

Just 7% boys & 4% girls discuss growing up issues...

■ Yes, looks like generation gap is still out there. Or so claims a recent government endorsed survey wherein young adults choose to confide more in friends, than their moms and dads...

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

Are new age young adults talking to their parents? Perhaps not. Fathers appear to be worse off when it comes to communicating with their children. Only 7 per cent boys and 4 per cent girls aged 15-24 discuss "growing up" issues with their fathers, according to a recently concluded youth survey. Mothers were equally bad when it came to their sons, with only 6 per cent boys confiding and "discussing life" with them. In comparison, 77 per cent of girls spoke more freely to

Call them Gen I (the Internet generation). Teens rely on the net for everything — from finding new friends to growing up issues. Whereas some Baby Boomers might not even know how to operate a computer...

Samir Parikh, psychiatrist

their mothers, mostly about issues relating to physical health and puberty.

The survey, conducted by the International Institute for Population Sciences and Population Council and endorsed by the Union health ministry, spoke to nearly 51,000 married and unmarried young males and females from six states — Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The survey found that school performance, which is not a sensitive topic, was the most common subject of conversation between children and their parents. In contrast, embarrassing topics, such as romance, relationships and reproduction, were rarely discussed with ei-

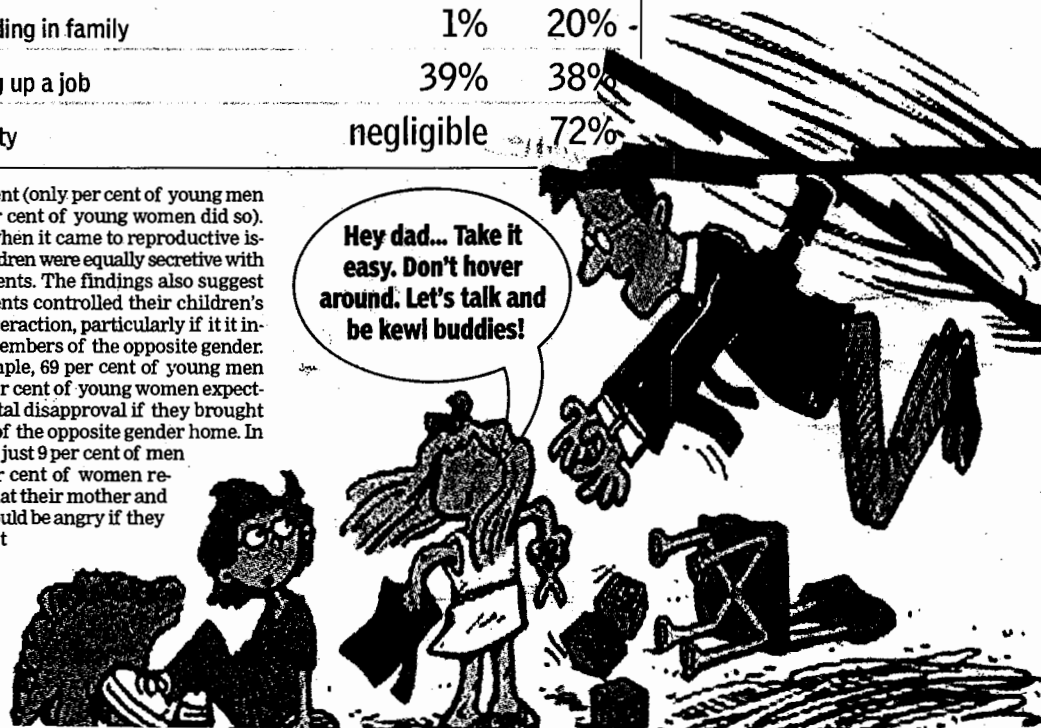
PAPA DON'T PREACH		
What they talk about	Boys	Girls
Growing up issues with father	7%	4%
Confiding and discussing life with mother	6%	77%
Romance and reproduction with either parent	1%	6%
School performance	a lot	a lot
Disapproval over friend of opposite gender	69%	84%
Disapproval over love marriage	84%	94%
Confiding in friends	85%	46%
Confiding in family	1%	20%
Taking up a job	39%	38%
Puberty	negligible	72%

ther parent (only per cent of young men and 6 per cent of young women did so). In fact, when it came to reproductive issues, children were equally secretive with both parents. The findings also suggest that parents controlled their children's social interaction, particularly if it involved members of the opposite gender. For example, 69 per cent of young men and 84 per cent of young women expected parental disapproval if they brought a friend of the opposite gender home. In contrast, just 9 per cent of men and 5 per cent of women reported that their mother and father would be angry if they brought

home friends of the same gender.

On the other hand, Indian parents were most likely to disapprove of love marriages for their children, as reported by 84 per cent of young men and 94 per cent of young women. With regard to perceived parental reactions to a love marriage, state-wise differences were evident for young men, with those from southern states considerably less likely than those from other states to perceive disapproval (67-78 per cent versus 85-94 per cent). Among young women, in contrast, state-wise differences were negligible; over 90 per cent of young women in all the states reported parental disapproval of a love marriage. In fact, almost all those who were interviewed had an arranged marriage. This led to only 30 per cent of young men and 22 per cent of young women being aware of what to expect from their married life.

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