

Dear Editor,

A comment in the editorial of your post has recently come to my attention. It says, 'Young People today lack interest in traditional art forms such as lion dance, calligraphy or the art of tea drinking.' The traditional art has always been an indispensable part in our culture. To many elderly people, these conventional culture-related events remind them of their bygone days with their beloved ones, and perhaps evoke nostalgia. As the chairperson of my school's Heritage Club, youngsters' lack in interest in the traditional art forms appears concerning to me. Thus, I am writing to express my concerns and mention several reasons behind the above phenomenon, as well as to suggest solutions to the issue, which I would elucidate in the following.

There are a multitude of root causes behind the phenomenon with the most obvious one being young people's disability in staying focused in slow-paced activities for an extended period of time. Well, like many other issues, this problem can be attributed to the popularization of social media apps. Despite the enormous benefits the apps bring to our lives, these attention-catching apps have made many of us scatterbrained. The video and 'stories' are designed as less than no second for a reason — to keep users scrolling through one post to another, which would lead to a vicious cycle. The repeated action of scrolling and scrolling would make our brains get used to having stimuli every 15 to 60 seconds, resulting in nothing good but reduction of users' ability to concentrate on one task for a longer period of time while the algorithm of these apps would keep recommending posts that users find attractive, and keep them sidetracked. This is the reason why many young people find the apps 'addictive'. However, the traditional art forms like calligraphy, the art of tea drinking, and Tai Chi are seemingly too 'slow' for young people. The arts' failure in stimulating young people repeatedly may have made many believe these activities are 'boring', leading to youngsters' lack of interest.

Another worth mentioning 'culprit' to the phenomenon is the rise in new cultures. There are countless new cultures brought to our attention in recent years. K-pop, Anime, K-drama, you name it. These cultures are 'abreast of time' in youngsters' eyes, attracting their attention over traditional cultures. There are just so many options out there for them to choose. Some may even say it is not that the captivation of traditional culture is decreasing, but the number of options increasing. I mean, every youngster has this own preference, but economically speaking, the amount of 'supply' has led to the reduction of 'demand' for one specific cultural area that some find appealing. One of my schoolmates has told me that with most of their peers discussing K-pop and other new cultures, she feels stressed to start a conversation on traditional cultures. I believe peer pressure might have intensified the phenomenon.

Now that we have talked about the reasons behind the issue, let's also take a look at how we can alleviate it. In spite of the slight drop in youngster's interest in previous years, there are signs that traditional cultures have been brought back to our awareness recently thanks to glocalization, which you can probably guess literally. It is the combination of new and traditional cultures or even the blend in foreign and traditional cultures. Younger generations' realization of the importance of traditional cultures has urged some to protect the local cultures from being forgotten. It is good to see the government and schools are proactive in teaching younger generations the meaning behind the cultures, providing youngsters with

more access to traditional arts. It is believed that with schools and citizens' support on the revitalization of traditional cultures, the events hold, for example, inviting lion dancers to perform in school, calligraphy extracurricular class, we could hopefully gain young people's interest in these traditional arts again.

It is no understatement that traditional cultures are a huge part in our lives. Not only does it add more energy to our society, but also acts as a bridge between generations, connecting one generation to the next. Indeed, young people's lack in interest in these arts seems inevitable, but I believe with our unrelenting efforts, we can introduce the true beauty of our local cultures to younger generations. With that being said, let's pay more attention to traditional cultures and protect this irreplaceable part in our community.

Yours faithfully,

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