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Youth subcultures and identification of personality

Let's start with a question. What is the culture and subculture? Culture is what makes up a society expression, both through material things and beliefs. Examples of culture as a whole should be familiar to you. They can include things like language, ideological values, gender roles, social convention, religion or artistic expression through things like paintings, books or films. Society refers to people who different cultures as well as many different subcultures.

Subcultures are groups that have values and norms that are distinct from those held by majority.

Young people have particular relationships with the world. There are many groupings (subcultures) that have interests different from those of the mainstream culture. A particular cultural grouping is a way for young people to express their individuality (identity). By the mid-60s teenagers had begun to form distinct cultural groupings. Most young people in Britain follow some kind of youth culture: rocker, hacker, raver, skinhead, hippies, goth, punk,...

Why do teens choose a subculture?

A subculture is the way of life. It isn't a fan club, it's a real life. It seems to them that the parents are always saying: No! That everything about them: their hair, their music, clothes, the way they talk, their dreams are considered bad by grows-ups. The young people are unsure of where they are going. So it's a way of having something that they can say they belong to and that they are "whatever".

Often young people do something not because they want to do it. They do things because everybody around does or because they think it's impolite to refuse.

The inspiration to form a youth culture comes out of a combination of fashion, style and music. A subculture is group with a distinct style and identity. Different subcultures have their own beliefs, values, fashions...

Nevertheless, members of different subcultures may have something similar in their image, behavior, etc...

These are examples of subcultures:

Youth subculture – a minority youth culture whose distinctiveness depended largely on the social class and ethnic background of its members; often characterized by its adoption of a particular music genre.

Youth culture – young people (a generation unit) considered as a cultural or subculture.

Flower people, hippies, hipsters – a youth subculture (mostly from the middleclass) originating in San Francisco in the 1960s; advocated universal love and peace and communes and long hair and soft drugs; favored acid rock and progressive rock-music.

Rastafari, Rastas – (Jamaica) a black youth subculture and religious movement that arise in the ghettos of Kingston, Jamaica, in the 1950s; males grow hair in long dreadlocks and wear woolen caps; use marijuana and listen to reggae music.

Beat generation, beatniks, beats – a united states youth subculture of the 1950s; rejected possessions or regular work or traditional dress; for communal living and psychedelic drugs and anarchism; favored modern forms of jazz (e.g., bebop)

Teddy boys – a British youth subculture first appeared in the 1950s; mainly from unskilled backgrounds, they adopted pseudo-Edwardian dress code and rock'n'roll music; proletarian and xenophobic, they were involved in ace in the United Kingdom.

Punks – a youth subculture closely associated with punk rock music in the late 1970s; in part a reaction to the hippy subculture; dress was optional but intended to shock (plastic garbage bags or old school uniforms) and hair was dyed in bright colors (in Mohican haircuts or sometimes spiked in bright plumes).

Bikers, rockers - originally a British youth subculture that evolved out of the teddy boys in the 1960s; wore black leather jackets and jeans and boots; had greased hair and rode motorcycles and listened to rock'n'roll; were largely unskilled manual laborers.

Bootboys, skinheads - a youth subculture that appeared first in England in the late 1960s as a working-class reaction to the hippies; hair was cropped close to the scalp; wore work-shirts and short jeans (supported by suspenders) and heavy red boots; involved in attacks against Asians and football hooliganism.

Mods - a youth subculture that began in London in the early 1960s; a working-class movement with highly stylized dress and short hair; listened to rhythm and blues music and travelled on motor scooters.

Goth is a person who listens to gothic music. Goths often wear black clothes and unusual jewelry. Both goth men and goth women often wear make-up. People who call themselves a Goth are those who live up the meaning of the name through wearing clothes or putting on makeup that is in colors that represent death, decay or gloominess, such as the color black, deathly white face makeup, dark-bloody red colors or the tones of the color puce.

Emo is a slang term known to be short for emotional, but that doesn't make sense really. In its original incarnation, emo was short for emocore or emotional – hardcore.

The name was applied to hardcore punk rock bands who distinguished themselves from their peers by adding an emotional element to their music. Themes of sadness, love and angst were dealt with in their lyrics. The music was also characterised by particularly dramatic vocals which left the audience in an emotionally charged state, crying or screaming. Real emo was manly and hard. It was fast and thrashy sung in a way that wasn't pretentious and whiney. This genre is still alive today, although very obscure and unknown to most.

Identifying subcultures

The study of subcultures often consists of the study of symbolism attached to clothing, music and other visible affectations by members of subcultures, and also of the ways in which these same symbols are interpreted by members of the dominant culture.

Subcultures can exist at all levels of organizations, highlighting the fact that there are multiple cultures or value combinations usually evident in any one organization that can complement but also compete with the overall organisational culture. In some instances, subcultures have been legislated against, and their activities regulated or curtailed.