

Attitude of Teenagers Towards Their Grandparents

Rita Rani and Shubhangna Sharma

INTRODUCTION

It is universally known fact that in a family, there exists a unique and special bond between grandparents and grandchildren. Grandparent has a significant role in the lives of their families. So, in many cultures, it is the grandparents who first come to mind, when intergenerational support is considered Chaudhary (2001).

The roles of grandparents are diverse. The grandparents give a grandchild love, affection, care, shelter, life experience, moral values, company, closeness, trust and support. The grandchild benefited from the relationship effectively, cognitively and materially Kallio-puska (1994).

Radical change occurred in the family structure value system, adoption of western culture, busy life style and independent views resulted in deteriorating the relationships between grandparents and grandchildren. Due to this adolescents treat their grandparents with less respect and less affection. They have less emotional intimate relationships with grandparents. And also in the age of group from sixteen onwards begin to view elderly as large and impersonal grey mass in the society, something a social burden standing in their way. Boys and girls at this stage may respond to there grandparents with irritation, distrust and suspicion. They are easily offended and are quick to complain that the elders do not understand them or they do not treat them fairly. Moreover, boys have unfavorable and less intimate relationships with their grandparents, this is due to sex role standard prevalent in our society, which is based on the differential ways boys and girls are treated. Boys are given greater freedom than girls, they spend less time in the home, while girls play a subordinate role and are encouraged to do household chores and thus spend maximum time in home than boys.

More specifically, study was undertaken to examine the attitude of male and female teenagers towards their grandparents.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample: This study was conducted in the

Baijnath and Panchrukhi Blocks of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. From the selected two blocks a list of Senior Secondary schools was obtained and two senior secondary schools from each of the blocks were randomly selected. The teenagers who were staying permanently with at least one grandparent were selected out from the list. 50 students (25 males and 25 females) per school, irrespective of caste, creed, and economic status were selected by random sampling technique. 100 males and 100 females were selected from each block, thus in all 200 teenagers were selected for detailed analysis.

Tool: Parent-child relationship scale Rao, (1971) was modified to get the information regarding the attitude of teenagers.

Attitude / Dimension of the scale as follows:

- I) *Protecting:* the defending attitude overtly expressed in the act of guarding, sheltering and shielding by the grandparents from situations on experiences perceived to be hostile, oppressing and harmful.
- II) *Rejecting:* Behaviour evident in renouncing the grandparents in aversion. The disposition was indicated in being disdainful and outright refusal of the grandchildren.
- III) *Demanding:* Expression of authority and claim with imperious command, executed in the exercise of over all control .
- IV) *Loving:* Expression of fondness, devoted attachment and amiableness shown to grandparents.
- V) *Positive involvement:* Behaviour of children in which they positively mix-up and share the things with their grandparents.
- VI) *Obey Rules:* The reasonable/unreasonable demands or orders, authority of grandparents towards their grandchildren.

Each sub-scale was divided into four sub categories for more accurate information

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data in table 1 indicates that, about 50 percent males and females were having protective attitude towards their grandparents. More females (38 percent) in comparison to males (12 percent) were showing extremely protective attitude towards grandparents.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of respondents with regard to protective attitude towards grandparents.

<i>Response categories</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Extremely Non Protective	5.00	2.00	3.50
Non – Protective	32.00	17.00	24.50
Protective	51.00	43.00	47.00
Extremely Protective	12.00	38.00	25.00

$\chi^2 = 20.074$ Significant at 1 percent.

The chi-square test showing. That there was difference in protective attitude between male and females. Investor and King (1977) also reported that females had more protective and positive attitude as compared to males. As females are always ready to help their grandparents when they are emotionally disturbed or ill.

Table 2 shows that most of the males (45 percent) were having rejective attitude towards grandparents in comparison to females (21 percent). Only 4 percent females and 13 percent males showed extremely rejective attitude towards grandparents. There was found to be statistically significant difference between male & female rejective attitude.

Table 2: Percentage distribution of respondents with regard to rejective attitude towards grandparents.

<i>Response Categories</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Extremely non-rejective	14.00	31.00	22.50
Non-rejective	28.00	44.00	36.00
Rejective	45.00	21.00	33.00
Extremely rejective	13.00	4.00	8.50

$\chi^2 = 23.466$ Significant at 5 percent and 1 percent.

More males in comparison to females respondents felt that their grandparents were unnecessarily nag them and their interest clash regarding modern view and they also less interested in their grandparents. The same finding was reported by Kivett (1991).

Table 3 reveals that out of two hundred respondents about 3/5th of females and 1/3rd of males having not demanding attitude from their grandparents. The chi-square found to be significant.

Table 3: Percentage distributions of respondents with regard to demanding attitude towards grandparents.

<i>Response Categories</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Extremely not-demanding	9.00	3.00	6.00
Not-demanding	33.00	63.00	48.00
Demanding	48.00	30.00	39.00
Extremely Demanding	10.00	4.00	7.00

$\chi^2 = 10.078$ Significant at 5 percent

The level of interaction between grandparents and grandchildren was enhanced if they effectively reward their grandchildren and fulfilled their requirements as observed by Chaudhary (2001).

Considering the loving attitude of males and female respondents towards their grandparents (Table 4) it was revealed that there were only 5 percent of females and 13 percent of the males were having extremely non-loving attitude towards their grandparents.

Table 4: Percentage distributions of respondents with regard to loving attitude towards grandparents.

<i>Response Categories</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Extremely non-loving	13.00	5.00	9.00
Non-loving	41.00	21.00	31.00
Loving	36.00	46.00	41.00
Extremely loving	10.00	28.00	19.00

$\chi^2 = 19.753$ Significant at 5 percent.

The chi-square test reflect that there were differences between male and females respondents in this regard. Girls are more attached to their grandparents than boys, as they have more sympathizing attitude towards old people, than boys.

It can be seen from the table 5 that there were 30 percent male respondents and 22 percent female respondents were having non-positive involvement with their grandparents. The results indicate that there was significant difference between males and female respondents. Various studies were conducted in this regard.

Tinsley and Parke (1982) observed that coresiding grandparents had positively involved with their grandchildren than their non-residential counterparts. Chandhary (2001) also reported that grandchildren normally involved in leisure time activities.

Table 5: Percentage distribution of respondents with regard to positive involvement with grandparents.

Response Categories	Male	Female	Total
Extremely Non-Positive Involvement	19.00	7.00	13.00
Non-Positive Involvement	30.00	22.00	26.00
Positive Involvement	29.00	36.00	32.50
Extremely Positive Involvement	22.00	35.00	28.50

$\chi^2 = 10.482$ Significant at 5 Percent.

There were very few male respondents who extremely obeyed the rules set by their grandparents in comparison to female respondents (Table 6).

Table 6: Percentage distributions of respondents with regard to obey rules of grandparents.

Response Categories	Male	Female	Total
Extremely Disobey rules	10.00	4.00	7.00
Disobey rules	62.00	30.00	46.00
Obey rules	27.00	54.00	40.50
Extremely Obey rules	1.00	12.00	6.50

$\chi^2 = 32.00$ Significant at 5 percent and 1 percent.

Majority of males (62 percent) were disobeying the rules set by their grandparents, while 54 percent female obeyed the rules set by their grandparents Chaudhary (2001) studied the dominating behaviour of grandparents and reported that less number of grandchildren had obey the disciplinary attitude of grandparents.

CONCLUSION

It was found that female respondents were showing protecting, positive involvement and loving attitude towards their grandparents, while male respondents had rejecting, demanding and disobeying the rules of their grandparents as compared to female respondents. Females are positively involved with their grandparents and

they are more attached and having more sympathizing attitude towards elderly at home whereas males shows unfavorable attitude towards their grandparents.

It may be conclude that positive attitude in males should be developed by enhancing the family counselling which help to resolve conflicts and misunderstanding, thus developing a positive attitude between males and their grandparents.

KEYWORDS Grandparents. Adolescents. Intergene-rational-relations. Grandchildren. Attitude.

ABSTRACT The study was undertaken with the objective to examine the different attitudes of male and female teenagers towards their grandparents. This study was conducted in two blocks of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. A total of 200 teenagers (100 males and 100 females) from four senior secondary schools and staying permanently with their grandparents were randomly selected. The scale used in the study was based on the six dimension / attitudes viz. Protective, Rejective, Demanding, Loving, Positive involvement and Obey rules. The finding indicate that females had comparatively more protective loving and protectively involvement with their grandparents while males had rejective, demanding and disobeying the rules of their grandparents.

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Authors' Address: Rita Rani and Dr. Shubhangna Sharma, Department of Human Development, College of Home Science, CSK, HPKV, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, India