

A Study on Attitude of Younger Generation on Parental Care in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh



Sociology

KEYWORDS : Attitude, Younger Generation, Elderly Parents

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ABSTRACT

One day, every one will get old. In old age living with comfortable life along with family members and social situations is very necessary. When the younger generation takes care of their old age parents with a positive attitude and cultivating the same attitude among their children, it will reflect and take care of the present generation when they become old. Old age population is increasing rapidly and it is the younger generation attitude among the parents which reflects on the well being of elderly and harmonious situations in society. Elderly expects more care from the younger generation in the final stage of life cycle where many physical, psychological and social changes will take place. Due to the psychological changes elderly becomes more sensitive and understanding their feelings, expectations and adjusting with their behaviours may be little complicated some times. But the children who can understand and having the right attitude, traditional and humanitarian values will easily adjust with elderly people and takes the complete care of them. Due to the various reasons like increasing cost of living, decreasing human values, traditional systems and joint family etc, Parents are neglecting in the present society. So that the day care centers, old age homes are increasing day by day and old age people are became most vulnerable group in the society. Elderly care is helping the elderly person in fulfilling of the special needs and requirements. Children's has to prepare psychologically to care of their aged parent's and the same attitude should be developed among the children by the parents. It will create a harmonious environment in the society. Present study is an attempt to understand the attitude of younger generation on parental care in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh.

INTRODUCTION:

'Ageism' is discrimination based on 'age'. Dr. Robert Butler coined this term in 1968, noting that Ageism exists in all cultures. The Ageist attitudes and biases based on stereotypes reduce elderly people to inferior or to limited positions. Ageism can vary in severity, in different cultures and different family settings.

In early societies, the elderly were respected and revered. Many preindustrial societies observed **gerontocracy**, a type of social structure where in the power is held by a society's oldest members in some countries today, the elderly still have influence and power and their vast knowledge is respected.

Changes happened not only in the workplace but also at home. In agrarian societies, a married couple cared for their aging parents. The oldest members of the family contributed to the household by doing chores, cooking, and helping with child care. As economies shifted from agrarian to industrial, younger generations moved to cities to work in factories. The elderly began to be seen as an expensive burden. They did not have the strength and stamina to work outside the home. What began during industrialization, a trend toward older people living apart from their grown children, has become common place.

Mistreatment and abuse of the elderly is a major social problem. As expected, with the biology of aging, the elderly sometimes become physically frail. This frailty renders them dependent on others for care sometimes for small needs like household tasks, and sometimes for assistance with basic functions like eating and toileting. Unlike a child, who also is dependent on another for care, an elder is an adult with a lifetime of experience, knowledge, and opinions-a more fully developed person. This makes the care providing situation more complex.

Elder abuse describes when a caretaker intentionally deprives an older person of care or harms the person in their charge. Caregivers may be family members, relatives, friends, health professionals, or employees of senior housing or nursing care. The elderly may be subject to many different types of abuse.

Change is attitudes: Due to busy work schedule for both husband and wife in any type of occupation either in employment, business or even in farm management, the attitudes of younger generation towards welfare of other family members and parents have changed over time. At present, looking care of parents and other aged family members is seen as disturbance to

In this study focus's was on attitude of younger generation on parental care.

Methodology

The study was carried out in selected Blocks of Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh covering 150 men and 150 women who are staying with their old age parents. I.e. total 300 younger generation respondents were studied. The baseline survey was conducted in the many villages and towns and sample was collected using simple random sampling method.

Results and Discussion

Table -1
Attitude of younger generation on parental care

Sl. No.	Statement	Not Favorable	To some extent Favourable	Fully Favourable	Total	Chi-square	Sig
1.	Opinion on Ageism	N 167	64	69	300		**
		% 55.7	21.3	23	100		
2.	Opinion on Gerontocracy	N 206	67	27	300		**
		% 68.67	22.33	9	100		
3	Willing to take care of aged parents	N 89	197	14	300	193.15	**
		% 29.70	65.70	4.70	100.00		
4	Providing adequate food to your aged parents on time	N 06	9	285	300	592.04	**
		% 2.00	3.00	95.00	100.00		
5	Providing adequate clothes to your aged parents	N 12	98	190	300	147.93	**
		% 4.00	33.00	63.00	100.00		
6	Willing to provide required medicine in case of sickness of aged parents	N 54	104	142	300	197.39	**
		% 18.00	34.70	47.30	100.00		
		Never	Occasionally	Often			

7	Feeling that aged parents as a burden	N	13	242	45	300	320.41	**
		%	4.30	80.70	15.00	100.00		
8	Feeling that aged parents are unwanted persons in the family	N	34	67	199	300	518.55	**
		%	11.40	22.30	66.30	100.00		
9	Scolding to aged parents	N	37	258	5	300	433.45	**
		%	12.30	86.00	1.70	100.00		
10	Beating aged parents	N	34	23	243	300	592.04	**
		%	11.30	7.70	81.00	100.00		
			Not Acceptable	To some extent acceptable	Fully Acceptable			
11	Feeling about married children live along with their aged parents	N	60	201	39	300	201.50	**
		%	20.00	67.00	13.00	100.00		
12	Married children giving part of their wages to their aged parents	N	76	113	111	300	180.82	**
		%	25.30	37.70	37.00	100.00		
13	Willing to allow children to associate with aged parents	N	54	87	159	300	257.20	**
		%	18.0	29.0	53.0	100.0		
	Note :: ** = Significant at 0.01 level							
	* = Significant at 0.05 level							
	@= Not Significant							

Opinion on Ageism

Ageism is discrimination based on age. Ageism can vary in severity depending on nature of attitudes of family members. Ageism generally exists in work place leading to retirement, health care, provision of balanced diet. Care and affection and following advice of aged persons especially females.

In the study area, more than fifty percent (55.6%) of the respondents were not in favour of ageism. However among the youngsters, 23% are fully favour of Ageism and another 31.3% are to some extent favourable in this regard which may result in more discrimination of Aged in Future.

Opinion on Gerontocracy

Gerontocracy is the type of social structure where in the power is held by a society oldest members in A.P, in rural areas, in certain families elderly enjoys unquestionable authority and everyone in family must follow their advice. In some families, female elders too exercise unquestionable authority. This type of authority is mostly liked by younger generations in recent years. In the study area also nearly three fourth of younger generation were not in favour of gerontocracy. However, 22% were favour 'to some extent' and around 9% are fully favour towards gerontocracy. They feel that elderly authority is necessary to control behaviour of younger generations.

3. Willing to take care of aged parents

Taking care of aged parents is the responsibility of the younger generation. The information on whether the respondents are willing to take care of their aged parents has been elicited and presented in the Table. The table shows that 197 respondents (65.7 %) are 'to some extent' favourable to take care of aged parents, 89 respondents (29.70 %) are not favourable or willing to take care of aged parents and mere 14 respondents (4.70 %) are fully favourable or willing to take care of aged parents. Above all, majority of the respondents (65.7 %) are 'to some extent' favourable to take care of aged parents. The Chi-square value is

significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that the willing to take care of their aged parents by the younger generations is highly significant.

4. Providing adequate food to aged parents

The table shows that 297 respondents (99 %) were fully favour of providing adequate food to their aged parents and 3 respondents (1 %) felt 'some extent happy' to provide adequate food to their aged parents. By and large, 99 per cent of the respondents were favourable for providing adequate food to their aged parents. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that the providing adequate food to the aged parents by the younger generations is highly significant.

5. Providing adequate clothes to aged parents

The table shows that 190 respondents (63.20 %) were fully favour of providing adequate clothes to their aged parents, 98 respondents (32.00 %) were 'to some extent favourable' and remaining (4 %) were not favourable to provide adequate clothes to their aged parents. By and large, more than 63 per cent of the respondents were favourable of providing adequate clothes to their aged parents. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that the majority of respondents are favourable to provide adequate clothes to the aged parents is highly significant.

6. Providing required medicine in case of sickness of aged parents

The table shows that 142 respondents (47.30 %) were favour of providing required medicine in the case of sickness of their aged parents, and (18 %) were 'to some extent' favourable in this regard. However, 34% were not favourable to provide medicines on time to sick patients which has to be thought seriously.

7. Feeling that aged parents as a burden

The table shows that 242 respondents (80.7 %) felt occasionally that aged parents as burden to them, and only 45 respondents (15 %) never felt that aged parents are a burden to them and 13 respondents (4.3 %) felt often that aged parents are a burden to them. It is concluded that around 81 per cent of the respondents felt occasionally that aged parents are a burden to them. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that the feeling of the respondents that aged parents are occasionally burden to them is highly significant.

8. Feeling that aged parents are unwanted persons in the family

The table shows that 269 respondents (89.7 %) felt never that aged parents are unwanted persons in the family, 27 respondents (9 %) felt occasionally that aged parents are unwanted persons in the family and 4 respondents (1.3 %) felt often that aged parents are unwanted persons in the family. Above all, it is concluded that around 90 per cent of the respondents never felt that aged parents are unwanted persons in the family. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that the feeling of the respondents that aged parents are never unwanted persons in the family is highly significant.

9. Scolding aged parents

The table shows that 294 respondents (98 %) occasionally scolded the aged parents, 5 respondents (1.7 %) never scolded and 1 respondent (0.3 %) often scolded their aged parents. By and large, 98 per cent of the respondents occasionally scolded their aged parents. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that occasional scolding the aged parents by the younger generations common.

10. Beating aged parents

The table shows that 297 respondents (99 %) never bet the aged parents and 3 respondents (1 %) occasionally bet their aged parents. By and large, 99 per cent of the respondents never bet their aged parents. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that the younger generation never bet their aged parents significant.

11. Feeling about married children will live with their aged

parents

The table shows that 201 respondents (67 %) felt 'to some extent' acceptable for married children to live with their aged parents, 80 respondents (26.7 %) felt fully acceptable and 19 respondents (6.3 %) never felt about married children will live with their aged parents. Above all, it is concluded that 67 per cent of the respondents 'to some extent' acceptable for married children to live with their aged parents. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that the feeling about married children 'to some extent' acceptable to live with their aged parents is highly significant.

12 Married children giving part of their wages to their aged parents

The table shows that 113 respondents (37.7 %) 'to some extent' acceptable that married children have to give part of their wages to their aged parents, 111 respondents (37 %) thought never and 76 respondents (25.3 %) fully acceptable that married children have to give part of their wages to their aged parents. Above all, it is concluded that more than 37 per cent of the respondents were 'to some extent' acceptable that married children give part of their wages to their aged parents. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and the findings are significant.

13. Willing to allow children to associate with aged parents

The table shows that 159 respondents (53 %) are never acceptable to allow children to associate with aged parents, 87 respondents (29 %) are 'to some extent' acceptable to allow children to associate with aged parents and 54 respondents (18 %) are always willing to allow children to associate with aged parents. Above all, majority of the respondents (53 %) are never willing to allow children to associate with aged parents. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and the association is significant.

Index on attitude of younger generation on parental care:

In order to ascertain the proportion of younger generation having High, Moderate, and less positive attitudes on parental care, an index was developed based on the factors presented in table

.2

The total no. of aspects considered for the index is 13 and attitude score range of index lies between 13 to 39.

The younger generations are classified based on their attitudes on different aspects of parental care as follows.

	Score Range
Sample with highly positive attitudes	33 & above
Sample with Moderately positive attitude	23 - 32
Sample with less positive attitude	13 - 22

Index of attitude of younger generation on parental care

INDEX								
			Highly Positive	Moderately Positive	Less Positive	Total	Chi square	Sig
1	Attitude of younger generation on Parental Care	N	120	107	73	300	122.14	**
		%	40.00	35.67	24.33	100.00		

Conclusion

In the study it was observed both positive and negative results. Children are neglecting the elderly parents with their negative attitude which can be identified with their regular behaviour towards parents. At the same time still the strong Indian traditional values, joint family system, human values and social values are supporting the elderly care. But it is more important to take the proper measurement to continue the same system.

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