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NEGATIVE SIDE OF PEER PRESSURE

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Peer pressure is the direct influence on people by peers or the effect on an individual who is encouraged and wants to follow their peers by changing their attitudes, values or behaviour to conform to those of the influencing group or individual. For the individual, this can result in either a positive or negative effect, or both. The disadvantages of peer pressure are substance abuse, sexual activity, and distance between family and friends. Some people would do anything to fit in a group, and the most known common way is drinking alcohol or maybe using drugs from the peers around them. Some teenagers will drink on every occasion alcohol is present, and with teenagers these occasions are abundant. And a few will even take it a step further and start using drugs to prove to their peers that they are rebellious and “cool”.

Teens were surveyed about drug use and 55% said they started using drugs after being pressured by their friends. Unfortunately, this behavior may

lead them to addiction to alcohol or drugs and they will end up harming themselves rather than enjoying their teen years with their friends. Furthermore, becoming sexual active can be caused by peer pressure. Seeing everyone doing it makes it seem easy and normal. It can easily lead a person to block their misgivings or hesitation and go further than they wanted to with a sexual partner. Studies shown that 33% of teenage boys felt pressured to have sex, and 23% girls of the same age group. Being pressured on such a thing can lead to serious consequences like having a child that the parents are not willing ready to raise in addition to all types of sexually transmitted diseases. To add to that, many parents worry about the influence their children's friends have on them. During the teenage period, children value the opinion and acceptance of the friends more than the parents'. Consequently, if they have weak personality and are susceptible to peer pressure, this will make the relations with the parents even weaker than it already is. Most teenagers testify that they distance themselves from their parents to be closer to their peers and to prove to them that they are independent persons who don't need the parents' approval. To conclude, the negative influence of the peer group is connected to the involvement in risky behaviours. That is not to say that peer pressure doesn't have positive influence. It simply means that peer pressure has its two sides and it goes back to you on how you manage it and how to control your life.

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НОВРУЗ – НАЙГОЛОВНІШЕ СВЯТО АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКОГО НАРОДУ

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Annotation: Azerbaijan is famous for its national holidays, traditions and customs. A special place is occupied by the holiday of Novruz. It symbolizes the arrival of spring and the renewal of nature. According to folk tradition, Azerbaijanis light fires, prepare various national sweets, paint eggs, and visit.

Азербайджан славиться своїми національними святами, традиціями та звичаями. Особливе місце посідає свято Новруз, яке щорічно відзначається 20-21 березня, у день весняного рівнодення. Воно символізує прихід весни й оновлення природи. За народною традицією азербайджанці палять багаття, готують різні національні солодощі, фарбують яйця, ходять у гості. Новруз вважається святом оптимізму, перемоги життєвих сил природи, її буйного цвітіння [1]. В Азербайджані святкування проходять