

Comenius

Evolution of the Society

Questionnaire "Three Generations"

Evaluation :

The results of the questionnaire show clear tendencies : the more we look back (from parents to grandparents) the more it shows that...

in everyday life

- ...mostly the husbands were working (rural population excepted).
- ...there was a greater number of children in the families.
- ...people were walking to places more frequently than going by any vehicle whatsoever.
- ...they spent less time on organised activities after school.
- ...they were subordinated to parental decisions as to their outfits.

as far as festivities are concerned

- ... former generations stucked more closely to traditional festivities.
- ...celebrated religious festivities more actively.
- ...all three generatins are and were familiar with main events such as baptism, confirmation, marriage and funerals.

as far as school is concerned

- ...they had less or no lessons in the afternoons.
- ...grandparents had about the same number of pupils in their classes as their grandchildren.
(It was the generation of parents that had a strongly elevated number of pupils in their classes due to the high birth rate after the World War II).
- ...there was no school uniform in either generation besides the apron that the grandparents often had to wear.
- ... most astonishingly punishments ressembled each others. It was one generation further back that experienced really drastic (also physical) punishments.

as far as food is concerned

- ...the number of meals hasn't changed much, neither their duration, but "conditions" did.
(often family members eat their meals indiviually today).
- ...in former times (among the pupils' grandparents) meals took place together with all the family members.
- ...vegetables were eaten more regularly.
- ...meat was eaten less frequently by the generation of the grandparents (rural population excepted).
- ...more meals that contained a lot of fat were eaten, but less sweets.

as far as social life is concerned

- ...former generations were less frequently allowed to go out and if so, they had to be back home much earlier.
- ...activities did not differ decisively except for 'shopping activities' and –of course- dancing meant something different than it does today.
- ...consumption was –of course- more modeste.
- ...young people of the generation of the pupils' grandparents smoked less and only cigarettes

as far as **new technologies** are concerned

...less hours were spent using technical means of communication.

...more direct contacts took place.

...there were more close friendships due to the fact that contacts couldn't be replaced easily by chat-friends.

Evidently the above results can also be interpreted vice versa, if we point out the characteristics of the actual generation.