'Not many Hong Kong families are friendly with their neighbours.' Do you agree?

Some people think that not many families are friendly with their neighbours. I think that's true. Although we meet our neighbours very often, we seldom talk with them. What we do at most is greet them with a smile.

I think that is just because we feel uneasy or embarrassed when we chat with them. We all feel it is difficult to break the ice. We all want to let others take the initiative. Starting a conversation with someone we don't know is somehow difficult. The inertia looms large.

Living in the modern world with the idea of protecting one's own privacy, everyone closes his door behind him. Somehow we don't want to expose ourselves to others. Neighbours gradually become strangers, not friends. This is in contrast with the old days when people left their doors open.

Let's imagine that we meet a neighbour at the lift lobby. I think you won't feel comfortable enough to start a conversation with him. Am I right? Nowadays, neighbours actually are equal to strangers, a normal person won't talk to or chat with strangers in an unnecessary situation.

When HK families are not friendly with their neighbours, what is the solution? How can we be closer with our neighbours?

In the old days, people were friendly with their neighbours. They would play with them, share goods with them. I think the cause of that problem is we think it's embarrassing to meet new friends, just like when we are in a new school. We won't talk a lot. Here are the solutions.

If you are a parent of a child, you can take him to the playground, and take the chance to meet another child's parents. If you are a student, you can join some activities in your estate. Then you may meet a lot of friends and it is good for your life.

In conclusion, we can be closer with our neighbours in many ways. There's no need to feel uneasy when meeting our neighbours in the lift lobby. If you meet friends a lot in your estate, you may be happier when you go back home.

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