

Politicized Teens

1. News Articles with Annotation about Teens

i) Phan, N. and Syed, S. (2014, August 11). Teens aren't fairly portrayed in media. *The Princeton Summer Journal*. Retrieved from <http://princetonsummerjournal.com/2014/08/11/teens-arent-fairly-portrayed-in-media>

This commentary critique for the general issue of teens' portray in media suggests an accustomed negative image of teens in media. It argues that society portrayed teens inaccurately and the image of teens is flawed; teenagers are unrealistically immature stereotypes who are considered not capable of making rational decisions, rebellious, while in reality they are more complicated and ought to be described more holistically.

The author suggests that teens should be viewed as individuals, not just stereotypes. On the positive side, some teen media are accurate in depicting teens, such as their being courageous in not conforming to stereotypes.

ii) Barry, E. (2022, March 31). Many Teens Report Emotional and Physical Abuse by Parents During Lockdown. *The New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/31/health/covid-mental-health-teens.html>

It is introduced to the reader in this article the issue of mental health and emotional abuse for teenagers during the lockdown. Statistical evidence has been elaborated which tells that there is a significant rise in teens who suffer emotional abuse and who have negative psychological tendencies. Domain expert's opinion is quoted to analyze the potential causes of such significant rise, where stress and social isolation are crucial factors to teenagers' mental breakdown.

iii) WISN ABC. (2022, April 1). Milwaukee program signing up teens for quality summer jobs. <https://www.wisn.com/article/milwaukee-program-signs-up-teens-for-quality-summer-jobs/39612556>

In a professional program for employment in Milwaukee, Wisconsin hundreds of young works are expecting to get employed for summer. High school students are having opportunities to make income in the summer before completing their degrees, getting paid more than minimum wage. The number of young adult participants of Employ Milwaukee (an organization) is about to nearly double this year, with more funding, to provide more young people with employment opportunities.

2. Understanding “Politicized” Teens on Emotional Abuse

When teenagers are being narrated in the media, there could be a lot of forms and possibilities. To say *politicizing* someone it is to mean to provide, portray, or render a political—publicly disclosed in relation of the governmental conduct or public policies—tone or character to them. Here, we are using a slightly narrow definition that includes only the part of public portray of teenagers; it appears in many mediums, not only news and media but also generally fan fictions, YA literary works, or any other materials of teens’ consumption. Perhaps here what makes special the politicized teens due to media portray and disclosure is that the public image of teens are defined, redefined, and potentially in a way that is inaccurate of what teens’ lives really are like.

From the second article (Barry, E., 2022) the issue of mental and emotional health of teenagers is addressed—for the pandemic “lockdown” period in particular, and for teens who have parents and adults living with them. Since the lockdown, there was a significant statistical rise in young people’s (e.g. ages 14 to 17) suffer in emotional abuse from a parent or an adult, which could have a multitude of sources of causes. The article points out that according to a nationwide survey conducted in the first half of 2021, nearly 45 percent of high schoolers had feelings of sadness or hopelessness which affected their normal activities negatively, and more

than half of them suffered emotional abuse. I will attempt to write, as follows, about several attributes/aspects about the image of teens in regard of this particular new article.

Role(s) that Teens Play in the Article Teens are experiencing the mental health challenges in this context, and specifically, teens are the *victims* of adult emotional and physical abuse. In parallel, it could also be interpreted that teens are “rising up” against such abuse through the pandemic, as perhaps *fighters* or *defenders* in this context—they answered the surveys, being in the concerns of the public and the media and subject matter experts.

How Are Teens Defined? Albeit implicit, teens are portrayed as somewhat pathetic, helpless victims under the abuse either emotional, physically, or else. based on the description in the article, teens could be defined as who are accompanied or lived with adults and who are neither socially nor politically mature; they are living “within the confines of the family home” with an implicit strong association with their adult companions.

Are Teens Being Used to Further Political Ideas? The article demonstrates a rather objective and scientific tone in addressing the emotional health and abuse issue of teens here in the context of the pandemic, and seems not to explicitly take it further to politicize teens for other ideas.

There is, however for example, the description of a *confined* family home environment: with adult parent’s stress increased, the conflict in the house gets amplified, and the expression “where no one can escape from each other” renders an emotionally confined home environment in which teens could feel suffocated and their mental health may further deteriorate. This can be viewed as a political demonstration that there exists, clearly, emotional problems and potentially psychological negatives among many family homes of teenagers today, and the lockdown situation merely amplified what we observed in the surveys.

What Could Be Causes and Factors of Teens’ Deteriorated Mental Health? The victims of mental (or other forms of) abuse are hurt to feel like they are worthless with stigma and shame (Chuck, E., 2022) that could be where teen victims’ mental health start to go downhill. Because they live in this early stage of life in their respective home environment, they are exposed to

the entirety of family discourse, and hence any emotionally abusive behaviors are prone to become the pressure upon teenagers as they live so close to adults and adult parents, who during the lockdown are simultaneously stressed—in the survey, 29 percent of teen responders said their parents had lost a job.

Teens are like, while abused, a cappella who lives in their loneliness without emotional, empathetic companionship. The pandemic had actually altered teens' routines: they are not constantly connected, by physical space, with their friends and regular discourse communities. Socially distanced, teens' losing "natural opportunities to get the kind of social support" (ABC News, 2022) namely *social isolation* alone can deprive teens' access to gain positive mental health outcomes. In addition, the stress that teenagers are bearing concurrently with the society, notably the war in Ukraine, and racialized violence and other issues in general.

Works Cited

ABD News. (2022, April 1). Pandemic takes toll on teen mental health [Video]. *YouTube*.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsOQnMBseZg>

Barry, E. (2022, March 31). Many Teens Report Emotional and Physical Abuse by Parents During Lockdown. *The New York Times*.

Chuck, E. (2022, April 1). 'Not surprising to see, but sad': Experts alarmed by large number of teens experiencing emotional abuse. *NBC News*.