Intergenerational gaps in digital understanding and skills in Palestinian society in Israel

# Details

## Year

2018

## DOI

10.1007/s10639-018-9755-x

## Issued

2018

## Language

English

## Volume

23

## Issue

6

## Start Page

## End Page

## Authors

Abu-Asbah K.

## Type

Journal article

## Journal

Education and Information Technologies

## Publisher

Springer Science and Business Media LLC

## Topics

## Sample

120 pairs of parents and their children took part in the research. To select the sample, the Central region of Israel was divided into large towns (more than 15,000 residents) and villages (less than 15,000 residents). Two large towns and two villages were selected randomly in the central region of Israel. Approximately half of the parent sample were female (54%) and 46% were male.
Regarding the youth from the families: the percentage of girls is 58%, while the percentage of boys is 42%

## Implications For Policy Makers About

Other

## Other PolicyMaker Implication

bridge digital gaps between parents and children.

# Abstract

The research dealt with intergenerational gaps in the use of digital technology
in Palestinian society in Israel and its influence on relations between parents and
their children. 120 parents from the center of the country participated in the study and
one of the children (male or female) from each couple. Findings indicate the existence
of inter-generational gaps in the ways in which the Internet is used between parents and
children. Additionally, there are differences in the users’ self-perception of their
technological capabilities; adults attribute greater familiarity with the Internet to children,
while they are not amenable to and have negative consideration towards the
Internet in contrast to the children’s views. This gap causes intergenerational tension
harming the parents’ authority and consequently stimulating parents’ attempts to
supervise the children’s use of the Internet. The children see the Internet as an intimate
space for activity relatively free from parental supervision.

# Outcome

Findings from the research (Abu-Asbeh, 2018) indicate that there are digital gaps between the
two generations, parents and their children. Gaps in technological expertise exist between the children’s generation that represents the technological era and their parents who represent the traditional era, characterized by a lack of progress and lack of technological consumerism. Additional research findings also indicate that there are digital gaps between those with academic education and those with little education, to the benefit of the academics. Another digital gap was found between males and females, to the benefit of the men. Gaps in extent of Internet surfing time also lead to gaps in familiarity with Internet use. Children are more familiar than their parents with Internet. The findings indicate that there are also differences in the type of Internet use by the two generations, such that children use the Internet more to share attitudes and thoughts than do their parents. The findings show that Palestinian parents tend to use various supervisory practices to control their children’s Internet use, including limiting their Internet surfing time,
restricting their Internet activities and following their actions on the Internet because of
their fear of the digital gap between them and their children and their feeling of powerlessness concerning these gaps. the research findings show that the digital gaps between parents and children injure relationships within the family because they generate tense relations and a lack of trust in the family unit