

Akram Youth

July 2021 English

Dada Bhagwan Parivar

Parents' Positives

Generation Gap
Part 2



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Editorial



Dear Friends,

By reading the last issue of Akram Youth: Generation Gap, you all must have taken the initiative to deepen your relationship with your parents. In this issue, we will further our efforts to make the relationship between us and our parents better.

We get angry at our mom and dad for the smallest of things. We have never noticed how much our parents contribute to our daily lives. Our mom makes food three times a day so that we can get a good meal, dad is always focused on giving us the best comforts, and they are both constantly present when we are sick.

We have probably never considered this big positive aspect of theirs. This is just one aspect. There are so many other positive qualities they have that we have not even noticed. This is true, is it not? Because, knowingly or unknowingly, we end up focusing on their negative qualities and as a result, our unity with them breaks, we become more distant from them, and the generation gap keeps on widening.

But now we are all strongly determined to close this gap. So, let's take a look at the benefits of seeing the positive qualities of our parents and by focusing on their positives with true understanding, let us say goodbye to this evil generation gap from our lives.

- Dimplebhai Mehta

Parents'

Positives



Have you ever noticed that the gap between the current young generation and the generation of our elders is widening? Do you get angry at your parents for the smallest of things? If yes, then you must have noticed that despite getting angry or **being disrespectful towards them, instead of getting upset with us, they persuade us, pamper us, and love us tremendously.**

Yes, we all know that our mom and dad work hard to keep us happy and try to give us the best care they can. Even though we may have seen their positives, sometimes knowingly or unknowingly, we have seen more of their negatives, right? So let us now try to make an effort to see the positives in them. Do you want to know what the benefits are of seeing the positives in your mom and dad?

Patience



The air was filled with joy upon the arrival of a child at the home of a newlywed couple. A beautiful son named Laksh was born in the house of mother Anuben and father Rambhai. Their happiness knew no bounds. Laksh's parents were taking great care of him and providing him with all the comforts. Laksh had a fickle and provocative nature. He was curious to know about everything. Once, Laksh was sitting with his mom and was still learning to speak. He saw a crow, so he asked his mother, "What bird is this?" His mother said, "Son, this is called a crow." And then his mom went back to finishing her chores. The crow was just sitting there. So, Laksh again asked, "What bird is this?" His mother again responded, "Son, this is a crow." After a little while, Laksh again asked, "What bird is this?" And his mom answered very patiently, "Son, it is called a crow." In this manner, as long as the crow was sitting there, Laksh kept asking his mother and his mother always answered with the same patience, "Yes son, this is called a crow."

Not only this, but as Laksh grew older, he became more and more fickle. He wouldn't pay attention to eating nor

would he pay attention to sleeping. He would want to do his work at different times. During mealtimes, he would want to play, during play time he would want to sleep, and during his sleeping time, he would get hungry. Thus, he changed his decision every time, but his mother, despite having to do other chores around the house, ran after Laksh with love, held him and fed him while talking to him with sweet words. She would stay and sing him a lullaby until he fell asleep.

Thus, Anuben put aside all her household work and prioritized the work that was of Laksh's interest. Whether she had to wake up early and get him ready to go to school or help him with his homework after coming back from school, whether she had to feed him, help him develop, or have him sleep on time, Anuben would lovingly and patiently take care of everything for Laksh.

Sometimes Laksh would come back after arguing with other children outside, sometimes he would run away after making fun of someone, sometimes he would come to school after doing something wrong, and that is when Anuben would get very angry with Laksh. After getting angry, she would explain

Mom, do you not see that I'm watching my TV show right now? You always need something to be done when I am watching TV. You do this everyday. If you don't want me to watch TV, then you give me work to do, and if I refuse, then you say that I am not helping you.

to Laksh with a lot of pampering, "Son, I am only angry with you so that nothing bad happens to you." Hearing this, Laksh would feel the sweetness of her love. Sometimes he would even get upset. Regardless, Anuben would always remain alert in showering him with love and remaining patient so that Laksh would be free of problems.

After taking care of him with such love, Laksh is now 18 years old and, like any other day, Laksh is watching his favorite TV show. Then his mother, Anuben, tells him to bring some goods from a nearby shop. With his favorite TV show on, Laksh ignores his mother. After a while, his mother says again, "Son, I am getting late in cooking the food. Bring it quickly." Hearing this, Laksh got angry and replied, "Mom, do you not see that I'm watching my TV show right now? You always need something to be done when I am watching TV. You do this everyday. If you don't want me to watch TV, then you give me work to do, and if I refuse, then you say that I am not helping you." Saying all this, Laksh gets up in a rage, gets everything his mom had asked him to bring, throws it

down, and goes to his room. The whole time Laksh's grandmother watches this event unfold. His grandmother followed Laksh to his room and, seeing him angry, sits next to him and lovingly strokes her hand over his head and says, "Laksh, is it right to be angry like this with your mother? With a little bit of patience, you can say all this to your mother calmly, can you not?" Let me tell you what our **Dadashri has said about this...**



Through the Gnani's Scientific Vision



Questioner: My question is, when we look at our parents, they have a lot more patience and if we look at the youth, they have very little patience. So, what is the reason for this? What is it that the parents have that allows them to have so much patience?

Pujyashree: The reason behind this is that, with age comes an increase in understanding. Whereas the intellect has increased within the young generation of today. The intellect makes one emotional, emotional, emotional. It makes one do this and that and quickly finish everything... whereas the parents have the experience, "Son, it cannot be completed that hastily, let us go this route, we will make it there slowly." Parents have the understanding and the experience, moreover; they do it heartily so they can do the work with patience.

Really, we should take advantage of our elder's experience. We may want to finish something quickly, but it should be done by obeying them and following their guidance [by saying], "What are you trying to say? What can be done?" They may warn us that, "Look, you may face this problem during this work." We should listen to them instead of seeing them negatively! Because they have the experience, the understanding and heart, they can work with great patience. We become a little emotional and hyper because of the intellect, "I know how to do it, how will I not be able to finish it, you are all of an older generation! We are young and powerful!" We will not be able to respect our elders and will ruin everything by having this sort of ego. So really, we must [learn] from their experience and have the strength to do so. Their experience and our strength will lead to outstanding results, do you understand?

In whatever has happened up until now, we should respect our elders and take advantage of their experiences, and if we have to make any big decisions in our lives, we should take their guidance and move forward cautiously. Does that sound good?

Our parents have many positive qualities, but their generation had some special traits that seem to be missing in our generation. Let us listen to what Dadashri has said about this...



Blessed Are Those Humble and Thoughtful People!

A Glimpse of One of Dadashri's Books



In those days, the influence of Kali-yug was not there. There was not a single negative thought for anyone, how amazing! There were no sort of sexual thoughts at all. People were innocent and simple! So, in those days, I had never heard of anyone viewing the girls of Bhadrans with a sexual intent. Blessed were the people of that time!

Questioner: Dada, the original tradition of our six elite villages was that all the people [of the village] were one big family.

Dadashri: Yes, they were one big family.

Questioner: It was because of this tradition in our village that some nobility had remained, it had remained on that basis. It had remained in the six elite villages because of that.

Dadashri: No one would disrespect any of the girls, not even to the slightest.

Questioner: Because from the beginning it was a tradition to not marry in the village, as everyone was from the

same family. That was why we could not even look at the girls in the village with a sexual intent.

Dadashri: Forget about marriage, you were not even allowed to think about them. No one viewed the women with a sexual intent. Instead, they thought of them as their sisters.

Questioner: They were indeed sisters, and because they thought of them as their sisters so strongly, nothing would touch them!

Dadashri: Now even if they roamed around naked, they were viewed as sisters. People roaming around naked can be called simpletons, but what about the fact that the girls were viewed as their sisters?

Questioner: Yes, Dada that is a huge deal.

Dadashri: Things should be viewed in entirety, should they not? Otherwise, what would it look like?

Questioner: It was based on their understanding at the time.

Parents



Are Lying

Jai Sat Chit Anand friends,

You must be surprised to read the title, right? After the arrival of a child in the life of a couple, they forget about their 'Me Time' for the rest of their lives. The importance of the child in their lives becomes more than their own. To be honest, my mom and dad lie to me a lot.

They lie by saying, “You can get new clothes. We do not feel like wearing new clothes anymore.”

They take the bus to work but they buy me expensive study tools so that I can study well, and they do not even let me know about any of this.

When there is some food item that comes home, my sister and I argue saying, “She got a bigger share or he got more.” So, then our mom gives some of her share to us. When we ask her, “Do you not want it?” Then she responds, “No, no I am not hungry. You both can have it.”

My dad lies to us when he is playing games with us by hiding his work fatigue through his laughter and excitement.

Yes, they lied. But they lied because they love us.

Love You Mom & Dad



Today's Generation, From the Gnani's Viewpoint

Questioner: These days there is a lot of opposition in the family and adjustments have to be made everywhere, so why is it like this? Is it because of education or over maturity? Is it a problem to be mature at a younger age?

Niruma: For one, this generation is a **‘hyper generation.’** The previous generation was much less hyper and now this generation has become very hyper. Their revolutions are extremely fast. Earlier they were slower. Whatever happened in life or whatever was shown by their parents, there was no argument or questioning against that, and it was acceptable to them. Today, even if they are small children, two or three years old, and if we say anything to them, they ask ten questions, “Why? Why? Why? Why do this? Why do that?”

Before, if we were told, “Sit in a corner for two hours,” then we would go sit and not ask, “Why are you telling me to sit there?” These days they will not even sit for two minutes. This generation has become so hyper! Due to being so hyper, their minds have become restless and distracted! There is no stability. Previously they could sit still in one place for several hours, but children of today cannot sit [for that long].

Questioner: Niruma, before there was an elder of the family in the house. He was the senior member of the family and whatever he ordered was final for all of us.

Niruma: The reason is that they did not use their intellect and so the intellect did not arise. Whereas today, ten questions arise. Even a small child questions his elders, “Why does grandpa do this? Grandpa does this, grandpa does that, grandpa is wrong.” Such an intellect did not arise in us. Do you understand our point of view and what we are trying to say?



Questioner: Yes, I understand.

Niruma: Our viewpoint is that **the intellect in this generation has become very fast and sharp.** You can say it is because of education, globalization, or due to the fast computer era. It is the age of computers as well as the internet, TV, and many other sorts of media. Globalization has happened to the world and life has become fast-paced. Everyone has their own tensions, tensions, and tensions. Even small children say, “I am in a lot of tension.” This person just said that he has been saying “I get very angry.” He has been saying this since he was three or four years old. During our days, we didn’t know what anger was, we didn’t even know whom to be angry with. It was very easy. And now, in schools these days, studies have been causing a lot of tension. The wife will have tension if she takes care of the house, the husband will have tension if he goes to earn money. Wherever you look there is tension and that means the mind is not stable, it is restless. Nothing can be taken easily and whatever stability and rationality remains, it has all become shallow, there is no more depth. People have gotten education, but they are not developed. They are all focused on one track and one track only. They have become skilled in only one direction, and they have the know-how about only what they have learned in school. They are not knowledgeable about other things. They are not all-rounders. If they were all-rounders, then all of these problems would be solved easily. But they are focused on one track only!

The Key to Success



Good morning, Ahmedabad. “I am RJ Abhay and with us today is Mr. Jay, a three-time gold medalist in the state-level running race [500m]. We will learn from him the secret to his non-stop success.” So please Mr. Jay, share with our young listeners: What is the key to your success?

Good morning, young friends! I am Jay and today I have received a chance to talk about the secret to my success. Life is a great learning friends!

Since our young friends are listening today, I will start by talking about my childhood. I would like to give credit for all my success to my parents. My father was a runner and he always wanted me to be a better runner than him. Ever since I was a little boy, my father used to train me every morning. While kids my age were waking up at seven in the morning, I had to get up at five in the morning. I didn’t like waking up that early, but because my father said so, I had to get up early every day. One day, I asked my mom, “Why is my father being so hard on me? All my friends wake up late, they eat what they want, they go wherever they want to go, but I have to get up early every day, I can’t eat what I want. Why is he doing this with me?”

After thinking for a little bit, my mom replied, “Do one thing, if you want to live like your friends, you have to beat your father once in a race and if you beat him, then I will tell your father whatever you want me to tell him.”

At the time, I didn’t understand why my mom had told me this. But I wanted to do what my friends were doing and live like a ‘free bird,’ so I started getting up early every day and worked hard to beat my father. But I was very surprised because, despite both of us having the race, there was no difference in the training and on



the contrary, as the day of our race approached, he started training me more. When the race day came and I finally won, my father was happier than me! Rather than eating and drinking like my friends, I now had a stronger desire to advance further in running and I told my father, “Dad, now I want to become better at running. I will do as you say. I will get up early every day, I will not eat outside food, but you must train me even more.”

From that day on, my father started training me better. My view of my father had also changed. Even if my father yelled at me, I was still able to take it positively. In this manner, by taking my father’s comments positively and working hard, I reached the Olympics!

Then came a time when I felt that no one could beat me, and this attitude started reflecting in my actions. That is when my father warned me, “Son, you should be confident, but do not be arrogant about your skills. It doesn’t take long for a person to fall because of arrogance.” There is a saying that a man gets blinded by his ego. I told my father who had brought me up to this point, “Dad, you wouldn’t know, I think that you are saying this not because of my arrogance, but because you have a problem with my belief that ‘No one will ever be able to beat me.’”

Then things started going downhill from there. The race in which I could have easily won the gold medal;

I came in 4th place. That day I realized that I had made a huge mistake by not listening to my father’s advice and by having seen the negatives of the one who had got me this far!

I went to my father with a sad face. Looking at my face, my father said, “Son, it’s okay, we will work harder and surely bring the gold medal home next time.” Hearing this I got emotional, that even though I had misbehaved with my father, he was still thinking about my best interest.

That day I realized that parents always have our best interests in mind. Truly, our parents are a form of God on earth. I decided that no matter what happens in life, I will never see even the slightest negatives in my parents.

Till this day, I have always seen their positives, never done anything to hurt them and the result of that is in front of you. This is indeed the key to my non-stop success.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS



Q and A

Questioner: Why should we look at the positives of our parents and how do we do that?

Aptaputra: Dada says, “Whenever our friends help us, we say ‘Thank

you,’ but our parents have taken care of us even before we were born and have raised us with good moral values, yet we have never said, ‘Thank you’ to them.” So, can we not ignore their little mistakes? We don’t even know what our parents have done for us.

Questioner: I often get angry at them, so what should I do to stop that?

Aptaputra: When your mom gives you a meal that you do not like, you get angry with her because of your negative view that “She always makes food that I don’t like.” But, if you have a positive view during that situation, such as “I get the protein and vitamins I need from this meal,” then you will



not be angry with her. Are there not times when she makes food that you like? If you look at more of the positives of your parents, then you will not be angry with them.

Have you ever talked to your parents angrily or abusively or misbehaved with them?

Questioner: Yes, I get angry with them when I am in a bad mood or when I see their negatives.

Aptaputra: If your friend talks to you rudely two or three times, then you would stop talking to them. Even if you talk to your parents rudely, they don't leave you. If that were the case, wouldn't you have been placed in an

orphanage when you were born!? But no, your parents would not do that. We can't do as much as they have done for us, do you understand?

Questioner: How can we thank them for their kindness?

Aptaputra: Really, our 'thank you' to them is nothing compared to all that that they have done for us. If you really want to be thankful, you should stop the negative thoughts, anger, disrespect, and the abusive language and behavior towards them and live lovingly with them.

Activity

One of the activities of a session during a **GNC** youth camp organized by our Dada Bhagwan Foundation was to write a letter of thanks to our parents and give it to them. This activity brought oneness between the youth and their parents, eliminating previous conflicts and differences. This activity benefitted many of the youths. Let us read one such experience.



So, we have come up with a very nice activity for you this time. Take a pen and paper and write down all the kind things that your parents have done for you so far. Once you have written it down, read it to your parents. If you do not live with your parents, then call them and read them this letter.

To make this activity easier for you, we wrote down a sample letter as well as the experience the parents had after listening to the letter.

So, are all the youth ready to do this activity?



Letter to Parents

Date

No.

You have done a lot for me to this day. Mom, you took great care of me during the nine months before my birth, you constantly took great care of me such that I would not have any problems growing up and that I would have a great development. Mom, thank you so much. This love and gratitude of yours cannot be repaid till I die.

Dad, you have also done a lot for me. When I was younger, we had some financial problems. Yet, you never let me fall short of anything for my convenience. When we were younger, you used to take us on trips to different places. No matter how expensive the toy I wanted was, you never said I couldn't have it. I remember that when I was younger, I was very fond of bicycles. We were not in a position where we could afford a new bicycle, so you cut down other expenses and took a lot of adjustments in order to get the bicycle I liked. To this day, whatever I have asked for, you have gotten it for me as soon as you had the money for it. Mom would always say, "You are spoiling the boy, you are doing this and that..." yet you have never made me feel upset.

Sometimes when I did not get what I wanted, I would get angry, but your love for me never decreased. When necessary, you got angry at me, but you have never done anything to hurt me... You are a very caring father, thank you so much.

Mom, when I was around 10-12 years old, I used to cry for little things. Everyone would get mad at me, yet you always took my side. You would make my favorite food by saving money from household expenses. I would speak rudely to you at times. Once I even told you, "You won't get a place even in hell." I am sorry Mom from the bottom of my heart for all this misbehavior. I will forever have regret for saying all this to you, despite you having done so much for me. If possible, please forgive me.

To this day, I have never done anything to meet your expectations, yet the love from both of you for me has never diminished. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I will do my best to become the boy that you want me to be.

- Darshit Vaishnav

Experience

This was a great experience. At first, I thought that whatever my parents were doing, it was their duty to do it. After writing the letter to my parents, I realized that what I had understood to be my parents' duty, was really all done as a favor to all their children. I changed a lot when I got home. When Dad goes to the office, I say, "Come back soon." When he comes back home, I say, "How was your day?" I have started to have more informal conversations that I did not have before.

I do what my mom tells me right away and I have started sharing everything that happened to me during the day with both my parents. "How was your day, what did you do during the day?" I have started having all these conversations. The atmosphere at home feels a lot more caring. Overall, this has been a life-changing experience.

- Mehul Gohil

Once when I visited an orphanage, I got to meet children who had to struggle a lot in lives. They had to stay there because they did not have parents. Seeing the plight and helplessness of those children, I began to feel incredibly lucky. I got whatever I wanted and enjoyed everything by insisting for it. How must these children get what they want? Who would give them love? Do they get their favorite food? How can one live without the love of their parents? Many questions arose...

Under the protection of my parents, I began to feel as though 'I was the luckiest child in the world.'

- Khyati Gondaliya

Jokes

Father: Why did you get such low marks in school?

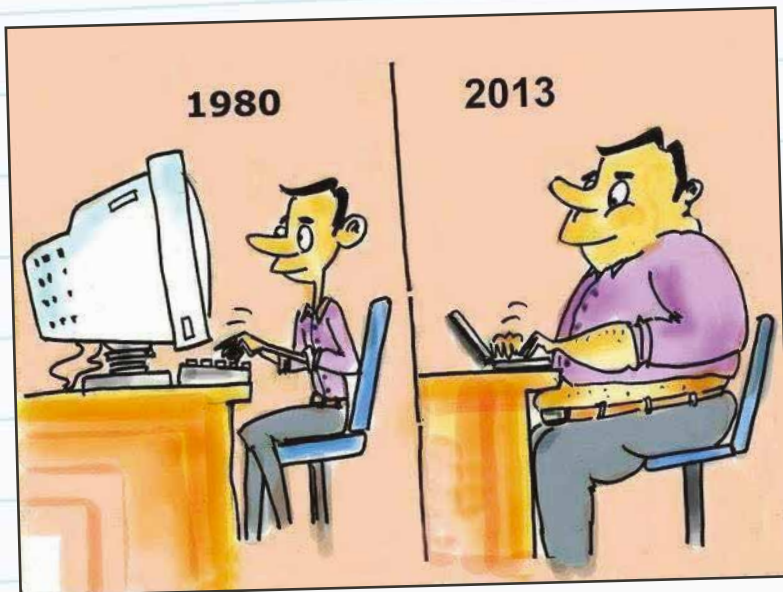
Son: Absence.

Father: You were absent during the exams?

Son: No, but the boy who sits next to me during the exam was absent.

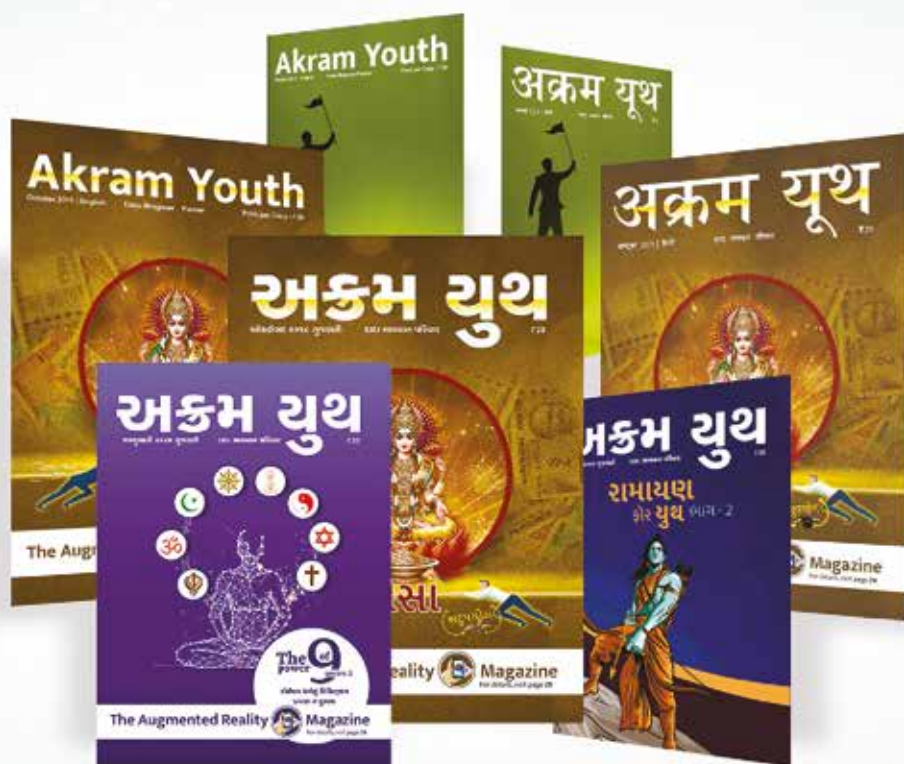
Mother to her children: I will give a gift to whoever listens to what I say and does not answer back.

Children: Wow! Then all the gifts will be taken away by Dad!



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#Poem

**Thoda junaa, kyarek garam kyarek shital dhaaraa...
Toyey baalko maate, kaayam premaad khub saaraa...**

**Huf thi sichyaa-saachavyaa, jem koi komal phul...
Matbhed che toh svikaari lo, aapni koi bhul...**

**Tofaan tamaraa hasine, taadi didhaa jemne majaakmaa...
Tamaare pan hasine jatu karvu, emnaa koi vaankmaa...**

**Emne aabhaari che aashaa, ne je badhi savaar che...
Vaanka prasange ganvaa besvu, ketla emnaa upkaar che...**

**Dadaji amaraa kahe sansaare, suki thavano upaay che...
Sukh aave tyan dodi, je ghar maa-baapni seva thaay che...**



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