

On the verge of the Youth Social Disaster - II

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On 23 April at the State Flight Academy of Ukraine (SFAU) was held the local debates on the theme "On the Verge of the Youth and Social Disaster" – part II. This debate was arranged by the GE Ambassador as the continuation of the mentioned above theme. The number of participants was 10 people – students of the specialized English aviation group which gives an opportunity to discuss the necessary themes in English, and analyze the discussed social processes by the intellectual and high-educated young people.

This debate was focused on the following social problems as smoking, drinking alcohol and HIV/AIDS in Ukraine. The debate was made not only with the use of the statistics information for better understanding the exist social problems, but also based on the ads of the alcohol and cigarettes in the local Mass Media in order to find out the main ways of influencing ads to the people, especially youth.

The themes cards included the following information:

1. Smoking
 - 63% of boys and girls age 15 – 16 have a smoking experience;
 - 66% of men smoke in Ukraine and 20% - women;
 - The number of smoking people has increased dramatically in 2008, mostly because of young people from small regions;
 - Smoking has already become the real epidemic in Ukraine;
 - 100 000 people die every year because of smoking.

2. Alcohol
 - 9% of boys and girls age 15-16 have got experience in drinking alcohol;
 - 24 million of Ukrainian people drink alcohol;
 - Every one from 10 people become an alcoholic;
 - During the last 10 years, the number of alcohol dependant people (beer) increased in 10 – 12 times;
 - Ukraine is the leader among 40 European countries of the number of teenagers 11-15 years, who regularly drink alcohol;
 - Every year 40 000 Ukrainian people die because of alcohol;

3. HIV/AIDS
 - Over 130 000 people in Ukraine have HIV;
 - 13 000 people have already died because of HIV;
 - HIV are detected in more then 1500 people every month;
 - Ukraine has got the first place in Europe of HIV dissemination.

Each group of students worked at their theme for 20 minutes and using the statistics information and the poster had to make their own position concerning the discussed problems and to find out the reasons of increasing these disasters. The prepared by GEA poster helped better to understand why people want to buy cigarettes and drink more alcohol. One of the group thought that it might have been the modern way of self-expression, though the second group which worked on alcohol, noticed that the advertisement companies shows at their ads that life and life matters, about which every person is dreaming for. Exactly these 5 elements influence on our subconscious thoughts, and change our attitude to some valuable and vital things:

Travelling and visiting foreign countries;
Love, sex and constant desire;
Beauty as a continuous point;
Friendship and warm relations
All our dreams come true.

In order to reduce the spreading of such social disasters as smoking, drinking alcohol and HIV, the group of students came into the following ways of solving the problems, at least among young people:

1. To make much more social ads on TV, in the internet;
2. To make specialised presentations, theatre performances about the possible results of such social disasters among youth – pupils and students;
3. To make information campaigns with the help of the NGO and some charity organizations, youth organizations;
4. To make up polls in order to find out more about the youth attitude to the mentioned above themes;
5. To arrange concerts and some other entertainment events to show the harmful affect of such social phenomenon.

The mentioned above ways of solving problems might seem to be nearly the same as the ways of solving the other social problems as prostitution, but it is really so – these are considered to be the best ones.

All in all, the debates made in two parts, using the statistics and Mass Media information concerning the most burning issues in the social life of the modern society, were quite successful – students not only discussed the problems, but got also the last information about the main facts of disasters spreading, and found out the possible ways of solving these problems.