Age-Based Stereotypes

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1. Gender-based Stereotypes and age-based stereotypes are quite common in this complex and conflicting world. It has been a common practice among the peoples of the world to compare and contrast different generations belonging to different time periods. A number of generational theories are discussed to effectively understand the exact nature of those generations. Similarly, there have been several theses and anti-theses about Generation Y (1981-1999). According to social and political thinkers, this generation and its experiences are shaped by the invention of computers, economic boom, and the, most significantly, September 11 attacks ( Linda P, 2002). However, not all these theories are accurate in their description. It has been suggested that we are narcissistic and self-centered, which is a biased opinion. Furthermore, the point that we value inputs is not totally justified. Nevertheless, some of the views are correct as well as people born during these years like challenges, and yes, we are a technology- literate generation. Moreover, Generation Y has a strong moral sense as well. Hence, some age-based stereotypes are valid, but not all of them.
2. Yes! I used to consider that people belonging to the next generation are more skeptical of authority. I used to assume that those individuals do not like to be governed by any legitimate authority. However, I was mistaken in this view. Sociologists and social thinkers have associated this trait with Generation Y. The assumption is a subjective point of view, not an objective one. Moreover, I used to assume that older people are more egoistic in nature, which is wrong. Even the same perspective is shared for Generation Y. in addition, I used to believe that generation X is more social than us, but I was wrong. This attribute of being more social is associated with my generation Y.
3. It makes me feel very uncomfortable when someone assumes anything about me. It is not justified to subjectively perceive things. One should keep in mind that subjectivity only offers a lop-sided view of things. It is never an accurate version of reality. Hence, this stereotypical assessment of things is quite common in societies. Nevertheless, stereotypes are not the actual description as generalization never works accurately.
4. The three sociological perspectives on ageing are conflict, functionalism, and symbolic interactionism. These three sociological perspectives view the process of ageing differently (McPherson, 1983). Symbolic interactionism highlights that energy diminishes with the age and elderly people lose interactions as well. They are not that much active in society. Functionalism states that this something natural and this is an important factor in promoting the harmonious equilibrium in society. Furthermore, conflict sociologist opines that aged people are fighting with young people for their share of resources. Every sociological perspective has its own area of study and presents different views on the natural process of ageing.
5. The functionalist perspective of ageing resonates more with my views on aging. I strongly believe that this is something natural in society. The process of ageing is natural and universal. Everyone has to go through it and one must be prepared enough to deal with the associated challenges. Hegel states that change is constant in life, so one must be ready enough for the process. Societies have set patterns that help in balancing different elements in societies. So, this perspective helps in balancing both young and elders of the society. Moreover, other sociological perspectives are also valid under their own circumstances. Nevertheless, functionalism is more relevant and important in understanding the concept of age-based stereotypes.

**References**

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