

MALAWI ASSEMBLIES OF GOD UNIVERSITY

TO: Legson Mughogho

FROM: Group 5

Antony Nyathi (23010400152)	Lawrence J. Bongololo (24010400430)
Daniel Chimota (24010400563)	Jafali Chisonga (24010400562)
Jazimoni Lazaro (24010400462)	James Mbale (24010400524)
Sam Magwanda (24010400636)	Kate C. Longwe (24010400591)
Secret Lungu (24010400353)	Memory Jambo (24010400404)
Josphine Kambwiri (24010400376)	Martha Hara (24010400385)
Chinsisi Phiri (24010400509)	Paul B.T. Nyama (24010400357)

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PEERS INFLUENCE IN INFORMAL EDUCATION

A peer is a person who has equal standing with another in age, background, social status, and interests. As such, peers play a crucial role in influencing their friends in informal education than parents. This essay will therefore, highlight how peers influence one another than parents.

Firstly, according to (Green, 2004), peers often meet or interact in several informal learning environments like in various social media platforms, football matches and discos. In these platforms they are exposed to a variety of new things that they admire, emulate and learn. Such events provide them with numerous opportunities to learn so many things than what they could get from parents. For instance, a young man can learn some basic mechanical skills simply by watching a video on Facebook. They can as well learn a recipe or how to change engine oil or spark plugs of a car or how to park a car in a small space which is essential and might be handy when faced with such circumstances. Such knowledge can never be imparted by their parents and in some cases, even the parents themselves may not know these things.

Secondly, peers trust their contemporaries more than their parents which facilitates learning because they believe that their parents are old fashioned so much so that there is nothing they can learn from them. Whether they make a positive or negative impact, peers influence one another more quickly than parents because they are often regarded as credible sources of information (Cohen, 2013). This is like that because they are both approachable and relatable. For example, an adolescent would easily ask their peers on sexual reproductive health issues because they can trust and approach them easily than they would with their parents. They would also easily ask their peers who have gone through the same academic process before them, on career choices and other necessary information, than they would with their parents (Phelan, 1993).

To add on that, peers are likely to influence one another in informal education because they share a common language and culture (Hall, 1997). Their way of speaking, dressing and other cultural aspects facilitate learning among adolescents. For example, when young celebrities like musicians or footballers come up with a new style of dressing or haircut, it doesn't take time for such styles to trend worldwide through various social media platforms. Their latest memes and other colloquial expressions become viral amongst the adolescents which most parents do not even follow and cannot even understand at all (Boyd, 2014).

Finally, peers are more influential in informal education than parents because they share similar life experiences in the areas of academics and entertainment. This naturally makes it easier for them to connect and learn new things from one another (Dewey, 1938). For instance, when peers are preparing for an exam, it is easy for them to copy and emulate one another on studying tips and other methods that seem to be working and effective amongst them (Tinto, 1997). Students can easily teach one another shortest and easiest methods to solve mathematical problems because they are working on a common problem than parents would.

In conclusion, this essay has highlighted with explanations and a few examples that peers influence one another in informal education more than their parents would.

References

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