



YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Glossary

young people's problems	to feel depressed	to be exposed
to hide, hid, hidden	to become	to study
to stress out	to add	to cope
to account	to prevent	to persuade
to remain	to commit	to lead
to generalize	to feel good about oneself	a bed of roses
aspects	adult life	profanity
teenagers	increasing pressure	exams
parental guidance	unemployment	HIV/AIDS
deep disenchantment	unwanted	pregnancy
STDs, sexually transmitted diseases	virgins	a joke
credit	in the eyes	youngsters
real needs	a fifth	crime
the figures	desperation	illegal drugs
suicide attempt	before their time	no wonder

And now a dialogue between Wentworth and Sarah...

Wentworth: Sarah, how come young people feel increasingly depressed these days?

Sarah: Well, being young in today's society is not a bed of roses. As a matter of fact, children are exposed to aspects of adult life that used to be hidden from them, like sex, profanity and violence. Teenagers are under increasing pressure from society to become adults before their time.

Wentworth: And as well, studying for exams stresses up most young people and teenagers do not always have the parental guidance they need.

Sarah: I know. And if you add the fact that young people are having to cope with unemployment and HIV/AIDS, which often accounts for their deep disenchantment, you have the answer to your question.

Wentworth: George Bush believed that the only way to prevent unwanted teenage pregnancies and STDs was to persuade teenagers to remain virgins. What a joke. No wonder why politicians have no credit in the eyes of youngsters. They are so far away from the teenagers' real needs.

Sarah: And as a result, young people commit a fifth of all crime in France, double the proportion from 25 years ago. And I don't even want to know the figures in the US. Youngsters' depression often leads them to crime or illegal drugs, sometimes to suicide attempts. This is so sad.



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Wentworth: Don't generalize, Sarah. Many young people feel good about themselves, fortunately.