

Exploration into the Unwillingness of Taiwanese Senior High Student Clubs To Hold Inter School Activities

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Exploration into the Unwillingness of Taiwanese Senior High Student Clubs  
To Hold Inter School Activities

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## I. Introduction

### A. Motivation

As a senior high school student in Taiwan, “the club” has played an important role in our school life. It helps not only add spice to our daily life but relieve ourselves of high pressure from the heavy schoolwork all the time. With time changing, various clubs and diverse activities have appeared one after another. However, a lot of thorny problems have plagued those holding extracurricular activities, including inter school activities. This June at a meeting, the researcher happened to hear some club leaders talking about their experience of holding activities and saying they were reluctant to hold activities any more. Out of curiosity, the researcher determined to do some research to find out the real causes and effects of the issue.

### B. Purpose

To broaden students’ horizons and to cultivate their global perspective, awareness and competitiveness, inter school activities have played a crucial role in high school education. Since the researcher herself participated in MUN club and doesn’t want inter school activities to stop being held, she determined to probe the plights faced by school clubs in holding inter school activities and to find out the real factors which have influenced the willingness of the senior high school clubs to hold inter school activities, hoping to improve the situations, to gain better control over the issue and thus to prevent the same problem from happening repeatedly in the future.

### C. Method

#### a. Questionnaire

To collect more senior high school students’ opinions about the factors influencing their willingness to hold inter school activities, the researcher designed a proper questionnaire and the respondents of it were the members of MUN clubs from 10 senior high schools, including Taipei Municipal Jingmei Girls High School, Taipei Municipal Zhong Shan Girls High School, Taipei Municipal Chenggong High School, the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University, National Taichung First Senior High School, National Tainan Chia-Chi Senior High School, Taipei Municipal SONG-SHAN Senior High School, Taipei Municipal Datong High School, Nanshan High School, and National TaiChung Wen-Hua Senior High School.

Above all, they are those having experiences of holding inter school activities so that the results of the questionnaire conducted will be more reliable and valid.

#### b. Document Search

To make a better understanding of the issue, design a proper questionnaire and confirm the results of the questionnaire, the researcher has logged on the Net and has been to the library in an attempt to find out something related to the issue from websites, books, magazines or papers.

#### c. Interview

The researcher has interviewed those belonging to other clubs and having experience of holding inter school activities before designing the questionnaire and after cross-comparing, analyzing and synthesizing the results of it to make sure the questionnaire is really reliable and valid.

#### D. Scope

The thesis is mainly from conducting a questionnaire to understand those joining MUN clubs from 10 senior high schools to exploring into the unwillingness of Taiwanese senior high student clubs to hold inter school activities.

## **II. Thesis**

As a senior high school student in Taiwan, “the club” has played an important role in our school life. It helps not only add spice to our daily life but relieve ourselves of high pressure from the heavy schoolwork. As we know, with the permission of schools, student clubs are established by groups of students with same ambitions, goals and ideals. (Lin, Chih-Shan, 2000) With time changing, various clubs and diverse activities have appeared one after another. However, lots of thorny problems have plagued those holding extracurricular activities, including inter school ones. This June at a meeting, the researcher happened to hear some club leaders talking about their experience of holding activities and saying they were reluctant to hold activities any more. Out of curiosity, the researcher determined to do some research to find out the real causes and effects of the issue.

After making a full investigation, the researcher finds out it is not actually easy to hold an inter school activity. According to the questionnaire conducted this summer, it indicates that lack of collaboration, communication, experience heritage, labor division, commitment, enthusiasm and teamwork is what actually causes the unwillingness of those who hold inter school activities. Take for example the MUN (Model United Nations) club, made up of students from different high schools in Taiwan, and it was what the researcher participated in.

#### A. The Aims and Functions of Student Clubs

As we know, some people have questioned why students spend so much time on the club and if it is worthwhile to hold and attend related activities. As a senior high student, the researcher is firmly convinced that high school life can't be complete without clubs. Besides, according to the research done by William and Winston (1985), it pointed out that students who had joined clubs were more principled in whether studying, career development or the way they lived than those who had not joined any. Last but not least, Yang, Guo-Si (1992) believed that clubs should have the following functions:

- a. Providing students with chances to develop multiple interests and abilities
- b. Building up the capability of leading people and being led by others
- c. Helping students look into, acknowledge and be certain of themselves
- d. Developing social relationships and having contact with people
- e. Promoting experience of having positive contacts with society in order to let students learn about serving the society with enthusiasm
- h. Developing healthy personality via appropriate communication in the clubs

#### B. Advantages of Inter School Activities

Many people wonder why students don't concentrate more on their studies but spend lots of time on club activities, including inter school ones. However, after having done document research and interview, the researcher finds out to broaden students' horizons and to cultivate their global perspective, awareness and competitiveness, inter school activities have played a crucial role in high school education and that they really bring a lot of advantages to students as follows:

- a. Students can not only share their learning experience with one another but enhance their communication and inter personal skills

- b. Students feel a greater sense of belonging and have a higher self-esteem at school when participating in structured sporting, performing arts and other activities.
- c. The co-curricular opportunities makes for a more motivated and engaged group of students, which leads to a happier and more cohesive school.
- d. Through inter school activities, especially those held by domestic and foreign schools together, students have cultural opportunities recognized nationally and internationally and thus cultivate global view.
- e. According to the report extensively researched by John Paul College, it indicates that students who have participated in their co-curricular inter school learning activities develop higher academic results, better relationships at school, and are more likely to lead healthy, active lifestyles when they leave school.

### C. Questionnaire: Results and Analysis

The respondents of the questionnaire are the members of MUN clubs from 10 senior high schools as mentioned above and most importantly, they are those having experiences of holding inter school activities so that the results of the questionnaire conducted will be more reliable and valid. Finally, the respondents of the questionnaire conducted are 55 people in total, made up of 67.3% of males and 32.7% of females. They are grade 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. (Figure 1) Of all the results, the

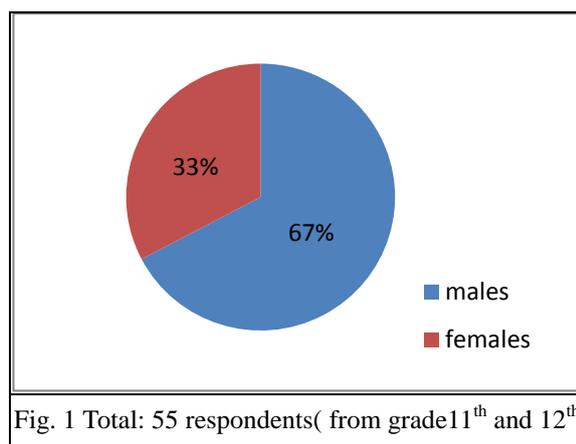


Fig. 1 Total: 55 respondents( from grade11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>)

researcher would like to mention some of them in particular.

- a. All the respondents really benefit from holding interschool activities, learn to build up confidence in interacting with others and thus make new friends, 49 become more sociable after attending inter school activities, 42 become more courageous, and 28 have improved their English abilities. (Figure 2.1)

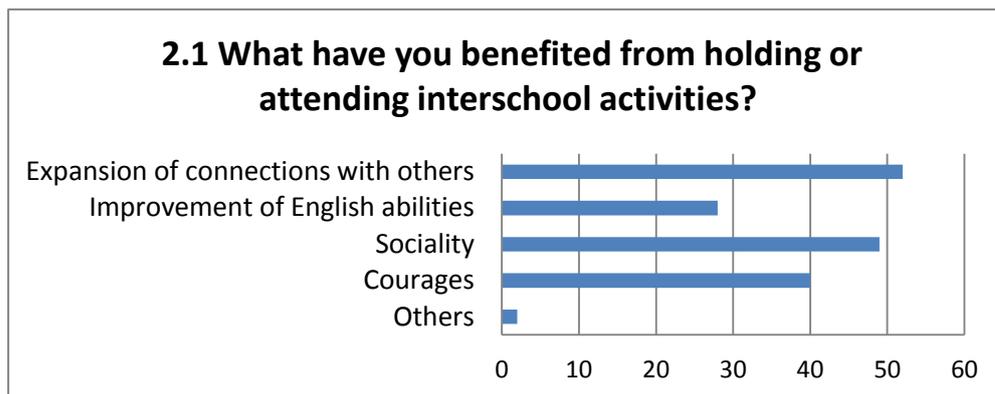


Figure 2.1 What have you benefited from holding or attending interschool activities?

b. Most of the respondents' opinions about the purposes of holding an "interschool activity" are mainly the following points: first of all, to promote the communications among schools; second, to learn to cooperate with others; third, to study and learn merits from other schools; then, to pursue the same goal together; and finally, to share both tangible and intangible resources with others. (Figure 2.2)

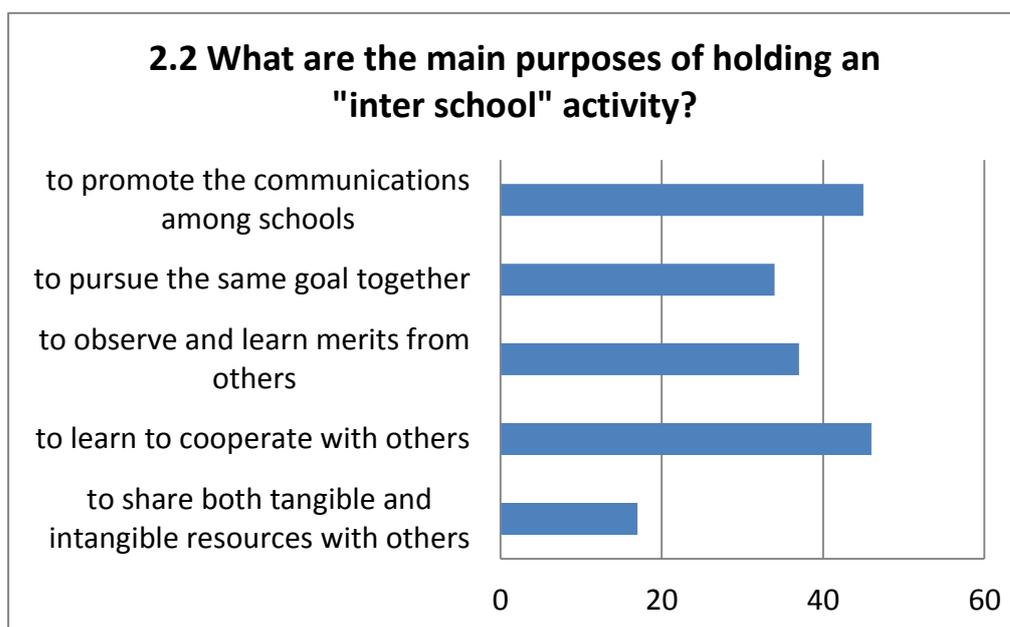


Figure 2.2 What are the main purposes of holding an "inter school" activity?

From the result of this question, the researcher thus infers that only through communicating with one another, pursuing the same goal and fulfilling the shared goals can the participants really cooperate and build better relationship.

The other three points can be seen as the specific advantages brought by an inter

school activities, which cannot be found in a normal activity. Take the shared resources for example. If it were not for the cooperation with other “groups”, there would be no resources to share with one another and no merits to observe and learn.

c. As we know, everything has two sides of a coin. While people cooperate with each other, conflicts are gradually developed at the same time. According to the questionnaire, nearly two-third of the participants encountered either conflicts or disputes in holding interschool activities. (Figure 3.1) 41 have difficulty communicating with others. 23 have faced the unequal division of labor, By contrast, 27 are satisfied with the smooth communications and discussions during the activities they have joined in. 11 think that everyone has done their best to make the activity better, and the division of work is clear and appropriate.

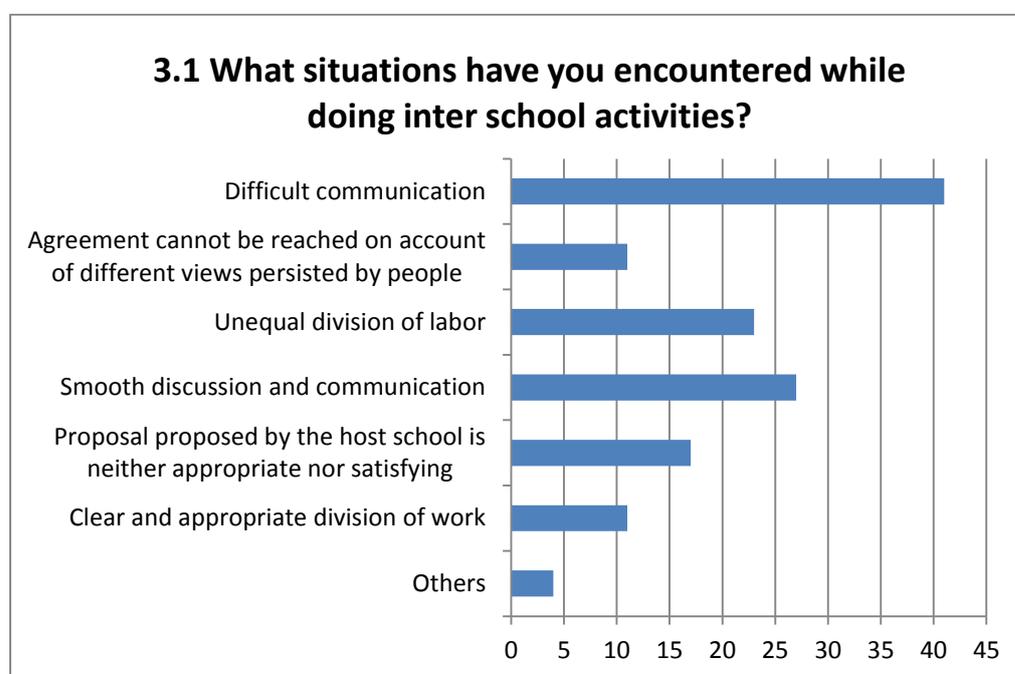


Figure 3.1 What situations have you encountered while doing inter school activities?

d. To understand more about the factors triggering the conflicts, we asked another question, that is, to find out what factors influence the quality of inter school activities most. The result is that 52 consider “the way that people cooperate” the most important factor , 34 “whether the proposal is implemented perfectly or not”, 32 “the experiences passed down by the seniors of the club”, and 30 regard “whether the school authorities cooperating with them speak highly of their previous inter school activities or not is the main factor. Lastly, only 5 participants said that the most influential factor is the proficiency of the club’s teacher teaching them how to hold an interschool activity. (Figure 3.2)

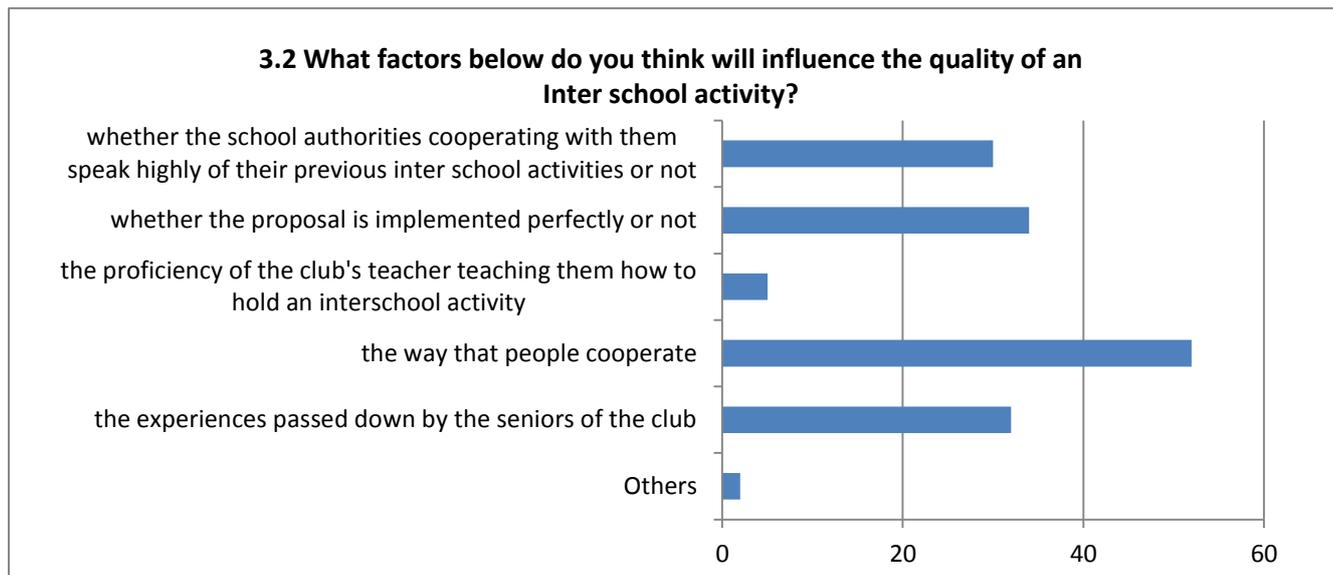


Figure 3.2 What factors below do you think will influence the quality of an Inter school activity?

e. Communication again plays the most influential in the willingness of holding Inter school activities as the results of the question “the willingness of holding inter school activities with others” show, 44 think “whether the schools have fully communicated with others” the most influential and 41 “whether the schools trust each other”. (Figure 3.3)

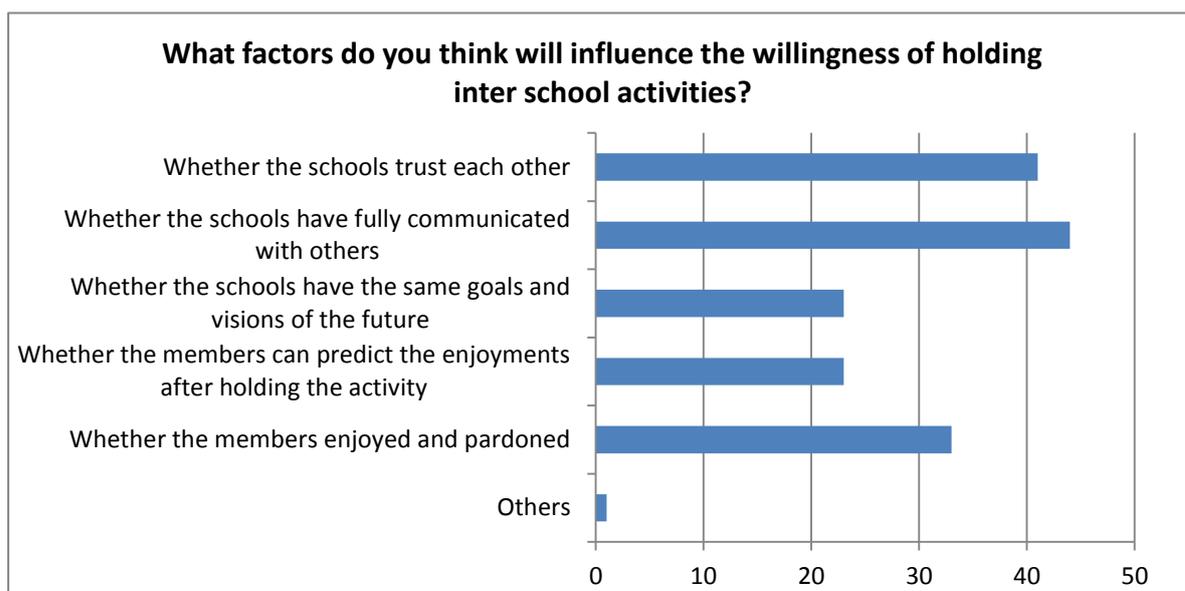


Figure 3.3 What factors do you think will influence the willingness of holding inter school activities?

#### D. Discussion

After cross-comparing and synthesizing the results of the questionnaire, the researcher discovers gender and age also influence the willingness of holding activities and that cooperation and communication are the most influential factors.

##### a. Gender:

Among respondents of the question “What are the main purposes of holding an inter school activity?” males tend to consider “learning to cooperate with others” the most possible purposes of holding an inter school activity, while females choose “to observe and learn merits from others”. From it, the researcher thus infers that males tend to cooperate with others more than females do and that females tend to observe and learn from others more than to cooperate with others. (Figure 4.1)

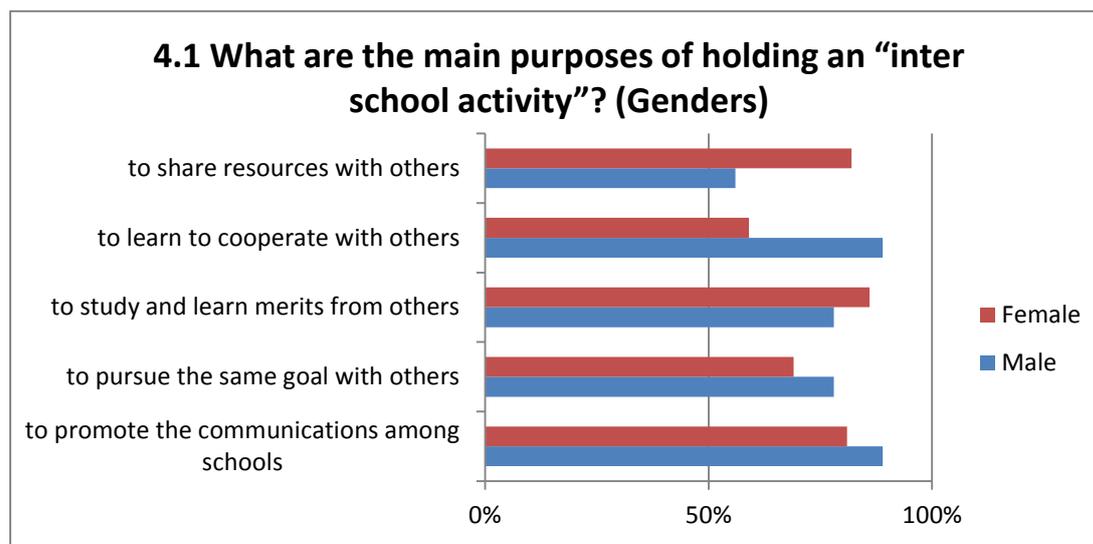


Figure 4.1 What are the main purposes of holding an “inter school activity”? (Genders)

##### b. Age:

According to the result of the question “to share resources with others”, it shows 82% of respondents choosing it are 12<sup>th</sup> graders while only 28% are 11<sup>th</sup> ones. From it, the researcher infers age impacts the experience and thus causes different results and that 12<sup>th</sup> graders have already had the experience of holding inter school activities, while 11<sup>th</sup> ones have not. The former tend to use well resources shared by others to make the activity better, yet the latter tend to learn about how to cooperate with

others. As experience influences people, so time changes people. (Figure 4.2)

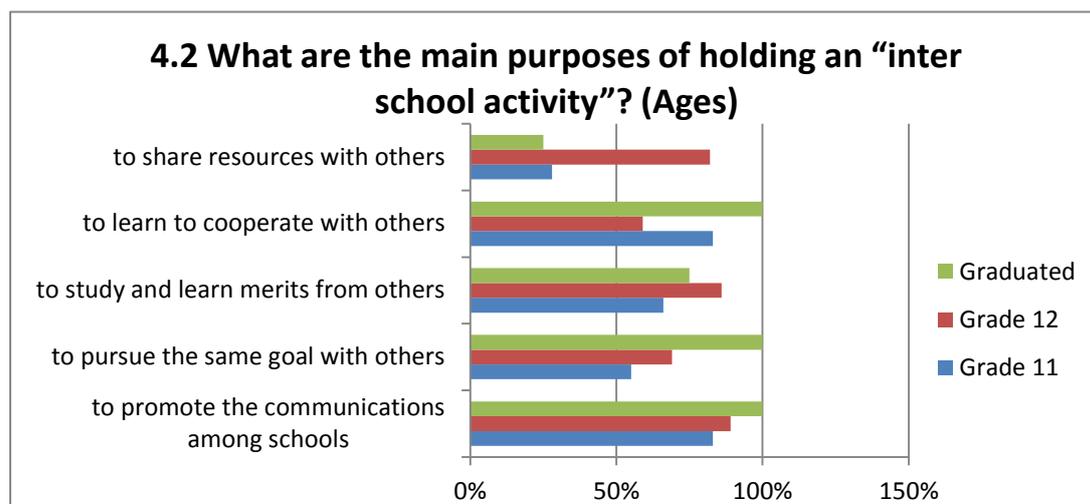


Figure 4.2 What are the main purposes of holding an “inter school activity”? (Ages)

c. Cooperation and Communication:

According to P21 organization from the United States of America, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are a series of skills students are required to develop in order to live, learn, and thrive in the environment of 21<sup>st</sup> century. It involves the 4Cs, which comprise critical thinking, communication, cooperation and creativity. This shows “cooperation” and

“communication” both play important roles in what students should have in 21<sup>st</sup> century and that “cooperation” and “communication” are what those holding an inter school activity need most from the questionnaire.



Figure 1.2 The 4Cs educational Outcomes (Adapted from EdLeader 21)

### III. Conclusion

The researcher’s curiosity has been met. It is because after comparing, cross-comparing, analyzing and synthesizing the results of the survey, she does find out several crucial factors influencing the willingness of holding activities like collaboration, communication, experience heritage, labor division, commitment,

enthusiasm and teamwork, among which collaboration is of greatest importance and bad communication, sometimes causing conflicts with each other in the process, is another biggest obstacle to overcome.

To increase the willingness of those holding inter school activities, the researcher suggests the school authorities concerned should give more praise and support to the clubs, that parents should realize inter school activities bring more advantages than disadvantages to their children and that to make activities held successfully, students have to know the more cooperation with one another, the better communication with one another and the more trust in one another, the more willing they will be to hold an inter school activity.

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