



DYNAMICS OF INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILY HARMONY AMID SOCIAL CHANGE

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Abstract

This study examines intergenerational relations in contemporary families through a qualitative literature review focusing on how value gaps, communication differences, and mismatched expectations affect family harmony. The analysis reveals that each generation operates within distinct historical and social frameworks that shape their fundamental values, communication preferences, and role expectations. Older generations tend to value stability, hierarchy, and indirect communication, while younger generations prioritize autonomy, egalitarianism, and direct communication. Technological changes and geographic mobility further complicate interactions by reducing opportunities for spontaneous contact while creating new platforms for connection that carry their own challenges. Family harmony requires explicit negotiation of changing roles and responsibilities as members move through different life stages. The capacity to separate acceptance of family members from approval of their choices, to communicate openly about needs and limitations, and to adapt to changing circumstances emerges as crucial for maintaining healthy intergenerational bonds. This study contributes to understanding how families can navigate generational differences in rapidly changing social contexts.

Keywords: intergenerational relations, family harmony, value differences, communication styles, generational expectations.

Introduction

The family structure in modern society has undergone significant changes that affect the patterns of intergenerational relations within it. Shifts in values, lifestyles, and economic structures have moved family dynamics from a hierarchical patriarchal model toward forms that are more egalitarian yet also more complex. These changes are actually part of a major shift in how we interact in an increasingly sophisticated digital era (Darmawan, 2021). Family members from different generations now live in vastly different social realities, shaped by historical events and technological developments that occurred during their formative years (Fingerman et al., 2020). Older generations who grew up in a more collective and hierarchical social atmosphere face challenges in understanding younger generations raised in a culture of individualism and freedom of expression. This condition often demands stronger mental readiness from every individual to adapt to the new social order (Darmawan et al., 2021). Broader educational opportunities and unlimited access to information mean that the younger generation possesses insights very different from those of their parents at the same age. This difference is not merely about age, but about ways of viewing the world, assessing what is valuable, and determining life priorities. When family members from different generations attempt to communicate, they bring assumptions and expectations that are often unrecognized products of their respective generations. This gap in understanding can become a source of friction that disrupts family harmony if not managed well (Kozubska, 2011). Modern families face the challenge of maintaining intergenerational bonds amidst widening differences (Bengtson, 2001).

The value gap between older and younger generations has become one of the primary sources of tension in today's families. In fact, the home environment should be the primary place for parents to instill virtuous values in their children (Safira et al., 2022). Older generations tend to hold firmly to values such as respect for elders, obedience to tradition, and sacrifice for the collective interest of the family (Sivricova & Moiseeva, 2018). They see the world as a place with clear rules and certain consequences for every violation. Younger generations, conversely, grow up in an environment that is more permissive and values

individual autonomy (Arnett, 2016). They question authority that is not accompanied by rational reasoning and tend to judge things based on personal benefit. In terms of life orientation, the older generation emphasizes stability, long-term job security, and conventionally measured achievements. The younger generation places more value on flexibility, meaningful experiences, and the balance between work and personal life. The effort to balance professional matters and personal affairs is indeed a unique challenge influenced by the culture in which we live (Eddine & Darmawan, 2022). These value differences manifest in various daily issues, ranging from the choice of life partners and educational paths to financial management (Inglehart, 2020). When the older generation tries to impose their values on the younger generation in a rigid manner, resistance becomes inevitable. Conversely, when the younger generation ignores the values held by the older generation with a dismissive attitude, emotional wounds emerge on both sides. This value gap does not always have to result in conflict, but it requires an understanding that every generation has valid reasons for the values they embrace.

The way of communication between generations in a family serves as another field fraught with potential misunderstandings (Kozubaska, 2011). The older generation is accustomed to direct communication, whether through face-to-face conversations or phone calls, which emphasize rich verbal and non-verbal nuances. They value formality in communication and consider short text messages to be somewhat impolite or lacking seriousness. The younger generation, having grown up with various digital communication platforms, is more comfortable with text messages that are short, direct, and efficient (Hertlein, 2012). These differences in speech styles often make conversations feel disconnected and create emotional distance (Darmawan, 2021). They consider phone calls without prior notice as an intrusion that disrupts privacy. These differing preferences in communication channels often become a source of frustration. Parents who send long messages via messaging apps may feel ignored when a child only responds with a brief emoji. Children who send messages through apps may feel that parents are too slow to respond or too formal in their replies. More than just channels, differences also lie in expectations regarding the frequency and initiative of communication (Luo & Sahay, 2018). This passive attitude

in communication sometimes also reflects how an individual participates in broader social life (Rojak et al., 2021). Older generations often expect children to contact them regularly as a form of attention, while younger generations assume that no news means everything is fine. This difference is exacerbated by the fact that the younger generation is often more comfortable expressing themselves through writing rather than speaking directly, which makes parents feel that the child has become more withdrawn. When communication is problematic, other issues that could actually be resolved become increasingly complicated because there is no effective channel to discuss them.

Differing expectations between older and younger generations regarding their respective roles within the family serve as an equally significant source of tension. The older generation often holds traditional expectations about how parent-child relationships should function, including the children's obligation to care for parents in their old age, obedience to parental advice in major decisions, and presence at family events (Gans & Silverstein, 2006). If this harmony is fractured, the future and best interests of the children within the family may be jeopardized (Fajar et al., 2021). The younger generation, living in a context of high mobility and intense career pressure, possesses a different capacity to meet these expectations. They may live in different cities, have demanding work schedules, or hold different views on what form of support is most meaningful for parents. For working women, this pressure is felt twice as heavily as they must divide their time between a career and household duties (Khairi, 2021). Expectations regarding childcare also become a common field of conflict. Older generations involved in caring for grandchildren often have different approaches than young parents regarding proper parenting styles (Wheelock & Jones, 2002). They may place more emphasis on discipline and obedience, while young parents focus more on developing independence and self-expression. These differing approaches, if not communicated well, can create tension that disrupts intergenerational relations. Expectations regarding financial support also frequently become a source of conflict. The older generation may expect children to provide financial contributions as a form of reciprocity, while the younger generation may feel burdened by their own economic responsibilities. Without open

discussion about each other's expectations, differing assumptions can lead to deep disappointment.

Economic factors and the structure of modern life also influence the intensity and quality of intergenerational relations within the family. Urbanization and high population mobility cause many families to live geographically separated. This creates new challenges in maintaining togetherness amidst an increasingly crowded and competitive urban environment (Mardikaningsih, 2021). Children working in big cities while parents remain in their hometowns reduce the frequency of face-to-face interactions that have historically been the foundation of family relationships (Baldassar, 2007). Time constraints due to work demands make family time a scarce commodity. Occasionally, unhealthy environmental conditions or marginalized housing also add to the mental burden of family members (Issalillah & Mardikaningsih, 2022). When family members finally meet, the pressure to make use of limited time can create an unnatural dynamic. Moments together that should be opportunities to strengthen bonds are often filled with overly packed activities or excessively high expectations. Economic pressure also affects intergenerational relations (Swartz, 2009). Economic gaps and poverty in certain regions often make family relationships more difficult to navigate (Fauzi, 2021). When children face economic difficulties, they may feel guilty for not being able to provide the financial support expected by their parents. Conversely, when parents need support in old age, children may feel burdened because they already have their own family responsibilities. The shift in family structure from extended families to nuclear families also reduces the opportunity for family members from various generations to learn to live together and manage differences. A lack of exposure to generational diversity in daily life makes tolerance for differences lower. Modern families must strive harder to maintain bonds that were previously formed naturally due to physical proximity and high interaction intensity.

The primary issue in intergenerational relations within the family is the absence of a shared understanding of the value differences underlying the behavior of each generation. Conflicts that occur are often viewed merely as personal issues, rather than as products of differing historical and social experiences that shape perspectives

(Mannheim, 1952; Biggs & Lowenstein, 2011). Understanding the mental and psychological conditions of family members is a key factor in facing these changing times (Darmawan et al., 2021). Parents who feel their children are disrespectful do not realize that the concept of respect for the younger generation has shifted from absolute obedience to appreciation for reasoned authority. Children who feel their parents are too controlling do not understand that for the older generation, involvement in a child's life is a form of care and responsibility that cannot be let go. A lack of reflection on the roots of these differences causes every conflict to be seen as a personal failure, giving rise to guilt or anger. The accumulation of small, unresolved conflicts can erode the emotional bonds that have served as the family's glue. Communication occurring within conflict is often more about blaming than trying to understand. Each party feels that their view is the only correct one and that the other party should adjust. The process of negotiating the meaning of what is considered important in a family relationship does not happen consciously. Consequently, family members lose the opportunity to build a new understanding of how they can fulfill each other's needs without having to sacrifice the values they each hold (Pillemer et al., 2007). This gap in understanding not only disrupts harmony but also reduces the quality of support that families should be able to provide to their members.

The second problem relates to the transformation of power structures within the family, which has not been followed by adequate changes in communication patterns. In traditional families, power is centralized in the older generation with a one-way communication pattern from parents to children. The younger generation is expected to accept things without much questioning. In modern families, the power structure has shifted to become more egalitarian, yet communication patterns often have not adapted to this change (Silverstein & Giarrusso, 2010). Frequently, these communication issues stem from our lack of habit in engaging in open dialogue in daily life (Darmawan, 2021). Parents still utilize instructive communication styles, while children have come to expect dialogic communication. When parents offer advice in a tone perceived as patronizing, children feel disrespected as adult individuals. When children offer opinions that differ from their parents',

the parents feel disrespected. This tension is exacerbated by the fact that role transitions within the family do not occur simultaneously. Parents may still view the child as someone in need of guidance even though they are chronologically adults. Children may already feel independent but lack the capacity to communicate with parents as fellow adults (Aquilino, 2006). This mismatch between power structure and communication patterns creates a space filled with ambiguity. Family members lack clarity on how they should interact. The absence of an agreed-upon framework for managing differences of opinion causes conflicts that are actually natural to remain unresolved. The family loses the ability to renegotiate roles and responsibilities that should occur naturally as life cycles change.

The urgency of this research arises from the pressing need to understand the dynamics of intergenerational relations within the family amidst increasingly rapid social change. The family, as the most basic social institution, faces unprecedented pressure from various directions. Technological changes, economic structures, and social values are moving at a tempo that causes each generation to experience vastly different realities (Cherlin, 2010). Ultimately, we all need to learn how to keep relationships close even though the world outside continues to change rapidly (Darmawan et al., 2021). The gap in intergenerational experience, which could previously be bridged by shared basic values, is now widening. The impact of weakening family bonds is felt not only by family members individually but also by society at large. A harmonious family becomes increasingly important as a final fortress in the midst of urban life, which is often impersonal. This research is important for systematically identifying various factors that influence the quality of intergenerational relations within the family. An understanding of how value gaps, differences in communication styles, and misaligned expectations affect family harmony is required to formulate approaches that can help families manage these challenges (Umberson & Thomeer, 2020). Contributions to the development of family sociology and generational studies are primary considerations. The results of the research are expected to serve as a foundation for the development of family education programs and interventions aimed at strengthening intergenerational bonds. It is hoped that this better understanding can create peace in every household (Safira et al., 2022).

The problem formulation in this study is how value gaps, differences in communication styles, and misaligned expectations between generations affect harmony in contemporary families. This study aims to systematically outline the dynamics of intergenerational relations in modern families with a focus on three main dimensions: the value gap stemming from differences in historical and social experiences; differences in communication styles influenced by channel preferences and interaction styles; and misaligned expectations regarding the roles and responsibilities of each generation. This study will explore how these three dimensions interact and contribute to the quality of family harmony. Theoretically, this research enriches the study of family sociology and generational studies by providing an analytical framework regarding the factors that influence cross-generational family cohesion. Its practical contribution consists of recommendations for the development of family education programs and interventions aimed at strengthening intergenerational relations.

Method

This research employs a qualitative approach with a literature study design aimed at synthesizing knowledge regarding intergenerational relations in contemporary families. This approach was chosen because it allows for a comprehensive exploration of various theoretical perspectives and empirical findings scattered across different disciplines. Baronov (2015) explains that social research using a qualitative approach requires a deep understanding of the conceptual foundations that form the basis for analyzing complex social phenomena. The procedures applied in this research refer to the principles of social research proposed by Crano, Brewer, and Lac (2014), which emphasize the importance of a systematic approach in collecting and analyzing secondary data from various sources. The literature search was conducted by identifying scientific publications relevant to the topics of intergenerational relations, family dynamics, cross-generational communication, and shifting values within the family. The sources reviewed include books, journal articles, and research reports published within the last two decades to capture the development of phenomena occurring alongside rapid social change. The

source selection process was carried out by considering topic relevance, author credibility, and the quality of the research methodology used.

Singleton and Straits (2018) emphasize that the approach in social research must pay attention to the complexity of the phenomena being studied and use various sources to build a holistic understanding. The analysis was conducted using a thematic approach to identify the main patterns in the literature concerning intergenerational relations within families. This approach allows for the identification of consensus and debate within the literature while revealing areas that still require further development. The synthesis of findings from various sources was performed to build a complete understanding of how value gaps, differences in communication methods, and misaligned expectations influence harmony in today's families.

Result and Discussion

Intergenerational relations in today's families are marked by unprecedented complexity because each generation lives in vastly different social realities. We must realize that currently, big data technology has brought many new things that change the way we conduct our daily social lives (Wahyudi et al., 2021). Generations born before the digital era have formative experiences that contrast sharply with generations that grew up with the internet and social media. This difference is not merely a matter of age but concerns fundamental ways of processing information, forming opinions, and building relationships. The older generation was raised in an environment where information sources were limited and authority was seldom questioned. They learned that life experience is the most reliable source of wisdom. The younger generation is accustomed to unlimited access to information and has learned that knowledge can be obtained from anywhere, not just from elders. Therefore, it is very important for us to continue learning through any educational path to build a better future society that values one another (Warin, 2022). The consequence of this fundamental difference is that the younger generation tends to be more critical of authority, including parental authority, while the older generation feels that their experience is no longer valued. Within the family, this difference manifests in various forms, ranging from how

advice is received and how important decisions are made to how the future is viewed. When the older generation feels that their life experiences are no longer considered relevant, they may withdraw from the lives of their children and grandchildren. Conversely, when the younger generation feels that their life choices are constantly criticized, they may distance themselves emotionally. Both responses are equally detrimental as they reduce the quality of interaction and support that the family should provide (North & Fiske, 2015).

Value gaps within the family are often unrecognized as products of differing historical experiences; instead, they are perceived as moral failures or a lack of respect (Bulygina & Komarova, 2019). These feelings often arise because everyone actually needs social support from their surrounding community to feel at peace (Zulkarnain et al., 2021). The older generation, who grew up during a period of economic development with all its limitations, tends to value stability, caution, and short-term sacrifice for long-term gain. They see the world as a place full of uncertainty, making security a top priority. The younger generation, growing up in more established economic conditions with broader access to opportunities, tends to value freedom, exploration, and self-fulfillment. They see the world as a place of limitless possibilities, making the courage to take risks an important value. In the family, this difference becomes apparent when discussing career choices. The older generation might encourage a child to choose an established profession, such as a civil servant or a job in a large company with a clear career path. The younger generation might be more interested in entrepreneurship or jobs in the creative sector that offer flexibility but come with higher risks. This attitude of mutual support is actually a reflection of good public policy for the welfare of us all (Rizky & Udjari, 2021). When parents view a child's choice as irresponsible, the child feels unsupported. When the child views the parents' perspective as old-fashioned and restrictive, the parents feel disrespected. Both parties actually have valid reasons based on their life experiences, yet it is difficult to see the other side's reasoning because it is blocked by the belief that their values are the only correct ones.

Differences in communication methods between generations become a source of misunderstanding that is often underestimated

because it is regarded as a mere technical matter (Sivricova & Moiseeva, 2018). In fact, sincere service and attention in communication are tangible forms of good leadership within a group (Rojak, 2021). These differences reflect very different ways of understanding relationships and expressing care. The older generation, accustomed to synchronous communication such as face-to-face conversations or phone calls, tends to value presence and full attention in interactions. They view brief text messages as a less serious and less personal form of communication. The younger generation, accustomed to asynchronous communication through various digital platforms, feels more comfortable with short messages that can be responded to at a time they determine. They consider unscheduled phone calls as an intrusion that disrupts privacy and work rhythms. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the city, many people now prefer joining groups with similar hobbies to keep communication enjoyable (Rejeki, 2021). Within the family, these differences create various forms of misunderstanding. Parents who send long-winded messages through an app might feel frustrated when they only receive a brief reply in the form of an emoji or the word "ok." A child who feels they have responded quickly may not understand why the parents still feel ignored. Parents who call without prior notice may feel the child is being rude when they do not answer the phone. A child who feels a phone call is an intrusion may not understand why the parents do not use more efficient text messages. Beyond just the channel, differences also lie in expectations regarding the frequency and initiative of communication. The older generation, which holds a concept of the family as a constantly connected unit, may expect more frequent communication. The younger generation, possessing a higher concept of independence, may assume that no news means everything is fine.

Differing expectations regarding roles in the family become a field of conflict that is increasingly felt as family members enter different stages of life (Zhang & Wiebe, 2022). The older generation, entering retirement and having more free time, often has expectations that children will provide more attention as a form of reciprocity for the upbringing provided. They may expect regular visits, family vacations, or intensive involvement in family activities. This need for attention often clashes with a modern lifestyle that demands very high mobility

every day (Wisnujati & Mardikaningsih, 2021). The younger generation, at the peak of their careers with all its pressures and responsibilities, may not have the capacity to meet those expectations. They may feel they have done their best by providing financial support or regular communication via telephone, yet feel it is still not enough for their parents. Expectations regarding roles in childcare also serve as a common source of tension. Older generations involved in caring for grandchildren often have different approaches than young parents. They may emphasize discipline, obedience, and traditional values. Young parents may focus more on developing independence, self-expression, and a more dialogic approach. These matters show that the way we work together in society indeed needs continuous improvement (Warin, 2022; Rizky & Udjari, 2021). When the older generation feels that their proven approaches are not appreciated, they can feel sidelined. When young parents feel that the older generation is interfering too much, they can feel frustrated. Expectations regarding financial support also frequently become a source of conflict. The older generation may expect children to provide financial contributions as a form of reciprocity. The younger generation may feel burdened by their own economic responsibilities. Without open communication about each other's expectations, differing assumptions can lead to deep and ongoing disappointment (Lowenstein, 2007; Suito et al., 2011).

The shift in family structure from extended families to nuclear families also brings implications for the quality of intergenerational relations (Putney & Bengtson, 2003). In traditional extended families, family members from various generations lived together or in close proximity, creating natural opportunities for daily interaction. This kind of closeness used to greatly help people get to know each other and feel like part of a strong single group (Rejeki, 2021). Children grew up with the presence of grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins who provided diverse models of intergenerational relationships. Conflicts occurring within an extended family were also absorbed by the broader network, so they did not place an excessive burden on a single relationship. In the modern nuclear family, intergenerational relations become more focused and intensive because they only involve parents and children. When conflict arises, there are no other family members who can act as

mediators or outlets for venting. Every interaction becomes fraught with meaning because there are not many other opportunities to build bonds. Often, irregular urban sprawl makes the distance between family members feel even wider (Wisnujati & Mardikaningsih, 2021). High mobility also causes many families to live geographically separated. Children working in large cities while parents remain in their hometowns lose the opportunity for spontaneous interaction, which has long been the foundation of family relationships. Time together that once occurred naturally in daily activities must now be intentionally scheduled. The pressure to make use of limited time can create an unnatural dynamic. Moments together that should be opportunities to strengthen bonds are often filled with overly packed activities or excessively high expectations. In closing, we must remember that maintaining good relationships is a task for all of us so that social life continues to run smoothly (Rojak, 2021; Zulkarnain et al., 2021). Modern families must struggle harder to maintain bonds that were previously formed naturally due to physical proximity and high interaction intensity.

Digital technology, which should serve as a tool to maintain long-distance relationships, instead creates a paradox in intergenerational relations. On one hand, digital communication platforms allow geographically separated families to stay connected. Video calls, family groups on messaging apps, and instant photo sharing provide an illusion of closeness despite being physically far apart (Bachen et al., 2015). This convenience greatly helps everyone to keep greeting each other despite being hindered by long distances (Darmawan, 2021). Younger generations who are more fluent in technology can easily share moments of their daily lives with parents who are far away. Older generations who learn to use technology can follow the development of their children and grandchildren more closely. On the other hand, the presence of technology in family life also creates a new distance that is no less significant. When family members gather physically, the presence of digital devices often distracts attention from the ongoing interaction. Moreover, nowadays a lot of our behavioral data is used for advertising, so we often feel content staring at phone screens for long periods (Fared & Darmawan, 2021). The quality of togetherness that should be the core of family relations becomes eroded by the presence of technology that

fragments attention. Furthermore, the use of social media by the younger generation often becomes a source of anxiety for the older generation. Therefore, it is important for all of us to understand the rules of the game in using technology so that problems do not arise in the future (Hardyansah et al., 2022). Technology that should be a bridge can instead become a new source of conflict if not managed with a shared understanding of boundaries and expectations (Mesch, 2006).

The younger generation, growing up with digital technology, has communication characteristics that are very different from previous generations, which are often not understood by parents (Abrantes et al., 2017). They are very accustomed to the various digital readings available on social media today (Kurniawan et al., 2021). They are used to communication that is brief, direct, and uses symbols that may be unfamiliar to the older generation. Emojis, abbreviations, and memes are daily languages that hold rich meaning for them but may appear to parents as a shallow form of communication. This sometimes makes opportunities for young people differ depending on how savvy they are in using technology (Sinambela et al., 2022). The ability to multitask in communication, such as responding to messages while performing other activities, makes them feel they are always available even if they are not giving full attention. Parents accustomed to focused communication may feel that the child is not serious or does not care when they respond while doing something else. The younger generation is also more comfortable expressing difficult emotions through writing rather than through direct conversation. Even though the world is modern, we still need to maintain values of kindness within the home (Safira et al., 2022). The lack of understanding regarding these differences in communication styles causes both parties to feel misunderstood and unappreciated, which ultimately reduces the quality of the relationship (Subrahmanyam & Greenfield, 2008).

The older generation also possesses communication characteristics that are often not understood by the younger generation. They are accustomed to unhurried communication, with space for pauses and reflection. In face-to-face conversations, they value eye contact, body language, and nuances that can only be captured through direct interaction. These old habits actually teach us about the

importance of patience in facing differences (Saputra & Darmawan, 2021). They tend to use indirect communication to convey sensitive messages, such as through hints or stories about other people. The younger generation, accustomed to explicit and direct communication, may not catch messages conveyed indirectly or may perceive them as manipulation. These differing views are often influenced by the judgments of others around us (Sajjapong et al., 2022). The older generation also has a different concept of time in communication. They may believe that a good conversation requires sufficient and unhurried time. The younger generation, used to the speed of digital communication, may feel frustrated when a conversation progresses too slowly. In fact, having firm principles in one's attitude is the key to maintaining fairness in a relationship (Saktiawan et al., 2021). These differences in communication styles cause both parties to often speak on different frequencies. Each feels they have tried to communicate in the right way, yet the message does not land because it is packaged in a format that does not meet the expectations of the interlocutor (Williams & Nussbaum, 2013; Pecchioni et al., 2006).

Value gaps within the family become increasingly complex when they involve issues related to rapid social change (Zahra et al., 2021). Issues regarding gender, sexuality, and interpersonal relationships often become the sharpest sources of tension between generations. Such problems demonstrate how difficult it is to unite opinions in the midst of a constantly changing society (Rojak & Khayru, 2022). Older generations raised with rigid gender norms and traditional views on marriage and family may struggle to accept the life choices of the younger generation that are considered deviant. A daughter who chooses to focus on a career and delay marriage may be viewed by parents as something unnatural. Modest family economic conditions sometimes also hinder access to a better life (Suwito et al., 2021). The younger generation, growing up with discourses of gender equality and freedom of sexual orientation, may feel that parents do not understand the reality of changing times. They may view their parents' perspectives as discriminatory and old-fashioned. On the other hand, the older generation may feel that the values they have long held onto are being demeaned and ignored. It is very important for us to maintain a balance

between economic, social, and natural affairs around us (Mardikaningsih & Hariani, 2021). These issues often become the most sensitive points in intergenerational relations because they touch upon the most basic identity of each individual. When fundamental values collide, dialogue becomes difficult because each party feels that what is at stake is their own personal integrity.

Changes in economic roles within the family also influence power dynamics and intergenerational relations. In traditional families, the older generation held economic control as the primary breadwinners. However, currently, many changes in large cities make small communities feel marginalized (Fauzi, 2022). Control over resources gave them clear power in family decision-making. In modern families, the younger generation often has a larger income and is more economically independent at a younger age. This shift alters the balance of power within the family. Older generations who lose their role as the primary provider may experience an identity crisis and feel a loss of relevance. Sometimes we must also consider the fate of children on the streets who lack protection (Aidan Bin Abdullah, 2021). The younger generation, being economically independent, may feel that economic independence should be followed by full autonomy in decision-making. They may feel that parents no longer have the right to regulate their lives. This tension becomes even more complex when the younger generation requires financial support from parents, for example, to buy a house or fund further education. Therefore, every organization or family needs to have the right way to face difficult situations (Arifin & Darmawan, 2022). Without clear discussions about each other's expectations and boundaries, conflict becomes inevitable (Fingerman et al., 2015).

The influence of mass media and popular culture in shaping the values and expectations of the younger generation often becomes a source of concern for the older generation (Clarke et al., 1999). We need to continue ensuring that the natural environment and legal rules remain respected by everyone (Nuraini et al., 2021). The younger generation is exposed to representations of family relationships, love, and success that are very different from what the older generation experienced. Television series, films, and social media content display relationship models that may be considered unrealistic or even immoral by the older generation.

Younger generations who internalize values from these media may have different expectations about what family relationships should look like. Blending old ways with new ways is very important to maintain our natural wealth (Nurmalasari & Nuraini, 2021). Older generations who are unfamiliar with the content consumed by the younger generation may feel that the family values they have long held are being eroded by outside influences of unclear origin. On the other hand, the younger generation may feel that parents are too confined within old perspectives and are unwilling to open themselves to change. Despite living in big cities, maintaining ancestral traditions remains a beautiful thing to do (Amri & Khayru, 2022). Families that successfully manage these differences are usually able to create space to share each other's worlds without having to blame or demean one another.

Differences in perceiving and managing conflict also serve as a source of tension between generations in the family (Joshi et al., 2013). We can also learn a lot from the very diverse yields of plantation crops in Indonesia (Darmawan et al., 2021). Older generations accustomed to conflict models that are avoided or resolved through third parties may feel uncomfortable with the more direct and confrontational approach of the younger generation. They may consider discussing problems directly as a form of impoliteness or an inability to control emotions. Younger generations accustomed to a more direct approach in solving problems may feel frustrated when parents avoid difficult conversations or choose to suppress issues. This difference often arises because everyone has a different way of showing their solidarity (Saputra & Darmawan, 2021). This difference becomes increasingly complicated because each generation also has different experiences regarding family conflict (Birditt et al., 2009; Fingerman et al., 2004). As a result, the older generation may feel that the younger generation does not sufficiently appreciate the risks of uncontrolled conflict. The younger generation may feel that the older generation is too afraid of conflict, thereby hindering the resolution of actual problems. May justice and honesty always be our foundation in daily actions (Saktiawan et al., 2021).

The mental health of family members is becoming an increasingly important factor in understanding intergenerational relations. The stress experienced by the younger generation due to work pressure and urban

life is often not understood by the older generation (Clarke et al., 1999). We must remember that technological progress should bring a positive impact on human psychological conditions (Darmawan et al., 2021). Older generations who worked in an era with clearer boundaries between work time and personal time may struggle to understand the exhaustion experienced by the younger generation due to a work culture that demands 24-hour availability. On the other hand, younger generations experiencing anxiety or depression may feel that parents do not understand their condition. Everyone has the right to the same opportunity to live healthily and happily (Rojak & Khayru, 2022). The stigma regarding mental health, which remains strong among the older generation, makes the younger generation reluctant to share their struggles. A lack of awareness regarding mental health on both sides can cause problems that could actually be addressed to become increasingly severe. Preserving the environment can also help our hearts become calmer and more peaceful (Zulkarnain et al., 2021).

The process of renegotiating roles and responsibilities between generations is key to maintaining family harmony. The family is not a static entity, but rather a system that continuously changes along with its members' life cycles. Therefore, policies that support the collective good are greatly needed within the family (Mardikaningsih & Hariani, 2021). As children grow into adults, their roles in the family must change. As parents age, their roles must also change. Successful families are those capable of renegotiating these roles explicitly and openly. Every family member must feel protected by the system that exists in their home (Aidan Bin Abdullah, 2021). This negotiation does not always go smoothly as it often involves acknowledging changes in abilities and changes in needs. The younger generation may struggle to accept new responsibilities that come along with the independence they desire. By continuing to learn and adapt, we can face economic uncertainty more calmly (Arifin & Darmawan, 2022). Families that successfully perform continuous renegotiation will have relationships that are more adaptive and resilient in facing various changes.

Conclusion

Intergenerational relations in today's families are characterized by complexity stemming from value gaps shaped by different historical experiences, differences in communication methods influenced by channel preferences and interaction styles, and misaligned expectations regarding the roles and responsibilities of each generation. These factors interact and are reinforced by changes in family structure, geographical mobility, and the influence of technology and mass media. Conflicts that arise are often not recognized as products of generational differences, but are instead perceived as personal failures or a lack of respect. Harmony within the family requires an understanding that each generation has valid reasons for the values, communication methods, and expectations they embrace. The process of renegotiating roles and responsibilities explicitly and openly is key to maintaining healthy cross-generational relationships. Families capable of creating space for honest dialogue about their respective needs and limitations, as well as developing flexibility in adjusting roles as life cycles change, will possess stronger and more resilient bonds.

The implications of this study indicate that an understanding of generational dynamics needs to become part of family education and interventions aimed at strengthening intergenerational relations. Suggestions that can be provided include the need for family education programs that help family members from various generations understand the characteristics and formative experiences of other generations. Educational institutions and places of worship can play a role in facilitating intergenerational dialogue within families through activities that bring different age groups together. Mental health practitioners need to possess sensitivity toward generational issues when handling family problems. Public policies that support a balance between work and family responsibilities, as well as those facilitating cross-generational interaction, are also necessary. Further research is required to understand the dynamics of intergenerational relations in various different socio-cultural contexts as well as the effectiveness of various interventions that may be implemented to strengthen cross-generational family bonds.

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