

Good morning principal, teachers and fellow schoolmates,

“Spoilt Children” – Whom and what to be blamed?

We are Janna and Javee of 7A. Today, we would like to share with you our ideas on the topic: Spoilt Children. Spoilt children, as in Hong Kong, commonly named as ‘HK kids’, are not new in Hong Kong. “HK Kids” are labelled as spoiled, hardly ever exposed to setbacks, possessing lack of problem-solving abilities, and questionable even in the areas of communication skills, social skills and learning abilities. All their wants are always realised in the end with the help of their parents. They are so spoilt that these children are unable to look after themselves, have low EQ, and become vulnerable when facing adversity.

These spoilt children encounter a lot of difficulties in their daily life, even the simple ones. However, most of them act like princes and princesses. Some of them, who are already studying in secondary schools, even do not know how to tie their shoes, tear off the skin of bananas or take showers on their own. For the tough tasks, saying their own study, projects or craftworks, as how you could imagine, they only know to yell at their parents.

Their lack of ability to look after themselves also leads to another problem – having low EQ. For example, if they have piles of schoolwork, not only would they seek help from parents, they would but also become furious and tend to release their stress by pointing the finger at their mum and dad for not providing instant assistance on schoolwork. They may even come up with unreasonable arguments complaining why they have to be assigned so much homework or asking why they have to go to school.

About a year ago, there was a video uploaded on YouTube showing a child scolding his parents in a Tai Po shopping mall. In the video, the child did not stop oppressing his parents verbally and pushing them for a second, yelling not to go along with their parents. Meanwhile, other passersby stopped to criticise that family. The child and his parents in this story were later interpreted as a typical spoilt child case in HK. Yet, such a case is only a tip of an iceberg.

What’s worse, these children are vulnerable to adversity. These children are brought up with no surge, no wind and no rain. They are weak in their inner world. Miserably, some spoilt children are prone to committing suicide and self-mutilation in the end as they hardly combat against the wind and rain, the adversity.

Therefore, whom and what can we owe to regarding the problem of spoilt children? What are the roots of the problem? Now, Janna is going to share her ideas with you.

First, these children are not able to take care of themselves as they are dependent. Many of them are being well-taken care of by either their parents or their domestic helpers. According to a recent survey, it shows that 50% of children are unable to have dinner independently. What is most striking about the figure is that 15% of parents said their children are unable to go to toilet by themselves. It might be quite shocking to find out that their children are 5 to 16 years old already. Their parents seem to be the persons to blame for cultivating a group of princes and princesses in Hong Kong.

Second, these children usually have grandparents who love them a lot. You might have learnt this before, while the children's parents scold their children, the grandparents would be a shelter of refuge of the children to get rid of their parents' condemnations. The grandparents would be very sympathetic to the children, and give whatever things the children want. As a result, they get more spoilt.

Third, spoilt children are having a materialistic lifestyle that they enjoy owning expensive gadgets. For example, a 3 year-old child owns an iPad. Working parents are too busy, so that they think they don't have enough time spending with their children and showing enough care to them. They think buying expensive items to fill their children's desire is the way to make them feel happier. Those children become materialistic and they wouldn't be easily satisfied. They would just ask for more and more.

Honestly speaking, the phenomenon of one and the only one child contributes to this societal problem too. A multitude of Hong Kong couples do not want to have babies, if so, they will end up with having only one single child. That is why the only child got all the attention and protection by their families. In this way children are spoiled and over protected. What makes it worse is when both parents are busy working, they might feel guilty and that they try to give all the things to their child to offset the inattention and the limited time they have with the children.

Now we understand the problem, is there anything we can do, Javee?

Here, I'd like to share with everybody 3 English words. The first one is "responsibility". Be responsible for our own roles. Take up the responsibilities and the duties. We should have understood that one can be called as responsible when he completed a task. If we would like to be the responsible ones, we must keep our words and do our best to complete the tasks assigned to our roles. Meanwhile, we must not come up with any excuse but have the motives to correct our own attitude and behaviour.

Another word is "deference", that is to respect others. Respecting people will attach importance to the feeling of the people around, but not saying words that offend people. We should be courteous to the elders and parents, not talking back as well as not fighting, so as to show respect. If a man respects others, and are willing to give up the undesirable behavior or activities, he will be respected. Respect your parents at home, and respect your teachers at school.

The third one is "gratefulness". With a grateful heart is a source of joy. If people are feeling grateful even in adversity, he can absolve from the difficulties gradually. In any case, as long as we receive kindness from others, we should feel "gratefulness" and know how to acknowledge their kindness like by saying "thank you". If we always give thanks, feel blessed and we can overcome any kinds of problems.

Standing in front of me are 1000 energetic teenagers, do you think you are being spoiled? Do you think we can avoid being labelled as "Hong Kong kids"? I know our senior forms students are having their public examination soon, are you strong enough to face the challenges? Do you think you can study independently? Do you think your AQ is high enough to help you overcome difficulties? On the other hand, our lower form students will be having the first term exam soon. Are you able to manage your time properly? Are you able to control yourself not to play computer games all the time? After all, we need to change ourselves. Change our attitude, and take a responsible role for oneself. Thank you everyone for listening. Have a nice day.