figure showed that social problem among adolescent are getting worst. Drastic action should be taken by particular parties especially parents in order to prevent such activities and bring up them into right track.

(Ezhar et.all, 2007) studied regarding social problem among adolescent who come from low level of family income in Kuala Lumpur, found out that 80% of adolescent involved in loitering where as 68% prefered to go out until late at night and do some immoral activities. These problems can be considered as initial stage toward severe problems such as drugs, smoke, bully or illegal racing. In addition to (Ezhar et.all, 2007), as in (Hashim et.all, 2008) stated that the implication of social problem towards adolescent is no potential leaders in future that will affect the Malaysia's economic growth. Yet, This problem also will increase the criminal cases and moral value become low among adolescent.

3.   METHODOLOGY AND DATA ANALYSIS

The study was conducted at two of the daily secondary school in Malaysia. 261 students from the secondary school students from various backgrounds were took part in the study. Questionnaire was distributed to them and the data obtained were analyzed using statistical procedures executed by the PASW 18.0 including descriptive statistics and cross-tabulation table.

The objectives in this study are as follows:

  i.   To determine students' activity in loitering.
 ii.   To identify students' factors to loitering and how to overcome the stated reason.
iii.   To carry out any suggestion(s) that will be used to improve students' life style from loitering problem.

4.   FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1: RESPONDENT'S BACKGROUND

Item	Table Column Head		
	Frequencies (%)	Loitering	No Loitering
Gender Male Female	139 (53.26%) 122 (46.74%)	96 (60.38%) 63 (39.62%)	43 (42.16%) 59 (57.84%)
Education level to achieve Form five College University	22 (8.43%) 25 (9.58%) 214 (81.99%)	12 (7.55%) 18 (11.32%) 129 (81.13%)	10 (9.81%) 7(6.86%) 85 (83.33%)
Parents' Education Level No formal education Primary school Secondary school College University	10 (3.83%) 66 (25.29%) 135 (51.72%) 20 (7.66%) 30 (11.49%)	3 (1.89%) 26 (16.35%) 114 (71.70%) 7 (4.40%) 9 (5.66%)	7 (96.86%) 40 (39.22%) 21 (20.59%) 13 (12.75%) 21 (20.59%)
Family income Per month Less than RM1000 RM1001 to RM3000 RM3001 to RM5000 RM5001 to RM7000 Above RM7001	98 (37.55%) 125 (47.89%) 22 (8.43%) 2 (0.77%) 14 (5.36%)	78 (49.06%) 68 (42.77%) 6 (3.77%) 1 (0.63%) 6 (3.77%	20 (19.61%) 57 (55.88%) 16 (15.69%) 1 (0.98%) 8 (7.84%)

As shown in the above table, 139 respondents (53.26%) were males and 122 respondents (46.74%) were females. Most of the respondents which involved in this study were loitering from the family income with less than RM3000 per month and education level of their parents is secondary school level. This findings related to (Ezhar Tamam, 2007) stated that family income also contribute to loitering activity among students. From 159 respondents of loitering, 12 of them (7.55%) do not want to further study after form five meanwhile 129 out of 159 respondents (81.13%) want to further study at higher learning institution.

The detail of the 159 respondents who involved in loitering activity is shown in Table 2. About 38.99% of them do not like in loitering activity after all, but still want to loiter. Meaning to say, they want to loiter even though they are not interested in loitering and the other 61.01% need to loitering. From that, majority of them prefer to have fun at their friends' houses followed by chatting at mall and other place such as bus station and park. Related to (Arief et.all, 2006), teenagers will spend more time with who more understand them. It proves that they are closer to their friend compared to their family.

In addition to Table 2, loitering activity contributes to social problem such as young smokers and bike motorcycle in a wrong manner on the road. The main factor that influenced respondents to loitering is to release their tension with highest frequency (103) followed by no activity to do, feel enjoy with friend and no recreational facilities at their community.

Table 2: Loitering Activities

Items	Frequencies (%)
Interested in Loitering Yes No	97 (61.01%) 62 (38.99%)
Place to Loitering Chatting at friends' house Chatting at mall Others	83 (52.20%) 43 (27.04%) 33 (20.75%)
Negative attitude in Loitering Smoking Bike motorcycle in a wrong way	53 (33.33%) 23 (14.47%)

Items	Frequencies (%)
Factors to Loitering	
Release tension	103 (64.78%)
Bored (no activity to do)	95 (59.75%)
Enjoyable	80 (50.31%)
No recreational facility	74 (46.54%)

Next table shows the list of actions that should be taken by the school and the community.

Table 3: Action To Be Taken

Items	Frequencies (%)	
	Agree	Disagree
School Action		
Camp	89 (55.97%)	70 (44.03%)
Short course	31 (19.50%)	128 (80.50%)
Adventure trip	24 (15.09%)	135 (84.91%)
Community Action		
Entertainment carnival	88 (55.35%)	71 (44.65%)
Sport events	69 (43.40%)	90 (56.60%)
Adventure trip	45 (28.30%)	114 (71.70%)
Book festival	38 (23.90%)	121 (76.10%)
Lecture class	36 (22.64%)	123 (77.36%)
Computer training	2 (1.26%)	157 (98.74%)

Majority of respondents agreed that camping organized by school as the first action. This is also the way school used if the student not interested to learn. For community, it can be recovered with entertainment carnival and also sports event. If the actions taken are not

effective to avoid respondents from loitering, the school or community should try another actions such as provide short courses or extra classes, adventure trip, book festival and computer training. To overcome the loitering problem, sometimes the school must be strict or make a personally meeting with problem student to motivate or counsel them.

5.   CONCLUSION

Nowadays, the issues of the students' activity in loitering become popular because they are the next generation to become a leader of Malaysia. Many perceptions have been given to our teenagers today such as lazy, not open minded and so on. Thus, the general focus of this paper is to examine the factors that contribute to student start loitering. The findings revealed that they do loitering is to release tension, followed by they feel bored because no activity to do, having fun and enjoy with friends also not enough recreational facilities around their community. The findings also found that family background with low family income make students to loitering plus lack of activity provided by school.

Hence, in order to improve the quality of life among secondary school students, more attention must be taken especially those students that identified as interested in loitering. More activities which can motivate them should be carried out such as camping, short courses, adventure trip, sports events and computer training organized by school or community. Although the number of students interested in loitering is not serious yet, an immediate action has to be done to them as early as they enter the kindergarten in improving the quality of life. Hopefully, the finding of this study can provide useful information in improving the quality of life especially in among students.

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