

L LIFESTYLE

Peer pressure tough for kids *Faced with ostracism threat, children may use imitation to fit in*

IN THE FACE of a threat of being excluded from a group of their liking, children try to copy group behaviour as a means of re-affiliating, a study says. "Humans have an evolutionary prepared ostracism-detection system," said lead author of the study Rachel Watson-Jones from The University of Texas at Austin.

According to the study, children as young as five are sensitive to being excluded, especially from "in-groups" - those to which they feel they belong - and will respond using high-fidelity imitation to re-affiliate with those groups.

"When kids feel left out, they copy the behaviour of others around them in order to appear more like them," said Watson-Jones. "Whether it is the way they dress, play, eat or activities they participate in, a child will imitate the behaviour of others to appear as though they are part of that group," Watson-Jones said.

Researchers observed 176 children between ages five and



six, as they played Cyberball, a virtual ball-tossing game, under four conditions. They looked at those ostracised from the in-group and those included, and those ostracised from the out-group and those included.

After the game, children

watched an in-group or out-group member perform a pattern of arbitrary but intentional hand and object movements to simulate a group convention. Children who had been excluded by the in-group imitated the actions with higher fidelity than children who

had been included. However, children ostracised or included by the out-group did not differ in their imitative fidelity of the out-group convention, the researchers found.

The study was published in the journal *Psychological Science*. IANS

ALIGN YOUR LIFE

Selecting An Apartment

There are many Feng Shui myths floating around with regards to selecting the right apartment. These myths are so deep rooted that even real estate agents around the world are now following them without questioning their logical aspects.

The most common misconception is that an apartment on a high floor improves finances. This is the most bizarre statement ever. As per Flying Star Feng Shui, selecting an apartment on a very high floor is not considered to be good, as you will have too much wind energy and no mountain support. Ideally apartments should be on the lower floors, as the energy is calmer and stronger.

Secondly, many believe that as per Feng Shui, the door of the apartment must face South. This again is just a myth and cannot be followed. The apartment is part of the building. And therefore logically the Feng Shui of the building will have a huge impact on the apartment. Therefore it is essential to find out the Flying Star calculations for the building and then apply them to the floor plan of the apartment depending on its location within the building. No one direction can be considered to be auspicious as an entrance for the apartment.

Another common misconception is that one must never select an apartment opposite elevators. Firstly having elevators at the entrance creates some unwanted noise at odd hours. And that is the real reason to avoid this location. However as per Flying Star School Of Feng Shui, the location of the apartment and elevator will impact each other if these two are located in not so favourable sections as per the calculations. Other than that it has no impact at all.

Lastly, most people believe that the inside of the apartment needs to be lovely and in conjunction with Feng Shui. The exterior or the outside layout of the building does not impact the apartment. This is entirely untrue. The surroundings and the road junctions near your building do impact your apartment. External tall structures or water bodies also impact the energy flow within your apartment.

Therefore before selecting an apartment, look around the building. Avoid selecting buildings at T-junctions or on a bend. Stay away from buildings near major traffic intersections or garbage dumps. Having an open area around your building, especially in the front allows energy to flow freely and smoothly.

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When it comes to privacy...

... people tend to be info-egoists on social media

DO YOU VALUE your friends' private information on social media as much as your own? Most likely not, says a new study, suggesting that when it comes to their privacy, people are info-egoists. People are much more concerned about sharing their own private information with third-

party app developers than they are about revealing their friends' data, the study said.

However, as social media makes data increasingly interconnected, preserving one's own privacy while ignoring the privacy rights of others may make everybody's data more vulnerable, said Jens

Grossklags, assistant professor of information sciences and technology at Pennsylvania State University in the US.

"The problem is becoming known as interdependent privacy," Grossklags said.

"The privacy of individual consumers does not only depend on their own decisions, but is also affected by the actions of others," Grossklags pointed out.

In the study, the researchers measured the economic value of personal information which individuals place on their own and other's information. The participants valued the data in their own social media profiles at \$2.31 and their friends' data at \$1.56 when friends' data was irrelevant to a third party app's function.

When friends' data was nec-

essary for app function, the participants valued their own data at \$2.04 and their friends' data at just 98 cents. The researchers estimated that the average Facebook user, for example, with an average of more than 300 friends, would value the bundle of friends' data at less than a cent per friend when data collection is necessary. When data collection is unnecessary, people value the information for a single friend at less than three cents.

The researchers collected data from about 400 users of Mechanical Turk, a crowd-sourced marketplace that allows members to earn money for completing various tasks. The findings were presented at the International Conference on Information Systems in Fort Worth, Texas, US. IANS

