Surveying the Gap of Generation between Two Generations of Mothers and High School Girl Students in Bushehr City regarding their Commitment towards Religious Beliefs and Values

Mohamad Behroozi* and Razieh Pashakhanlu

1Department of management, Bushehr Branch, Islamic Azad University, Bushehr, Iran
2Islamic Azad University, Bushehr Branch, Iran

Abstract

This paper was to survey the gap of generation between two generations of Mothers and High school Girl Students in Bushehr City regarding their commitment towards religious beliefs and values. This was a causative-comparative study done according to descriptive-surveying way. Data were gathered via a researcher-structured questionnaire based on Likert scale. Statistical population consisted of 4205 Mothers and Student girls of Bushehr City high schools among which 350 individuals were randomly selected based on multi-stage clustering sampling method. Content analysis was used for validity and Chronbach’s Alpha was also used for reliability (α=83%). Findings, based on appropriately statistical analyses, showed that Mothers’ commitment towards material values would be less than girls while there would be no significant difference between Mothers’ and girls’ attitude towards getting married based on love. Also, Mothers’ commitment towards marriage, marriage at early-stage of life and laying down, Mothers’ beliefs, Mothers’ attitude towards religious behaviour collectively and individually, Mothers’ attitude towards family marriage would be significantly higher and somehow stronger than the girls.

Keywords: Gap of generation; Commitment; Religious beliefs and values

Introduction

The concept of generation gap is concerned about any community culture continuity from a generation to another one. If the process of socialization is done favourably and cultural re-production is best performed, then the cultural partnerships between two generations will grow up and therefore, no dominant difference between two generations is brought up, so the understanding between two generations is set up and the identity crisis for new generation is removed. The indication of such a family can be seen through the relationships between parents and offspring while the socialization process face internal or external problem and is conducted incompletely, the society culture is transferred unacceptably and therefore, the community culture continuity leaves uncompleted whose indication can be seen among the weakness of emotional, intellectual, and feeling relationship between parents and their kids. Usually, communities are transferring or communities facing social rapid changes and socio-political conflicts are more apt for having a gap among their generations [1]. Study about value gaps help us understand the mechanisms of these changes and conflicts since they are inevitable and therefore, this paper was to identify the mechanisms of these value changes to decrease the possibility of having no identity or chaos in identity among generations.

Literature Review

Movahed [2] studied about students’ families’ attitude and found out that students’ families had a more negative attitude towards having relationship before getting married. What can be totally concluded was that having relationship between girls and boys before marriage have been a new emerging feature!

Razeghi [3] surveyed the generation difference and ecological identity and his paper showed that those persons having been born in any city had a less commitment towards his/her identity than persons having been born in rural parts and the relationship between these two generations was significant.

Studying religious beliefs and the style of life, Tanhaiy [4] showed that persons having been interviewed in front of others have pretended to be accepted by existing culture of the society.

Surveying the role of effective factors on personality gap between boy high school students, Sadatmand [5] found out effective factors in generation gap (e.g. economic, social, cultural, educational, and family) were higher than average and emphasized that the economical factor was more effective than the other ones.

Barber [6] believes that age of getting married is increasing in women while it is decreasing in men in leaner way and regarding the differences among two generations of mothers and girls, it can be resulted from some modern social indices such as education, employment, birth place, and economical factors.

Sharma [7] studied about girls’ traditional and religious dressing up and he could find out that those girls wearing traditional and religious dresses would have less psychological problems in their future life and he pointed out that hijab would be the required indicator for individual identity and it would have a long-term effect on girls’ mental care.

Tremayne [8] states that perhaps one of the most sensitive fields making clear the generations’ gap is value field since values determine...
validity and Chronbach’s Alpha was also used for reliability (α=0.83) (Tables 1-5) (Figure 1).

Discussion

According to the literature review it was clear that there is a difference between two generations of mothers and their daughters regarding material values, love-based marriage, individual dimension of religious behaviour, collective dimension of religious behaviour, and religious beliefs. Findings showed that all of the mentioned indices could help survey the generation gap between mothers and student girls regarding the commitment towards values and religious

| Testees | N  | Mean | SD  | df | t     | Sig. |
|---------|----|------|-----|----|-------|------|
| Girls   | 175| 13.15| 2.55| 348| 3.76  | 0.0001|
| Mothers | 175| 10.84| 7.73|    |       |      |

Table 1: Comparison of commitment towards material values (two generations of mothers and girls).

| Testees | N  | Mean | SD  | df | t     | Sig. |
|---------|----|------|-----|----|-------|------|
| Girls   | 175| 15.09| 2.37| 348| 0.613 | 0.54  |
| Mothers | 175| 15.26| 2.83|    |       |      |

Table 2: Attitude towards love-based marriage (two generations of mothers and girls).

| Testees | N  | Mean | SD  | df | t     | Sig. |
|---------|----|------|-----|----|-------|------|
| Girls   | 175| 19.41| 8.4 | 348| 4.37  | 0.0001|
| Mothers | 175| 22.52| 4.24|    |       |      |

Table 3: Individual dimension of religious behavior (two generations of mothers and girls).

| Testees | N  | Mean | SD  | df | t     | Sig. |
|---------|----|------|-----|----|-------|------|
| Girls   | 175| 21.38| 6.11| 348| 6.12  | 0.0001|
| Mothers | 175| 25.02| 4.95|    |       |      |

Table 4: Collective dimension of religious behavior (two generations of mothers and girls).

| Testees | N  | Mean | SD  | df | t     | Sig. |
|---------|----|------|-----|----|-------|------|
| Girls   | 175| 19.08| 8.64| 348| 5.04  | 0.0001|
| Mothers | 175| 23.44| 7.48|    |       |      |

Table 5: Religious beliefs (two generations of mothers and girls).
beliefs. The following conceptual framework shows findings and their relationships graphically.

**Conclusion**

Today, understanding the reality of the existing gap of generation has become a problem and concern for both parents and children since parents’ attitude about shared values is not so same as children’s one. These beliefs and values are so sacred before parents while these are not acceptable for children; therefore, this difference related to problems and gaps between generations is shaped. Results, based on appropriately statistical analyses, represent that Mothers’ commitment towards material values are less than girls while there is no significant difference between Mothers’ and girls’ attitude towards getting married based on love. Also, Mothers’ commitment towards marriage, marriage at early-stage of life and laying down, Mothers’ beliefs, Mothers’ attitude towards religious behaviour collectively and individually, Mothers’ attitude towards family marriage are significantly higher and somehow stronger than the girls’.

**Acknowledgement**

Authors would like to thank those who sincerely supported to perform this research.

**References**

1. Talik MR (2002) Iranian sociology and gap between generations. Rahbord Quarterly.
2. Movahed M (2007) Youths, family and socialization: family role in students’ attitude about girls’ and boys’ relationships before getting married. Youths’ Studies Quarterly 8: 7.
3. Razzaghi K (2009) A reflection about generation difference and local identity. Social Sciences Quarterly.
4. Tanhiai H, Kalani A (2009) Surveying religious beliefs and life style based on Gauffman. Research Quarterly.
5. Sadatmand Z, Sadatmand F (2009) surveying the role of effective factors on personality gap between generation: Isfahan boy high schools. Unpublished MA Thesis, Tehran Islamic Azad University.
6. Barber JS (2001) The intergenerational transmission of age at first birth among married & unmarried men & women. Soc Sci Res 30: 219-247.
7. Sharma N, Sumali V, Kesar A (2005) Intergenerational differences in the concept of marriage among Dogra Brahmin females (mothers & daughters). Anthropol Q 7: 253-256.
8. Tremayne S (2006) Modernity and early marriage in Iran: a view from within. Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies 2: 65-94.
9. Thornton A (2001) The developmental paradigm: reading history sideways & family change. Demography Journal 38: 449-465.
10. Raoul G, Falk A (2005) Youth culture and the generation gap. Algora Publications.
11. Scott J, Schuman H (1989) Generation and collective memories. American Sociological Association 54: 359-381.