



Research Article

NEEDS FOR ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR YOUNG FEMALE YOUTH

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Abstract: Government is promoting and supporting various start ups and investing in guiding, grooming and growth of youth's ideas of entrepreneurial activities. Much of entrepreneurial activities need to be promoted in agriculture sector with agriculture and allied field students (youth) to take up such ventures. Youth often look for appropriate jobs and livelihood after their graduation for which good communication skills is the first step to communicate their ideas, thoughts and later need skills to execute the plan of action. All kinds of livelihood that requires interaction with every generation and the family is the unit that can provide the youth varied interaction opportunities to ability to communicate with different generations. Since communication begins from home, therefore, a study was conducted with female youth of a college to know their ability to communicate with different relations in the family. A questionnaire was developed and data collected was consolidated. It was revealed that youth had average to very high communication with their parents (father and mother) but with respect to siblings (older and younger) and grandparents, poor the communication ability was also reported. The 31.8% girls could communicate with strangers, 27% communicated only they were asked to but rest either did not communicate at all, or were choosy to communicate with strangers. Since communication skills are important for various walks of life, it is recommended that appropriate training at needed to build personality of the youth who are the futures of our country. Thus, goal of the paper is to draw the attention of the readers and the scientific community to consider the enhancement of the communication skills of female youth, for their day to day living and livelihood that requires interaction with every generation, as poor communication ability with family members indicates the need to build the capacity of youth for their future which could relate to agriculture and allied areas and calls for research and out-reach programmes and modules.

Keywords: *Intergenerational communication, Preparedness for livelihood, University students, Communication enhancement research, Training and modules*

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Introduction

Communication skills are important for various walks of life as it not only enables us to express feelings and ideas, it also fetches jobs, livelihood, social recognition social and emotional attachment. The importance of studying communication ability of children, especially youth, lies on the fact that the family is the basic unit of a larger society where children socialize and learn to communicate with members belonging to various ages and generation [1]. Family is the first ecological unit that provides communication opportunities. According to prokerala (2022) the members of family express their requirements, love, desires, advises etc., to each other person in the family through the communication. Their communication is very much different from that with formal communication [2]. Oxfordre noted that families shape individuals throughout their lives, and family communication is the foundation of family life and functioning. Through communication, families and its members learn how to organize meanings. As communication systems, families repeat themselves within and across generations through their interactions with one another. A family develops its own communication codes and methods based on the experiences of individual members, as well as the collective family experience. Communication serves to facilitate the emotional and social connectivity or cohesion of families and balance the emotional distances among members [3]. "Family Communication at the End of Life" have provided evidence that communication is important between and for terminally ill individuals, family members, and healthcare/palliative care specialists [4]. Shojae, et al., (2018) reported that in the study conducted to compare family communication patterns among Iranian individuals with blindness, deafness and individuals with typically developing.

All Iranian individuals with blindness, deafness and individuals with typically developing in Shiraz, Iran were included in the study, thus, the sample consisted of 116 individuals (32 individuals with blindness, 21 individuals with deafness, and 63 individuals with typically developing). The Revised Family Communication Patterns scale was used for measuring the family communication patterns and Multivariate analysis of variance test were used for data analysis. The results showed that conversation orientation in individuals with typically developing were significantly higher than individuals with blindness and deafness ($P<0.001$). The conversation orientation in individuals with blindness was significantly higher than individuals with deafness ($P<0.001$). The findings also showed that the conformity orientation in individuals with blindness and deafness were significantly higher than individuals with typically developing ($P<0.001$). There was no significant difference among individuals with blindness and deafness in terms of conformity orientation. Thus, the results of the study indicated that reforming of family communication patterns is essential for individuals with blindness and deafness [5]. Family communication behavior and family beliefs about how family members should communicate with one another are closely related and combine to create family communication patterns [6]. Parenting was conceptualized as the domain of mothers, and the mother-child relationship was viewed as the primary intergenerational relationship in the family. It has been only recently that fathers, grandparents, and the role of culture and ethnicity have begun to play a significant role in family communication research [7]. Since, communication ability with family members reflects preparedness of the youth for their future roles of livelihood, a study was undertaken with objective to know the youth's own

assessment of their ability to communication with their family members and strangers with female youth studying in Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Uttar Pradesh India. The paper also brings out the findings of self-reported communication ability among the young female youths studying in agricultural university belonging to patriarchal families. It further discusses the needs for enhancement of communication skills among the female youth.

Material and Methods

Descriptive ex-post-facto research design was used for the study, conducted with College female youth (students) of Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology with objective to understand their ability to communicate with their family members and strangers. The self-designed questionnaire was given to the youth for their sincere responses after taking explaining the purpose of the study. The data was consolidated and analyzed.

Results and Discussion

The findings of the study are expressed with respect to communication with parents (father and mother), older siblings (brothers and sisters), younger siblings (brothers and sisters), grand-parent (grandfather and grandmother) and strangers. The results with respect to communication with parents (father and mother) is presented in [Table-1].

Table-1 Ability of female youth in Communication with parents

Level of Communication ability	Father (%)	Mother (%)
Very High	68.2	81.8
High	27.3	13.7
Average	4.5	4.5

It was found that all the girls had average to very high level of communication ability with their parents. 81.8% of college students revealed very high communication, 13.7 per cent had high level and only 4.5 percent reported average communication ability with respect to their mother. In case of father communication skills of more than half young girls (68.2%), high (27.3%) and a few had average communication ability (4.5%). Vargas (2021) stated that communication between adolescents and parents is one of the most difficult things in the realm of family relationships [8]. But in the present study, students' reported high communication with parents, a good sign that can enable teachers to help plan activities and strategies with parents for growth and personality development of the youth. As Clay (2021) mentioned that effective communication is essential to create strong school-home partnerships and to increase parental involvement [9]. This will benefit the youth as Runcan *et al.*, (2012) stated that more the parents communicate with the children, the more the children will improve their communication abilities and will relate better to the people around them [10].

Communication with siblings

Bagwell, (2021) opined that sibling spend more time with each other than with either parent alone. In fact, the sibling relationship is likely the longest relationship of all personal relationships [11]. Therefore, the study recorded the responses of the female youth with their siblings. [Table-2] & [Table-3] presents the ability with older and younger sibling respectively.

Table-2 Ability of female youth in Communication with older siblings

Level of Communication ability	Older Brother (%)	Older Sister (%)
Very High	59.1	45.5
High	27.3	22.7
Average	9.1	13.6
Low	0	0
Poor	4.5	18.2

[Table-2] revealed that the female youth had a varied level of communication ability with their older siblings. Their communication ability with their older brother was very high for 59.1% female students, high (27.3%), average (9.1%) and poor (4.5%). While the young adult girls revealed very high communication ability (45.5%), high (22.7%), average (13.6%) and poor (18.2%). Bagwell quoted Jacobs and Sillars' report that siblings who support each other are more likely to adjust to disruptions in the family structure in a positive manner. Siblings who regularly

communicate provide each other support as allies given their uniquely shared experiences [11]. Thus, there need to improve the relations with older sibling as older siblings play an important role in the lives of their younger siblings. Like parents, older brothers and sisters act as role models and teachers, helping their younger siblings learn about the world and learn new skills.

Table-3 Ability of female youth to Communication with younger siblings

Level of Communication ability	Younger Brother (%)	Younger Sister (%)
Very High	59.1	57.1
High	18.2	19
Average	18.2	4.8
Low	0	4.8
Poor	4.5	14.3

[Table-3] reveals that the young female had very high ability to communicate with their younger brother (59.1%) and sister (57.1%), high 18.2% and 19% for younger brother and sister respectively. Girls (18.2% and 4.8% respectively) informed to have average ability to communicate with their younger brother and sister respectively. Interestingly, none of the female youth had low communication ability with their younger brother but a few (4.8%) had low communication with their younger sister. Poor communication was reported with younger brother (4.5%) and sister (14.3%). Myers (2022) also found that not all sibling communication is positive; at times, siblings engage in verbal aggressiveness toward one another [12].

Table-4 Ability of female youth to Communication with grand parents

Level of Communication ability	Grand father (%)	Grand mother (%)
Very High	31.8	45.5
High	31.8	27.3
Average	27.3	22.7
Low	0	0
Poor	9.1	4.5

As per [Table-4] the communication ability with grandfather was very high for 31.8%, college students, high (31.8%) and average (27.3%), but there were a few (9.1%) girls who had poor communication with their grandfather. With respect to grandmother, 45.5 per cent girls had very high communication ability followed by high (27.3%), average (22.7%), but 4.5% of the college students had poor communication ability with their grandmother which is a great concern as grandparents are reservoirs of traditional and age proven skills and knowledge. Harwood, (2000) in a study surveyed college-aged grandchildren as to the frequency of their communication with a grandparent using various media. Face-to-face (FtF) and telephone communication were used more frequently than written media, but all were used fairly frequently [13]. The generational gap in communication can lead to loss of valuable social bonding, transfer of knowledge and practices and understanding developed through communication between the generations. Therefore, there need to enhance the communication with the grandparents and similar age for young female youth can extend their scope of interaction and their livelihood endeavors.

Table-5 Ability of female youth to communication with strangers

Statement of Communication ability	Female youth (%)
Do not communicate at all	4.5
Communicate hesitantly	9.1
Communicate only with them when they are ask	9.1
Communicate only when feel the need	27.3
Choosy about speaking to strangers	9.1
Comfortable speaking to strangers	9.1
Can communicate to any person any time	31.8

As revealed in [Table-5], the female youth shared that they could communicate with any strangers any time (31.8%); while others communicated with strangers only when they the need to do so (27.3%), communicated hesitantly, communicated only when they were asked to, were choosy about speaking to strangers (9.1% each). While some youth (9.1%) revealed that they were comfortable to communicate with strangers. A few (4.5%) did not communicate with strangers at all. These are cause of concern as the youth should be well prepared to be able to communicate with strangers or unknown person to handle the life management and survival situations as well as for the personality development and achieving their personal and social goals.

Conclusion

Communication skills of youth are basic to their livelihood and youth experiences a varied level of communication ability with their parents, grandparents, older and younger sibling. Their confidence to communicate with strangers may be a reflection to their ability to communicate with their family members. But not all female youth had very high communication with persons of different generation, which is a cause to be concern with as if the youth have reservations in talking and communicating with family members, with whom they are expected to have close and strong social-emotional bonding, they may have difficulty with communication with people/clients of different generation and age groups. Therefore, institutions involved with research must encourage researches on communication skills of the youth especially female who are usually suppressed in patriarchal societies. The training institutes and programme need to consider designing appropriate modules on communication skills. While communication skills should also find its way into technical and marketing training as built-in component. The extension and subject matter specialists should also sandwich the aspects of communication skills with their subject oriented training to enable youth to market their produce at various platform. Training the youth in enhancing communication skills will not only improve their relations with their family members but also at society at large. Thus, personality, build can fetch dividends to the society and the nation.

Application of research: The findings of the research shall be applicable in designing training modules to build capacity of youth for skill learning and public dealing in their start-ups. Modules to improve the interpersonal relationship among the family members is also need of the hour.

Research Category: Human Development and Family Studies

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