



Parenting And The Generation Gap

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Abstract:

The generation gap and parenting are two ideas that are connected. The difference in attitudes, values, and beliefs across generations, particularly between parents and their offspring, is referred to as the generation gap. These differences might make it difficult for parents to relate to and comprehend their children, but they can also present chances for improvement and learning on both sides. By actively listening to their children, maintaining an open mind, establishing clear limits and expectations, finding common ground, being patient and understanding, parents may bridge the generational divide. It's critical to understand that generational disparities are a normal component of societal development and evolution. By accepting these differences, we can build a society that is more varied and inclusive. In the end, overcoming generational issues and promoting understanding and empathy need strong ties between generations. Parents and children may forge a closer link and develop a brighter future together by making an effort to close the communication gap and understand one another.

Keywords: *parenting, generation, generation gap, relationship*

Introduction

The difference in attitudes, values, and beliefs across generations, particularly between parents and their offspring, is referred to as the generation gap. A generation's viewpoint and beliefs can change depending on the social, economic, and political context in which they are raised. For instance, younger generations could have grown up with social media and technology playing a major role in their lives, but older generations might not have had access to these resources when they were younger. Differences in communication techniques, cultural references, and expectations may result from this. Parenting approaches can also be impacted by the age gap since parents may find it difficult to relate to their kids' interests and experiences. Because various generations may have different expectations and objectives, this can lead to stress and conflict within families. Nonetheless, it's crucial to understand that societal development and evolution naturally involve generational differences. We can build a more varied and inclusive society by accepting the many ideas and viewpoints that each generation brings to the table. By actively listening to their children, being open-minded and eager to learn from them, establishing clear limits and expectations, finding common ground, being patient and understanding, parents may bridge the generational divide. In the end, fostering strong bonds between generations can aid in our mutual growth and learning.

Challenges for generation gap and parenting

The generation gap and parenting can present several challenges. Some of these challenges include:

- **Rapid social and technological changes:** Every generation experiences social and technological changes that affect their way of life. These changes can be difficult for older generations to understand and accept, leading to a generation gap.
- **Differences in education:** Younger generations tend to have more education and access to information than older generations, which can lead to differences in opinions and perspectives.
- **Economic and political factors:** Economic and political factors can contribute to differences in values and beliefs between generations. For example, younger generations may place more value on social justice and environmental issues, while older generations may prioritize traditional values and economic stability.
- **Cultural differences:** Differences in cultural norms and values can contribute to a generation gap. For example, younger generations may embrace more diverse and inclusive attitudes, while older generations may have more traditional and conservative views.
- **Communication barriers:** Communication barriers can arise due to differences in language, technology, and communication styles. This can make it difficult for different generations to understand each other and can contribute to misunderstandings and conflicts.

The generational divide and parenting have long been interwoven. Every new generation that enters adulthood brings with it a set of experiences, values, and views that may be different from those of their parents. Parents who desire to relate to and comprehend their children may face difficulties as a result, but there may also be room for improvement and learning on both sides.

Here are some tips for navigating the generation gap in parenting:

- **Listen actively:** One of the most important things you can do as a parent is to listen actively to your children. This means truly hearing what they have to say, without judgment or interruption. It can help you understand their perspective and build trust.
- **Be open-minded:** Recognize that your children may have different beliefs, values, and experiences than you did at their age. Be open-minded and willing to learn from them.
- **Set clear boundaries:** While it's important to be open-minded, you also need to set clear boundaries and expectations for your children. This can help them feel secure and provide structure for their lives.
- **Find common ground:** Look for areas of common ground where you can connect with your children. This might be a shared hobby, interest, or activity.
- **Be patient:** Remember that the generation gap can create misunderstandings and tension. Be patient with your children and take the time to work through any issues that arise.
- **Seek support:** If you're struggling to navigate the generation gap, seek support from other parents, family members, or professionals. It's okay to ask for help.

Impact of generation gap on parents

The generation gap can have various effects on parents, including:

- **Difficulty in understanding their children:** Parents may find it challenging to relate to their children's interests, opinions, and perspectives, which can create a communication gap between them.
- **Feeling disconnected from their children:** As children grow older, they may become more independent and may not rely on their parents as much, leading to feelings of disconnection and alienation.
- **Conflicts and misunderstandings:** Differences in attitudes, beliefs, and values can lead to conflicts and misunderstandings between parents and children, causing emotional stress and tension in the family.
- **Frustration and disappointment:** Parents may feel frustrated and disappointed when their children do not meet their expectations or when they make decisions that they disagree with.

- **Fear of losing control:** As children grow older and become more independent, parents may feel a loss of control over their children's lives, which can create anxiety and stress.

It is important for parents to maintain open communication with their children, try to understand their perspectives, and respect their decisions. This can help bridge the generation gap and maintain a positive relationship between parents and children.

Impact of generation gap on Childrens

The generation gap can have both positive and negative impacts on children. Some of the impacts are:

- **Exposure to diverse perspectives and ideas:** Children growing up in a generation gap may be exposed to different attitudes, beliefs, and values than their parents. This can broaden their perspective and expose them to diverse ideas and ways of thinking.
- **Development of independence and individuality:** Children may develop a strong sense of independence and individuality as they navigate differences in attitudes and beliefs with their parents and other generations.
- **Confusion and identity crisis:** Children may feel confused and conflicted as they try to reconcile the different attitudes, beliefs, and values they are exposed to. This can lead to an identity crisis as they struggle to define themselves.
- **Communication barriers:** Communication barriers between children and parents can lead to misunderstandings and conflicts that can negatively impact the child's emotional wellbeing.
- **Social isolation:** Children who are unable to relate to their peers or parents due to a significant generation gap may feel socially isolated and struggle to find a sense of belonging.

To bridge the generation gap, it is crucial for parents and other adults to foster a supportive atmosphere for kids and promote open communication. This can aid kids in navigating disparities in attitudes, beliefs, and values as they forge a solid sense of independence and self.

Narrow down of generation gap

Narrowing down the generation gap requires a collaborative effort between individuals of different generations. Here are some ways to help bridge the gap:

- **Communication:** Communication is key to bridging the generation gap. Encourage open and honest communication between generations, where each party can express their thoughts, feelings, and perspectives without judgment or criticism.
- **Mutual respect:** Both older and younger generations should respect each other's opinions, beliefs, and values. Avoid dismissing each other's ideas or beliefs, and instead try to understand them.
- **Empathy:** It is important to try to understand each other's experiences and perspectives, even if they differ from our own. Empathy can help to build trust and strengthen relationships between generations.
- **Mutual learning:** Each generation has its strengths and knowledge. Encourage mutual learning where each generation can share their skills, knowledge, and experiences.
- **Shared experiences:** Shared experiences, such as volunteering or participating in activities together, can help build common ground and create opportunities for communication and understanding.

It is feasible to close the generational divide and build a more peaceful and inclusive society by actively promoting dialogue, respect, empathy, and shared experiences.

Parenting and Generation gap in India Statistics

There is limited research on the specific statistics related to parenting and the generation gap in India. However, here are some general statistics related to parenting and youth in India:

- With around 50% of its population under the age of 25, India has one of the youngest populations in the whole globe.
- Young people in India face a number of difficulties, such as high rates of unemployment, poverty, and social inequality.
- According to studies, communication problems between parents and kids are widespread in India. According to a poll by the Indian Parents Congress, 70% of Indian parents find it difficult to talk to their kids.
- According to research, Indian parents often have stern and authoritarian parenting techniques, which can lead to tension and disputes with their kids.
- Relationships between parents and children can be difficult as a result of traditional gender roles and expectations, especially for girls and young women.

Overall, while specific statistics related to parenting and the generation gap in India may be limited, there is evidence to suggest that communication gaps and strict parenting styles are common challenges for families in India. These challenges may be exacerbated by social and cultural factors, including traditional gender roles and socioeconomic disparities.

Survey reveals India's gaping Generation Gap (Economic Times dated: 27 March 2023)

Nearly 51,000 young married and single men and women from six states — Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu — participated in the survey, which was carried out by the International Institute for Population Sciences and Population Council with the support of the Union Health Ministry.

- The study discovered that parents and children most frequently discussed school performance, a non-sensitive subject. Nevertheless, less frequently addressed with either parent were more sensitive subjects including sexual relationships and reproduction (just 2% of young males and 6% of young women did this).
- The findings imply that parents managed their children's social relationships, especially those involving people of the opposite sex. For instance, 84% of young women and 69% of young men said that bringing a companion of the opposite sex home would be frowned upon by their parents. Just 9% of men and 5% of women said their parents would be upset if they brought same-sex acquaintances home, in comparison.
- There were clear differences in how parents would react if their children brought their opposite sex buddy home. For instance, 64% of young men from Maharashtra and the southern states believed that their parents would disapprove if their opposite sex friends came home, compared to significantly more (71–80%) in the northern states. For young women, the corresponding figures were 74–85% and 82–97%.
- The poll discovered that 84% of young men and 94% of young women said that parents were more likely to disapprove of love marriages for their offspring.
- When it comes to how young men perceive their parents' attitudes to a love marriage, there are clear regional disparities. Young men from southern states are significantly less likely than those from other areas to experience rejection (67-78% vs 85-94%).
 - Young women tended to view their mother as their primary confidante when it came to two issues: getting a job (38%) and menstruation issues (72%); less young women (28%) saw their father in the same capacity when it came to getting a career and rarely did so when it came to menstrual issues.
 - In contrast, parents were rarely consulted on boy-girl relationships; instead, friends were more frequently consulted (46%).
 - Young guys displayed distinct patterns. In terms of the non-sensitive matter of getting a job, 39% of young men said that their father was their most trusted confidant.

- Parents were only seldom named by young males (2%) as their primary confidants on matters like nocturnal emission anxiety or boy-girl interactions, for which most young people do not have parents.

Objective of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the various reasons of the generation gap between parents and children in family life, as well as the role of parents in closing this gap. Many research on this topic have been conducted in the industrialised world. In poor nations such as Pakistan, some work has been done. The purpose of this study was to look into the aggravating variables that expand the gap between parents and children. Key questions addressed throughout the research include:

1. To study the main causes of generation gap between parents and children
2. To study the generation gap implicates the smooth running of the family
3. To assess who is effected more as a result of generation gap either parents or children
4. To analyse the remedies should be adopted to reduce generation gap among parents and children

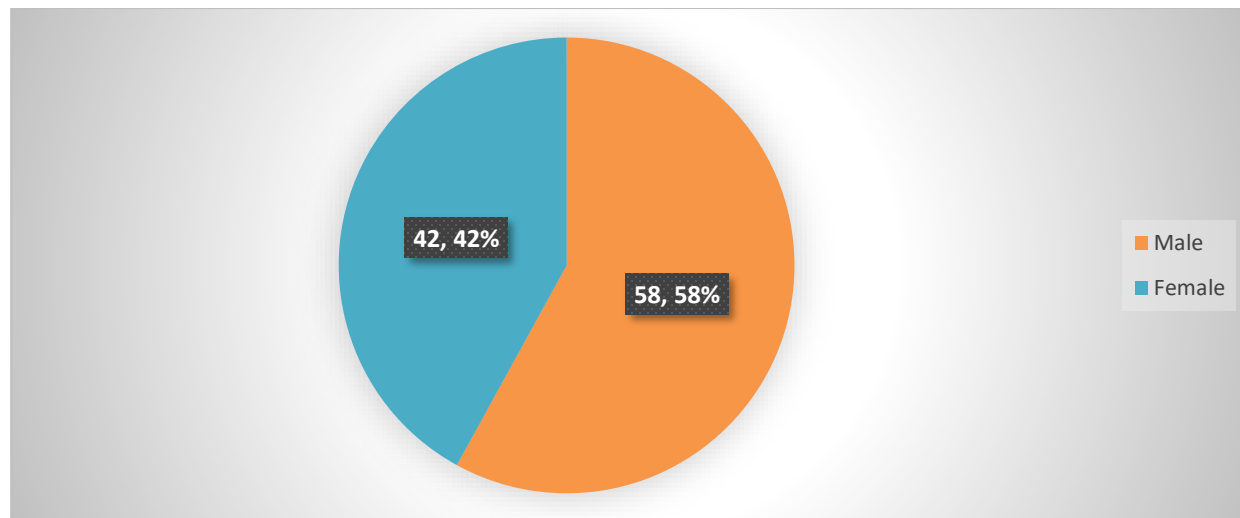
Methodology

The generation gap has grown considerably in all civilizations throughout the world, but it has gotten more complex in societies such as India, where family life has traditionally been viewed as an essential source of mutual sharing. Yet, fast socioeconomic developments and the transition from joint to nuclear family systems are causing this gap to emerge. This study was carried out in Lucknow, one of India's most significant cities and the state capital. An overall sample of 50 families with an average of 5 members was collected.

1. Gender

Exhibit 1

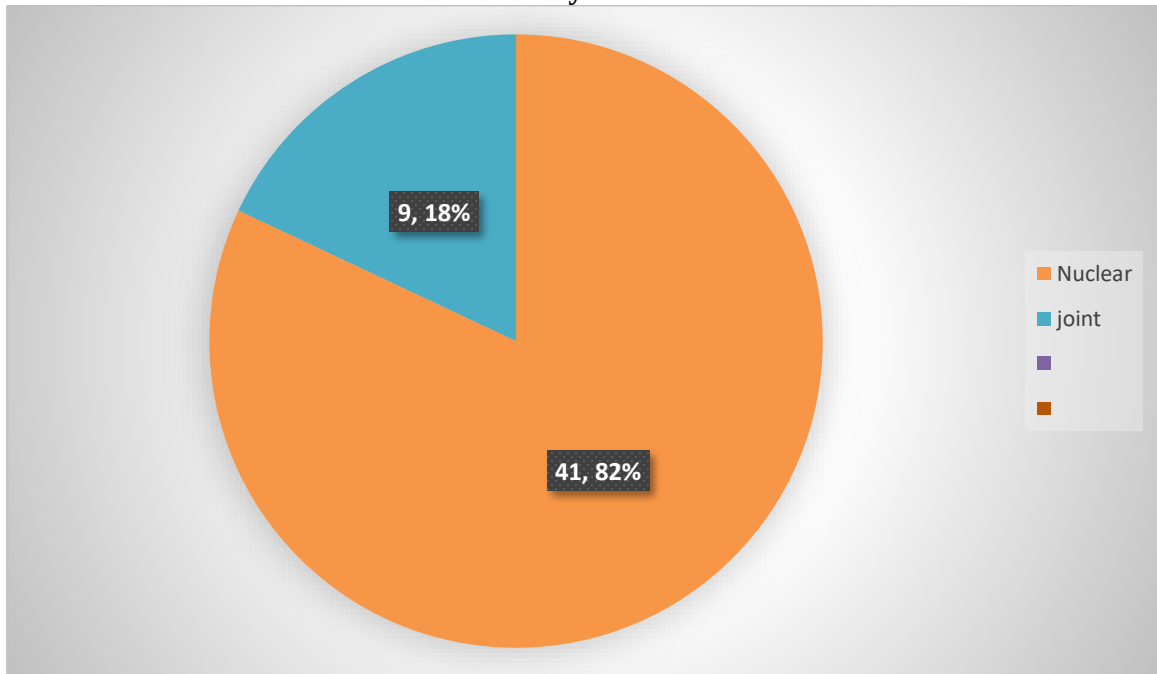
Gender



It can be easily seen from the above exhibit 1. Gender, 58 were Male and 42 were female.

2. Family Status

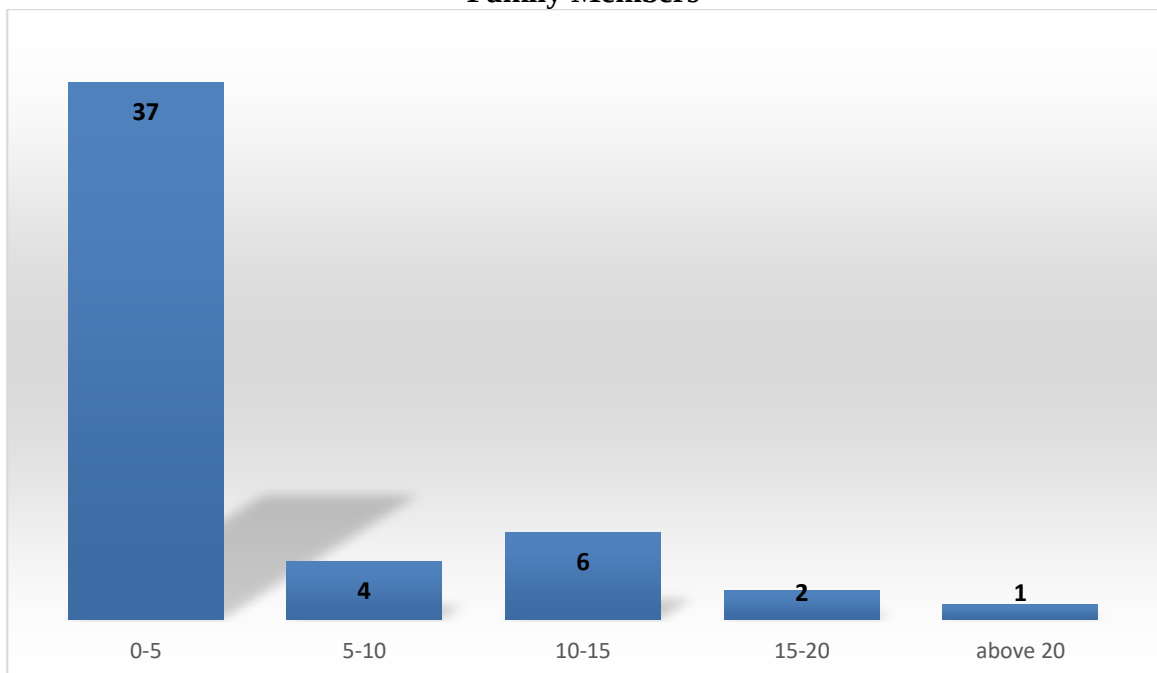
Exhibit 2
Family Status



It can be seen from the above exhibit 2, family status out of 50 families 41 families were nuclear and only 9 families were joint.

3. Family Members

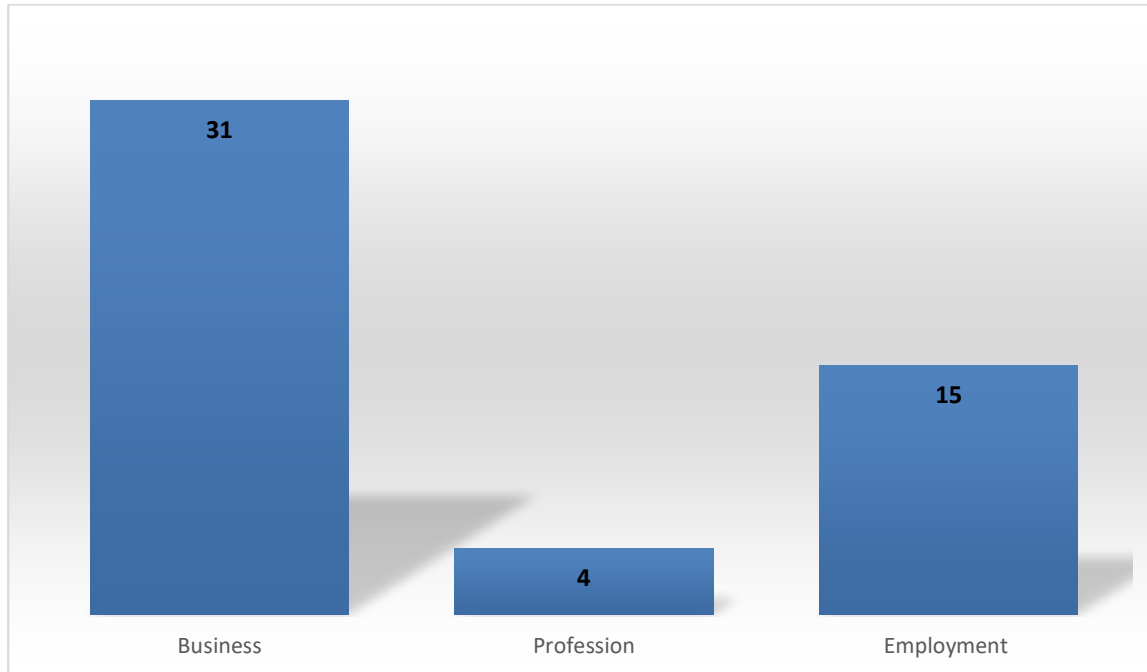
Exhibit 3
Family Members



It can be seen from the above exhibit 3 number of family members, out of 50 families 37 families had 0-5 members in their family followed by 6 families having 10-15 family members. Four families had 5-10 family members, two families had 15-20 and only one family has above 20 members.

4. Source of Income-occupation

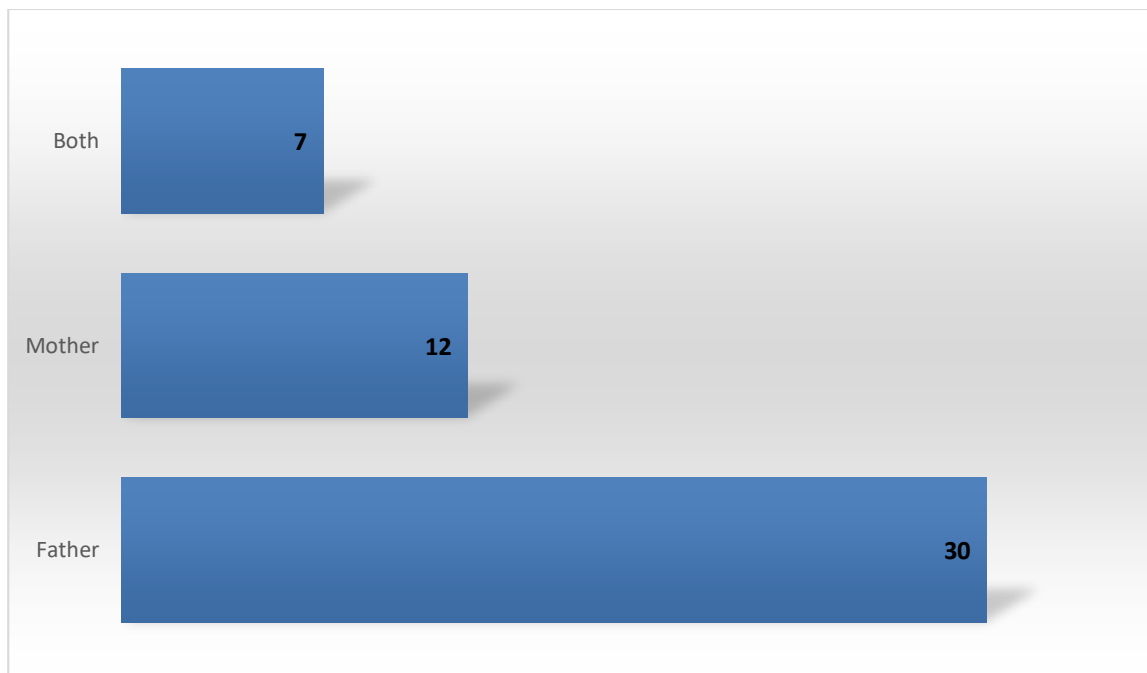
Exhibit 4
Source of Income-occupation



It can be seen from the above exhibit 4 sources of income, out of 50 families 31 were having their own business, 15 families were employed in government and private sector and only four families were professionals.

5. Person involves in economic activity

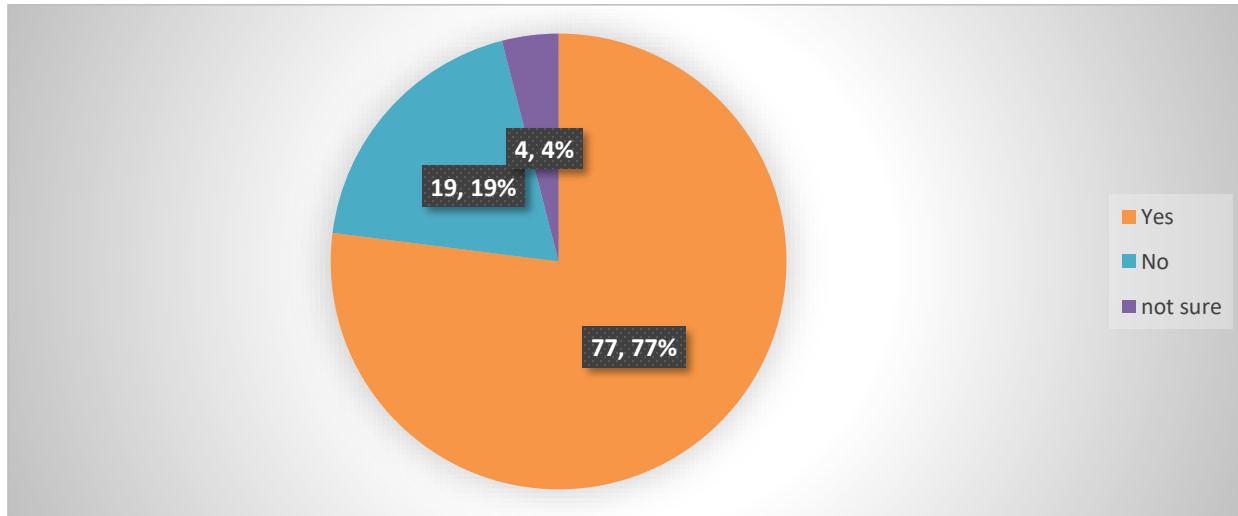
Exhibit 5
Person involves in economic activity



It can be seen from the above exhibit 5 Person involves in economic activity, out of 50 families in 30 family's father is the only earning member in the family followed by 12 families where mother is the only earning member and in seven families both father and mothers are earning members.

6. Do you think that the generation gap is prevailing in the society?

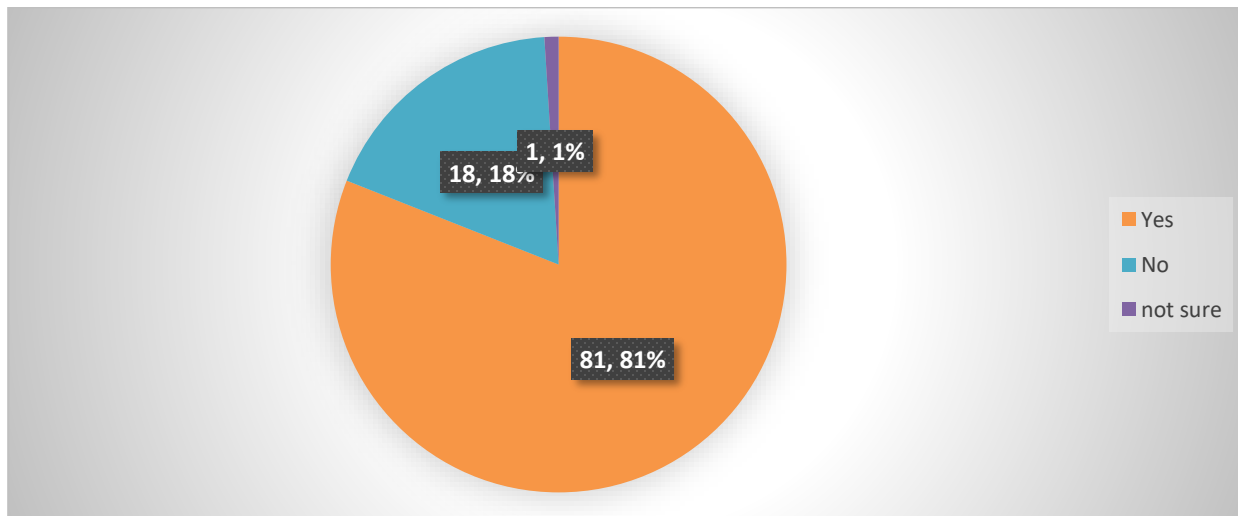
Exhibit 6
Generation gap is prevailing in the society.



It can be seen from the above exhibit 6, 77% agreed that generation gap is prevailing in the society, 19% did not agreed from the above statement and 4% were not sure.

7. Do you think that nuclear family is facing more problem than joint family?

Exhibit 7
Nuclear family is facing more problem than joint family

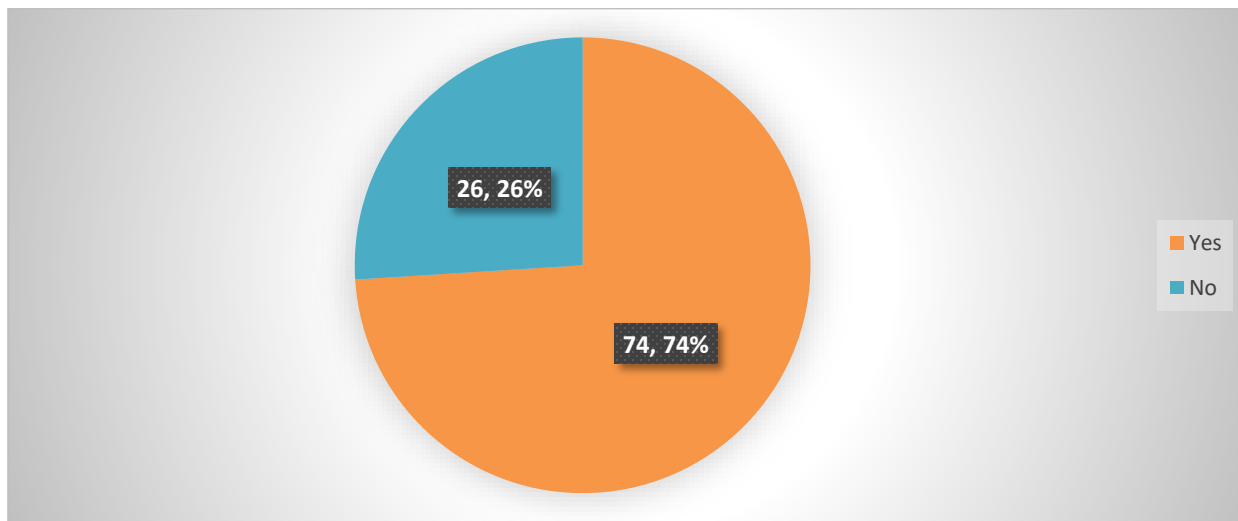


It can be seen from the above exhibit 7, 81 % agreed that nuclear family is facing more problem than joint family, 18% did not agreed with the statement and 1% were not sure.

8. Do you like to participate in the family activity with your parents/children?

Exhibit 8

like to participate in the family activity with your parents/children

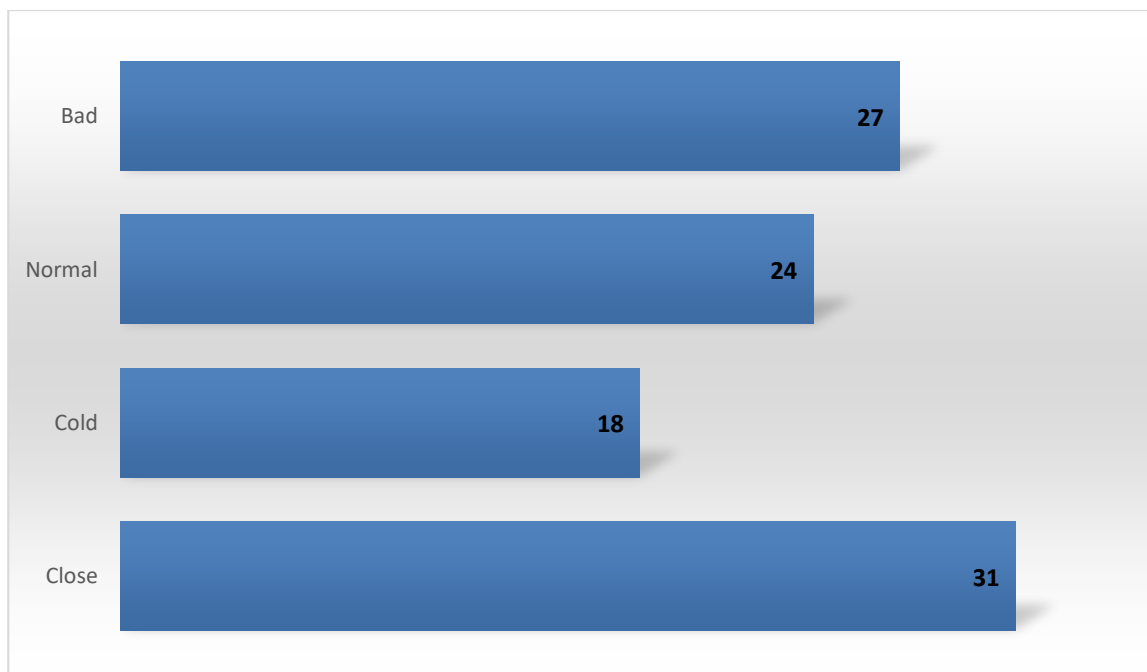


It can be seen from the above exhibit 8, 74% agreed that they like to like to participate in the family activity with your parents or children and 26% did not agreed and said no they do not like to like to participate in the family activity with your parents/children

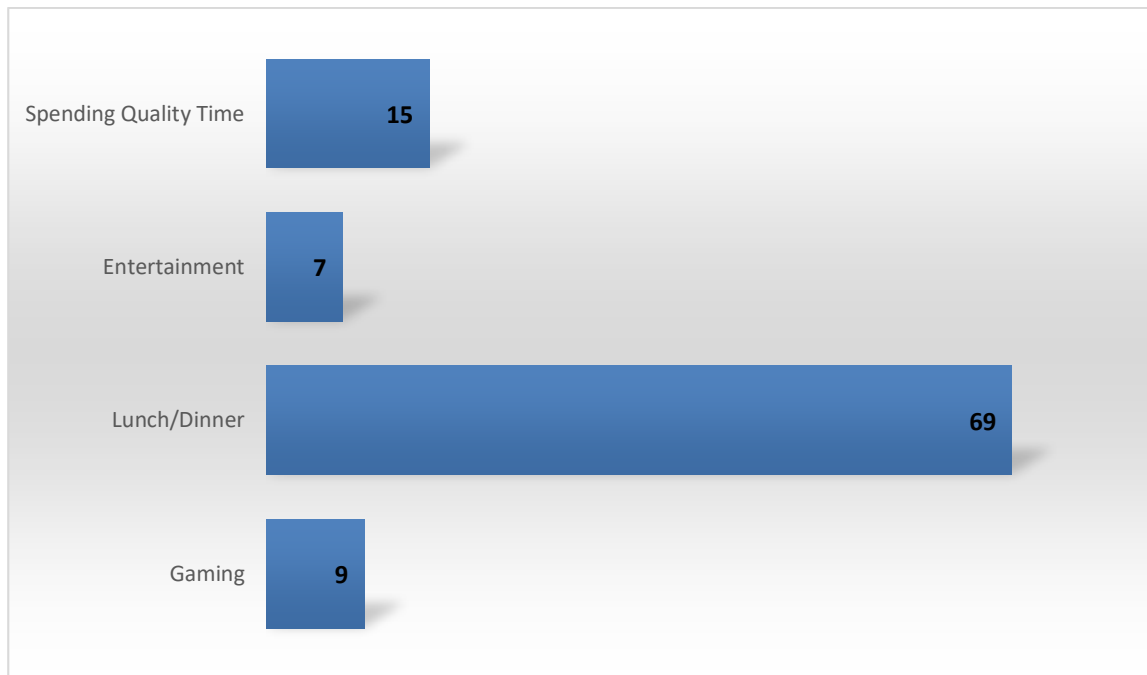
9. Which of the following adjectives can describe your relationship with your family?

Exhibit 9

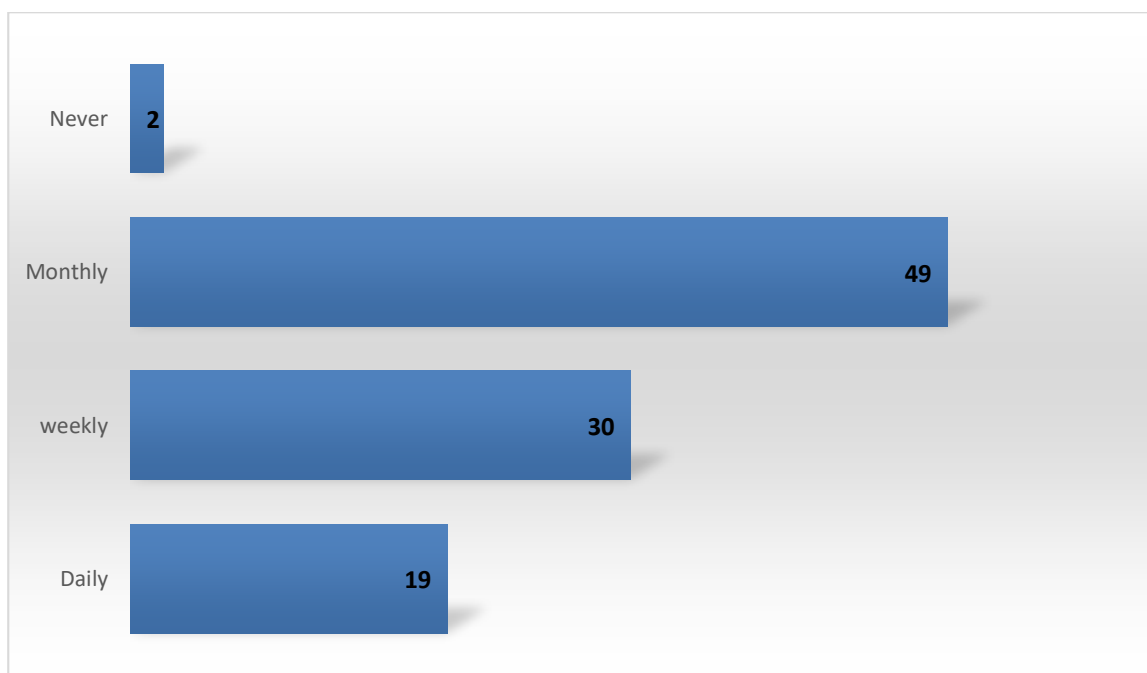
describe your relationship with your family



It can be seen from the above exhibit 9, 31% were close to their relationship with their family followed by 27% were having bad relationship with their family. 24% were normal having normal relationship and 18% were having cold relationship with their family.

10. Which type of activity do you like to participate in the family activity with your parents/children?**Exhibit 10****Activity do you like to participate in the family activity with your parents/children**

It can be seen from the above exhibit 10, 69% like to have dinner or lunch with their family followed by 15% spending quality time with their family. 9% like to play games and only 7% like to have entertainment along with their family.

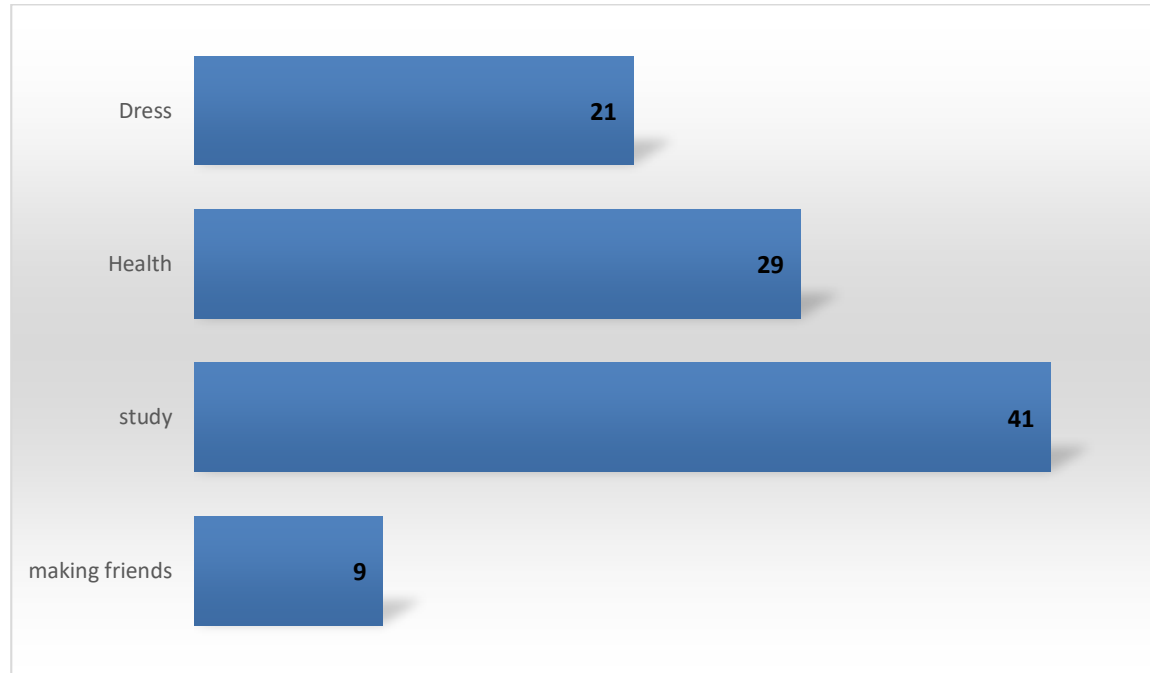
11. How likely are you to be in conflict with your parents/children**Exhibit 11****Conflict with your parents/children**

It can be seen from the above exhibit 11, 49% agreed that had a monthly conflict with their parents or with their children, 30% agreed to have weekly conflict, 19% agreed that they have daily conflict and 2% were never have conflict with their family.

12. For what reason are your parents are in conflict

Exhibit 12

Reason for your parents' conflict

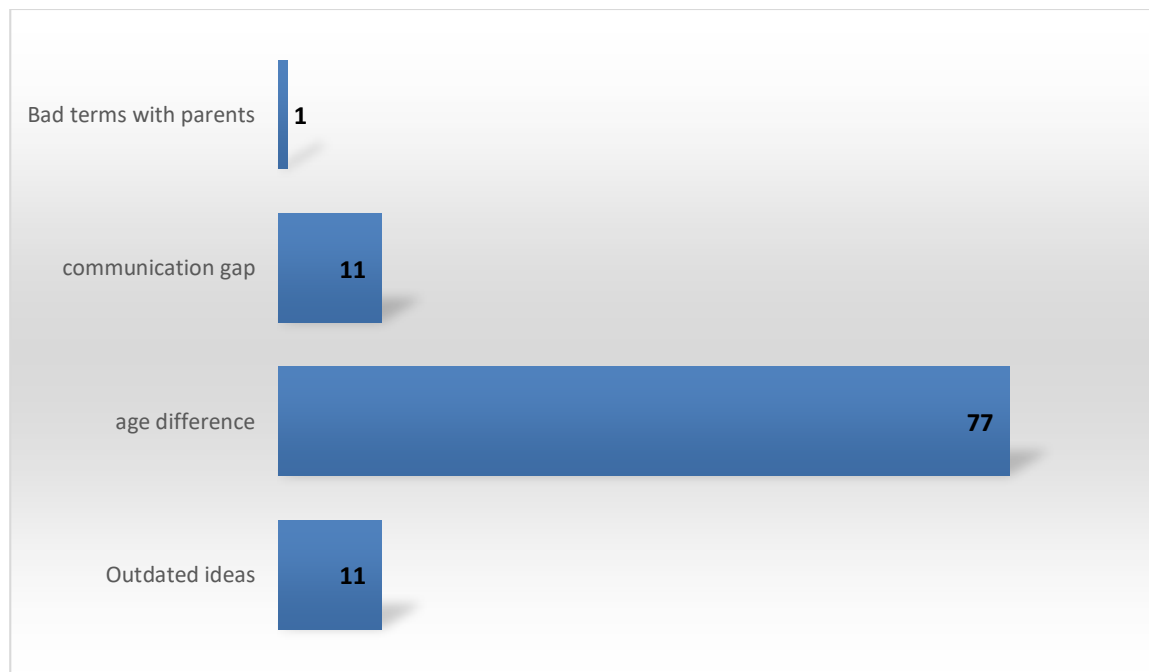


It can be seen from the above exhibit 12, 41% agreed that they have conflict for study followed by 29% having conflict because of health. Reason for 21% of respondents were dress and 9% agreed that making friends were the reason for conflict.

13. What is the major reason for the generation gap between you and your parents?

Exhibit 13

Major reason of the generation gap between you and your parents

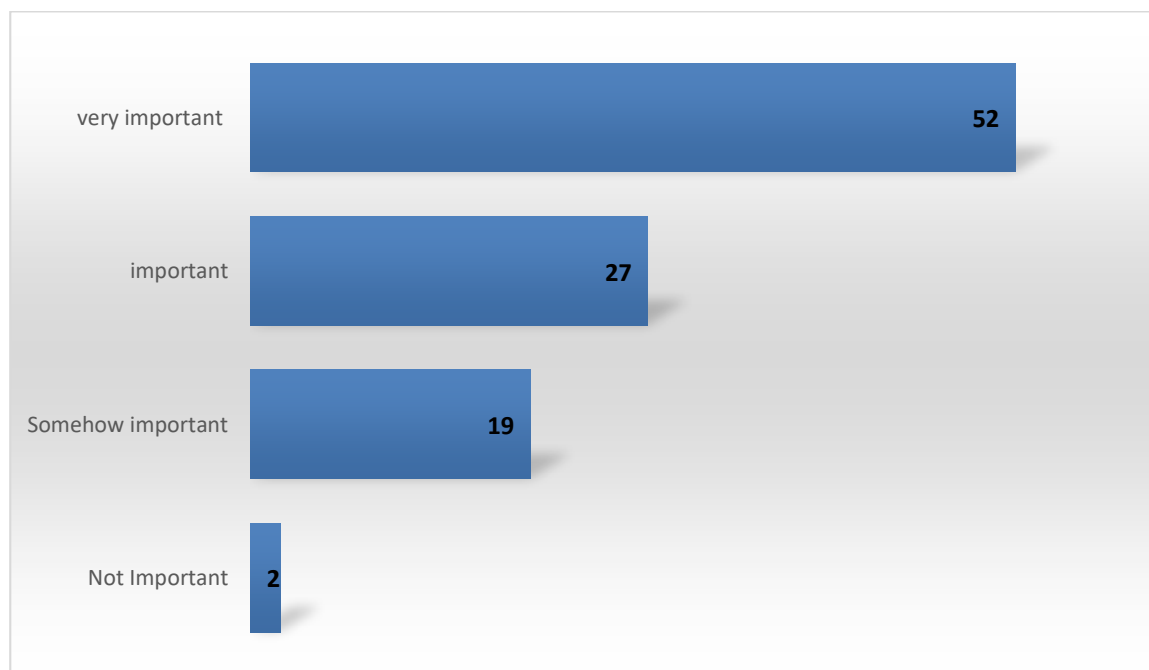


It can be seen from the above exhibit 13, 77% agreed with age difference followed by 11% communication and 11% with outdated ideas and 1% are having bad terms with their parents.

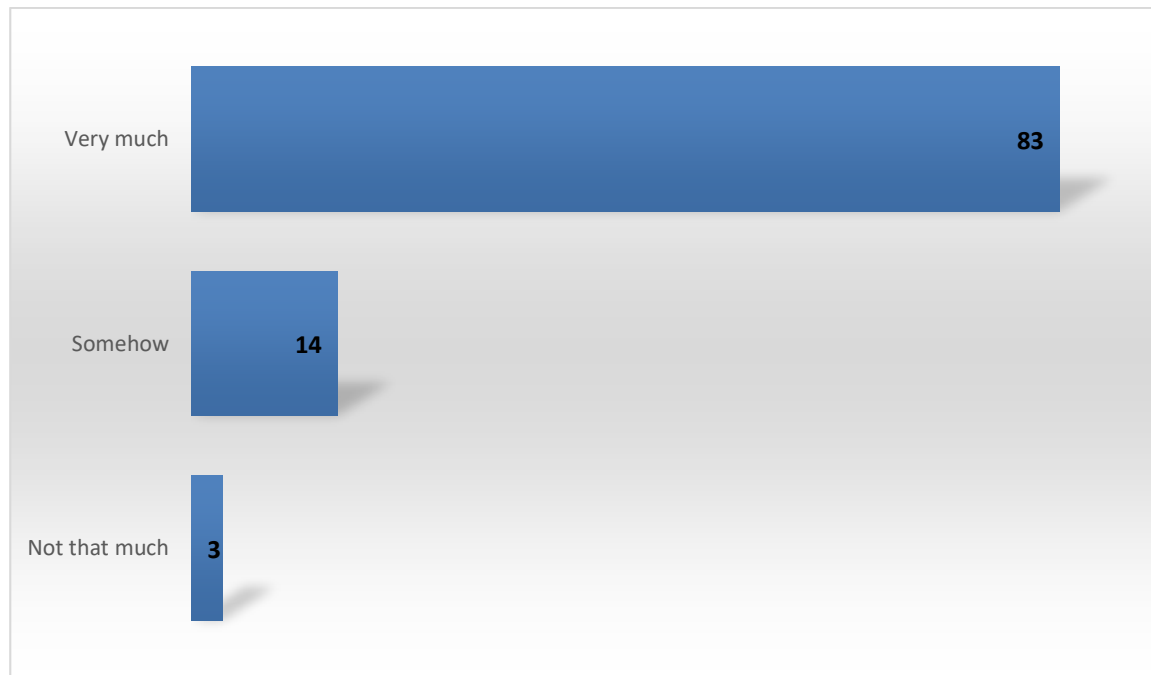
14. How important do you believe rational communication is necessary to bridge the gap?

Exhibit 14

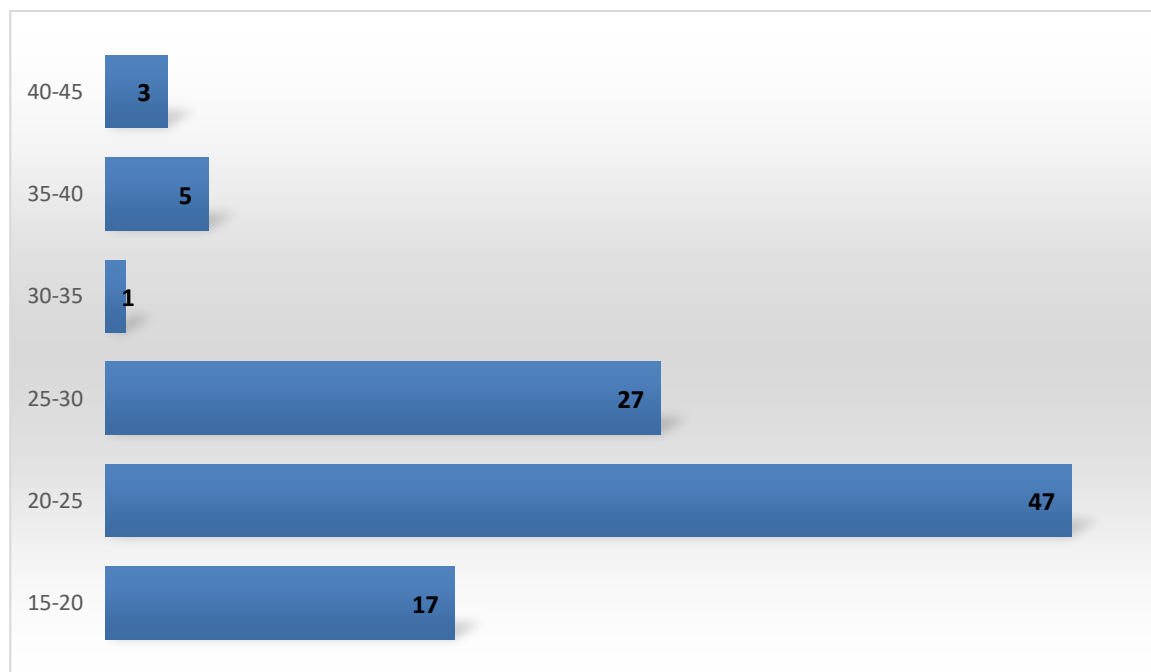
rational communication is necessary to bridge the gap



It can be seen from the above exhibit 14, 52% agreed that rational communication is necessary to bridge the gap followed by 27% who believe it is important. 19% said it is somewhat important and 2% said it is not important.

15. How much do you believe that social media and western culture are influencing the gap?**Exhibit 15****Social media and western culture are influencing the gap**

It can be seen from the above exhibit 15, 83% agreed that Social media and western culture are influencing the gap followed by 14% who said that it is somehow influencing the gap and 3% said Social media and western culture are not that much influencing the gap.

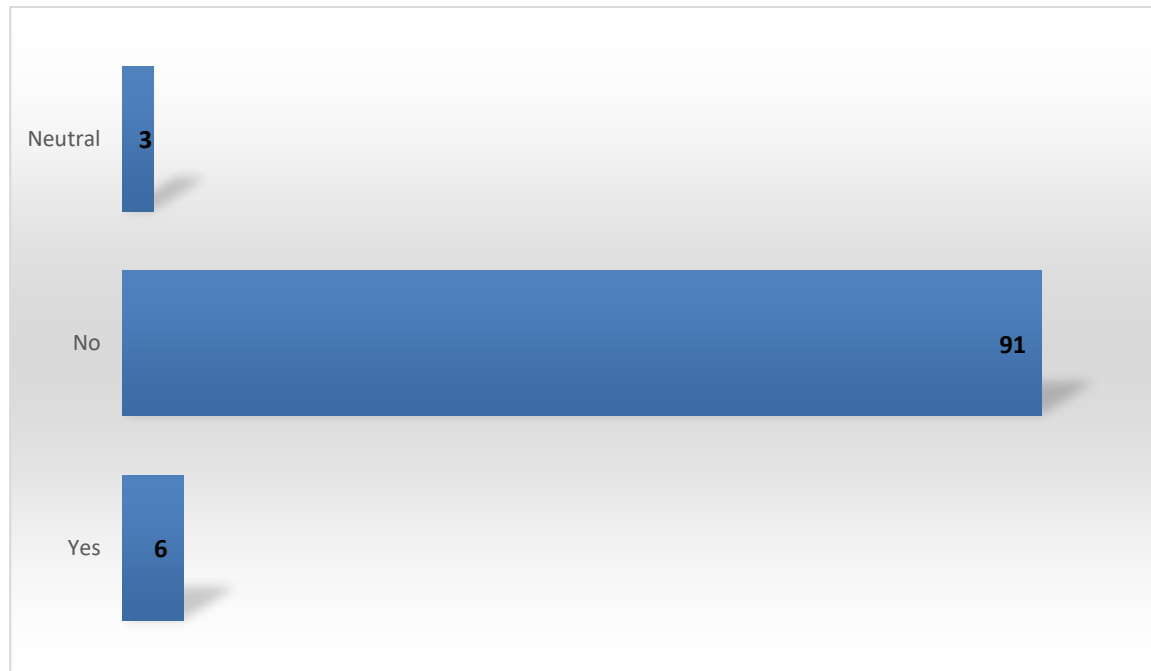
16. According to you, at what age children start to keep themselves distant from their parents?**Exhibit 16****Age children start to keep themselves distant from their parents**

It can be seen from the above exhibit 16, 47% of the respondents agreed that 20-25 years is the age of when children start to keep themselves distant from their parents followed by 27% aged 25-30 years. 17% agreed the age is 15-20 years and 5% agreed the age is 35-40 years. Only 1% thinks that 30-35 is the age when they start to keep themselves distant from their parents.

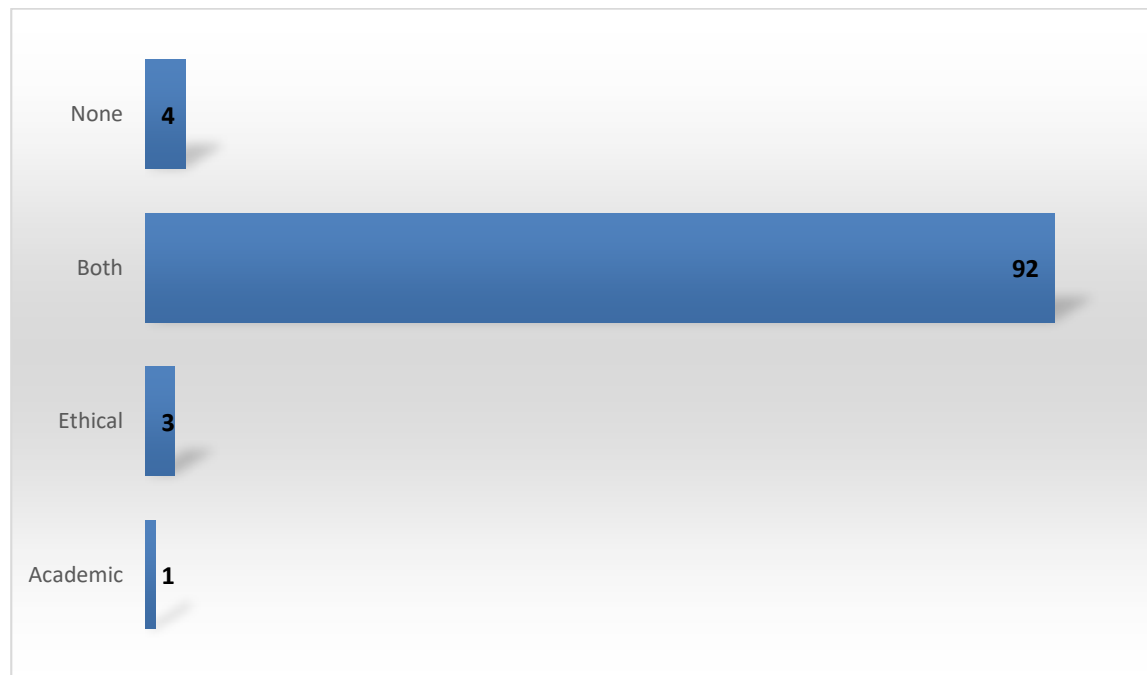
17. If both the parents are working, do they fail to give ethical/social/ moral values?

Exhibit 17

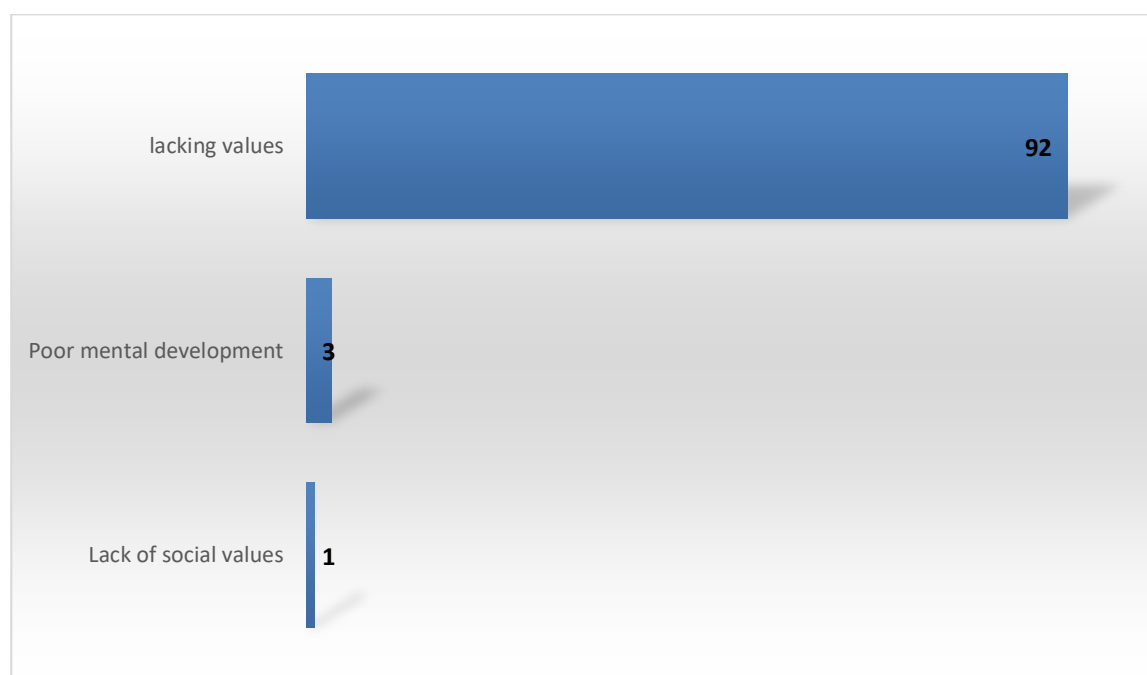
parents are working, do they fail to give ethical/social/ moral values



It can be seen from the above exhibit 17, 91% did not agreed with the statement that if both the parents are working, do they fail to give ethical/social/ moral values followed by 6% who agreed and 3% were neutral.

18. Academic knowledge or ethical knowledge which is most important to remove the gap?**Exhibit 18****Academic knowledge or ethical knowledge which is most important to remove the gap**

It can be seen from the above exhibit 18, 92% agreed with the statement that both academic knowledge and ethical knowledge which is most important to remove the gap followed by 4% who said none is important. Three percent agreed with ethical knowledge and 1% agreed with Academic knowledge.

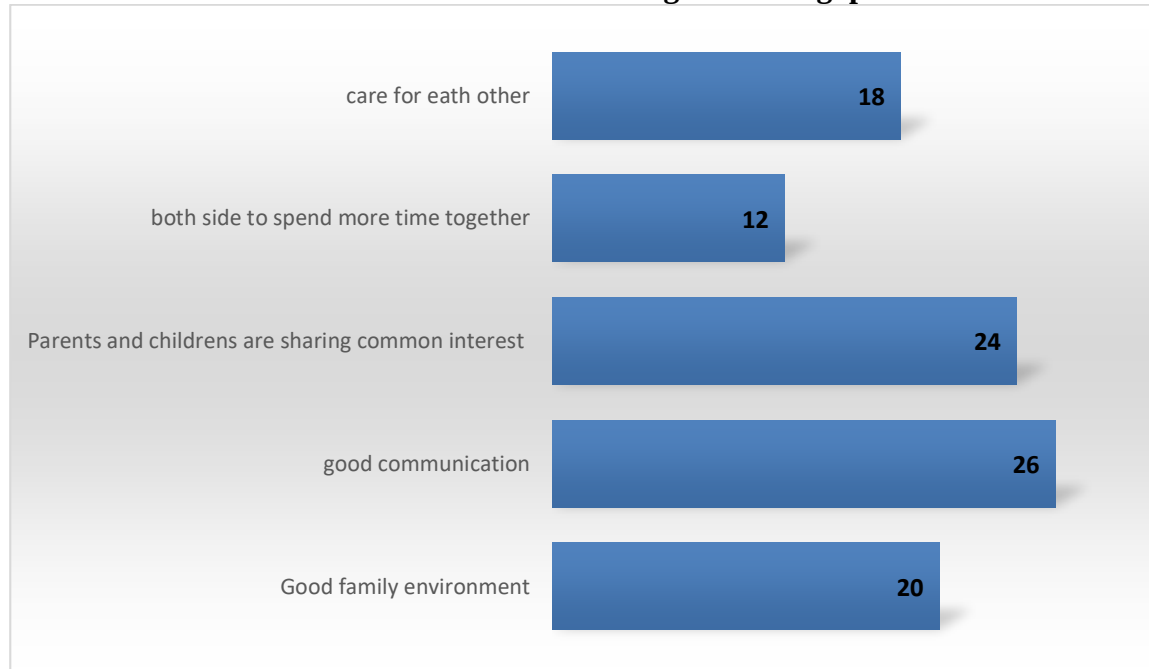
19. How is the generation gap issue affecting the child?**Exhibit 19****Generation gap issue affecting the child**

It can be seen from the above exhibit 19, 92% agreed that lacking values is the major reason for affecting the generation gap issue followed by 3% respondents agreed that poor mental; development and 1% agreed with lack of social values.

20. Which of the following do you think will help narrow the generation gap?

Exhibit 20

Narrow the generation gap



It can be seen from the above exhibit 20, 26% of the respondents agreed that good communication is important for reduction of generation gap followed by 24% of respondents agreed that parents and children were sharing common interest. 20% of the respondents agreed that good family environment is important, 18% agreed that care for each other and 12% agreed that both side to spend more time together.

21. Your opinion about the current generation gap? How this society treat this issue now?

Many reasons, such as fast technology progress, socioeconomic inequities, and cultural upheavals, have formed the present generation divide. Younger generations frequently have different attitudes, values, and views than older generations, which can lead to communication stumbling blocks and misunderstandings. There has been a growing awareness of the generation gap and its influence on individuals and society in recent years. Various organisations and institutions have launched initiatives and events to bridge the generational divide, encourage intergenerational contact, and create mutual understanding. Yet, much effort need to be done to overcome the generation gap and its impact on individuals and society. It is critical to foster an environment that encourages open conversation, mutual respect, and understanding amongst generations. This can assist to eliminate tensions and misunderstandings while also promoting a harmonious society in which people of all ages can thrive.

Conclusion

Finally, while the generation gap might provide obstacles and disputes in parent-child interactions, it can also present possibilities for growth and understanding. Successful parenting practises that emphasise open communication, mutual respect, and empathy may help parents and children bridge the gap and develop meaningful connections. Parents must recognise that their children's views, beliefs, and values may differ from their own and that they may change through time. Parents must listen to their children, respect their opinions, and promote open communication. Children, on the other hand, must respect their parents and value their experiences

and knowledge. Kids must realise that their parents' demands and worries are motivated by love and compassion. Parents may assist their children traverse the generation gap and grow into confident and independent individuals by fostering a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. Finally, both parents and children must strive together to bridge the generation gap and develop strong and healthy connections.

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