Child Protection Network **with** ENERGEN **and** unicef **present**

DOCUMENTATION

AKO PARA SA BATA

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CEBU

Theme:

CYBERPROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Cyber Safety of Children:
Internet and Mobile Protection for Minors

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APSB2015

Day 2 Plenary Lectures

The Developing Adolescent in the Digital Generation Social Cyberspace:
By Bernadette J. Madrid, MD

Cyberculture & Youth: Family & Education
By Fr. Fidel Orendain, SDB

Violence Against Children in the Philippines: The Facts
By Lotta Sylwander

DepEd on Cyber-Safety
By Leah Patricia M. Galgo

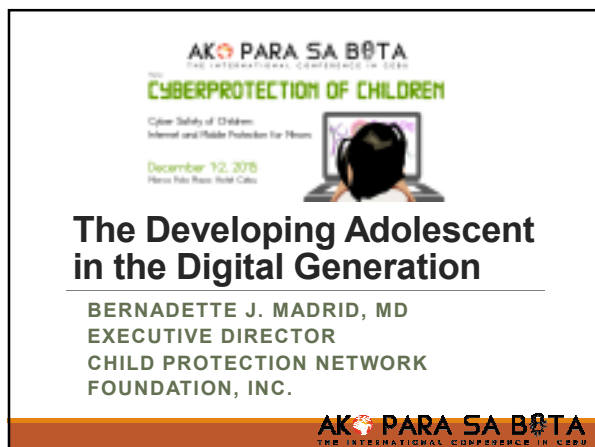**AKO PARA SA BATA Conference: Youth Inspirational Speech**
By Emma Farrarons

**Lunch Symposium: Taking A Stand Against Online Child Abuse**
By Thelsa P. Biolena

The Developing Adolescent in the Digital Generation

**BERNADETTE J. MADRID, MD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHILD PROTECTION NETWORK
FOUNDATION, INC.**

Slide 1:

Child Protection Network with ENERGEN and unicef present

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Theme:
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Slide 2:

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Dr. Bernadette Madrid
The Developing Adolescent in the Digital Generation

Slide 3:

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CYBERPROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Cyber Safety of Children:
Internet and Mobile Protection for Minors

December 1-2, 2015
Marco Polo Plaza Hotel Cebu

The Developing Adolescent in the Digital Generation

BERNADETTE J. MADRID, MD
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OBJECTIVES OF THE PLENARY

1. Give an overview of what is trending in the cases seen at the Child Protection Units.
2. Discuss normal adolescent development and how this may lead to high risk behavior in using social media.
3. Use the socio-ecological framework to introduce ways in which dangers of the digital world can be prevented.

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What is trending in the Child Protection Management Information System of the PGH CPU?

The CPMIS is a database system developed by the PGH-CPU to facilitate child protection case management and research in the unit as well as in other CPUs across the Philippines.

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Slide 1
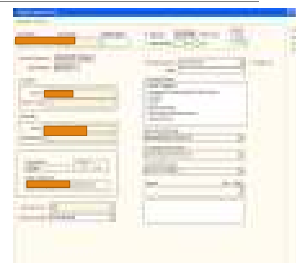
What's Trending ?

Sexual abuse in children through social media: the Philippine General Hospital Child Protection Unit experience, a 5-year review

PANTIG F, TAN M, DANS, L
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL

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Slide 2

Results

Slide 3

Results

Slide 4

Discussion

Child maltreatment is related to relatively poor cognitive performance, particularly lower verbal abilities and receptive language acquisition

41% of the victims identified in this study claimed that the perpetrator is their boyfriend, and more than half of these victims admitted to meeting their boyfriend for the first time through social media, and engaging in a relationship even prior to actually meeting their boyfriend in person

Slide 5

TEXTMATE/CHATMATE is the SEXUAL ABUSE PERPETRATOR (WCPUs data)

Slide 6

Risky ... ird and Fourth year High School Students in a Public and Private High School in Metro Manila Predisposing to Sexual Solicitation and Harassment : Cross Sectional Study

Marivie A. Flores, Merle P. Tan, Germana Gregorio, M.D

(Winner, PPS Research Contest)

Results

224 respondents

54% were female, 45% male

Majority were ages 14-16 y.o.

Internet shop is the common place -54%
Average use was ≥5x a week (40%) at

1-2 hrs a day (46%)

Research is the most common reason followed by online gaming

Flores, Tan, Gregorio (2009)

Results

Adolescents' Risky Online Behaviors :

✓Posting personal information - 91%
✓Chatting with unknown people - 58%
✓Having many unknown people in friends list - 46%
✓Opening x-rated web sites - 23 %
✓Eyeball with people met online - 9%

Flores, Tan, Gregorio (2009)

Results

The odds of experiencing internet harassment and/or sexual solicitation is twice for those:

◦ Sending personal information online, interacting with unknown persons,
◦ Having unknown persons on the buddy list
◦ Using the internet >5x a week
.... but the odds are **increased 4x** for those visiting x-rated websites.

Flores, Tan, Gregorio (2009)

Results

➢23% of adolescents experienced internet harassment;

➢50% sexual solicitation;

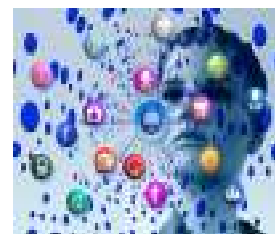➢28% both sexual solicitation and harassment

Flores, Tan, Gregorio (2009)

Why is this happening?

Generation M/Generation Z

o Digital natives, "screenagers"
o Multitasking generation
o Constitute the largest proportion of digital media users

Major social anxieties about the adolescent and digital media

➢ Moral panics about adolescent behavior in general

➢ Growing alarm about intense, addictive, and widespread media consumption

Choudry, S., Mckinney K, 2013
Transcultural Psychiatry 50(2), 192-215

Major social anxieties about the adolescent and digital media

Are young people becoming unempathic, passive, intellectually shallow and uncritical, desensitized, depressed and attention deficient because of cyber technology? (Derbyshire, 2009)

Choudry, S., Mckinney K, 2013
Transcultural Psychiatry 50(2), 192-215

Adolescence: Critical Period

• More susceptible to addiction – alcohol, drugs, smoking, internet

• Increased risk for more damaging effects of substance abuse

• More vulnerable to stress – depression

Empathy compromised

Does internet use reshape the brain?

Small & Vorgan claim that the internet exacerbates existing "natural" social cognitive deficits and proneness for instant gratification and risk-orientation in adolescents "impairing social and reasoning abilities" by "stunting development of the prefrontal cortex".
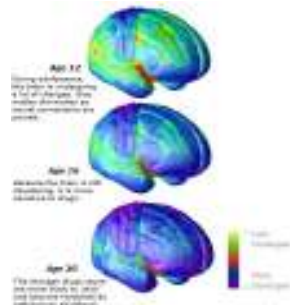
Small, G., & Vorgan, G. (2008). iBrain: Surviving the technological alteration of the modern mind. New York, NY: HarperCollins

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The Teen Brain

The brain of adolescents are not yet mature.

Brain does not reach full maturity till the age of

25 years.

Malcolm Ritter, "Scientists: Teen Brain still Maturing," Associated Press (Dec. 2, 2007) www.washingtonpost.com/wp-

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Functions of the Prefrontal cortex

Behavioral control and decision making

Working memory and multi-tasking

Empathy

Perspective-taking

Emotional Recognition

Functions of the Prefrontal cortex

Executive Function	Regulation of Emotions
Planning	Learning from Experience
Reasoning	
Impulse Control	Weighing of risks and rewards
Thinking Ahead	Morality

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The Adolescent Brain

Use an alternative part of the brain
(amygdala- seat of emotions)

⬇

More attention to rewards
Less attention to costs

⬇

increase in risky behavior

Casey, BJ, Getz, S, Galvan, A. "The Adolescent Brain. Developmental Review 28 (2008) 62-77

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The Adolescent Brain
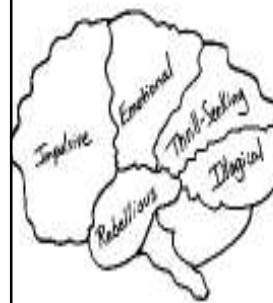
Immature prefrontal cortex

⬇

Poor self-regulation

⬇

increase in impulsivity

Casey, BJ, Getz, S, Galvan, A. "The Adolescent Brain. Developmental Review 28 (2008) 62-77

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The Adolescent Brain

Poor impulse control

Sensation seeking increase from 12-15 years then steadily declines

Susceptibility to peer pressure (peak at 14 years) e.g. commit crimes together with peers.

Poor decision-making- inexperience, poor future orientation, emotionality

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"Basic intellectual abilities reach adult levels (around 16 years) before the process of psycho-social maturation is complete."

Immaturity GAP

*Steinberg (2008)
Dev Review 28; 88-106*

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Two of the key tasks of adolescence

➢ To fit in – *to find comfortable affiliations and gain acceptance from peers*

➢ To stand out – *to develop an identity and pursue autonomy*

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Motivation for using social networking sites (SNS)

➢ To stay in touch with friends

➢ Make plans

➢ Get to know people better

➢ Present oneself to others

"Fitting In"

Stimulation Hypothesis

Adolescents in general have an easier time self-disclosing online than face-to-face communication, which is a less threatening format in which adolescents can share freely.

McKenna & Bargh, 2000
Plan 9 from cyberspace: The implications of the Internet for personality and
social psychology. Personality and Social Psychology Review. 2000; 4(57):57–75

"Fitting In"

Rich-get-richer hypothesis

For highly sociable adolescents, more online communications relates to more cohesive relationships.

Lee, 2009
Online communication and adolescent social ties: who benefits more from Internet use?
Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication. 2009; 14(3):509–531

"Fitting In"

Social compensation hypothesis

Adolescents who are uncomfortable interacting with peers in face-to-face contexts are better able to develop social networks and meet their social needs online where certain channels of communication, including voice tone, eye contact, and facial expressions, are not available.

McKenna, Green & Gleason, 2002
Relationship formation on the Internet: What's the big attraction? Journal of Social Issues. 2002; 58(1):9–31.

"Fitting In"

Generally, SNS use appears to benefit and not detract from adolescents' sense of peer affiliation, but adolescents' offline level of social functioning is a consideration in the overall impact.

Shapiro and Margolin, 2014
Growing Up Wired: Social Networking Sites and Adolescent Psychosocial Development. *Clin Child Fam Psychol Rev* 17(1): 1–18.

Forming an Identity

❑ The internet offers many opportunities to adolescents to experiment with their identities – *digiphrenia*

❑ Interact with a wide variety of people, provide extra sounding boards

Sexual Identity & Behavior

- ❑ Pubertal development
- ❑ Level of sensation seeking
- ❑ Uncertainty that may surround the formation of sexual beliefs and values
- ❑ Attitudes toward the exploration of sexual matters

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Sexually Explicit Internet Material (SEIM)

Depicts sexual realities that deviate from the adolescent's sexual lives and present beliefs and values that conflict with those that the youth learn in families and schools

| May change attitudes towards exploration of sexual matters | May feel uncertain about learned sexual beliefs & values esp. uncommitted sexual exploration |

Peter &Valbenburg, 2008

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Adolescents' Classification of Sexual Partners

- ➢ Steady Partners
- ➢ Casual Partners/Friends
- ➢ "One-night-stand" partners

Manning, et al, 2005
Ellen, Cahn, Eyre & Boyer, 1996

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Exposure to SEIM related to:

- ➢ Sexually permissive attitudes
- ➢ More lenient views of extra marital sex
- ➢ Recreational attitude towards sex
- ➢ Stronger notions of women as sex objects

Lo & Wei, 2005
Peter & Valkenburg, 2006, 2007
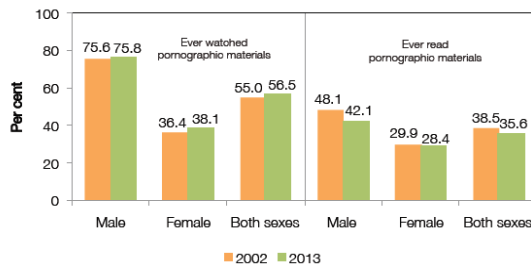
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Figure 8. Exposure to pornographic materials, by sex: 2002 and 2013

YAFS, 2013
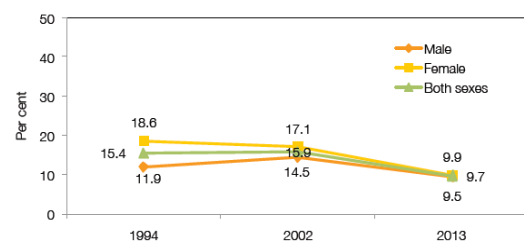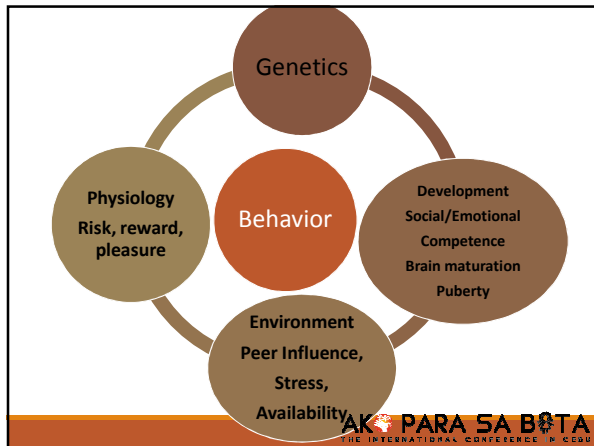
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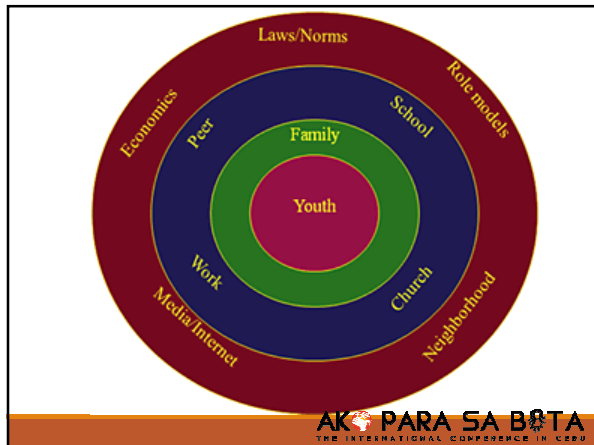Figure 19. Trend on discussion of sex at home, by sex: 1994, 2002 and 2013

YAFS, 2013

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Slide 1:

Genetics

Physiology
Risk, reward, pleasure

Behavior

Development
Social/Emotional
Competence
Brain maturation
Puberty

Environment
Peer Influence,
Stress,
Availability

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Slide 2:

	Commercial	Aggressive	Sexual	Values
CONTENT •Child as Recipient	Advertising Spam, Sponsorship	Violent/ hateful content	Pornographic Unwelcome sexual content	Racism, biased or misleading info/advise e.g. drugs
CONTACT •Child as participant	Tracking/ Harvesting Personal info	Being bullied, stalked or harassed	Meeting strangers, Being groomed	Self-harm Unwelcome persuasion
CONDUCT •Child as actor	Gambling, hacking, illegal downloads	Bullying or harassing another	Creating or uploading porn material	Providing advice e.g. suicide/ pro-anorexic chat

Source: EU Kids Online (Hasebrink et al, 2008)

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Slide 3:

Laws/Norms

Role models

Economics

Peer

School

Family

Youth

Work

Church

Media/Internet

Neighborhood

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Slide 4:

"Juvenoia"

Exaggerated fear of the effect of social change on children.

(Term coined by Finkelhor)

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Slide 5:

Thank You!

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CYBERCULTURE & YOUTH: FAMILY & EDUCATION

Fr. Fidel Orendain, SDB

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Fr. Fidel Orendain, SDB

*Cyberculture & Youth:
Family & Education*

CYBERCULTURE & YOUTH:
FAMILY & EDUCATION

Fr. Fidel Orendain, SDB

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- **1970s, cyberculture was the exclusive domain of a handful of technology experts**

- **1990s, ICTs shifted to entertainment, research, culture, business and social relations**

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"cyberculture"

a collection of **cultures** and **cultural products** facilitated by Information Communication Technologies (ICT),

On the Family

1985

2015

the home and the school are able to gain much from new technologies.

But they also feel inadequate

Three major assumption

- new technologies are causing rapid transformation everywhere.

- they are greatly affecting the growth of young people

- traditional Institutions are struggling to be more pro-active

#1
Information Communication Technology (ICT)
TRANSFORMATION

Several themes emerge

- ICT contribute to a society's growth and innovation

- Benefits do not always outweigh potential negative effects

- ICT is revising established social roles and norms

- **(ICT) introduced <u>dramatic</u> changes**

- **(ICT) has become a <u>dominant</u> & pervasive**

- **ICT's growth and <u>diffusion</u> has happened with astounding speed.**

Cell phones have <u>dramatically</u> changed majority of the Filipinos.

… the Filipino society would rather lose their personal necessities such as soap and shampoo rather than lose internet access and their cell phones."

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GENERATIONAL SIMILARITIES

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What's Common

1. **Facing Physical & mental Change**
2. **Entering the Age of Reason**
3. **Face Personal Morality & Values**
4. **Thinking About Sex and Marriage**
5. **Questioning the Future**

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#2 ICT and Youth Transformation

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Five Fundamental Differences

1. The Fragmented Family
2. Quick and easy access to massive Information and Knowledge
3. Knowledge of and Exposure to Violence & Sexuality
4. Neutral Moral and Religious Values
5. Technology

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Why do we need to do this?

- we care for young people

- we are not familiar with the new

- we are also affected by ICT and;

- we know new things confuse us

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We study ICT because:

- **They control the quality and quantity of our communication;**

- **They are everywhere**

- **They bring about a new CULTURE: the cyber culture**

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**ICT is pervasive.
Children's daily routine is
structured around the use of ICT.**

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Internet use survey:

- **Communication**
- **Entertainment**
- **Information**

low level of education-related use.

Some concerns:

- **Reduced face-to-face contacts are increasing insecurity**
- **Diminishing familial bonds**
- **Less physically active lives**
- **Diminishing solidarity with people**

Some concerns:

- **Privacy**
- **Degeneration of manners**
- **Technology addiction**

The Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality (YAFS) 2013:

- 6 in 10 of young people in this age range are regular internet users.
- 4 in 10 have social network and email account
- 8 in 10 have mobile phones.

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How they build relationships

- 33% of young people have friends whom they only met online
- 25% have friends whom they met through text and have not seen personally.

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Challenges to Youth

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Sexual Experimentation

- new forms of sexual activity and
- new means of meeting partners

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Children who
use social networking sites are:

- **46%** more likely to have received sexual messages
- **55%** more likely to have seen sexual images on websites
- **56%** more likely to have encountered negative user generated content

(Staksrud, Ólafsson & Livingstone 2013)

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Cyberbullying

School bullies

Cyber bullies

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The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement.
By
Jean Twenge and Keith Campbell

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Narcissism

- is rising among youth at an alarming rate.
- "at epidemic proportions."

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narcissism is no longer a psychological condition..but has transitioned to becoming a collective **cultural trait**.

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What do doctors say?

- Inflated sense of self
- Thinking that one is special & unique

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What do doctors say?

- Inflated sense of self
- Thinking that one is special & unique
- Feeling Entitled to better treatment than others
- Too much time making oneself look & feel good
- Inclination for immediate gratification

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What do doctors say?

- low tolerance for pain, inconvenience and discomfort

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What do doctors say?

- Uninterested in deep relationships
- Uninterested in real emotional connection and care

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What do doctors say?

- Resorts to aggression when frustrated
- Resorts to dishonesty to get what one wants

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7 subscale Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI)

- Authority
- Exhibitionism
- Exploitativeness
- Entitlement
- Liberated/ independent (self-sufficiency)
- Superiority
- Vanity

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The Book Concludes:

- There is a rise in narcissism
- A shift in shared cultural values, beliefs and practices
- Healthy self-confidence is being replaced by narcissism

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Direct contributors

- Shifts in parenting strategies
- The new culture of media
- Social Media's encouragement for self-display,

#3 ICT/ CYBERCULTURE: THE FAMILY & EDUCATION

FAMIILY

…is the basic or the most fundamental unit in any society.

Key to understand

GOOD COMMUNICATION IS
AN IMPORTANT TOOL
TO MAINTAIN
GOOD RELATIONSHIPS
AMONG MEMBERS OF THE
FAMILY

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PRESERVE = UNDERSTAND

GOOD COMMUNICATION

GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

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**FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE QUALITY
OF A FAMILY RELATIONSHIP**

1. Togetherness
2. Memories
3. Communication
4. Values
5. Support

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**There are signs that parents are
persuaded not only to provide
for their children's needs, but
also their unnecessary wants.**

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Familiar scenarios:

Familiar scenarios:

"Technology & Family"

- Technology has become a central feature of families' daily lives.

- Technology has enabled new forms of family connectedness

- The Internet enabled shared "Hey, look at this!" experiences.

- Many people spend less time watching television

At home, nothing streams faster than family bonding.

Questions:

- How do ICT affect family life and relations?
- Should parents have access to their children's e-mail, text messages and social media?
- How can parents wean kids away from excessive ICT use?

Today's parents worry about the use of new devices and the adoption of new cultural traits by their children.

Todays generation is different

ICT/ Cyberculture and Education
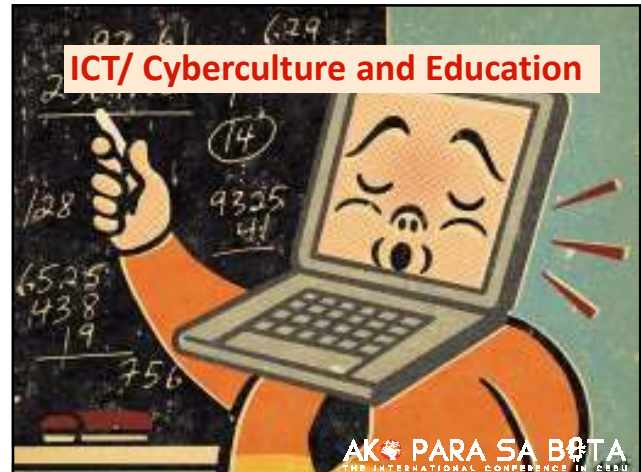
Social Media

A new culture and language

800 Social Networking acronyms and abbreviations

1. Selfie (2013)
2. Twerk (2013)
3. Phablet (2013)
4. Derp (2013)
5. Unlike (2013)
6. Srsly (2013)
7. Tweet (2013)
8. TL;DR (2013)
9. FOMO (2013)
10. GIF (2012)

11. Photobomb (2012)
12. Woot (2012)
13. Inbox (2012)
14. Sext (2011)
15. OMG (2011)
16. LOL (2011)
17. Noob (2009)
18. Hashtag (2009)
19. Unfriend (2009)
20. BYOD (2013)

ICT/ Cyberculture and Education

- **Schools continue to play catch-up with the trends**
- **Educators, sometimes neglect to explore and understand the risk involved in ICT use**

Manuel Castells

Schools have failed to adopt the proper pedagogical approach required of the ICT-Cyberculture era.

"…new media is shaping curricula….and redefining the relationship between the culture of schooling and the cultures of everyday life.(Giroux)"

... think **technology first** and then investigate the educational applications of this technology later.

---

transforming teaching and learning processes

- **from being highly teacher-dominated to student-centered**

- **From Passive to Participative**

---

transforming teaching and learning processes

- **Developing creativity, problem-solving abilities, informational reasoning skills, higher-order thinking skills.**

EPIC

EXPERIENTIAL

PARTICIPATIVE

IMAGE-DRIVEN

CONNECTED

Something is wrong with your learning. Your attention span is only 15 minutes?

Something is wrong with your teaching. You only hold my attention for 15 minutes?
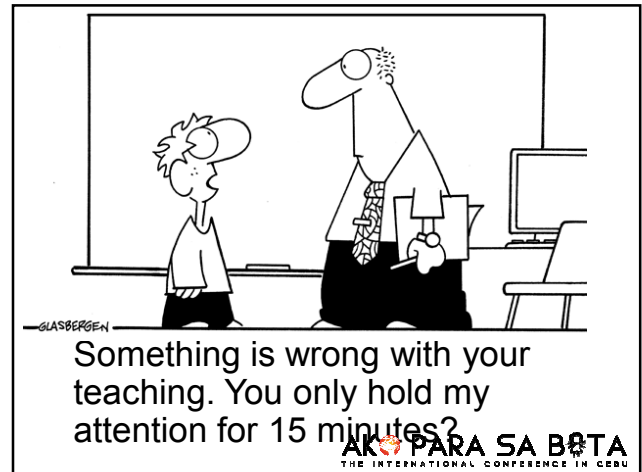
Conclusion:

Adults need to be more knowledgeable regarding the capacity and the use of current technology, the circumstances that children are using them.

#1

ICTs are tools/ extensions.

For every extension, an amputation also occurs.

#2

Assist them to define their life & the role of technology

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#3

Assist them to live a Balanced Life

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Physical

Spiritual

Emotional

Intellectual

Social

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#4

Guide them not to let technology become a barrier to relationships and learning….

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Cyberculture: Society, Culture, and the Internet - How We Live, The E-generation Gap, The Internet And Work Culture, Cyberpersonalities In Virtual Communities.
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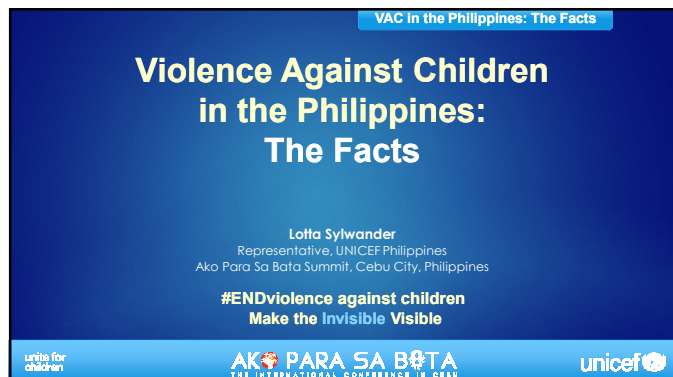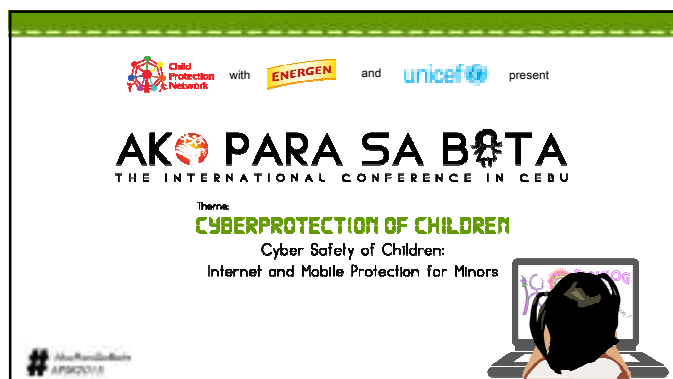
Lotta Sylwander
Representative, UNICEF Philippines
Ako Para Sa Bata Summit, Cebu City, Philippines

#ENDviolence against children
Make the Invisible Visible

unite for children

AKO PARA SA BATA
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CEBU

unicef

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CEBU

Child Protection Network with ENERGEN and unicef present

Theme:
CYBERPROTECTION OF CHILDREN
Cyber Safety of Children:
Internet and Mobile Protection for Minors

AKO PARA SA BATA

Lotta Sylwander
Violence Against Children in the Philippines:
The Facts

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

Violence Against Children in the Philippines: The Facts

Lotta Sylwander
Representative, UNICEF Philippines
Ako Para Sa Bata Summit, Cebu City, Philippines

#ENDviolence against children
Make the Invisible Visible

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VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

VAC: The Global Picture

► **Violence against children (VAC)** is a universal problem affecting millions of children worldwide.

► **Violence against children** occurs in homes, schools and communities and affects children of all ethnic, social and economic backgrounds.

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VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

VAC: The Global Picture

Research shows that the effects of violence can have devastating and long-term impacts, including life-long physical and mental health problems.

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VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

VAC: The Global Picture

Well-known examples of violence, exploitation and abuse against children include:

► physical & emotional discipline
► sexual abuse
► bullying
► child marriage
► child labour
► trafficking
► armed violence

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VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

VAC: The Global Picture

► Rapidly expanding access to new technologies has brought a heightened risk of violence, exploitation and abuse in the virtual world.

► Protecting children online is now an urgent, global issue forming part of a larger movement to end violence against children in all life settings.

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VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

VAC: East Asia and Pacific Region

In 2012, a UN review of research on child maltreatment in our region revealed high rates of child abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation.

The review confirmed findings in other regions, showing strong correlations with:

► negative physical health
► negative mental health
► high-risk sexual behaviors
► increased exposure to violence later in life
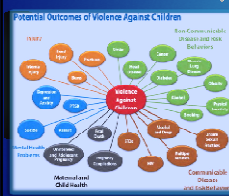
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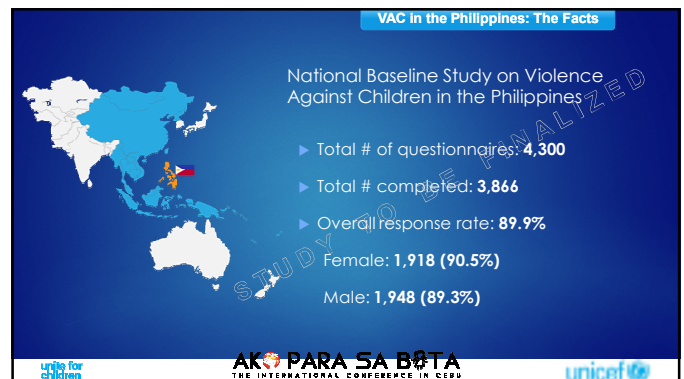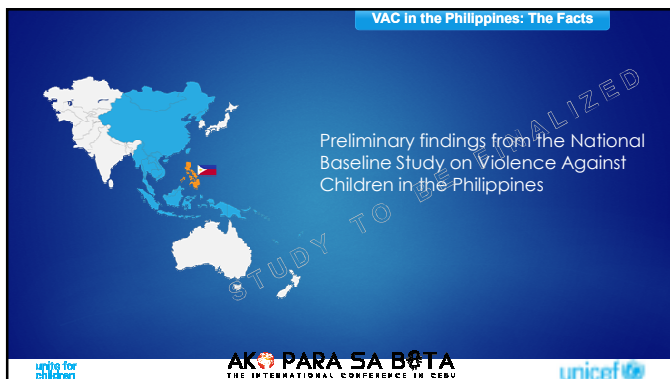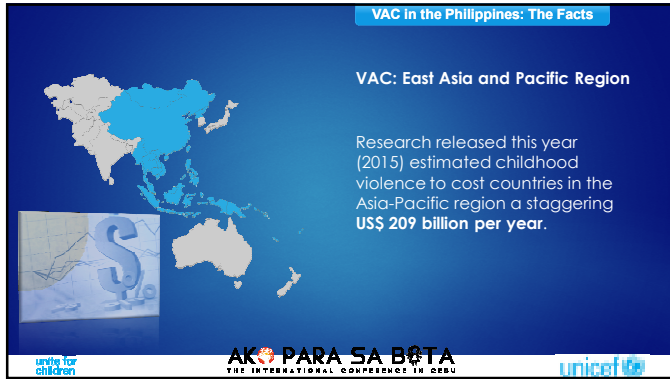
VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

Physical violence:

► Physical violence is the most common form of violence against children

► Overall prevalence is 65%

► It occurs most often in a child's **home**

► Children in the **13-17** year age group experience the most physical violence

Preliminary findings: *National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines*

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

Physical violence:

► Boys are the most common victims of physical violence in the home

► The prevalence of violence in schools and communities among boys is significantly higher than that of girls

Preliminary findings: *National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines*

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

Physical Violence: Perpetrators

► **Parents** are the most common perpetrators. Parents comprise approx. 38% of incidents (no significant difference between mothers and fathers)

► **Siblings:** Brothers and Sisters are the next most common perpetrators, (approx. 13% and 8% of cases respectively)

Preliminary findings: *National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines*

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

Psychological Violence

► Most psychological violence is experienced in a child's own **home**.

► **Schools** are the next most common settings.

► Boys and girls experience similar rates in all settings, with the exception of 'during dating' where boys experience nearly twice that of girls (17% and 9% respectively)

Preliminary findings: *National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines*

Sexual Violence

- Findings on sexual violence against children in the Philippines are revealing.
- **Boys** experience more sexual violence than girls.

Preliminary findings: *National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines*

Sexual Violence

- Children in the **13-17** year age range experience the most sexual violence, including forced sex.
- **Boys** are more likely than girls to be the victims in every setting – home, school, workplace, community, and during dating

Preliminary findings: *National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines*

Sexual Violence: Perpetrators

- The main perpetrators are children's own **siblings** (brothers 10% / sisters 7%)
- The second most common perpetrators are **parents/step-parents**
- **Cousins** are also common perpetrators: 8%

Preliminary findings: *National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines*

Bullying

- Findings show high prevalence rates of bullying (physical and emotional) at 63%
- The prevalence rate is higher among girls

Preliminary findings: *National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines*

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

The Philippines: Cyberviolence

▶ Overall prevalence of cyberviolence is nearly 50%

▶ 32% of boys and 19% of girls have experienced being shown photos or videos of sex organs or sexual activities

Preliminary findings: National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines

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VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

The Philippines: Online Child Exploitation

▶ Online child abuse was the leading form of cybercrime in the Philippines in 2014, making up almost half of reported cases.

▶ The number of children who are victims of live streaming of abuse for payment is estimated in the tens of thousands, with traffickers providing child sex services using webcams, chat rooms and social media.

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

The Philippines: Online Child Exploitation

▶ The Philippines is reported to be among the top 10 countries worldwide with rampant child online exploitation involving mostly boys and girls age 10-14.

- Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT)

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

The Philippines: At the Forefront of Response

The Government of the Philippines deserves recognition and commendation for:

▶ Implementing a comprehensive approach to combat child online protection via convergence of different inter-agency councils and government offices, and

▶ Adopting strong legislation to support and protect children from cybercrimes, including tough penalties for perpetrators of the worst crimes.

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

UNICEF: Supporting Prevention and Response

UNICEF recognizes that children are an essential part of the solution.

As more children connect online, they must be empowered to take advantage of the opportunities, but also have the knowledge to protect themselves from harm.
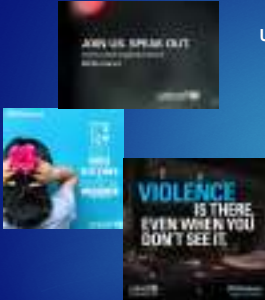
Photo Credit: Mulat Pinoy

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

UNICEF: Supporting Prevention and Response

With the support of a substantial grant from the UK, UNICEF has set up a global programme to address online exploitation in 17 countries, including the Philippines.

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

UNICEF: Supporting Prevention and Response

▶ Under the #WeProtect model, UNICEF is supporting the Government in the development of a multi-sectoral prevention and response plan, including Interpol, police, the judiciary, social welfare, the ICT/ISP industry, civil society, communities and families.

▶ UNICEF is also helping to advocate with national leaders to address policy, while communicating with families, children and the public to develop understandings, attitudes, and actions.

VAC in the Philippines: The Facts

The Government of the Philippines and UNICEF: A Joint Commitment

As a state party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and as part of the new Global Sustainable Development Goals, the **Government of the Philippines** has made a commitment to protecting children from violence, abuse and exploitation (SDG 16.2). Protecting children from online threats is a critical part of delivering on these promises.
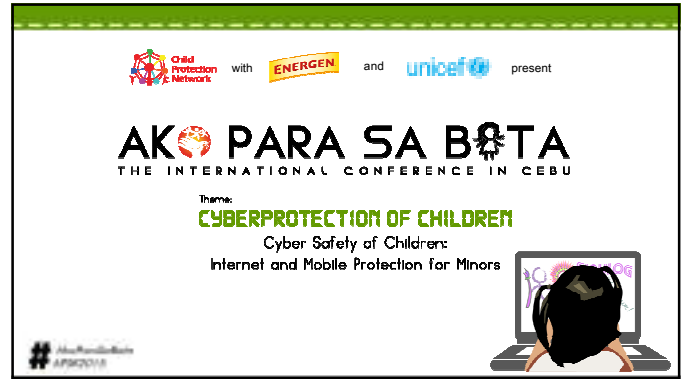
As an organization that puts children at the heart of all its work, **UNICEF** will continue building and supporting global and local strategies that aim to put an end to child online exploitation as part of a wider movement to stop violence against children in all its forms.

AKO PARA SA BATA Conference: Youth Inspirational Speech
By Emma Farrarons
(written by representatives of the Youth Manifesto Group)

Esteemed conference organizers, honored members of the audience, fellow youth, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Just one month and a half ago, last October 17 and 18, 2015 two hundred and fifty student leaders from Talisay City, Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City and Cebu City attended a Youth Conference at the Bayfront Hotel, Cebu City organized by the Child Protection Network Foundation, UNICEF and the Salesians of St. John Bosco. The two-day event had the theme **"Shift, CTRL, Del."** The theme came from parts of the keyboard in our computers and phones we have grown accustomed to using: Shifting Attention to what matters, Controlling Cyber Usage, Deleting Practices that harm others.

We were re-oriented of the beauty of the new technologies that allow us to receive, share and produce massive information at amazing speed and quantity. Yet, these instruments, now so accessible to us, also open us up to tremendous risks. Particularly when left to ourselves, we experiment on new forms of social engagement. The conference provided us opportunities to become aware of the different cyber abuses happening to and caused by teenagers. Of particular note is *cyber bullying* which by several global surveys and various news reports is clearly on the rise. In the conference, it was emphasized that the abuse of communication technologies was the reason for this increasingly disturbing phenomenon. The words and photos we so casually exchange and spread through the mobile phone, the internet and social media could hurt others deeply – causing them to feel alienated, lose their self-esteem, abandon school, feel angry and in some cases commit suicide.

The conference has roused us from our nonchalance and has very clearly shown that cyber bullying is happening right in our communities, in our schools, and in our homes. It even breaches the privacy and security of our own bedrooms.

From the meaningful inputs and exchanges of the two-day conference, we, the youth participants, drew out a manifesto that stated our awareness, solutions, call to action and commitment to stand up against cyber bullying. The conference called for us to become **CTRL – CYBER TEENS RESPONSIBLE LEADERS** – and we stood up to take the challenge.

I am here before you now, in behalf of the student leaders who framed the youth manifesto and the student participants who represented all 115 public and private schools in that defining event, to share the post-conference strides we have taken.

First, we echoed our knowledge. We conducted echo sessions in our respective schools about cyber bullying. Preparing the talk and giving it was certainly daunting not only because we gave it to our fellow students but also to parents and teachers as well. But sharing such valuable information was a must. We had slides, videos, and printed materials to help us through our input. There were mixed emotions and reactions as we discussed the issue. There were students who laughed, cried, and were intrigued as the topic went through deeper depths. Our listeners shared that their eyes were opened and they realized the some of their actions may have been hurtful to classmates and friends. Some too admitted that they are on the verge of digital addiction; others shared how they felt after being cyberbullied – a few have even thought of committing suicide. In addition to the echo sessions, some of our schools made cyber bullying a topic in class. There's hope that CTRL – Cyber Teens Responsible Leaders – will spread fast and be a buzzword among us teeners wishing and wanting a safe and bully-free cyber space.

AK◉ PARA SA B◉TA
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CEBU

Theme:
CYBERPROTECTION OF CHILDREN
Cyber Safety of Children:
Internet and Mobile Protection for Minors

Second, we advocated. We went to see the City Councils of Talisay City, Mandaue City and Cebu City to advocate for resolutions against cyber bullying. Child Protection Network representative, Dr. Naomi Poca was with us on this and Fr. Fidel Orendain of the Salesians of Don Bosco. He and his congregation have always been proponents on the responsible use of info and communication technologies among teenagers.

We felt both joy and pressure stepping into the legislative halls. Standing in front of the law makers of the respective local government units and having their ears on what we have to say was no easy challenge. But we did it.
We asked the respective city councils to intervene in the promotion of a Cyber Safe Environment for us, young people.
Concretely,

1. We respectfully suggested that the City mandates and follows up **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS** in the establishment of (a) a Cyber Literacy Program in their respective school curriculum and (b) a Cyber Abuse Prevention and Intervention in their respective school policies, including punishment for offenders.

2. We respectfully suggested that the City regularly monitors **BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS** (internet cafes and ICT vendors) and holds accountable those that indiscriminately allow minors to overstay in their shops, access adult content online and purchase mature video movies and games.

3. We respectfully suggested that the City empowers **FAMILIES** by sponsoring seminars for parents on responsible child-rearing practices that do not allow over exposure of children to media instruments, especially at an early age which can later on lead to technology and social media addiction.

We are happy to say that all three local government units were very receptive to our advocacy. The Talisay City Council passed a resolution along these lines. The Councils of both Mandaue City and Cebu City marked in their agenda the discussion and drafting of resolutions in support of our cause.

Third, we tread on. We continue our awareness-raising and advocacy online and offline, in person and in print, in small and large gatherings. Adults may give us amused looks, as if to say we are being ambitious. Yes, adults may call it that. But we call it idealism.

We truly feel that we can make a difference; that the cyber advocacy that we have started, can spell the difference between boosting young people's self-worth or bursting their self-esteem.

We mean it when we accepted the challenge to be **CTRL – CYBER TEENS RESPONSIBLE LEADERS.** We look upon you, participants in this august assembly, to take up the cudgels for us too. Help us **SHIFT** the attention to favor Cyber Safety for Youth. Do not **DELETE** our hope.

Thank you and good morning.