

Discussion Groups

Depression

“There is more depression nowadays than there was in the 1950’s.

This is partly due to lack of conversation.

In the 1950’s families talked to each other without the competition of television, portable radios, computers. Visitors called to each other’s houses and this custom faded as television ownership became more widespread.

Use of public transport encouraged passengers to talk while on trains. Now such passengers are using computers with earplugs or Walkman’s and are ignoring their fellow passengers.

As conversation became less common, people became socially deskilled. As a result, they pass each other without saying hello even on village streets.

The dominance of television in pubs finished such places as social centres.”

Submission to Winter Workshop 2018 by Liam Kieran

Group 1

Teresa B. Mooney; Gráinne Murphy, rapporteur; Dennis Pringle; Jonathan Larkin

The group felt that Liam Kieran's submission captured the problem perfectly - reduced social interaction leaving people more isolated.

Some factors that have influenced communication/mood

- Social media
- Electric gates - not as easy to pop in to the neighbours.
- More driving
- Fewer people going to church, a source of great interaction in the past.
- People forced to live in hotels - children can not even bring their friends home.
- The weath is often not condusive to outdoor activities.

Some positives

- Dropping kids at schools allowed minders to get out of house and interact.

Services

“Children exhibit a need for professional help while at school. Such help is seldom available in other than extreme cases. If more help was offered sooner, then perhaps help might be more effective.”

Submission to Winter Workshop 2018 by Liam Kieran

Group 2

Áine O'Reilly, rapporteur; Eamonn P. O'Boyle; Leonard Hatrick, Kevin Hynes

1. Children need professional help in terms of good teaching through support of special needs assistant. Other services like remedial education, access to eye testing, hearing assessments, ADHD, etc., @ an early age. To identify children's disorder, mild, moderate, severe. Also need support for family and parent
2. We don't agree that such help is only available in extreme cases, but we do agree that the person who shouts the loudest and keeps shouting has the best chance of receiving attention and help that's needed
3. We agree that if help was offered sooner the benefits would be greater and in the long run less problematic for the kids and the teacher. The sooner help is received young and older it would prevent issues sooner.

Suicide

"The suicide rate among male students at Cambridge University was higher than among male students in Oxford University. Both sets of students come from the same educational and class background.

When students went to Cambridge they had problems finding girlfriends, because that town offered few jobs to girls. In Oxford because there were local factories there were more girls living there and so male social life was better.

If a man is troubled, he can discuss his troubles with a woman and she will be supportive.

If a man discusses his troubles with another man, the other man will make a joke of the matter.

This profound weakness in male culture combined with a lack of interaction with girls explained the high suicide rate in Cambridge."

Submission to Winter Workshop 2018 by Liam Kieran

Group 3

Eric Hynes; Michael Desmond Hynes; Niall Hayden; Don Johnston, rapporteur

- People who commit suicide often appear perfectly normal beforehand - i.e. no obvious outward signs of distress.
- Addictions of various types (e.g. gambling) may be an underlying causes.
- Fall off in religious practice a factor.
- Many cases of suicide victims having been the subject of abuse. However, abusers may also be at risk due to guilt.
- Mens' Sheds very beneficial for providing men an opportunity to interact.