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Research Article

ATTITUDE OF ADOLESCENTS TOWARDS ELDERLY: A DESCRIPTIVE APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Nowadays older people are the vulnerable groups of the society suffering with many problems. As people are educating more and more the importance given to elders is drastically reducing. Adolescents can be educated regarding the importance, role of elderly in their life, as they are the future responsible person of the family.

Objective: To assess the attitude of adolescents towards elderly and to find association between attitude score and selected demographic variables.

Methodology: Descriptive survey approach was used to assess the attitude of adolescents towards elderly in selected Pre University colleges of Mangaluru. Non probability purposive sampling technique was used to select the 100 samples. Data was gathered using demographic data and attitude statements and data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Result: The findings of this study revealed that the majority of the adolescents (96%) have favorable attitude towards the elderly and there was no significant association between the demographic variables and attitude score.

Conclusion: The study concluded that the adolescents had favorable attitude towards elderly. It was recommended for some continuing teaching programs for adolescents to modify their behavior.

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INTRODUCTION

Adolescents describe the teenage years between 13 and 19 and can be considered the transitional stage from childhood to adulthood where a teen experiences less intimate relationship with their elderly (Díaz-Morales JF, Escribano C, Jankowski KS, Vollmer C, Randler C, 2014). Adolescence is the period of transition from late childhood to independent adulthood, a span of ten years marked with sexual growth (Sreevani R, 2012). Today, 1.2 billion adolescents stand at the crossroads between the childhood and adult world, forming around 18% of the global population. Around 243 million adolescents live in India. Vast majority of the adolescents are living in the developing countries (UNICEF, 2015).

“Good attitudes are magnets for good news”. But during the period of adolescence, a change in attitude towards their parents, friends, and grandparents may be experienced as the teen will be more inclined to their peers. Nowadays, the adolescents have a negative attitude towards the elderly, and consider them as a burden.

‘Old is gold’ may be an old proverb which hides the life of youngsters. A family without aged person is just like a country without an efficient leader. ‘Nothing can substitute something’

so that, something has its own value. Old people also have some value. In the same way the importance of elderly cannot be given to anyone who does not deserve it. But for the welfare of elderly persons, adolescents view towards them is important as they are the future representatives of the family. The World Economic Forum at Davos released a major report related to the growing older population. According to this, by the year 2050 two billion people will be over 60 years of age- one in five compared to one in 10 today (Diamond P, 2012).

A descriptive study was conducted to determine the attitude of Nigerian young adults and adolescents to grandparents among 224 freshman of a Federal University in Logos with the age group between 16 and 37 years. The subjects were chosen by simple random sampling technique and data was collected using structured knowledge questionnaire, baseline information collected using socio demographic proforma. The results showed that the female respondents have more positive attitude towards the grandparents than the male respondents, also the older adolescents have more positive attitude towards the elderly than the young adolescents (Ayenibiowo KO, John OAO, Ayeni OB, 2012).

An evaluative study was conducted to assess the baccalaureate nursing student’s knowledge and attitude towards older adults in Western Pennsylvania among 132 B Sc. Nursing students.

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The results of the study exposed the fact that, those students who earlier had experience with older adults had significantly more positive attitude than others. And also students who participated in geriatric nursing course had significantly higher knowledge scores (Mattos MK, Jiang Y, Seaman JB, Nilsen ML, Chasens ER, Novosel LM, 2015).

A study was conducted to determine adolescent’s persistent negative attitude towards older adults in general and their positive attitude towards grandparents. The study was conducted in America among 220 young college students. The results concluded that the adolescents saw the adults less positive than their grandparents (Stricker G, Hillman JL, 1996). In order to determine the attitude of adolescents towards their grandparents, a study was held in Baijnath and Panchrukhi blocks of Kongre district of Himachal Pradesh among 100 senior secondary students. The subjects were chosen by parent-child relation scale and demographic questionnaire. The result says that 50% each of males and females had protective attitude towards their grandparents (Rani R, Sharma S, 2004).

A descriptive study was conducted to assess the attitude of students towards elderly people among 286 nursing students from nursing colleges of Korea. A form containing demographic characteristics of participants and Kogans Attitude towards Old People Scale (KAOPS) were used to gather the required data. The result of the study concluded that the nursing students in this study have neutral attitudes towards elderly people (Lee HS, 2014).

A study was conducted to determine the attitude of adolescents towards elderly, their knowledge about the aging process and problems associated with it in Udupi district of Mangaluru, among 100 adolescents of 15-20 years. The subjects were chosen by simple random sampling technique and data was collected using structured knowledge questionnaire. The study observed that majority of the adolescents showed positive attitude towards the elderly (Adiga, Kasturi R, 2011).

Objectives of the study

- To assess the attitude of adolescents towards elderly.
- To find an association between the attitude score and selected demographic variables

Hypothesis

All hypothesis will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H₁: There will be significant association between attitude score and selected demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to achieve the objectives of the study a survey approach was found to be appropriate and selected for the study. A descriptive survey design was adopted. The study was conducted in selected pre university colleges of Mangaluru. The sample of the present study consisted of adolescents between age group of 16-19 years studying in selected PU colleges of Mangaluru. The samples were selected by non probability purposive sampling technique. The key variables under the study were attitude of adolescents towards elderly, and the demographic variables like age, gender, religion, type of family, grade of study, stream of study, monthly family

income and place of residence. Data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Data collection tool and technique

The attitude scale was prepared in order to assess the attitude of adolescents towards elderly with an extensive review of literature and discussion with experts.

Description of tool

Section A: Demographic Proforma

It consists of age, gender, religion, type of family, grade of study, steam of study, monthly income and place of residence.

Section B: Attitude scale

The investigators developed a 5 point Likert scale. The scale comprises of 28 items with 14 positive and 14 negative statements. The odd numbered items contain a negative statement while even numbered items contain a positive statement. In accordance with the structure of the scale, positive statements are marked as 1,2,3,4,5 from left to right, while positive statements are marked as 5,4,3,2,1 from left to right. The lowest score is 28 and the highest score is 140. Higher the score obtained from the scale indicates positive attitude towards elderly.

Data collection procedure

After seeking ethical clearance, a formal written permission was obtained from concerned college authorities. The data collection scheduled from 15.06.16 to 22.06.16. The investigators personally visited the adolescents in the college and explained the purpose of study and collected the data from subjects who were interested and willing to participate in the study. They were assured of anonymity and confidentiality. The number of samples selected was 100.

Plan for data analysis

The data obtained was analyzed in terms of objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics. Attitude would be analyzed by computing frequency, percentage, mean, median and standard deviation. Chi-square test was used to determine the association between attitude score and the selected demographic variables.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study are discussed under the following headings:

Section 1: Distribution of adolescents according to the demographic characteristics.

Table 1 Distribution of samples according to the demographic characteristics

n=100			
Sl. No.	Demographic variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Age in years		
a)	15	7	7
b)	16	73	73
c)	17	20	20
2	Gender		
a)	Male	8	8
b)	Female	92	92
3	Religion		

Table 1 Distribution of samples according to the demographic characteristics

		n=100	
a)	Muslim	90	90
b)	Hindu	2	2
c)	Christian	8	8
4	Type of family		
a)	Nuclear	86	86
b)	Joint	12	12
c)	Extended	2	2
5	Grade of study		
a)	1 year PUC	71	71
b)	2 Year PUC	29	29
6	Stream of study		
a)	Science	28	28
b)	Commerce	57	57
c)	Arts	15	15
7	Monthly family income		
a)	<10000	31	31
b)	10001-20000	39	39
c)	20001-30000	20	20
d)	>30001	10	10
8	Place of residence		
a)	Rural	24	24
b)	Urban	76	76

Section 3 Association between demographic variable and attitude score

Sl. No.	Demographic variables	Median		df	Chi square (x ²)
		<75	>75		
7	Monthly family income				
a)	<10000	2	29	3	0.081
b)	10001-20000	1	38		
c)	20001-30000	1	19		
d)	>30001	0	10		
8	Place of residence				
a)	Rural	0	24	1	0.133
b)	Urban	4	72		

The result shows that there is no significant association between attitude scores and the demographic variables as the calculated value is lesser to the table value at 0.05 level of significance.

CONCLUSION

The study defines the attitude of adolescents towards elderly. According to the present study, majority (96%) of the adolescents have favorable attitude towards elderly and the attitude score is independent of the demographic variables.

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Section 2: Distribution of Subjects according to their Attitude Score

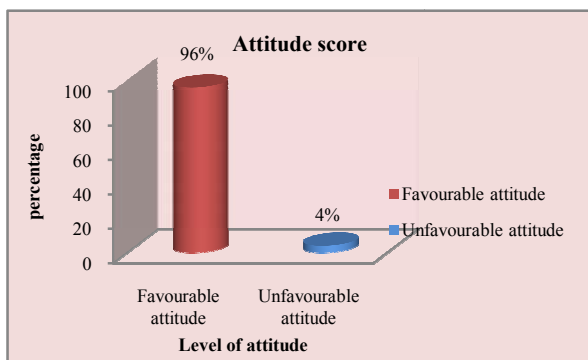


Fig 1 Frequency and percentage distribution of subjects according to level of attitude towards elderly

Section 3 Association between demographic variable and attitude score

		n=100			
Sl. No.	Demographic variables	Median		df	Chi square (x ²)
		<75	>75		
1	Age in years				
a)	15	0	7	2	0.947
b)	16	4	69		
c)	17	0	20		
2	Gender				
a)	Male	0	8	1	0.575
b)	Female	4	88		
3	Religion				
a)	Muslim	4	86	2	0.623
b)	Hindu	0	2		
c)	Christian	0	8		
4	Type of family				
a)	Nuclear	3	83	2	0.681
b)	Joint	1	11		
c)	Extended	0	2		
5	Grade of study				
a)	1 year PUC	4	67	1	0.90
b)	2 Year PUC	0	29		
6	Stream of study				
a)	Science	0	28	2	0.032
b)	Commerce	4	53		
c)	Arts	0	15		

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