

Family Functioning and Family Satisfaction of Elderly Migrants



Home Science

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Dr.K. Latha

Post doctoral Research fellow, Department of Home Science, S. V. U, Tirupati.

Dr.V.Sreedevi

Prof, Department of Home Science, S.V.U, Tirupati.

ABSTRACT

The most complex component of population change and growth is migration. The impact of migration is a subject of change in terms of time and space. There are several problems are associated with or caused by migration particularly for the migrants. They have to readjust their family relations and roles. Their caste values and practices have also to be redefined. It, is therefore interesting to find out their perceptions about their family functioning.

The main aim of the present study in to understand the perception about migration and family functioning. The sample consists of 200 migrants of Chittoor District. Data was collected by using interview schedule. The collected data were scored; means, SDs, and frequency tables were calculated.

The results indicated that the old age migrant had highest means in family functioning with regard to period of study, family type and family size. There is significant relationship between age and family satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

The most complex component of population change and growth is migration. It has been pointed out that most of the migrants move from rural to urban areas to find out better economic opportunities. A few well educated, socially and economically better off people are attracted by the vast opportunities for fulfilling their aspirations and to acquire better status and chances of further achievement in society.

Several problems are associated with or caused by migration particularly for the migrants. They have to readjust their family relations and roles. Their caste values and practices have also to be redefined. The mode of social control, the celebrations of significant social events such as rituals of marriage, birth and death are also affected by migration.

It is therefore interesting to study how people coming from different socioeconomic groups and with varying educational, occupational, familial, and political and caste background organize their social life in new cultural settings.

The two most powerful factors in maintaining the stability of the family are family integration and family culture. In a rapid changing society, the family cannot remain unaffected. Rapid urbanization and industrialization have influenced the family to a large extent. The process of migration affects the family structure and disturbs its homogeneity. Therefore, migration may have definite impact on the family functioning.

The overall meaning of the term family functioning is carrying out of family related roles. Family functioning is a dynamic concept relating to the way family members interact and carry out tasks more specifically; it is the process of fulfilling activities which contribute to the maintenance of the family unit and well being of its members.

It is therefore important to find out how these migrants maintain their family relationships with other members and relatives in their place of origin. It is equally important to find out their perceptions about their family functioning and family satisfaction.

Reasons for undertaking: the mar war community:

Mar war is an immigrant minority community of Chittoor district. Mar war community has some peculiar characteristics and it differs from other community in many ways. It has its own religious beliefs and practices, which are unique in nature. Rajasthan is their native state. Its capital is Jaipur and their dialect is Rajasthani. As a minority group, the migrant Marwari's are in high positions all most in all types of business like high ranked jeweler shops, cloth shops, electrical shops, pawn brokers and sweet stalls etc.

Hypothesis: The following hypotheses were framed for experimental verification.

1. Age of the migrants significantly influence the family functioning of migrants Marwari's.
2. The period of study of Marwari's significantly influences the family functioning of migrant Marwari's.
3. Education of migrant Marwari's significantly influences the family functioning
4. Family satisfaction significantly influences the family functioning of migrant Marwari's.
5. Family type and family size significantly influences family functioning of migrant Marwari's.

Methodology

The sample consists of 200 migrant Marwari's, 150 from urban and 50 from Semi-Urban Women respondents were selected using purposive sample method. So on the whole sample universe of 1074 migrants, a total of 200 subjects were chosen for the present study.

Tools

1. General Information schedule (Developed by the investigator).
2. Family functioning scale (Developed by the investigator).
3. Family satisfaction scale (Smilkstein, 1978).

Description of the Tools

1. General information schedule is to know the background history of the migrant respondents and their family.
2. Family functioning scale was developed by the investigator under eight family functions, they are :

1. Financial aspects
2. Child rearing
3. Family strengths
4. Family visits
5. Social ceremonies
6. Family decisions
7. Food / habits
8. Local languages

Since there are 50 questions the score ranged from 50-150. The possible minimum score is 50 and possible maximum score is 150. The higher the score, the greater is the impact on family functioning.

3. Family satisfaction scale has nine statements and it is five point rating scale. The responses indicate the level of satisfaction of the family. The score range from minimum of 9 to maximum 45. A greater score indicates higher family satisfaction.

Procedure for Data Collection

The three tools described earlier were administered to the mi-

grant Marwari's. Keeping the hypotheses of the study in view, data were collected.

The data were carefully analyzed and appropriate statistical techniques were used.

Results and Discussion

The mean scores obtained by the respondents regarding family functioning, scores have been compared with respect to factors like age, period of the stay, family type, family size and education. Family satisfaction scores have been compared with respect to tabular like age.

For the above factors the mean scores and SD along with one way ANOVA are represented.

AGE:

When the mean scores in the table no. 1 are observed, it was clear that, as the age increases the mean scores obtained by the respondents on family functioning also increased. The younger age group of respondents are those who are below 25 years of age had the least mean scores and older age who are above 75 years of age had highest mean scores.

The increasing trend in the mean scores on family functioning with increasing age indicates a relationship between age and family functioning.

The possible reason for the older age group of respondents getting a higher mean scores might be attributed to the increased level of maturity and understand of one's own responsibilities and compliance with the demands of the family resulting in better family functioning.

An attempt is made to see whether the existing relationship between age and family functioning is significant or not. ANOVA was employed.

F-values shown in the table indicated a significant relationship between age of the respondents and their perceptions on family functioning at 0.01 % level of significance.

PERIOD OF STAY (PS):

From the table no. 2 it is clear that the respondents belonging to second category where the period of stay P.S ranged from 11-20 years at the place of destination had secured higher score followed by first and third category.

The respondents belonging to second category (11-20years) of stay had procured higher mean scores on family functioning than the other two groups.

The assumption may be that the migrants interacting process with the people of destination and their period of stay might adversely act on family functioning.

F-value shown in the table indicated a significant relationship between period of stay and family functioning at 0.05% level of significance.

FAMILY TYPE (FT):

Respondents belonging to joint families obtained higher mean scores than the respondents from nuclear families.

The reasons for a higher mean scores obtained by the respondents from joint families may be because the Marwari's in their place of origin have a unique feature of living in joint family. But for some unknown reasons migrants at present had to set up a nuclear family much against their will. They might be missing the advantages of living in a joint family at present like support from elders, companionship of other in laws and facility of sharing household chores and present life style may not be very satisfying to them. More over the members of the nuclear family might feel isolated especially in a place where the main stream culture is too different from the family culture. This feeling of

loneliness might also be responsible for a lower mean score on Family functioning for respondents from nuclear family.

By looking at ANOVA results in table no. 4, it can be concluded that the family type of the respondents was significantly influencing their perceptions on family functioning.

FAMILY SIZE (FS):

When the mean scores in the table no. 5 are observed an increasing trend in the mean scores is noticed, with the increasing size of the family, as the family size increased the mean scores on family functioning also increased. This shows a clear relationship between family size and family functioning.

Respondents from larger families perceived that their families are functioning better than the smaller families. This may be because; members of small families generally have high aspirations. As a result they may not be satisfied with the existing state of affairs. There may be a high gap between existing state and their expectations with regard to different aspects of family life. In their opinion, they may think that still something need to be reached and achieved. F-value shown the table indicates a significant relationship between family functioning and family size at 0.01 % level of significance.

FAMILY SATISFACTION:

Satisfaction means something that satisfies desires or gratifies feelings. A very significant function served by the family is that of providing a heaven of love and trust to each other. Every person in the family needs the reassurance that they will be loved, cared for and protected from the threatening situations. For this each member in the family should perform their role quite naturally and establish strong ties between every person in the family.

When family members learn to share, trust, co-operate and love then the entire family likely to develop into an emotionally stable unit. Hence family patterns and description described above is a representative of the satisfied family.

The mean scores obtained by the respondents regarding family satisfaction have been compared with respect to factor like age.

From the table it is clear that third category of respondents who are at 51-75 years of age had the highest mean score, than other categories this indicates a relationship between age and Family satisfaction. ANOVA was employed to see whether their relationship is significant or not.

The F-value shows a significant relationship between age and family satisfaction at 0.01% level of significance.

Table No 1: Means and SD of family functioning as perceived by the respondents with different age groups.

S.No.	Age in years	Mean	Number	SD	F-value
1.	<25	84.44	70	14.98	F = (3,196=175.266**)
2.	26-50	108.60	70	10.03	
3.	51.75	123.84	32	6.97	
4.	75 & above	134.92	28	5.70	

**** Significant at 0.01% level.**

Table No.2: Means and SD of family functioning as perceived by the respondents with different categories of period of stay.

S.No.	Period of stay	Mean	Number	SD	F-value
1.	1-10 years	103.14	81	25.32	F = (2,197 4.334*)
2.	11-20 years	110.89	92	17.47	
3.	21 and above	99.88	27	18.04	

*** Significant at 0.05% level.**

Table No.4: Means and SD of family functioning as perceived by the respondents from nuclear and joint families.

S.No.	Family type	Mean	Number	SD	F-value
1.	Nuclear	91.46	110	15.91	F = (1,198=280.332**)
2.	Joint	123.36	90	10.73	

**** Significant at 0.01% level**

Table No:5 Means and SD of family functioning as perceived by the respondents of different family size.

S.No.	Family Size	Mean	Number	SD	F-value
1.	< 5 and 5	91.46	110	15.91	F = (2,197=141.569**)
2.	6 – 10	123.50	75	11.10	
3.	11 and above	126.66	15	7.56	

**** Significant at 0.01% level**

Table No. 6: Means and SD of family satisfaction as perceived by the respondents of migrant Marwari's

S.No.	Age	Mean	Number	SD	f-value
1.	<25 years	30.97	70	8.00	F = (3,196=6.417**)
2.	26-50 years	35.21	70	5.89	
3.	51-75 years	35.87	32	7.02	
4.	76 and above	35.14	28	5.07	

**** Significant at 0.01% level.**

Major findings of the study

1. Family functioning was better in the case of respondents with higher age.
2. Period of stay has significant influence on family functioning of migrant Marwari's.
3. Family functioning was better in families where the respondents were graduates.
4. Family functioning was better in joint families than in nuclear families.
5. As the age increased the scores on family satisfaction also increased.

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