

Lexxzavier quinde
Professor hall
5/19/21

Gacha games the way of life

During middle school, I was an introvert who struggled to have interaction with people and I had a tough time keeping up a conversation that would just be dry and boring, but I never thought simply by downloading mobile games and joining this community would change my social life just by playing mobile games with other people. I would never have imagined it would have a huge impact on me for having so many online friends. I'm grateful I got to meet so many wonderful people around the world that help me crack the shell of my introverted self. Without it, I won't even imagine how hard it would be to open myself up to others without being part of the gacha community to this day. I hope I'm able to meet everyone that I have met online when I travel around the world all for the love of gacha games.

To have a better understanding of what the word gacha means you first have to understand its origin and meaning. Gacha comes from the Japanese word called gachapon (ガチャポン) a toy vending machine that dispense ball capsule similar to a vending machine from the supermarket or laundry mat although the difference is gachapon have a rarity system from common, rare, very rare. Now that you understand what gacha is There is also another definition called gacha games which is a mobile game that involves microtransaction similar to loot boxes(prize crate) that induce players to spend in-game currency to receive random virtual items *.Gacha games by themselves can be discourse communities based on the type of video game genres.

Gacha games genres can vary from MMORPG (online role-playing video game in which a very large number of people participate simultaneously) to rhythm games, turn-based RPG mechanics(battles consist of turns where a player can command their characters to perform various actions to defeat opponents) depending what the user is into, usually, the target audience is people who are into Japanese cultures such as anime or manga. How these gacha games catch people attention is based on its art/ music director and constantly updating event and adding more story lore to the player can be busy playing the game, but it main creme da la creme is premium gacha banner. It where the rarity system from gachapon comes into place forcing its user to spend its free currency earn in-game for a chance to get a premium super rare weapon, character, item R(rare),SR(super rare), SSR,(specially super rare)UR (ultra rare).

For some people in the gacha community, it can sometimes lead to gambling addiction because of the microtransaction system making the user spend even more money on in-game currency, to an extent where user are spending their rent, food, life-saving on an in-game. I remember an article from the New York times interviewing a person who wasted 220k on a mobile game called fate grand order where the drop rate of getting an item is 1% which is considered the worst Rate compared to other games that have been generous. Although this may be a problem within the gacha game community not all people are like this with this addiction. Most players are

shown to have self-control in how they spend their free currency and the lifestyle of how they want to play gacha games casually.

My experience with gacha games started when I was in middle school where I was bored riding the bus from school so I just started to scroll down at the app store to see what I could entertain myself with. I came across a game called Monster Strike(a game similar to 8 ball pool) and its community hub. At first, it was fun until I had difficulty clearing a stage that required co-op(second-person player)with someone. At first, I wasn't sure if anyone was going to read my post on the community hub and help me out because I had problems interacting with people but was helped with open arms from the community. Every day I come back to the community hub to learn strategies and play co-op with others in the group, which later I started a small friend group from the community hub which made me open up even more from a stranger from all over the world, It leads me to find a best friend from Germany named Chris who was co-op buddy. Sadly the game shut down during 2016 and most of my friends move on with other things in their life but for me, I cherish the fun memories of playing monster strike with others. My friend group made a promise to meet each other in Japan for the 2020 Olympics but due to covid 19, we all canceled the meet-up.

In conclusion, the gacha community has impacted my life in a way I couldn't imagine granting me a social life I would send my article to vice because it has an interesting background how and I pray to God for one day once everything goes back to normal I get to travel the japan and meet up with monster strike friend to actually use a gachapon machine at Akihabara.