

# On the Challenges of Dating and Marriage in the New Generations

**Benyamin Ghojogh**

BGHOJOGH@UWATERLOO.CA

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA

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## Abstract

This is a paper on the realistic challenges of dating and marriage in the new generations. It discusses psychological, cultural, sociological, anthropological, technology-related, location-related, and immigration-related challenges of dating and marriage. In the psychological challenges, paradoxical signals from girls, enjoying rejection, exaggerated ignorance by girls, strange excuses for rejection, difficulties of later dating, and difficulties of getting help from family and friends are discussed. In cultural, social, and anthropological challenges, difficulty in finding out the relationship status of girls, increase in the age of marriage, non-availability of most girls, benefiting from partners, increase of common-law relationships, cultural and religious difficulties of dating out of marriage, relation of homosexuality and heterosexuality, and comparing treatment of the sexual needs of humans and animals are discussed. The technology-related challenges are escalated expectations by social media, high speed of change, and fake dating apps. The location-related challenges discuss difficulties of dating at work, bars, and public places. Immigration-related challenges also talk about the change of behaviors of girls before and after immigration, difficulties of cross-cultural marriage, few number of available same-nation girls, the problems of frequent movements after immigration, difficulties of distant dating, difficulties of travelling to the country of origin, and the possibility of undesired marriage fraud. Finally, the false loop of hunting is discussed in details and it is compared with the game of snakes and ladders. This paper concentrates on heterosexual relationships with the perspective of males. For other types of relationships and perspectives, similar papers are invited to be written by other researchers.

**Keywords:** dating, marriage, heterosexual relationship, new generations, anthropology, sociology, psychology, psychoanalysis

## 1. Introduction

This paper is an article in the areas of anthropology, sociology, and psychology. It is about challenges in dating and marriage among the new generations. The challenges reported in this paper are realistic because they are based on the experiences of real people including me, my family, my friends, others, and the people I have talked to or have interacted with in my life so far<sup>1</sup>. As a result, it is not a purely academic paper ignoring the real-world situations; rather, it is based on real experiences and it tries to enumerate the problems and challenges that new generations are dealing with for dating and marriage<sup>2</sup>. For the sake of my and others' privacy, I do not mention any names and do not say whose experiences the examples and situations are. The focus of this paper is on heterosexual relationships,

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1. I, the author of this paper, was born in 1993 and I am about thirty years and eight months old at the time of the write-up of this paper.

2. I believe as it is a paper based on reality, many people, especially single boys, will have empathy with many statements in this paper.

dating, and marriage with more focus on the perspective of men. For other types of relationships and other perspectives, other researchers and people are encouraged to write similar papers. I hope that this paper motivates researchers and scientists in anthropology, sociology, and psychology to propose solutions for the numerous challenges that the new generations are dealing with especially in dating and marriage.

## **2. Challenges of Dating and Marriage**

Here, I enumerate some of the challenges of dating and marriage in the new generations. I also mention some examples from real-world experiences to support my claims in explaining these challenges. I categorize these challenges into psychological difficulties (section 2.1), cultural, sociological, and anthropological difficulties (section 2.2), technology-related difficulties (section 2.3), location-related difficulties (section 2.4), and immigration-related difficulties (section 2.5).

### **2.1 Psychological Difficulties**

#### **2.1.1 PARADOXICAL SIGNALS FROM GIRLS**

One of the strange things about girls is that many of the girls, but not all of them, usually show paradoxical signals toward the boys. All of the following cases may happen:

- A girl may have a partner and still may show a boy a positive signal.
- A girl may have a partner and may not show a boy any positive signal.
- A girl may be single and may show a boy a positive signal.
- A girl may be single and may not show a boy any positive signal.

Moreover, a girl may be single but not looking for having a partner and she still may show the boys positive signals. In addition, the girl may be single and looking for a relationship but she may not be attracted to a boy while she still may show a positive signal to that boy.

Some girls may have this behavior either consciously or subconsciously. This strange and sometimes paradoxical behavior of girls may be because females are usually nicer than males in general. Sometimes, boys interpret the nice and kind behavior of girls as their positive signal. Differentiating between friendly and sexually interested behaviors has been a challenge for humans [32] and it is becoming harder nowadays. Anyhow, this strange behavior needs more research from researchers in psychology and anthropology. One of the possible reasons will be introduced in Section 2.1.2.

As a result, when a girl shows a boy a positive signal, the boy cannot conclude anything from that feedback. The girl may or may not be single and even if she is single, she may or may not be interested in having a relationship, and even if she wants a relationship, she may or may not want a relationship with that boy. This makes it extremely difficult for boys to find out the situation and plan accordingly for the next steps. After a girl shows a positive signal to a boy, he may try significantly to attract her further and when he asks her out, she may simply reject him saying that she is already in a relationship.

### 2.1.2 SOME GIRLS ENJOY REJECTING BOYS!

Real-world experiences by many boys<sup>3</sup> have shown that many girls, but not all of them, enjoy rejecting boys. Although this behavior is psychologically sadistic, they may not do it consciously but subconsciously. One of the possible reasons that they show this behavior is that they may want to show off as strong and better person in front of their friends and others to gain more confidence and self-esteem. This is because many girls talk to their friends about their life and whom they have rejected.

This joy of rejecting boys in some girls may also explain why they show paradoxical positive signals to the boys, as explained in Section 2.1.1. In other words, a girl may show a boy a positive signal so he gets attracted to her and thinks that he may have a chance. After some trials to get her attention, when the boy asks her out, the girl will reject him with lame excuses.

### 2.1.3 EXAGGERATED IGNORANCE BY GIRLS

Many girls in the new generations ignore the boys in an exaggerated way. In several previous generations, it was very easy to date and get married. Many of the boys, at that time, could get a positive answer from girls even in their first trial<sup>4</sup>. Now, I see among boys of this generation that a boy may have tried asking out girls for even thirty times with negative answers from them<sup>5</sup>. This exaggerated ignorance of girls has made many boys frustrated. Some of them even have developed fear or hate for girls and some have even become bisexual or homosexual because of ignorance by the girls.

The exaggerated ignorance by the girls may have different reasons. One reason may be the developing feminism in the current generations [3]. Feminism may be okay up to some level but it is getting out of control nowadays. Another reason may be the escalation of expectations of girls because of social media, such as Instagram and Facebook (see Section 2.3.1 for more on this). Materialism and narcissism have also increased the expectation of the girls in the current generations [14]. Some girls also want to continue education and some do not want to have marriage at all or at least up to some age. Some of them also assume that dating or marriage takes their independence away [38]. One other reason that may explain why some girls ignore many boys in an exaggerated way is the increase in homosexuality and lesbianism [17], making them unattracted toward boys (this will be discussed more in Section 2.2.7). Moreover, unfortunately, studies have shown that very few and specific types of boys are attractive to girls and vice versa [6, 33]. This may also explain why many girls ignore many boys these days.

### 2.1.4 STRANGE EXCUSES OF GIRLS FOR REJECTING

When a girl likes a boy, she will probably answer positively to him when she is asked out. However, when a girl wants to reject a boy, she may have different strategies for rejection. Very few girls are frank and frankly reject the boy by saying that he is not their type or they are not interested in him. However, most of the girls try to give strange excuses for rejection. This may be because most of the girls try to have a nice and kind behavior and do not wish to hurt the other person.

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3. I have heard this from many boys who have experienced it.

4. If you do not believe me, feel free to ask your parents and see how many times they tried asking out before marriage.

5. For example, watch the video titled "You Know You're Dating a Canadian Woman When..." in the YouTube channel "Dating Beyond Borders" and read the comments below the video. You can see how Canadian boys are complaining for the exaggerated ignorance by girls.

Some girls may state that they are already in a relationship, although it is a lie and they are single. This has been empirically observed to be, by far, the most common strategy of girls for rejecting boys without hurting them. Although they assume that they do not hurt boys in this way, but they do not know that the boys usually understand it is a lie, if it is really a lie, and this dishonesty hurts them even more.

Some girls or boys also say that they do not wish to get married until some specific age; and the question is how they determine that specific age in their mind! Is it coming from their life plans or merely dictated by the social norms? As a result, the boys who are serious get rejected by those girls who may want to either stay single or fool around until that age before settling down. Some girls may also reject boys saying that they have had different life and sexual experiences and different body counts, so they are not a good match!

As will be discussed more in Section 2.2.5, some girls may bring the excuse that they want the process from dating to marriage to be long – spanning from dating to moving in to finally marriage across multiple years. This blocks the boys who want to settle down with a girl, especially because boys are usually older than girls in the relationship so they do not have much time to waste. The strange thing is that some girls may bring this excuse to dump a boy but they may get married after several months with another boy. This has been observed by many boys that they have been rejected by the excuse that the girl does not want a relationship or marriage but she ended up dating or marrying some other person after a short time.

#### 2.1.5 DIFFICULTIES OF LATE DATING AND MARRIAGE

Because of many aforementioned problems and the problems which will be discussed later in this paper, many boys or girls end up not dating for a long time until old ages. Some may even stay virgin until old ages. This causes many psychological and social challenges for them. For example, they usually face mental health challenges – such as depression and social anxiety – because they consciously or subconsciously compare themselves with their friends who are in a relationship or who have made a family.

They may also develop trust issues [29] in themselves because of many trials and rejections or many times of having a broken heart. Some boys or girls may experience genophobia or erotophobia (i.e., fear or phobia of sex) [28] because of not having sexual intercourse for a long period of time. Some people may develop heterophobia, i.e., phobia of the opposite sex, because of late dating or marriage. The late dating and having sex with the opposite sex may also gradually change the sexual orientation and tend the person to bisexuality or homosexuality.

In some cases, late dating may result in strange sexual fetishes, especially in boys, because single boys tend to watch pornography more than girls and married boys. This is simply because single boys cannot easily satisfy themselves sexually. Also, boys have tendency toward watching pornography more than girls because males, in contrast to females, can get sexual satisfaction visually. Usually, the later a boy dates or marries, the more he will gradually tend to hard porn (or extreme porn) and watching hard porn can change the sexual pleasures and fantasies in humans [2, 30]. This causes serious problems for them after marriage as they may not be sexually satisfied by regular sex with their spouse anymore<sup>6</sup>.

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6. Although I am analyzing and criticising the effects of watching porn for a long period, I acknowledge the legal pornography because it lessens the sexual pressure that single people are experiencing; single people in sexual needs usually appreciate legal pornography. It is strange that some people, who are married or in a relationship, condemn watching porn; it is like they are in a pool of honey and ask people outside of the pool not to eat honey!

Although late dating and marriage has the aforementioned problems, it may have some advantages, too. People in later ages have more life experience so they can resolve problems easier and better. Moreover, they are more financially stable and usually have a stable job. That is why some girls are more attracted to boys in the age of around thirty. Especially, girls who pass the age of twenty six or seven usually change their criteria for marriage, from physical appearance of boys to their life stability. However, this age of boys for attracting girls usually has an upper bound such as thirty years old or thirty and a few years old. After that, boys become too old and not very attractive for many girls.

#### 2.1.6 DIFFICULTIES OF GETTING HELP FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Most of the boys and girls in the new generations do not wish to get help from friends and especially family for finding a partner. They usually wish to find their love themselves. This is one of the biggest differences of new and traditional generations. However, when a boy or girl gets completely disappointed from trying themselves, he/she may seek help from others such as friends and family. Friends may not help them for various reasons such as jealousy or not accepting the responsibility. Family may also not help them for not accepting the responsibility because the marriage may fail later and the boy or girl may blame them for finding the wrong person for them. Being scared of accepting responsibility is very common between friends and family for willingness not to help. Sometimes, friends and family also do not know many people to introduce – especially when they are introverted or antisocial.

There might be other reasons for why a family may not help the boy or girl for dating or marriage. One possible reason may occur if the boy or girl is benefiting their family in any way such as financially. The family members may see the boy's or girl's marriage as a threat to the support they are receiving from their boy or girl. This support may be of any form such as financially, emotionally, taking care of, house-sitting, etc.

There may also be psychological and psychoanalytical reasons behind not supporting the boy or girl to find a partner. According to the Oedipus complex (proposed by Sigmund Freud) [25], there is usually a semi-sexual attraction between the boy and his mother. Likewise, according to the Electra complex (proposed by Carl Jung) [20], there is usually a semi-sexual attraction between the girl and her father. That is why many mothers (resp. fathers) do not subconsciously like their son (resp. daughter) to get married at least soon. This explains why most mother-in-laws have problems with their son's wife. This strange behavior of mother-in-laws with their son's wife can be observed across the whole world and various cultures; therefore, it does not have a cultural reason but it has a psychoanalytical reason explained by Freud and Jung.

It has been observed, for example, that the parents of a boy or girl may cry when they find out that he/she wants to date or marry. Some parents may see the potential partner of their child as a threat; they may say that they are worried the girl/boy whom their boy/girl is dating may take him/her away from the parents. As another example, the parents of a boy may tell him that they will help him only if he can prove he has salary; although, that boy is a student at that time. All of these examples show the psychoanalytical problem of Oedipus or Electra complex as proofs of concept. The parents may be extremely connected to their son or daughter that they do not wish to help him/her find a date or a partner.

## **2.2 Cultural, Sociological, and Anthropological Difficulties**

### **2.2.1 DIFFICULTY IN FINDING OUT WHETHER A GIRL IS SINGLE OR TAKEN**

In the previous generations, it was easy to find out whether a girl is single or taken because the time of dating before marriage was very short and engaged and married girls used to wear rings. In the new generations, many girls are not married but are in relationships so they do not have any rings on their fingers. Even many married girls may not wear a ring anymore because of lack of commitment nowadays. Many girls also do not show off their status for their privacy. Moreover, as was discussed in Section 2.1.1, many girls show paradoxical signals so boys cannot conclude anything from the signals made by girls. Furthermore, today's girls tend to get angry if a boy asks them, unexpectedly out of the blue, whether they are single or taken. They usually expect the boy to get to know them and try hard first and then ask them this question. As a result, it has become very hard for boys in the current generations to find out whether a girl is available or already in a relationship or married.

### **2.2.2 INCREASE IN THE AGE OF MARRIAGE FOR EDUCATION**

Previously, people did not tend to study until very high levels. Very few people would study master's or Ph.D. and most people sufficed to study until diploma or bachelor degrees. This desire to over-study until higher-level degrees, such as Ph.D., in the new generations – although has benefits of flourishing – is destructive for forming families and it is delaying the age of marriage for both boys and girls [23].

Some girls and boys say that they want to continue education; although, one may wonder how dating or marriage can hurt education if the partner gives enough freedom for the them to study. Until the end of the their education, they can simply decide to delay having children by protection. After finishing education, many of the single people may not even find their partners anymore because many girls and boys are already taken (see Section 2.2.3) or because their expectation level has increased significantly for their education level. It is strange that some educated girls and boys become arrogant with high expectations because of education. Education is nothing but a tool to solve problems and to find a job. There is nothing special about education that some people get proud of and increase their expectations because of!

### **2.2.3 MOST OF THE GIRLS ARE ALREADY TAKEN**

Because of the many aforementioned problems, such as the problems discussed in Section 2.2.2, people may start dating or looking for marriage with some delay. This causes serious problems because, according to anthropology, most of the girls enter a relationship in young ages such as 18 to 20 or 22 and they are already taken in the later ages. Moreover, many of the boys who started dating in young ages may break up in later ages and then struggle finding a single girl. Because of these anthropological and social facts, many of the boys find it difficult to find a single girl. This even gets worse because it is not obvious which girl is single and which one is taken (see Section 2.2.1).

Therefore, it may be recommended that boys and girls try to date and marry in their early twenties so they do not face later difficulties with dating and marriage. Although, a soon marriage may suffer from low life experience and more possibility of personality change of partners; this will be discussed more in Section 2.3.2.

#### 2.2.4 SOME GIRLS WANT TO GET BENEFITS FROM BOYS

Some girls are independent and many of them do not wish to marry at all not to lose their independence. However, there are some girls who would like to benefit from or use the boys. This is an unfortunate truth that some girls look how they can benefit from the boy who approaches them. The other way around may also happen where the boy wants to benefit from the girls. However, this is less common than a girl benefiting from boys. This is because boys are usually more independent than girls in life. It is needless to say that not all girls are like that and there are some girls who actually like their partners without looking to have benefits out of them.

The bitter truth about life is that it is like a game – which can be studied in game theory [11] – where people want to maximize their payoffs and benefits. Usually, both boys and girls analyze the opposite sex to see how much they can benefit from them. What the girls benefit from depends on what benefiting characteristics the approaching boy has and what the girls look for more. There are many different situations that some girls may want to use boys based on their abilities and characteristics.

For example, some girls are gold diggers and look for the money or vehicle of the boy. Another example can be immigration benefits by marrying a boy who has a good immigration status in some country (this will be discussed more in Section 2.5.7). Some girls, in academia, may want to benefit from the boy's knowledge or his ability to write scientific papers, so they can become his coauthor in the articles, or to get help from him in doing assignments and projects. There can be many other similar examples.

#### 2.2.5 INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR COMMON-LAW RELATIONSHIPS

It has been observed that some girls or boys say that they want the process of dating to marriage be very long; for example, they say they need one or two years of dating before moving in. Then, they should live together with their partner for at least one or two years and then they can get married. This procedure, especially at the stage of moving in together without marriage, is called common-law relationship in western societies [16] and white marriage in Iran [13].

This type of relationship has its pros and cons. Some people may find it useful for getting to know each other better before possible actual marriage. However, there are commitment challenges for these types of relationships; what if one of the partners leaves the other one after some difficulties in life or what if the boy leaves the girl after impregnating her. Moreover, traditional, cultural, and religious norms do not accept these types of relationships easily. The fact that this type of relationship has not been common so far in human's history gives a clue that it may not be suitable for evolution and long-lasting purposes [36, 9]. This evolutionary fact is being ignored by the new generations, nowadays.

#### 2.2.6 CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIFFICULTIES OF DATING OUT OF MARRIAGE

Dating out of marriage has been a taboo until several decades ago. A short dating before marriage was referred to as the time when the couple are engaged and that was okay for getting to know each other in a short time before marriage. However, nowadays, people may date for long periods of time and they may not even end up in marriage. Some people have frequent short dates successively and the new generations seem to accept this life style as a normal one. In traditional cultures, as well as religions, this type of dating out of marriage is condemned. Specifically, some traditional parents do not usually like their boys and girls to date out of marriage. This condemnation may have had

an evolutionary reason – showing itself as cultural and religious norms – because dating without marriage lacks commitment and it usually does not result in offspring for the survival of generations [36]. New generations, especially the secular ones, usually ignore this evolutionary fact and mostly date without commitment and marriage. As a result, families cannot be formed and marriage has become very hard nowadays.

It is also a cultural and sociological fact that marriage has gone through various forms and different purposes along the long time of humanity [36]. In some previous eras, marriage was mostly for having sexual activities because sex out of marriage was a big taboo. Nowadays, in the new generations, having sexual intercourse out of marriage is mostly not a taboo and this has changed the purpose of marriage. Now, many people get married not to be lonely both in youth and their old age. The shift of purpose of marriage from satisfying sexual needs to escaping loneliness has made marriage harder than in the previous generations.

#### 2.2.7 INCREASE OF HOMOSEXUALITY HAS RESULTED IN DECREASE OF HETEROSEXUALITY

Nowadays, trends are showing that bisexuality and homosexuality are increasing compared to heterosexuality. The sexual orientation of many boys and girls is changing toward the same sex. Many girls are tending toward homosexuality and lesbianism [17] while many boys are tending toward bisexuality and homosexuality. Many boys and girls, especially boys, are also becoming bi-curious<sup>7</sup>. There is an ongoing discussion in the literature on whether the reason of this trend lies in the nature or culture [18]. This trend can also be observed in online chat rooms where especially most of the girls are looking for female partners for meetups or virtual sex chat.

By the increase of homosexuality and bisexuality compared to before, finding a heterosexual partner has become more difficult than in the previous generations. One might argue that the previous generations also had hidden homosexuality which was not completely obvious because of condemnation by religions and governments. It is a true statement; however, the amount of homosexuality is clearly increasing, in addition to becoming obvious, in the new secular generations.

#### 2.2.8 SOME PEOPLE CARE MORE ABOUT THE NEEDS OF ANIMALS THAN HUMANS!

When people have a pet such as a dog, cat, or a bird, they usually worry about the loneliness and sexual needs of the pet. They usually buy another pet from the opposite sex so that pet can mate and will not be lonely anymore. They do this not only for pets but also for farm animals such as cows, sheep, and horses. However, when a boy or a girl says that they are lonely and/or they have emotional and sexual needs and ask for help, those people usually will not care and will not even bother helping. This strange behavior of humans show that many people care more about the needs of animals than humans. We also see this strange behavior in some of the extreme vegans or extreme environmentalists, who care about animals more than humans. Note that it is completely acceptable that animals and environment have as much value and rights as humans – because we humans should not have species' narcissism or selfishness – but it does not mean that [other] animals have more rights than humans.

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7. This trend can easily be observed in online chat rooms.

## 2.3 Technology-Related Difficulties

### 2.3.1 ESCALATED EXPECTATIONS BECAUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The development of social media has had its pros and cons. One of its benefits is connecting the people of the world in a global village [37]; therefore, many of the cases of injustice and cruelty which could happen in the previous eras cannot happen nowadays as the world will see them immediately and will react. Moreover, this global village network has increased the amount of knowledge – both general knowledge and technical knowledge – significantly.

Social media, however, has had caused many social and mental health problems. For example, Instagram [19, 31], Facebook [22], and Snapchat [35] have resulted in various problems – including social comparison, lack of self-esteem, lack of confidence, social anxiety, depression, narcissism, and Internet addiction – especially among the teenagers and young adults. This especially has occurred because most people, including celebrities and influencers, show off their happiness and luxury, even if it is fake, in social media and they do not usually show their miseries and problems publicly.

Because of the bad impact of social media, the expectation of many girls and boys has been escalated significantly, compared to before, for dating, marriage, and life. The escalation of expectation shows itself more for dating among girls. This is because usually boys ask out the girls and the other way around is less common. As a result, girls mostly reject boys because their expectation has become so high that they only can accept celebrity- or influencer-type boys who have fit sexy bodies, luxury life, and a lot of cash. This simply makes dating and marriage extremely hard for about ninety percent of boys who are average boys. Note that the other way around is also true where boys are unfortunately looking for specific type of girls with sexy bodies, inspired by the social media.

One of my friends once talked to me about a thoughtful observation: “Previously, our fathers had to only compete with the other men in their own alley over their desired girl. This is because that girl had only seen the men in their alley and had options only among them. Nowadays, you should compete with all men in the entire world because your desired girl has already seen all perfect men in the social media and you should show better than them in the eyes of that girl.” This is a serious problem of the new generations: competition with the entire world!

### 2.3.2 SPEED OF CHANGE IN HUMANS HAS BECOME TOO HIGH!

In the previous time, people used to remain almost the same or change very slowly over their life span. Nowadays, in the current generations, people change significantly with a fast pace. This high speed of change in humans is because of fast technological progresses, information explosion, easy access to knowledge and information, and more freedom of speech than before. The amount of change is at a level that a human may be completely religious or a believe in God when they are twenty and they may change gradually from being theist to agnostic and then to an atheist during their twenties<sup>8</sup>! The change in humans is not merely in terms of religion but it can be in terms of other characteristics such as personality and psychological, behavioral, and perspective-related features.

The frequent change of humans has its pros and cons. A benefit of it is that people are becoming more open-minded and the amount of their narcissism – in terms of religion, nationality, and group – is decreasing. The problem with the fast speed of change in humans is that they cannot have a stable

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8. This is a common pattern which can be seen for many of the young people nowadays. Note that atheism is increasing across the world [7]. Although, some trends of religious increase may happen, in some parts of the world, because of reproduction in religious families; this is while atheist or secular families either are usually antinatalists [24] or usually tend to have less offspring.

life to choose their partner according to. This is because people usually want their partners to have same or similar beliefs and characteristics. As a result, one may stay single to hopefully pass over most of their changes and then try to settle down, but that causes the problem of non-availability of other people in a later age, as discussed in Section 2.2.3.

If someone dates and marries soon, they may have to breakup or divorce because of either their own change or their partner's change. This is actually a very common reason for breakups and divorces nowadays, where a partner changes and does not match the other person anymore. Even if one of them makes sacrifices and accepts the changes of their partner, they may not enjoy a shared life with them as much as before.

Note that some changes are also dictated to families after immigration to another country. For example, it is well-known that many Iranian families who have immigrated to European countries, such as Germany and Sweden, have divorced or separated after a while<sup>9</sup>. This has happened because they are gradually modified by the culture, tradition, and conditions of the new country; therefore, they cannot continue their previous life together. There will be more discussions on the immigration-related difficulties in Section 2.5.

### 2.3.3 FAKE DATING APPS

There are two types of dating apps. Some of them are regular dating apps [39], such as Tinder, Bumble, and Match. It is well-known by people, especially among boys, that these apps are fake in the sense that most of the users of these apps are boys and only few girls are in these apps. Those few girls are mostly interested in men like Brad Pitt and they skip almost all boys. As most of boys are average boys in the world, almost all men and boys are disappointed from these apps.

Another type of dating apps is the apps for searching sex partners. Those apps are even more fake than the regular dating apps. In contrast to the regular dating apps, these sex apps require credit card information with the excuse that they need to verify the user is over eighteen. By acquiring the credit information, any type of fraud may happen and they may misuse the personal and banking information of the user. Moreover, the user needs to register in those apps by their email and these apps usually bomber the emails with various inappropriate emails. These emails cannot be even stopped as unsubscribing from the mail boxes of these apps does not usually work. The girls in these sex apps are also usually fake and nothing can be gained out of these apps and websites.

The dating apps, apart from being fake, have various risks, too [27]. For example, the privacy of users may be disclosed to other users. Moreover, some users may introduce themselves falsely even in their sexes and genders. Identity theft is another problem with dating apps; although, some of these apps try to block these types of frauds. Some of the users may also be married or in relationship, seeking to cheat on their partners. The cheating boys or girls may not even mention that they are not single.

## 2.4 Location-Related Difficulties

### 2.4.1 DIFFICULTIES OF HUNTING AT WORK

In terms of jobs, people can be divided into several groups. For example, some people work in academia, and some people work in industry – either technical firms or construction. There are some

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9. Although they may not declare it officially as taxes for single people are much higher than married people in Europe.

other job categories such as cleaning, nursing, hospital services, etc. At any of the jobs that a boy or girl may have, they cannot easily date or find a partner for marriage.

In academia, dating and romantic/sexual relationship between professors and students is controversial. In some countries such as USA, especially in some of its universities such as the Harvard, Stanford, and Yale universities, dating of professors and students is completely forbidden. Some countries such as Canada have not banned relationship between professors and students, although there have been some discussions in the University of British Columbia. If it is not forbidden, it is still risky for professors to date students because the student may falsely accuse the professor for sexual harassment in the university, even if it was a simple dating<sup>10</sup>. In such cases, schools usually take the side of students especially if the student is a female<sup>11</sup>. As a result, even dating for the goal of marriage seems to be risky in academia; some people even see it as a taboo. Moreover, even if everything is respectful and the professor gets a negative answer from his student after asking her out, it will make it awkward for both the professor and the student to participate in the class and to continue the course or project in the semester(s).

It is noteworthy that, although it is risky and perhaps a taboo to date in academia, some professors and teachers have dated and/or married their students. Some examples are John Nash (a passed-away mathematician in USA) and Emmanuel Macron (the president of France). In the case of Nash, the professor was a male and the student was a female<sup>12</sup> [26, 21]. In the case of Macron, the teacher was a female and the student was a male [12]. In some countries such as Iran, marriage – and not dating – is okay and has happened numerously between male professors/lecturers and female students.

In industry, people cannot easily date because if it does not go well and they have to breakup or if a coworker gets a negative answer after asking a colleague out, it will be awkward and they increase the risk of getting fired, especially if one of them is the boss of the other one. Many companies have even banned dating and romantic relationship between the coworkers. Other jobs have similar difficulties for dating and marriage. As a result, it is difficult to hunt partners at work of any kind.

Moreover, in some jobs and areas, the ratio of girls to boys is very low. For example, in the area of engineering, this ratio is about 10%-90% to 20%-80%, meaning that usually only 10% to 20% of engineers are girls<sup>13</sup>. As a result, in both industry and academia – especially in the industry – there are few girls in the areas of engineering. Therefore, boys studying or working in some areas, such as engineering, struggle in finding female partners in academia and industry, even if they can surpass the aforementioned problems of hunting partners at work.

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10. Of course, harassment and violence are condemned and should be reported. Here, I mean a situation where the accusation is a false one, just for revenge or other purposes.

11. There is clearly a world-wide bias in judgmental decisions for accusing males, compared to females, in harassments. It may be because males usually ask out and show interest in females and females may take it as an offense.

12. A funny thing is that once, in a seminar for teaching assistants in the University of Waterloo, they told us that teaching assistants should not date students. I asked about the case of John Nash. The professor answered me that they married after the student graduated (which I think is not true). Then, I answered even if that is true, did they suddenly get married without any dating? Of course, they dated before that, while she was a student! I think they themselves know that this rule is nonfunctional because if the professor/instructor and the student are both single, they may like each other or fall in love as they interact frequently in the school. This rule was even criticised in the American comedy show "Friends" (season 6, episode 18).

13. This is based on my observation in academia, industry, and the statistics of the viewers of my YouTube channel.

#### 2.4.2 DIFFICULTIES OF HUNTING IN BARS, PUBLIC PLACES, AND STREETS

A majority of people's time is usually spent at work. At the rest of time of day, they either go home or go for entertainment. If they always go home after work, they cannot find any partner because it is not easily possible to find a partner at work (see Section 2.4.1). It is also hard to get help from others to find partners (see Section 2.1.6). Another option is to hunt partners in bars, public places, and streets. However, the partners found in bars and streets usually cannot be good and long-lasting partners for serious dating and marriage. This is because girls and boys are usually looking for fooling around in bars. In conclusion, finding partners is very difficult in different places including workplace and public places.

### 2.5 Immigration-Related Difficulties

#### 2.5.1 BEHAVIOR OF GIRLS DIFFER BEFORE AND AFTER IMMIGRATION

Observations show that the behavior of girls, for dating and marriage, usually differ before and after immigration. For example, Iranian girls usually have different behaviors and perspectives toward marriage before and after immigration to western countries such as Canada and USA. For instance, Iranian girls usually like and welcome marriage in Iran. If their boyfriend proposes to them, they become extremely glad and mostly accept it. Even if someone apart from their boyfriend proposes to them, they may breakup with their partner to marry the proposer! However, after immigration to a western country such as Canada, girls usually change behavior. Some of them do not look for relationships for at least several years. Some of them do not seek a serious relationship and marriage. Some of them also look for relationships but with the native boys and not the same-nation boys.

There may be different anthropological reasons for why girls usually change behavior, regarding dating and marriage, after immigration. Some of the possible reasons are as follows: (1) The first possible reason is that some girls in their country of origin, e.g., Iran, want to get out of their parents' house so they gain more freedom in their own house living with their husband. However, when they immigrate to another country, they become independent and do not need to escape from their parents' house; they are already in their own house with their freedom. Therefore, they may reject many boys approaching them because they do not see any need for marriage. (2) The second reason may be as follows. As most people immigrate through studying, many girls want to focus on their studies in the initial several years and after obtaining permanent residence in the new country, they start thinking about relationships. As a result, they may reject many boys approaching them during their stay as a student. (3) The third possible reason is as follows. Some girls seek relationships only with native boys in the new country either because they want to strengthen their immigration status and residence by marrying the natives<sup>14</sup>, or because foreign boys may have novelty and excitement for them. Hence, they reject many boys, from their same nation, who ask them out in the new country.

#### 2.5.2 DIFFICULTIES OF DATING AND MARRIAGE WITH OTHER CULTURES AND RACES

It is difficult to date and marry people from other cultures and races after immigration. This is because difference of cultures, beliefs, religions, and behaviors can make serious problems in the future life of the couple. Some things may be good in a culture or belief system while it can be taboo in another one. Even if the couple can tolerate their significant differences, these differences

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14. Some Iranian boys have the experience that they have been rejected by an Iranian girl and they have seen that girl starting to date or flirt with a Canadian or American boy in a coffee shop a week after.

can harm their future children. Children are vulnerable to the small to big problems in the lives of parents. For example, if the parents have different traditions, religions, beliefs, perspectives, and habits, which one of the perspectives should they use to raise their children with? Also, how can a naive and simple child not get confused by the differences of his/her parents in terms of culture, religion, etc<sup>15</sup>? This confusion can raise serious mental and psychological problems for the child, which can show off later in the adulthood of child. According to Freud, all personality of a person is shaped in his/her very first years of life [10], so parents should not ignore how much they are affecting the life of a person by their cultures, perspectives, and differences<sup>16</sup>.

Even if people want to have cross-cultural and cross-racial dating and marriage, there are some problems which they may face. Many girls and boys of other cultures, especially the native ones, are not sexually attracted to the immigrant boys and girls. This is not necessarily for racism but it is usually their conscious or subconscious sexual attraction with latent genetic and cultural reasons. For example, according to my and many others' observations, white male Canadians are mostly divided into two groups. Some of them are only sexually attracted to white girls, i.e., girls from Canada, USA, and western Europe. Some other white Canadian boys are attracted to east Asian girls. White Canadian girls, however, are mostly sexually attracted to white boys, i.e., boys from Canada, USA, and western Europe. Therefore, an immigrant boy, from Iran for example, has a very low chance of attracting a white Canadian girl. As another example, It is also well-known by Iranian boys that Australian girls are not attracted to Iranian boys who have immigrated to Australia.

### 2.5.3 THERE ARE VERY FEW AVAILABLE GIRLS OF THE SAME NATION AFTER IMMIGRATION

As discussed in Section 2.5.2, it is difficult to marry people from other cultures and races. After immigration to a new country, the number of people of the same nation will be obviously much less than that number in the country of origin. As a result, the options reduce significantly for selecting partners for dating and marriage. This makes dating and marriage much harder than before immigration.

For some countries, the number of same-nation girls is much less than the number of same-nation boys in the new country. It has immigration-related and sociological reasons. For example, for Iranian people, most of the immigrant students are boys at least so far. This is because western universities admit Iranian students mostly in engineering majors and less in other majors. So far, most of engineers are boys in Iran and many countries. As a result, most of the immigrant students from Iran are boys. This has made the number of female immigrant students from Iran much fewer than Iranian boys in Canada, for example. Therefore, Iranian girls here have many options for dating while Iranian boys struggle in finding their partners among Iranian female students in Canada.

One of my friends once said that the worst Persian girls in Iran, who were not noticed by boys, become very arrogant and picky in Canada because they know that the number of Persian girls is very few compared to Persian boys in Canada. Moreover, a Persian girl once told me that, in a females' hair salon in Iran, a mother of a Persian boy was looking for a girl to become the wife of his son who lives in Canada. They had mocked her saying that there are many girls in Canada and why can't he

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15. There have been people who were mentally hurt by the differences of cultures and/or religions of their parents, where the parents were even from two parts of the same country. Now, you can imagine how worse it may get if the parents are from different countries or continents!

16. Of course, having mixed marriages of different races has its global benefits such as reduction in the world's racism and nationalist narcissism. Here, without denying its benefits, I am enumerating its side-effects on both the couple and their children.

find a partner there? But when the girl came to Canada herself, she found out the situation and the amount of demand and realised why that boy had asked his mother for help.

One might think that immigrant boys can try approaching and asking out the newcomer girls to Canada, hoping that they do not have any partner as they have just immigrated. First off, it is strange that some immigrant girls were even picked up by immigrant boys during their flights to their country to Canada; this has really happened! Secondly, many of the immigrant girls already have partners. Some of them have partners who have come to the new country sooner and they are joining them. Some of them also have partners who are back in the country of origin and will probably join them later. Therefore, if a girl is a newcomer, it does not necessarily imply that she is single and available.

Some immigrant girls and boys also have arrogance because of high levels of education and English knowledge. This is very strange because education is not for showing off. Education is for increasing knowledge to be able to solve the problems of the world and also find a job. English is also a tool for communicating with others. How are education and knowledge superior properties? There is nothing special about education and it is strange that some people see this as their good characteristic to be proud of! As many immigrant people have immigrated through studying and higher-level education, they are sometimes arrogant unfortunately and this makes it hard to approach them for dating. This subject was also discussed in Section 2.2.2.

#### 2.5.4 PEOPLE MAY MOVE A LOT AFTER IMMIGRATION

One of the big problems with dating, marriage, and forming families after immigration is that people may have to move frequently to different cities. For example, a boy and a girl may find jobs in different cities because finding jobs in the same city might become very hard especially if the job market is down in that country. Moreover, as many immigrants immigrate through studying, one or both partners may be students. They may get admission to schools in different cities. Or if one of the partners is a student and the other works, the worker partner may not be able to find a job in the same city that his/her partner is studying in. In summary, it is difficult and less probable that the partners can easily live together in the same city. With high probability, they should either live separately or one of them should sacrifice themselves for the other one to be able to live together.

#### 2.5.5 DIFFICULTIES OF DISTANT DATING AND GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Because of the various problems mentioned in the previous sections, some immigrants decide to find a partner for dating and marriage from their country of origin or another country. However, distant dating for getting to know each other, probably for the goal of marriage, has its own problems and difficulties. Many people have confessed that they cannot exchange emotions through video chats with a potential partner. Video chatting is much different from having a date in a coffee shop or restaurant because in-person dating gives the opportunity to feel the reality of the person in addition to seeing them. For example, they may hold hands for seconds to exchange emotions. Moreover, in-person dates give the couple an opportunity to observe each other's personality and behaviors in different situations better and easier. In-person dates also let the boy and girl probably inspect each other's physiques. This option is not available in distant online dating. If a couple date and marry distantly, they may find out that they are not attracted to each other's bodies after getting married and that increases the risk of potential divorces. The importance of in-person dating compared to online distant dating became obvious especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when people struggled for romantic relationships [4].

#### 2.5.6 DIFFICULTIES OF TRAVELLING TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

If an immigrant is fine with the problems of distant dating, discussed in Section 2.5.5, one of possible ways for them to find a partner is to travel to their country of origin and date and marry someone from their country. Then, they can come back to their new country and apply for the visa of their spouse. Although, this approach has its own risks for some countries because the processing time of spousal visa for some countries is very long and this will risk the relationship of the partners because of being apart.

The option of traveling to the country of origin for the sake of dating or marriage is not possible for all immigrants because of various reasons. For example, the immigrant might have only a single-entry visa, rather than a multiple-entry visa, meaning that they cannot enter the new country for multiple times. As a result, they should not leave that country before the end of their visa. This is a common case for Iranians in USA as USA usually gives Iranians single-entry visas. Another problem for some immigrants is that they may be refugees or they may have political challenges with their country of origin. They cannot easily travel to their country anymore.

Another example is that the immigrant may have a mandatory national service or military service, which was postponed because of education, and now they have to do it if they enter their country of origin. For example, as the national military service is mandatory for males in Iran, many Iranian boys who finish their studies in another country cannot easily travel back to Iran. If they enter Iran after finishing education, they will be banned from leaving the country until they perform the two-year national service. Therefore, many Iranian boys who want to get married to a girl from Iran travel to Turkey and they marry at Iran's consulate in Turkey. This has made the process of marriage complicated for many Iranians because they need to plan travelling and marriage in a third country. It even becomes more complicated because when they apply later for the permanent residence of the spouse in the country of immigration, the immigration officers usually expect to see proofs of a solid real marriage including the pictures of a big marriage and probably not merely a simple marriage in the consulate!

#### 2.5.7 THE GIRL OR BOY MIGHT WANT YOU ONLY FOR IMMIGRATION!

Even if an immigrant can find a partner from their country of origin or another country and assuming that they can get to know each other well and marry afterwards, there are still some potential risks and difficulties. The girl/boy who is marrying the immigrant may want their partner merely for immigration and not for love. They may pretend that they love their partner to fool him/her. Then, when they come to the new country and after their immigration status gets stable, they may easily leave and divorce their partner. This has unfortunately occurred for many various immigrants with different nationalities. It is socially observed that girls can usually find partners much easier than boys; therefore, boys usually try to find partners from their country of origin. As a result, this difficulty may mostly happen for boys who marry a girl from their country of origin. This problem may also happen for the permanent resident immigrants who date another immigrant having a temporary immigration status.

If this happens to an immigrant and his/her spouse leaves him/her after stabilizing her/his immigration status, various problems happen for that person. The first obvious problem is that they will become extremely depressed and will feel they are abused. They will develop trust issues [29], i.e., they will not be able to trust others easily anymore. In addition to the psychological problems that they will face, they will not be able to marry another girl/boy from their country of origin or

another country. This is because the immigration office will not easily issue visa or residence for the new spouse as they may assume that is a marriage fraud based on the previous experiences [1]. In other words, the immigrant may mistakenly enter the blacklist of the immigration departments. Another problem that they may face is that the divorced partner may claim half of the finances of the other partner according to the law of divorce in western governments [8]! Another possible risk for marrying someone distantly from the country of origin is that they may come to the new country and find out that they do not like the new country or it is not as they were expecting it to be. In these situations also a divorce may happen.

It is needless to say that not all girls and boys are looking for using marriage for their evil immigration purposes. There are many people who legitimately and sincerely marry to form families in love. Because of many reasons such as the discussed reasons in this paper, many immigrants decide to marry a girl/boy from their country of origin, bring their spouse to the new country, and form real families. Some of the divorces after immigrants' marriages are also legitimate. The above discussion was about a fraction of people who look for frauds and abuse unfortunately.

Understanding whether a person you are dating for marriage really loves you or wants you for immigration purposes is a difficult puzzle. Even if the marriage is legitimate, the immigrant may have the life-spanning worry and stress of whether their partner wants them for themselves or immigration. The immigrant should hope that the love is real. Unfortunately, as also discussed in Section 2.2.4, life is like a game in game theory [11] and people are trying to maximize their payoffs and utilities. Even if the love is real, the asked-out girl or boy will definitely analyze in their mind what benefits they can get from the other person. One of the benefits, which cannot be ignored, may be immigration. The immigrant should hope that, even if their partner loves them besides considering immigration, their marriage does not end in divorce. This is a situation that many immigrant families are experiencing nowadays; this situation is at least better than the situation of divorce after immigration.

### **3. The Game of Snakes and Ladders: The False Loop of Hunting**

As discussed so far, dating and marriage have become extremely hard, in the new generations, especially for average boys and girls. The process of hunting for dating and marriage has become like an endless false loop, as explained in the following. As boys are usually seeking to find a girl and ask her out, I explain this loop from a boy's perspective. We can have a similar analysis from a girl's perspective. A boy should try hard with open eyes to search for potential female partners when he encounters and interacts with girls around him in different places.

According to the discussions in this paper, it is not easy to find a potential partner who also shows interest in the other person. Therefore, the process of searching for and evaluating girls is very time- and energy-consuming. The boy may approach a girl and may observe a positive signal from that girl. According to Section 2.1.1, he cannot conclude anything from this positive signal; the girl may only be nice and friendly to him.

The boy usually cannot immediately ask out the girl or ask her whether she is single because girls mostly do not like that. If a boy asks out a girl without getting to know her for some time, the girl will usually get mad at him. She may assume that he is horny and just looking for any girl. Or, she may think that the boy does not know how to treat a woman; many boys have heard this statement, from girls, that they do not know how to treat a woman! Or, at least, they may think that the boy is a freak who wants to date her without even knowing her. Also, if the boy immediately asks the girl whether she is single or taken, she may get mad. Some girls answer politely but some will say that

is a personal question and it is none of his business. Some girls also do not even answer or lie, as they are not comfortable talking about it. For example, in some traditional societies, dating out of marriage may be a taboo and they do not wish to disclose it.

As a result, the boy needs to spend a lot of time and energy on getting the attention of the girl. It is well-known by boys that winning a girl's heart requires a tremendous energy and time; it is like an investment. On the one hand, it is a well-known experience by boys that if a boy spends small amount of time and energy and asks out a girl soon, that girl will probably reject him saying that he hurried and did the process very fast. On the other hand, if a boy asks out a girl after spending too much time and energy, he may also get rejected because they have entered a friend zone [5], i.e., the girl sees the boy as her social friend and not a romantic partner. Therefore, the boy needs to tune his time and energy and tries to find out when is the right time to ask the girl out. Figuring this out itself takes time and energy from boys!

After putting a noticeable amount of effort and time, for attracting the girl, and finding the right time to ask out the girl, assuming that the boy asks out at the perfect time, she may still reject him. This rejection may be for various reasons, some of which were discussed in this paper. For example, the girl may be already taken (Section 2.2.3); as discussed in Section 2.2.1, it was not easy for the boy to find out whether the girl was single or taken. It was also not easy for him to get help from others for finding out her status (Section 2.1.6). Moreover, the girl may have strange excuses for rejecting the boy (Section 2.1.4). She may have just played with the boy's emotions consciously or subconsciously (Section 2.1.1) and/or she may enjoy this rejection (Section 2.1.2).

After this rejection, the boy goes back to square one but this time, he cannot immediately try searching again. Because of the mandatory process of attracting the girl, he had liked or had fallen in love of her and this rejection breaks his heart. Therefore, he needs to do some emotional damage control. He may become depressed or may experience mental health challenges for a while. The boy may need to spend some time to pass the period of a broken heart and depression. Note that every trial for a girl takes a noticeable amount of time because the boy needs to gain the attention of the girl, attract her, find the best time of asking out, and needs to recover psychologically after every rejection. Boys, especially sensitive and sentimental boys, usually cannot immediately ask out another girl after being rejected by a girl.

After spending some time to pass the period of a broken heart and depression, the boy needs to search for a potential partner again by putting time and energy. This procedure repeats and he may get rejected again by the next girl. These rejections are highly probable because of all discussions in this paper. This process is repetitive and unfortunately, not only does not get better, but also it gets worse and worse. In other words, the next loop will probably be worse than the previous loop<sup>17</sup>. This is because after every loop of trial, the boy's age increases and less girls will be available for him after every trial (see Sections 2.1.5 and 2.2.3). This is an obvious anthropological fact that more girls are taken in the later ages.

Moreover, this repetitive process becomes boring and destructive in life. For example, assume you apply for a Ph.D. admission for multiple years back to back and you get rejected all the time. You will obviously get tired and disappointed. Similarly, if you try asking out girls for years without a positive answer, you may give up.

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17. In control theory, this loop is called to have a positive feedback [15]. An example of a positive feedback is that you hold your hand under the shower's water. A positive feedback means that if the water is cold, you make it colder and if it is hot, you make it hotter. In other words, you make it worse rather than better. Another example of positive feedback is microphone's echo.

The repetitive process of hunting a partner for dating and/or marriage is like the game of snakes and ladders [34]. In this board game, the player passes the squares of the board one by one where the number of passing squares is determined randomly by throwing dice. Some squares have ladders and if a player lands at the bottom of a ladder, they will go up the ladder and end up immediately in the square located at end of the ladder. Some squares have snakes where the player will be bitten by the snake in those squares. If a player is bitten by a snake, they will be moved back to the square at the tail of the snake. The player who reaches the last square wins the game.

The process of hunting a partner for dating and marriage, in the new generations, is like the game of snakes and ladders because the boy will try his best to win the heart of a girl and find a partner. He tries to pass the squares one by one. Sometimes, he gets lucky and gains a girl's attention. This is like going up a ladder in this game. However, after a while, the girl may reject him or even he may date her and then they breakup. This is like being bitten by a snake and going down. He goes down mentally because of experiencing a broken heart and depression. After some recovery, he will try again to go up and survive in this game.

The amount of the boy's chance in life is also like the random numbers of passing squares, determined by a dice, in this game. Of course, he can try to increase his chance by going to gym to build muscles or by education or making money; however, it is still all chance. The game of snakes and ladders has eventually some chance of winning but there are many possibilities for getting bitten by the snakes and going back. Likewise, the boy may have some chance of winning and getting married but he needs to be too lucky to win. There are many snakes and bad lucks in the middle of his way. He may go back again and again and may get stuck in a false loop of hunting forever until his death! This is how hard dating and marriage have gotten in the new generations.

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