

How ICT has Created Online Groups

Communicating is what we all do no matter what language we speak and all of us can communicate one way or another. The most common way of communication is talking whether it be face to face or over the phone we still do it. Instant messaging has also introduced a new way of communications but this can only work with the e-mail addresses your friends give you. This is great but you cannot speak to a large group of people at a time. So this is one reason why we have chat rooms.

Chat rooms are not new and have been around for some time they can provide help to many people or just a group of people with the same interests to talk to. Many groups can be created by people all over the world and many things can happen. For the safe person on the net they can find chat rooms about problems with homework and teachers are there to help them and so are other students. Site such as BBC Bitesize have links to sites like these. Their main chat site is called Onion Street and this is the description it gives of itself, "Get help with school work by talking to people your own age. Read and watch interviews with experts. Get advice on revision technique and dealing with school stress. Take a break in the music and art rooms"[1]. A site like this is not guaranteed to be secure but looking at them messages that have been left they seem like they are from students around the same age.

Chat rooms like this are very helpful to the young student, one message even highlights a report in the news and several other people have joined in her discussion and given their own views [2]. They also offer certain rooms dedicated to only one subject.

Not only do chat rooms allow conversation about school work they can have topics like Harry Potter and B2k young people can talk all they want to people they don't know about their favourites topics. When speaking in chat rooms no one knows your e-mail address so they cannot contact you when you have left the conversation that is one reason why chat rooms can be good.

On the other hand depending on who you speak to chat room can be dangerous there have been many stories in the news about how young girls have run off with older men. Since the beginning of 2004 many stories of this nature have shown up in the news one of them being the case with Tony Studabaker, he wooed a young 12 year old over the internet into meeting him and then jetting off with him to Paris [3].

I have taken this information from a site that could be biased but it is things like this that young girls have to be aware of, "There are many, many like him who want to lure nubile young ones into their den. They spend months cultivating a young person's trust. Predators like Studabaker are lying in wait. They succeed in many cases because they are persistent and they are hungry. The desire to meet their next victim, is their prize and the Internet, their hunting ground" [4]. This should be explained to all children and teenagers that way they might be more aware in chat rooms and not believing everything they are told about people on the net.

In conclusion chat rooms can be a great help tall people who use the internet and are having problems or just want to speak about their favourite things. Although they must be aware of the dangers and all of the things that happen in chat rooms. It is also wise that parents check what their children are doing on the internet so they too can stop anything happening to them like it did with Tony Studabaker.