

Abstract

This thesis presents a cultural phenomenon created by people at the age of preteen emerging during the past decade. The new phenomenon considered as a subculture of people in the long transition teen age. Preteen culture shows its status for social recognition in both cultural space and physical space. A society, meanwhile, also helps create the spaces for the preteen culture. The author picked up the group of preteen people getting around the crowded shopping area Center Point as a study group to demonstrate an identity of a subculture in the area considered as “preparation space” for preteen.

The preteen is a certain period of life between childhood and adolescent age. Some elements of the preteen cultural phenomenon seen at the Center Point are similar to transitional ceremonies in primitive societies. The fact that the group of preteen distinguishes itself from childishness and is being in the process of preparation for being adolescent shows signs of symbolic ceremonies but complexities of modern society compact such ceremonies into forms of daily expression.

The Center Point is a place where reflects development of social segregation in Thai society. It is a space, which this society has created for preteen and provides components and elements to be compatible with identity of preteen in order to allow their existing in the society.