

Intergenerational issues in the family

The Generations

- 1) Traditionalist: Conformity, Authority, Believes in Rules and Logic. Defined sense of right and wrong. Honors loyalty and respect. Difficult understanding diversity and culture
- 2) Baby Boomers: Individual choice, community involvement, Prosperity, Ownership, Self-actualizing, Health and wellness. Still struggles on cultural understanding and sensitivity
- 3) Gen X: Contribution, Feedback and recognition, Autonomy, Flexible work time, Time with manager, Separation of Work and Family life. Respects culture and individuals, sensitive
- 4) Gen Y: Enthusiastic, highly adaptable, Respect must be earned; not freely granted, sets specific goals, works for lifestyle, not ownership. Sees and begins to live cultural inclusion.
- 5) Today's Students Generation (Millennials and beyond):

Source:

<https://www.adea.org/Challenges/Facing/Us/Within/a/New/Generation/.../Cohlimia.pdf>

Respect across generations

Respect for one's elder family members has undergone a transformation in the last 50 years. Younger parents, particularly those in their early 20's, have a tendency to treat children with more equality than the Baby Boomer or Traditionalist generation. Today's grandparents grew up with a mentality that children should be seen and not heard. They want children to demonstrate respect for elders and individuals in general, and many are appalled by today's children's behavior. In earlier generations, as a child, you respected your parent's discipline (usually physical), and you did what you were told, when you were told to do it.

Your children today might be treated as equals within your family, although you provide limits and structure. Family meetings are more common today, as you come together to solve problems and avert family crises. Younger family members are able to voice an opinion, which can be bothersome to the older generation. Grandparents may still hold on to the belief you should simply follow the instructions given and not question why or how. Familial conflicts can arise when a younger family member challenges an elder's opinion or directive.

Work Habits

Today's generation strives to be successful but wants instant gratification. Most people change careers at least once if not more often during a lifetime, and freelancing is becoming a popular alternative to the nine-to-five workweek. Younger family members can become "permanent students", seeking more and more education. The older generation was deprived of educational dreams (for the most part) and sometimes worked several jobs to support a family. Money was saved for a rainy day; formal education and luxuries were few and far between. Today's generation works to spend, does not save nearly enough for retirement, and looks at work as a means to an end.

Independence

Individuals today, are encouraged to be themselves and define their independence early in life. A child as young as eight or nine will assert his opinion with recognized authority

figures. This is a drastic change for the Traditionalist generation, who looked up to those who were older and never imagined challenging authority. The push for early independence is somewhat lost on Baby Boomers as well, who believed "kids should be kids" for as long as possible. Grandparents might see you as being too permissive with your children and allowing too much freedom too soon. Also, today's family is creating the super kid - the hyper-scheduled child who takes every class offered for the greatest educational and life advantages. Parents and grandparents might disagree about the overstimulation or lack of respect from today's children; this is yet another indication of the generation gap.

Bridging the Gap

Listen to each family member's perspective to start bridging the gap and allow opinions to be expressed without judgment. Assist older family members in learning the new lingo and technology, so they do not feel lost, which might contribute to misunderstandings and arguments. Explain your intentions but do not compromise your beliefs, and above all, listen to what the older generation has to say, even if you do not agree. Most just want their voice to be heard.

<https://family.lovetoknow.com/family-generational-issues>

Reasons for generation gap

There are several problems that lead to this conflicting problem. The people of all the different generations have been brought up differently. Their mentality differs from each other, thus their opinions, attitudes, perspectives, are all different. Many conflicts can occur because of these differences. They are unable to see things from each other's perspective.

The main reasons for conflict are:

- 1) Inability to communicate
- 2) Different ideals of life
- 3) Cultural norms
- 4) Knowledge and technology.

The gap can be bridged by talking and spending time with each other, understanding each other and allowing for different voices to be heard in the same family. The members also need to accept and tolerate.