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Interview Paper

Chinmay Patel is a part of the Baby Boomer generation. Not only that, but he is my mum's brother, which makes him my uncle. My family is a little different when it comes to relationships with one another and how we navigate them. I chose to interview and analyze Chinmay because although he is a Boomer, he has had different experiences as a Boomer than the average American. Chinmay was born and partially raised in India before moving to Zimbabwe, so his experiences with technology and political movements were a lot different than what someone who was born and raised in America would have experienced. In this paper, I will first give some background into who Chinmay is and what it means to him to be a member of the Baby Boomers. I will then follow up with an analysis on some of the differences he sees in Generation Z and his own generation as well as some quotes from the interview and then I will conclude my paper with some closing statements and key takeaways from this analysis of this paper.

Firstly, I would like to touch on Chinmay's idea on what it means to him to be a Boomer. When I asked him this question, he said that he did not actually know that he was considered a Boomer. After that I explained to him what the classifications of the generations were and then asked him what it means to him to be a part of the Boomers, he said "It means that we have seen

a lot of changes within, I would say my lifespan. So if I look back, growing up in India and moving to Zimbabwe, we saw a lot of technological changes.”. Something he said that resonated with me that we discussed in class was that he witnessed the invention of the television and how radio was a huge part of his entertainment, saying “I grew up at a time when having a pocket radio was a big thing. We would listen to the commentary for cricket on the radio. We did not have television, then later on we had a black and white TV.” Although the TV was technically invented in the 1920’s (Wikipedia contributors, 2024), India was far behind when it came to technology and only reached the country around the 1970’s, according to Chinmay’s memory. He also noted that some of the more ‘wow’ moments for him were “DVD players, cassette players, CDs and now you have the MP3 players. Experiencing something from a flip phone to a smartphone to talking to you like this (On Zoom) was unthinkable a few years ago.”.

I then moved on to ask him about what he sees as some similarities between my generation and his response was “We grew up in a time when everything kept on changing. I forgot to mention the appearance of the internet, which was again, a big thing. So for your generation, I would say your starting point is different.”. He then flipped the question onto me and asked me, “What is it that you see as a big breakthrough in technology in your times? I’ve told you what it is in my times, but you tell me.”, so I said “I guess AI now is a really big breakthrough. When I was born, we still had DVD players. I grew up with DVDs and CDs and all that. And for video games, I had a DS that was the most crazy video game console to have. And then it slowly progressed to the Xbox and the PlayStation, and now I think they just keep progressing those things. We got VR, virtual reality. I was alive, I’m pretty sure when the first iPhone came out, because I remember mum had the Nokia flip phone and dad had the Blackberry phone. So I was around when the very first iPhone got announced.”.

Later in our interview, I asked him what he felt were some differences between my generation and his. His response was interesting, and he noted that Gen Z kids are more inclined to choose a job that aligns with their values, which is something I remember discussing in class. He had mostly positive things to say about my generation though, saying that “It's all positive in the sense the current generation has got a lot more choices than what we had. These guys have got so many more opportunities than what we used to have. Besides, I've heard that the younger generation want to live life now in the sense of their spending habits, or even when it comes to work related stuff, they're very clear about what they want and they're willing to quit a job or things like that. In our generation, if you have a job, you really hold onto it. You don't kind of experiment unless you have got enough experience, but to keep on hopping jobs or that would be a bit shocking. But then times have changed. You have to now hop earlier so that you get varied experiences, and that helps you to clarify some of your own thinking also.”. I found this really interesting that he noted that because it was something that we had discussed in class and it was something that I personally really resonated with.

At the end of the interview, I was curious to know about some of the monumental experiences. As I said before, my uncle was born or raised in the United States, and so this makes his political experiences very different and unique to most of my classmates most likely. Chinmay explained to me that from the time India gained its independence from Britain in 1947 (US Census Bureau, 2023), Indira Gandhi's party was in power until she was assassinated by her bodyguards on October 21st, 1984 (Wikipedia contributors, 2024). After that, the power then switched over to Indira's son, Rajiv Gandhi, until he was assassinated in 1991 due to a suicide bombing (*Reap the Whirlwind — the Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi*, n.d.). Chinmay noted that “I was about 13, 14 years old. So I remember that as a big monumental thing for the first time ever

that the ruling party had lost. I mean, we would just watch the news, but there weren't many protests happening, there were more in the rural areas.”.

Overall, after conducting this interview with Chinmay Patel, there is a lot about my generation and his that is honestly quite similar if you think about it. As someone who does not have any family who grew up in America, my family’s views on certain topics and events are different compared to someone who did. Some of my key takeaways from conducting this interview with my uncle is that everyone, no matter what generation they come from, experiences drastic changes in their lifetime. Whether that be technological advancements, political movements or societal changes, the fact of the matter is that the world is changing and there is nothing wrong with that. The world will continue to change and there is nothing wrong with that, but what is important is that we continue to grow and change with the world.

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