For or against: Should a high school student be in love
I. Introduction

1. Background of the study
   During our lifetime, we are nurturing by three elements to grow up including family relationship, friendship and love. However, love is the most complex and interesting psychological phenomenon in one’s life. People who had experienced puberty know that this period of time when a child becoming an adult is a magnificent process for the body and psychological developments. Teenagers will have some new changes no matter in self-understanding, sex role or physiological development etc. They also have some different reactions on friends, family and school. In 1960s, the young won’t have the experience of unrestrained love. The relationship between boys and girls were usually arranged by their parents. People have no chance to meet a person unless they underwent special meeting, such as blind date. So they held a conservative and bashful attitude toward love. In 1970s, because of the population of girls had increased at school, few couples could be seen in campus. But they dared not do such intimates movements like hugged and kissed for the reason of the conservative conception of the society. In 1990s, however, people could accept the behavior that couples kissed in public occasions. Though some people didn’t agree with it, this movement had broken the wall down between the different generations. As time changes, the original attitude and notion for being in love have great changes in teenagers. In high schools, student dating is a common and acceptable event. As a result, this event, being in love, is becoming an important part of a process in the period of studenthood.

2. Motivation and Purpose of the Study
   To swim with the tide, the thought of people has become more liberal than before. The way of interaction between boys and girls is different from people used to. In the early age, students in the school used to be divided into two kinds of class: one was girls’ and the other was boys’. However, things have changed; each class is composed of the equal rate in different sexes rather than in single sex. Student’s self-awareness has an inclination to rise, and students also know how to express themselves. It has caused that more and more students are in love in recent years. Someone says that teenagers should have the experience of being in love, but is it true? Therefore, we want to do a survey on following questions: Should a high school student be in love? Why do some people desire to be in love and some people do not? What’s the reason? Does it have any influence on us?

3. Research questions
   To comprehend more about the viewpoints for and against a high school student being in love, the research questions proposed in this study are presented as follows.
RQ1. Should a high school student be in love?
RQ2. Why do high school students want to be in love?
RQ3. What are the advantages of being in love?
RQ4. What are the disadvantages of being in love?

II. Thesis

1. Two theories related to human needs for love

1.1 Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs

Hierarchy of needs is a theory of human developmental psychology proposed by Abraham Maslow. Maslow laid out five layers, which are physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, self-esteem needs and self-actualization needs, in this order.

![Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs](image)

1.2 Color Circle of Loving: developed by sociologist Lee John in 1976

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Romantic Love</td>
<td>Based on ideal outer beauty, it is filled with romance as well as passion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game-playing</td>
<td>Take love as a challenging game in order to enjoy the game-playing process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Grow with each other and have a stable and slowly developing relationship. Attach to each other with less passion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive Love</td>
<td>The requirements of love are compulsive and restricted. It is more sensitive along with mood swing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pragmatic Love</td>
<td>Choose a higher reward but lower cost lover. Take realistic profits into account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altruistic Love</td>
<td>Regard love as devotion and ask nothing in return.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 Methods

Our study aims to investigate the viewpoint of people among 16-30 years old whether high school students should fall in love with their peer group or not. First, the participants are introduced, and then the instruments are presented as follows.

2.1 Participants

There are 450 participants taking part in this questionnaire survey including students, undergraduates and workers. Most of them are from Shin-Hua Industrial Vocational High School and National Cheng Kung University. There are 240 males and 210 females between 16-30 years old.

2.2 Instruments

A quantitative method is mainly used in this study. The instrument is a questionnaire survey (see Appendix) used to investigate people’s opinions on being in love as a high school student. There are two parts, containing four questions in total. The questions listed in Part 1 are used to gain background information from the participants, such as gender and age etc. Part 2 is composed of eight questions aimed to know the reasons, experience, advantages and disadvantages of being in love with someone as a high school student.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Results of Data Analysis

82% of the interviewees agree to date someone as a high school student and 18% of the interviewees do not agree.

[Figure 1: The Agreement of Senior High Students Being In Love]
36% of the interviewees fall in love with a person because they are attracted by his/her personal characteristics. 25% of the interviewees start dating a mate for the desire of bringing companions. 17% of the interviewees are affected by peers. 11% of the interviewees fall in love because of the dependence and 9% of the interviewees develop a relationship out of curiosity. 2% of the interviewees have other reasons.

![Figure2 The Factors Causing People Want To Be In Love](image)

In the questionnaire, as following, there are some advantages. 29.3% of the interviewees want somebody to share the life with them. 24% of the interviewees hope to get more experiences about love. 17.1% of the interviewees desire to make more friends. 14.3% of the interviewees choose the answer ‘Reach the goal more efficiently.’ 12.3% of the interviewees’ answer is ‘Make progress in study.’ 2.4% of the interviewees think that being in love has no advantages. 0.5% of the interviewees choose the answer ‘Others.’

![Figure3 The advantage of being in love](image)

In the questionnaire, as following, there are some disadvantages. 34.6% of the
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interviewees will be temperamental. 22.2% of the interviewees think the performance on study won’t be as good as before. 18.3% of the interviewees consider that being in love will cut down the time with family. 15.7% of the interviewees choose the answer ‘Narrow down your life circle with friends.’ 8.4% of the interviewees think that being in love won’t bring about shortages. 0.8% of the interviewees choose the answer ‘Others.’

![Figure 4: The disadvantage of being in love](image)

3.2 Discussion of the research Questions

RQ1. Should a high school student be in love?

As time changed, schools and teachers have changed the attitude toward students being in love in campus. With the rapid development of the mass media, students can receive more information about love. According to our results, the rate of which people for or against high school students being in love is eight to two (Figure 1). It can be somehow concluded that the majority of people among 16-30 aged approve of the possibility of being in love in high school. Some scholars’ theories also indicate that being in love for senior high school students has been regarded as an acceptable behavior.

RQ2. Why do high school students want to be in love?

In the phase of senior high school, students will be gradually interested in the difference between the opposite sex and themselves. That is, they will be attracted by others’ unique characteristics. At the same time, the influence of peer groups is obvious. They want to pursue what they lack and then build a relation with others. All of these are the factors that cause students to be eager to be in love. Interestingly, we can also find the correspondence in the Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory. It tells us that once people have been satisfied with the
"Physiological needs" and "Safety needs", they would develop the "Love and Belonging needs." In this stage, people need someone’s companion and hope to prove their self-value in the love relationship, as high school students do.

RQ3. What are the advantages of being in love?

The outcome seems to point out that most senior high school students hope for someone’s companion (Figure 3.). The result corresponds to Need-hierarchy theory. Students desire to share their lives and connect their minds with each other. Through communicating, they can understand each other’s thoughts. Moreover, they can gain more experience about getting along with the opposite sex, which would contribute to managing the marriage in the future.

RQ4. What are the disadvantages of being in love?

According to our survey, most people think that the disadvantage of senior high students being in love is to be easily temperamental (Figure 4). That is, the mood is influenced by the other all the time. The other defect is that the performance in learning school works may be not as good as before. In many researches, we discovered that negative emotion would block the motivation of learning because of distraction, which is consistent with our results.

III. Conclusion

In our research, the aim is to explore comprehensive viewpoints of people among 16-30 years old whether high school students should fall in love. As shown in the preceding discussion, we reach a few findings as follows.

In puberty, the teenagers not only change their physical condition but also develop their mental maturity. Moreover, they face a lot of mature and private problems. Therefore, they increase huge interests on their opposite sexual friends. They want to know each other better. It is a possible explanation for the reason why they want to be in love.

The current study reveals that most people look forward to being in love as a high school student. They want to fall in love because they are attracted by characteristics. And other people are influenced by their peers. They feel curious and have admiration on each other. You will want to share your life with the lover. However, the disadvantage of being in love is temperamental. That is to say, your emotion is easily impacted by each other.
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In this questionnaire survey, we find out that teenagers are eager to being in love. And the reason is that they are attracted by each other characteristics. As a result, we found that students being in love have more experiences about dealing with lovers. They can also learn how to communicate with their lover. They profit from experiences as managing their marriages in the future. The worst shortage of being in love is their emotions easily impacted by the lover. People among 16-30 years old agree more about the issue whether high school students should have a boyfriend or a girlfriend, and so do we. Therefore, what we think corresponds with the result of the questionnaire survey.

IV. References

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V. Appendix

Survey on viewpoints of being in love during senior high school times

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Hello everybody,

We are the students of the Department of Applied Foreign Languages, HHVS. We undertake a research to realize the public’s perspectives on the senior high school students being in love. This questionnaire is just for our study. Therefore, feel relieved and answer the following questions on the basis of your case. Thank you very much.

By Rex, Janet and Kelly
October, 2011

I. Background information
1 Gender: □ (1) man □ (2) woman
2 Ages: □ (1)16-20 □ (2) 21-25 □ (3)26-30
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3 Degree: □ (1) senior high school □ (2) university □ (3) graduate school □ (4) others

II. The discussion about high school students being in love

1 Have you looked forward to being in love as a high school student? □ (1) Yes □ (2) No

2 Do you have any experience of being in love as a high school student? □ (1) Yes □ (2) No

3 What are the factors causing you to be in love?
□ (1) Be influenced by peers
□ (2) Wish someone to accompany
□ (3) Be attracted by one’s characteristics
□ (4) Want to get more experiences about love
□ (5) Get along for a long time
□ (6) Others

4 What are the advantages of being in love?
□ (1) Somebody will share one’s life with you
□ (2) Reach the goal more efficiently
□ (3) Get more experiences about love
□ (4) You can make more friends
□ (5) Make progress in study
□ (6) Having no advantage
□ (7) Others

5 What are the shortages of being in love?
□ (1) Be temperamental
□ (2) Narrow down your life circle with friends
□ (3) Cut down the time with family
□ (4) Your study is not good as before
□ (5) Having no shortage
□ (6) Others

6 What kind of action between lovers in public can you accept?
□ (1) Hold hands
□ (2) Hold waist
□ (3) Hug
□ (4) Kiss
□ (5) Others

7 Which one can make love last longer?
□ (1) Wear the same decoration
□ (2) Stay alone with each other
□ (3) Get involved in each other’s life
□ (4) Express your thought at proper time
□ (5) Don’t mention bad memory
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(6) Others

8 After answering those questions above, do you agree senior high students being in love?

(1) Yes  (2) No