

Happiness of Three Generation Living

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How many family members do you have? I don't have any brothers or sisters, but there are 5 people in my family: me, my parents, and my grandparents. This is what we call "a three generation family". How about you? How many generations live together in your house? I asked ten of my friends, but none of them answered three generations.

When I was a young child, my grandparents raised me because my parents worked almost every day. I often played with my grandparents in the park near my house. I ate dinner with them every day. Sometimes I slept with them. I think this experience was very valuable because it had a positive influence on both me and my grandparents.

First, I learned how to act kindly and gently toward elderly people. That is something that I learned from my grandparents. For example, when I was an elementary school student, I went to school by train every day. Sometimes I was spoken to by elderly strangers on the train. I was able to communicate with them easily. "Do you like studying?" "Y, yes may be," "Good luck," This kind of conversation is not so special. But it is a precious experience. Of course, I naturally offer my seat to elderly people.

Second, I learned to be a good listener. For example, my grandfather is diabetic so he needs special meals. My grandmother has a difficult time making them, and sometimes she gets angry. In these situations, I can relieve their stress by listening to their problems and opinions, and my words are usually more effective than my parents'. Through this experience, I believe I have developed a sympathetic and kind heart.

On the other hand, a three-generation family in one house can be challenging. Sometimes it is not easy to live with elderly people. For example, it is difficult to eat the same meals and watch the same TV programs because there is a big gap between my favorite things and their favorite things. In addition, I sometimes get frustrated when they cannot hear what I am saying, as their ability to hear is getting worse. I have to speak in a loud, slow voice so they can hear. Not only that, sometimes they need to go to the hospital. They need a lot of help and younger generations may get sick of caring for them. It requires a lot of time, as well as money, but persons with disadvantages need other peoples' love and help. When I talk to my grandparents, they smile. Elderly people smile when somebody helps them because they feel happy. I've always imagined that if I were alone, I would be sad. But, if I could look at my family's shining smiles I would feel happy.

In the past, three generation families were popular in Japan, but the number has declined due to changing lifestyles. However, a three-generation family can help to create close relationships between the elderly and the younger generation. It can teach you to be patient and it can help you learn how to communicate with your friends, teachers, other elderly people and, of course, your family. Japan has an aging society with fewer children. This is a serious problem. If elderly people and young children live closer or together, it will help to solve such a problem. I believe, the future of Japan might be better, too.