

Student Community, Better Relationship, Love and Care for and by Elders

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Introduction

- Rich and poor, able and disabled, men and women, elders and youngsters—all want to be cared and loved.
- Student community and their need--- physical, material and emotional
- Need to improve relationships.
- Role of grand parents

Scope

- Intergenerational relationship.
- Need for better relationship.
- Efforts by **Probus club of Chennai**
- Various celebrations of Probus Club of Chennai
- Problems & Prospects in relationship.
- Economic and social conditions
- Promoting mutual good relationship.

Sources

- Published books and news letters on Elders..
- Probus Publications.
- But the best sources are personal contacts, case studies and interviews involving the first & third generations.

Intergenerational bonding

- Every Student is a grand child. Grandparents form an important part of the family.
- Indian concept is different from the western.
- Role of grandparents in **joint family**; lost importance due to the practice of the nuclear family

Intergenerationality

- **Intergenerationality** is interaction between members of different generations.
- Intergenerational issues, including equity, conflict, and mobility:

Intergenerational Equity

- **Intergenerational Equity** is the concept or idea of **fairness or justice in relationships** between children, youth, adults and seniors, particularly in terms of treatment and interactions.

Intergenerational Conflict

- **Intergenerational Conflict** is either a conflict situation between teenagers and adults or a more abstract **conflict between two generations**, which often involves all inclusive prejudices against another generation.
- Intergenerational conflict also describes cultural, social, or economic discrepancies between generations, which may be caused by shifts in values or conflicts of interest between younger and older generations. It is associated with the term generation gap.

Intergenerational Mobility

- **Intergenerational Mobility** is a measure of the **changes in social status** which occurs from the parents' to the children's generation.

An Inter –generational contract

- **An Inter –generational contract** is a dependency between different generations based on the assumption that **future generations**, in honoring the contract, **will provide a service to a generation** that has previously done the same service to an older generation.

Intergenerational Policies

- **Intergenerational Policies** are public policies that incorporate an intergenerational approach to addressing an issue or have an impact across the generations.

Why no bondage?

- Because of poverty (lack of basic needs--Careless & carefree parentage--- illiteracy.
- Condition of parents & children in poorer, middle class and rich families.
- Lack of parental care—various reasons
- Single and deserted mothers.
- Students should be made to realize that they are cared for.

External Agencies

- Govt gives midday meal, free books & notebooks, uniform & even chappal.
- But could they feel the touch of love in these donations?
- Materialistic—rich or poor
- No time--Parents for children.---- youngsters for elders—men for women—abled for disabled and vice versa.

What is Probus?

- Assn of retired **professionals** & **business** people.
- Initially promotion of elder welfare.
- Gradually turning towards student community connected activities.

Students

- **Students** without basic needs--- how demoralized they are.— slum culture.
- Goondatism, theft, robbery, dropping out, murder, rape etc due to poverty and illiteracy
- Survey in slums and schools
- Elder abuse too –some students have bad models-abusive language and action

Celebrations

- Elders 'Day; Children's Day , Pongal Day & Women's Day.
- Students of Corporation and Govt schools for scholarship.

Aims of Probus Club in celebrations

- Promoting Elder welfare through various competitions.
- Inculcating in the minds of new generation some love and care for elders and vice versa;
- learning the joy of giving and showing the path of progress to youngsters;
- Probus Continuing relationship with schools
- Making coordination among teachers, parents, students and elders for a better life of the new generation .
- Caring for poor children's health---health camps(eye, dental, heart, kidney),
- Education --tuition, evening , snacks, special fees.
- Spoken English coaching classes (Elders themselves)
- Moral Science ---importance of disciplined life

Involvement of third generation(Students)

- Awareness Programme.
- Essay competition.
- Oratorical competition.
- Painting competition.
- Fancy Dress competition.

Participants

- Fancy Dress---up to 5th Std students.
- Essay competition---6th to 9th & 11th
- Oratorical competition --- 9th & 11th
- Painting : 2 categories: Middle School & 9th & 11th.

Themes

- Family, Grand Parents, Well known elders of our State & Country and world
- Students 'duty towards the grand parents.;. Views on Elderly.
- Cultural Programme by Students & Probians--- Music & drama.

Honouring parents and teachers

- Awards to best student from various schools.(citation, memento and shawl etc.).
- Volunteers from Probus adopted schools.

Changes

- Our talks to the students regarding elders, their attitude and slow change in daily life. (Probus experimentation) Students' likes and dislikes.
- How to be closer to the elders at home & outside.
- Their appreciation & care for grand parents.

Pongal day

- Students are asked to bring their parents and grandparents to be honoured.
- Honouring Tirukkural expert; competition on Tirukkural to students & prizes.

Prizes

- Lot of books donated by our senior member Mr. CR.Vaitheeswaran to winners and all participants. *Tirujkkural*, *Bharathiyar Kavithaikal* and dictionaries are for every student.
- Watches for the first rank boy and girl in Corporation Boys' & Girls' schools by PP T.T.Srinivasamurthi or Probian Krupasankar on Pongal day every year. Donation for sweets and gifts by some Probian.

Counseling to Students

- About caring, loving, appreciating, giving etc. There is no time for the parents to discuss these with the students.

Case Studies

- What they like and dislike in their GPs are funny as well as thought provoking..

Likes

- Loving
- Taking care
- Giving food
- Telling stories
- Helping in home work.
- Washing uniform
- Giving little money to buy snacks.

Dislikes

- GF smoking & drinking
- GM chewing pan & tobacco
- Mother fighting with GM
- Gossiping
- Mother scolding GPs
- Mother ill treating GPs .
- GPs not clean.

Scholarship Programme

- Started by Probian TTS with Rs.5000 . now in lakhs benefiting every year many students from economically poor background. Participation of parents and teachers in scholarship programme. Now many students get yearly scholarship. Parents and donors are invited for the function.

Conclusion

- Poorer students face emotional and materialistic problems in their studentship. They miss love and care at home due to various reasons. It results in dropouts. Probus contribution in reviving and linking the generations and trying to cement generation gap is great. Incidentally it brings happiness and contentment to seniors too.