

Perception of Students towards Traditional Values of Grandparents in the Family*** Dr. Zenetta Rosaline****** D. Kalpana***** Professor/Director, Department of Women's Studies, Bharathiar University******Research Assistant, Department of Women's Studies, Bharathiar University****Abstract**

Younger generations are the pillars of future India. It is our duty to guide children with moral, cultural and traditional values of our society. In this process, socialization plays a vital role in the attitude of children towards elderly people in the family and also in the society. In India, still a higher proportion of elderly living with their families. There are changes in both composition and quality of interactions among the members. The generation gap is widening due to fast changing lifestyle, globalization, migration of young and influence of diverse ideologies. There are evidences that inter-generational relations are undergoing transitions due to social and cultural changes. Teenagers specially perceive their grandparents in a different way (Gayatri Devi, 2004). Due to the influence of western culture, changes in family type (i.e. from joint family to nuclear family) the ethical values of our culture is day by day decreasing. The gap between grandparents and grand children relationship has widened. The present study focuses on the attitude of students towards imbibing ethics of grandparents in the family. 23 male and 32 female students were selected from Bharathiar University for the study using simple random sampling method. The study is descriptive in nature.

Key words: Student's attitude, Moral values, Grandparents**Introduction**

Elderly people are the platform for the development of younger generation. Their advices and suggestion are considered as important for the future plan. In the current scenario, on the one hand, technology influencing children, most of the time they are engaged in watching TV, playing video games, face book, whatsapp etc., made them to spend less time with grandparents. On the other hand, migration, participation of women in labour market, educational system and the influence of western culture creates gap between grandparents and grandchildren. In continuation to that, family structures have undergone changes from joint family to nuclear family. *Goh* (2006) regards a good cooperation between grandparents's and parents as a necessary prerequisite for well-functioning grandparent-grandchild relationships.

Daily life changes dramatically for grandparents raising grandchildren. Since every child in this study came from an abusive or traumatic situation, it became necessary for the grandparents to raise their grandchildren. The findings of this study are consistent with other research that determined that grandparents took custody of the grandchildren under disruptive circumstances, often when the parents were experiencing difficult problems, and it was typically an unanticipated, involuntary, and indefinite situation (Strom & Strom, 2011).

The study focused on how value differences might affect intergenerational relations, Chadha, Veelken and Kaur (2004) examined the values held by members of different generations. They focused on moral values, social values, religious values, political values, and gender relationship values. Results showed that older adults were more likely than other generations to articulate values that have a social tilt and to be geared towards maintaining a balanced social order. The present study focuses on the perception of students towards traditional values of grandparents in the family.

Review of Literature

Jean Andrews (2011), Grand parenting can be a joyous and rewarding experience. By understanding the difficulties some grandparents face, educators can build effective partnerships with them and support them in achieving positive outcomes for children.

Grandparents acknowledge several benefits when raising their grandchildren. These include a sense of purpose, a second chance in life, an opportunity to nurture family relationships, a chance to continue family histories, and receiving love and companionship (Langosch, 2012).

In Hyderabad, an empirical study has been conducted on institutionalized elderly by Bharti (2010). It is concluded that majority of the inmates stated that they do not have economic security, so have to financially depend on their children for their daily needs. The study further, shows the inmates were not getting any personal care back in their own families. Thus, this is the main reason for shift to old age home. It is also observed that there were some elderly who were willing to play an active role by engaging themselves in some work despite being old.

Society is undergoing rapid transformation under the impact of industrialization, urbanization, technical change, education and globalization. As a consequence, the traditional values and institutions are in the process of erosion and adaptation, resulting in the weakening of intergenerational ties that were the hallmark of the traditional family (Bhat and Dhruvarajan, 2009).

Goodman, C et al. (2008) who found in United States that conflict between grandmother and grandchild was related to poor health in skipped-generation families, whereas conflict between grandmother and parent was related to poor health in three-generation families.

The intergenerational exchange includes various types of activities and support, including financial, emotional and social. Simple issues like should the parents be consulted in job changes, marriage or purchase of land or house or any property- do determine the warmth of intergenerational relationship (Jamuna, 2007).

Batra and Bhaumik (2007) in their study on 'intergenerational relationships' based on 90 respondents (30 respondents each from first, second and third generations) at Delhi found that around 53 percent were living in nuclear families. 27 percent of the first generation was economically fully dependent on their children and 23 percent were partially dependent. The study also shows that the perceived change in the status of elderly. 70 percent of the elderly reported that there was loss of position in the family after they became old, and 63 percent felt loss of authority, 73 percent reported lack of support from children and grand children, 80 percent admitted they are feeling isolated from the family and 86 percent reported loss of respect from the young generation.

Sonar et.al (2007), in their study in Karnataka, found that a significant proportion of elderly have good intergenerational relationship with their children and grandchildren. Those who do not have good relations with their young generation, reported that their differences are due to opposing attitude of young (21 percent), not productive or useful (19 percent), differences of opinion (2.7) and different life styles. The elderly, who are educated and have some source of income, are found to have good relations with the young.

Ruiz, S. et al. (2007) their study analyzed the relationships between grandparents and grandchildren in terms of three dimensions: Strength of emotional closeness, Frequency of contact and source of social support. This study also concluded that the African American grandparents continue to be a positive influence, even as the grandchildren grow older and enter adulthood.

Objectives:

1. To assess the demographic profile of the respondents.
2. To assess the perception of students towards traditional values of grandparents in the family.

Methodology

The study is descriptive in nature. In Coimbatore district there are seven universities, out of that Bharathiar University was randomly selected. The total population of PG Students in Bharathiar University is 1116 (Source: Annual Report 2014). Male students' population is about 468 and female student's population is about 648. Out of which 23 male students and 32 female students' were selected using stratified random sampling method (five percentage of the population was selected for the study). Tools used for data collection is based on review of literature.

Analysis and Interpretation**Table No: 1**

Demographic profile of the Respondents in terms of Age, Father's education, Mother's education, Father's occupation, Mother's occupation, Siblings, Family members, Family type and Total family Income

S.No	Variables	Category	Male Student	Female Student
1.	Age	20 yrs to 21 yrs	50.0	65.6
		22 yrs to 23 yrs	45.5	31.3
		24yrs and above	4.5	3.1
2.	Father's Education	Illiterate	22.7	28.1
		PG	-	6.3
		UG	4.5	15.6
		Higher Secondary	4.5	12.5
		Secondary	45.5	28.1
		Primary	22.7	9.4
3.	Mother's Education	Illiterate	22.7	25.0
		PG	-	6.3
		UG	4.5	3.1
		Higher Secondary	18.2	21.9
		Secondary	13.6	21.9
		Primary	40.9	21.9
4.	Father's Occupation	Organized Sector	4.5	6.3
		Self employed	36.4	56.3
		Unorganized Sector	36.4	34.4
		Not applicable	22.7	3.1

5.	Mother's Occupation	Self employed	4.5	6.3
		House Wife	63.6	78.1
		Unorganized Sector	31.8	15.6
6.	Siblings	Brother	36.4	34.4
		Sister	31.8	31.3
		Brother and Sister	27.3	21.9
		No Siblings	4.5	12.5
7.	Family Members	Up to 3 Members	18.2	15.6
		4 to 5 Members	63.6	59.4
		6 and above	18.2	25.0
8.	Family type	Nuclear Family	68.2	75.0
		Joint family	31.8	25.0
9.	Total Family Income	Up to 5000	18.2	28.1
		5001 to 10000	54.5	53.1
		10001 and above	27.3	18.8

- ❖ As observed from the above table, female students are comparatively more than male students in the age group of 20 to 21 yrs
- ❖ Nearly half of the male student's fathers are educated up to secondary level
- ❖ Male students mothers are educated up to primary level than female students mothers
- ❖ More than one third of the male students fathers are self employed and working in organized sector, more than half of the female student's fathers are self employed
- ❖ Majority of the mother's of both male and female students are house wife
- ❖ Majority of both male and female students have siblings
- ❖ Family members in both male and female students have 4 to 5 members
- ❖ Both male and female students are from nuclear family
- ❖ More than half of the male and female student total family income is between 5001 and 10000

Table No: 2**Attitude of Students towards Imbibing Ethics of Grandparents in the Family**

Respondents	Low	Moderate	High	Mean	SD
Male Students	13.6	63.6	22.7	2.09	.610
Female Students	18.8	56.2	25.0	2.06	.669

As observed from the above table, more than half of the male and female students are at moderate level in imbibing ethics of grandparents in the family.

Table No: 3

Overall Analysis

Students	Percentage	Mean	SD
Low	16.7	2.07	0.640
Moderate	59.2		
High	24.1		

The overall analysis also shows that students are at moderate level in imbibing ethics of grandparents in the family.

Conclusion

Elderly people are the pillars of the family. Their experience and ideas are valuable for our future life. We should make our children to spend time with grandparents rather than allowing them to watch TV, Face book, Whatsapp etc. Through grandparents the grandchildren come to know the importance of our culture, ideology, traditional values of the family and the society. The result shows that students are at moderate level in imbibing ethics of grandparents in the family. There was no difference among male and female students in imbibing ethics of grandparents in the family. Both of them are at moderate level in following the traditional values of grandparents in the family.

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