

Generation Gap and Its Impact in Urban Society in the Context of Nepal

By

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September 2021

Abstract

The paper entitled on *Generation Gap and Its Impact in Urban Society in the Context of Nepal* is an innovative and original study. The major objective of this study is to identify the domestic effect due to the generation gap in the urban area of Nepal. The method of this study is based on both primary and secondary sources of information and various kinds of literature are reviewed from academic journals and books. The major findings of this study are that domestic conflicts and violence in households are the major sources of social, cultural, and economic gaps between two generations. The problems which are created due to the generation gap can be mitigating regular social dialogue, communication, modernization, western culture, and understanding and adoption between two generations.

Keywords: Generation Gap, Social dialogue and Adaptation, Modernization and communication.

1 Introduction and Background of the paper

The generational gap is a social, economic, and cultural difference between younger child and their parents (two) generations. Nowadays, each household has been facing a serious problem in their living process in terms of cultural values, eating choices. Among many others, one of the

major sources of conflicts and violence is generation gaps which are effect by modern technology, lack of communication, social media, and busy daily working schedule. The growing technology and social media can also be thought to affect a family relationship and could be the major reasons. The Internet has good or bad it uses by a person who is attracted a lot of attention which has raised highly expectation several questions like inequality, access the quality of the content, the implication of internet and new technology on children's educational and social development.

The generational gap has decreased in some urban areas due to positive youth actions (although not all youth actions in urban areas are positive), it has primarily increased across the country. Improvements with information technology have led to a more aware generation of youth with increased exposure to the outside world. This globalization is providing them with an alternate understanding of how youth can exist within their societies, often at odds with the traditional cultural view of youth in Nepal. Any further increase in the generational gaps has a chance to exacerbate the conflicts, and their effects, between youth and older generations. (Bennett, R.et.2012)

It has been seen over many debates and policies that in the management and distribution of the internet, children and youngsters are regarded with ambivalence. Being considered both as the "digital generation" in online competencies but also very vulnerable and potentially at risk.

Reason for generation gap in term of Modern Technology and electronic devices

Effect of Modern technology and devices is growing technology can also be thought to affect the family relationship and their cultural social values and system. Modern electronic devices have attracted a lot of attention which has raised several western desires, freedom misbehavior misunderstanding, and lack of communication which is affecting the all-new generation than the old generation. Being considered both as the "digital generation" in online competencies but also very vulnerable and potentially at risk. It has been observed that the older generation also seem to share this quality of ambivalence especially as their children get more expert with handling new technologies and the internet.

This study indicated that variables found to influence the correspondence between the two generations were age, child's marital status, gender, and residential proximity. It is known that

familial relationships between a parent and a child are amongst the most important relations and are a major contributor to the emotional and psychological well-being of both generations.

Social and Cultural variables: It has been observed that social and cultural values do have an impact on the generation gap since it is considered both social and cultural construct as observed that parents are following their traditionally social, cultural system and Asians trend, to living in joint families where family is hierarchical basically at Asian Country. Many generations live together. Age, gender, and generational status of family members are major determinants of behavior and relational roles so on. Generally, the high importance of conformity is seen. Interdependence is promoted and self-identity is inhibited. Being conservative is encouraged, the welfare and integrity of the family are given more importance over individuality. Whereas western society and culture support self-identity and the nuclear family system in the middle-class. Due to modernization globalization and access to different social and cultures, Asian teenagers have been able to have a look at western familial relationships which is far more relaxed as compared to Asian families, this creates a difference in opinions between the teenagers and their conservative Asian teenager and parents are already face their present generation gap and causes conflict.

Lack of Communication: As per the survey it was deduced that lack of communication is one of the major reasons for the generation gap. Parents are highly pressured to strike a balance between work and family, though they do it to earn a better living for their children they forget that this costs the time with their children. Most of their time is spent on heavy workloads and stress in the workplace. On the other hand, children are also do not share their thinking, desire, and daily school or collage-like activity with their parents, which on the whole leads to parents making huge sacrifices to earn a better living life but the children are being neglected at the same time, parents pressured to the children to study more effected than other you will be better than other. That is a big problem in the context of a new generation. It causes communication barriers in the family and adds to the generation gap.

1.2 Signification of the study

A study is significant that it will help what is effected between new generation to the old generation and also support their expect, desire and thinking from parents to the teenage child.

Recent works have examined the social, Cultural structural aspects of intergenerational relationships in better life which suggests that societies and individuals within them are relationships between parents and children in adulthood.

2.1 Literature review

As modern societies, we need to discuss more sufficient because it brings very difficult problem in the coming day so here is some literature review, which is already studied on this topics.

A new generation gap is emerging in the late 1960s the fight was mainly between twenty-year-olds and the fifty-plus crowd. In these gaps, the old 1960s one and the emerging 1990s facsimile, there have been two constants; each time, the same conspicuous generation has been involved. Each time, that generation has claimed the moral and cultural high ground, casting itself as the apex of civilization and its age bracket adversaries as soul-dead, progress-blocking philistines. The first time around, the members of that generation attacked their eiders; now they're targeting their juniors. (Howe and Strauss 1992)

Meisels and Canter (1971) investigated that the perception of the generation gap among college students. They concluded that although there may be few serious, actual differences between adolescents and their parents, extensive differences may be "perceived" to exist by members of either or both groups.

One is struck by its diversity - by the fact that the "Generation Gap" has caught the attention not only of family researchers, but also of counselors, philosophers, journalists, and the like Hence this literature is a mixture of points of view, including impressionistic evidence about the generation gap, anecdotal evidence, literary essays, a given individual's personal experiences with the young, as well as traditional empirical and theoretical research (Jacobsen, Berry and Olson, 1975).

Klineberg (1973) studied generational differences in adolescents and their parents in terms of 4 factors of modernity. (1) Family independence (2) Personal efficacy, (3) new socialization, and (4) economic optimism. He also observed that education and mass-media exposure "appear to create a radical discontinuity between the generations". He further stated that the more deeply

traditional the parents were, the more modern was the attitudes and aspirations that their educated sons expressed.

Kurian (1986) explored parent-child interaction regarding processes of cultural assimilation, dating and marriage, and cultural identity among Indian immigrant families living in Canada. Results suggested that youth adapt more easily to Canadian society and have friends from other ethnic groups, creating a generation gap between parents and children's attitudes. The general trend was a gradual change towards modernization that was less disruptive than a sudden break with tradition.

Modernization doesn't only deal with remolding an old cultural practice into a new way. It also deals with the transformation of a way of thinking, behavior, and thoughts. At this time the psychological struggle between the older generation and newer generation has been creating chaos in the family, society, and the nation itself. A larger mass of the older generation thinks that modern and liberal thoughts are not good for society. Modernists, a majority who come from the newer generation, expect freedom to keep their opinions and views in front of the elders. (Acharya, 2016)

2.2 Methodology

Both primary and secondary sources of information are used in this study. The secondary source of information is reviewed from various journal articles and primary sources of information are collected from focus group discussion (FGD) and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) among the people of two generations the young age (15 to 25) and their parent's age above 30 to 60 years in Kageshwori Mahohara Municipality, Gothatar in Kathmandu district. In the focus group discussion, near about 20 people are interviewed about the generation gap and its impact on urban society in Nepal.

1.3 Research contribution / innovation

I have used of qualitative and quantitative methods, which is support to understand what want to give significant suggestions to a teenager and their parents. I collected more reliable literature articles from primary and secondary data. The methodology included getting in contact with people and trying to understand their perspectives on the generation gap.

1.4 Finding and discussion

- Here are many problems which Nepali society has been facing for several years like child labor, dowry, and social, cultural politically, economically gender discrimination, and human trafficking. They are more relying on technology for raising their standard of living and are widget freaks, they have forgotten the importance of family and social life.
- I was observed that the maximum percentage of family relationships are deteriorating and getting worse day by day due to lack of communication, modern electronic devices, better lifestyle, busy work, and egoistic nature of family member's perception and opinion.
- In my research paper, I have tried to find out that to understand, various aspects of the generation gap become clearer and rich as newer technologies are taking over the society and increased workload and stress of workplaces have taken over the time of the elder generation. The purpose of this research paper is to obtain some possible solutions to problems related to the generation gap. These solutions have been covered in detail in the finding observation section of this paper.
- The generation gap between parents and their children has to become wider and wider. Parents and children have to provide more time for communication and listening to each other's feelings, even though they love them very much. This is due to their heavy workload and inevitable stress faced in the workplace, as well as long working hours. Secondly, parents have a lot of concern for their children's academic performance at school instead of paying attention to parent's favorite interests, thinking, and hobbies. They want their children to have more advantages and opportunities for other people. Thus, children may not have complete freedom in the choice of those leisure activities and the books that they read. "They seem to be little birds trapped in a very small cage". As a result, children always believe that their parents are against their opinions all the way.

- Besides, those children do not want their parents to treat them like three-year-old kids. Children believe that they are grown-ups and it is high time for them to be independent. This helps them to gain more self-esteem.
- Parents and their children have to be aware of the importance of open communication. Parents should not only concentrate on their jobs and leave their children alone. They have to reserve some specific time to be with their children and show care to them. Similarly, children have to discuss serious things or big decisions with their parents as it shows respect to them. Parents and children should try to explain their ideas or opinion to family members in a forgiving manner without anger or hatred.
- New thoughts and views are not accepted by them. This practice is prevalent in an educated family too. They are not able to make their own decision be it the decision on a career or a life partner too.
- Finally, parents must not put too much pressure on their children's studies or goals. Parents should not keep too high expectations. They have to discuss their children's progress and future aims and to be participating in more talks and extra-curricular activities with their children. Parents should know children's –parents meetings. On the other hand, parents should know what their children like the most or dislike more too. Indeed, they should give their children a chance to choose what they love if the choices resort to proper outlets.

Conclusion

In this study, I had found some of the conclusions that the generation gap does exist and is a major problem of society. From the participatory rural appraisal, this study found that children have to become wider and wider. Parents and children don't have to provide more time for communication and listening to each other's feelings, even though they love them very much. This is due to their heavy workload and inevitable stress faced in

the workplace, as well as long working hours and better life. There will be coming big problem among two-generation which is creating some conflicting situations among them. The understanding of social phenomena like education and health and other social variables the practice of social caste and ethnic behavior, technology, and its uses creates a huge social gap between two generations.

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Keynotes of Focus Group Discussion

What are the cultural gap (thinking, behavior, goals) among the two-generation, and what is the consequences or impact in cultural practical life in urban areas in Nepal?

What is the social and economic gap (earnings, savings, and consumption) gap among the two-generation, and what are the consequences or impacts in social practical life in urban areas in Nepal?

What is the cause of the gap different two generations of young child and their parents and what is the impact in social practical life in urban areas in Nepal?