ABSTRACT

An attempt was made to study the generation gap in Goan society. Generational differences in attitudinal modernity and value orientations were explored. The influence of socio-economic status (SES) and sex on these differences was examined. SES served as the main independent variable. 60 boys and 60 girls in each of the two SES categories - high SES and low SES - and both their parents were interviewed. The total sample included 240 undergraduate college students and 480 parents. Instruments used were: 1. Attitudinal Modernity Scale consisting of 100 items measuring 4 dimensions of modernity – Socio-cultural, Personality, Political and Health. 2. Contemporary Topics Questionnaire (CTQ) consisting of 36 items about the issues of Terrorism, Sex, Drug use, Casteism, Authority and Dress code. The analysis of modernity scores indicated the presence of a significant generation gap. Generational differences were least on political modernity and highest on socio-cultural modernity. The gap was more pronounced at the high SES level than at the low SES level. Sex did not have a differential impact on modernity scores of both the generations. The analysis of CTQ scores revealed a significant generation gap on only two of the six contemporary topics, namely Casteism and Dress code. The student generation was more permissive towards the issues of Drug use and Terrorism, while the parents displayed more concern towards these issues.