

20% find their sweethearts in 8-min dating

www.chinanews.cn 2006-07-06 11:49:00

Chinanews, Beijing, July 5 – Statistics show that the singles at 30 years old or so have hit one million in Beijing and Shanghai, while at present, "8-minute dating" is prevalent among them.

During just 8 minutes, you may meet the right one who will accompany you for the rest of your life; you may get to know with a new friend; you may be cheated by a love liar; or you may gain nothing at all no matter how much money you have spent on it.

Sitting in a corner of a café in Beijing Zhongliang Plaza, a lady is unconcernedly browsing over a magazine Marie Claire. Taking a deep breath, a man goes straight to the lady and begins to talk with her. This is an 8-minute dating.

As a sponsor of this activity, Li Ru indicated that the 8-minute dating is different from traditional matchmaking although 99.9% of the participants come to hunt for marriage partners.

Ten men and ten women take part in the activity this time. Every one gets a number as his/her name tag. Every pair can spend 8 minutes in a brief talk. Ringing a bell, the organizer will remind them when the time is up. Then the men will have to continue to approach the next lady.

They are not required to tell their names, contact phone numbers, and other private information to each other. They just tick the name of the one with whom they want to continue to talk in a form. After the activity, if a pair happens choosing to have found the persons of their choices luckily, they will be informed within 48 hours by the organizer.

Every participant will spend 150 yuan once. As to the matching rate, another organizer Sun Bo estimated, "About 20% may become couples in a year. And it is a dream to find a marriage partner in an 8-minute dating for just once or twice."

Participants in the 8-minute dating are mainly IT workers, teachers, accountants, doctors, lawyers, or journalists. Some of them, however, participate in the activity for business promotion instead of finding marriage partners.

"Nearly 70% or 80% of men think a lot of women's appearance, while most of women consider stable employment as most important for men, and personality second," said Li Ru with a smile and shrug.

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