

It has recently reported that some parents in Asian countries are installing apps on their children's mobile phones that monitor their activities to ensure they use these devices responsibly. Write a letter to the Young Post stating whether you agree with these parents' actions or not. Justify your position with three reasons.

Dear Editor,

With a decreasing number of children in each family, many parents try to provide the best to their kids and want to safeguard them all the time. As technology advances, not only children get access to unsuitable materials online, but they may also encounter dangers, like frauds which are omnipresent in this day and age. With a view to protecting their sons and daughters, some parents install application on their children's phones which enable them to monitor the activities on the kids' mobiles. Although some people argue vehemently against this action, I am convinced that installing surveillance apps is beneficial to the younglings. The reasons are clarified as follows.

First and foremost, keeping an eye on children's usage of phones can ensure their safety. Some people might think this would create a tense atmosphere between parents and kids, and thus a poor parent-child relationship, for the children might feel not being respected. However, installing the app is not a problem; instead parents' unwise actions are based on worrying about their kids. Some of them keep an eye on every single move of their children and always question them. In fact, these are inappropriate usage of the apps.

Therefore, monitoring apps is not a problem, but the "monster parents" are. It is crucial for parents to utilize these apps in suitable way. What they should do is to monitor their children's usage of phones without interference unless there are imminent dangers. In other words, when your children argued with their friends, let them tackle it themselves. Yet, when an obvious danger appeared, a scammer approaching for example, parents should offer help immediately. As illustrated, if used properly, the apps can provide a channel for parents to protect their children. Hence, I am of the opinion that this kind of surveillance apps is a boon rather than a bane and it is advisable for parents to install them in case of dangers.

Also worth noticing is that using these apps can help parents understand the youngsters' emotions and help them to deal with it at early stage. Some opponents might deem education to be more important than monitoring them. However, without understanding the youngsters' emotions, how can we teach them to grapple with emotional problems? Being in a transitional period from kids and adults, teenagers might be beset with emotional problems stemming from pressure from various aspects, ranging from academy to interpersonal relationships. Yet, in order to look mature, they tend to conceal their frustration and depression. If they could not tackle these problems, they might experience emotional breakdown and ultimately opt for foolish methods to solve it, such as suicide. Through monitoring their children's conversation with others and posts on social networking sites, parents will be able to give a hand to the kids and help them relieve their depression at a timely manner. Therefore, without a

shadow of a doubt, monitoring apps can ensure the youngsters' emotions are checked and dealt with in no time.

Added to the above, these applications can deter inappropriate usage of phones. Teensafe, a popular app used by parents in western countries, can track children's positions and show who they are messaging and what they are browsing online. Given that parents in this day and age are so busy that they might not be able to notice their kids' wrongdoings, such as drug taking and compensated dating, and rectify them in no time. In this way, not only will the problem perpetuate, but this will also deal a crushing blow to children's personal growth. To avoid this, it is desirable for parents to supervise their kids' usage of phones, which can act as a deterrent to wrongdoings. Were any problems discovered, parents would be able to mend their ways. As we can see, these softwares can ensure that children will not go astray; even if so, they can be led back to the correct one immediately.

Taking into account of all these factors, I firmly believe that installing supervision apps on children's phones can ensure their safety and well-being. Instead the method of using these apps is of paramount importance. In view of this, the onus is on the parents to use these softwares appropriately and avoid too much interference on children's personal issues.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong