

## **“Socio–Cultural Deprivation of Younger Peoples”**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

A wealth of research has been undertaken over the last many years or so to assess the changing social position of the aged, and its effects on their life in India and abroad. Social perception of the individual is also attached to the status of the individual. Changed socio-economic position of the aged also results in the perception of other people with whom they live. In an early and influential study Tuckman and Large (1952) reported that at least one-third respondents perceived old people as stubborn, touchy, engaging in frequent quarrels with their children and relatively bossy and meddling in other people's affairs, Golds and Foyan (1959) also found that young people having negative perception of the old, Becker and Taylor (1966) reported mixed views. They found that students living with great grandparents endorse fewer negative stereotypes about the aged than do those living with grandparents only.

In ancient India nothing important in the family could take place without the sanction and blessings of the aged who invariably commanded the top position of respect and honour not only among family members but also among neighbours and relatives. With the passage of time there has been erosion in the status of the aged persons and they are being exposed to certain unexpected problems under the changing socio-economic set up of the country.

Old age is the closing period in the life span. It is a period when people “move away” from previous, more desirable periods or times of “usefulness”. As people move away from the earlier period of their lives, they often look back on them, usually regretfully, and tend to live in the present, ignoring the future as much as possible.

Age sixty is usually considered the dividing line between middle and old age. However, it is recognised that chronological age is a poor criterion to use in marking off the beginning of old age because there are such marked differences among individuals the age at which aging actually begins.

Because of better living conditions and better health care, most men and women today do not show the mental and physical signs of aging until the mid-sixties or even the early seventies, for that reason, there is a gradual trend toward using sixty-five the age of retirement in many businesses to mark the beginning of old age.

The last state in the life span is frequently sub divided into early old age, which extends from age sixty to seventy, and advanced old age, which begins at seventy and extends to the end of life. People during the sixties are usually referred to as "elderly" - meaning somewhat old or Advanced beyond middle age - and "old" after they reach the age of seventy - meaning, according to standard dictionaries, advanced far in years of life and having lost the vigor of youth.

Like every other period in the life span, old age characterized by certain physical and psychological changes. The effects of these changes determines, to a large extent, whether elderly men and women will make good or poor personal and social adjustments. The characteristics of old age, however, are for more likely to lead to poor adjustments than to good and to unhappiness rather than to happiness. That is why old age is even more dreaded in the American culture of today than middle age.

As has been stressed repeatedly, people are never static. Instead, they constantly change. During the early part of life, the changes are evolutionary in that they lead to maturity of structure and functioning. In the latter part of life, by contrast, they are mainly evolutionary, involving a regression to earlier stages. These changes are the natural accompaniment of what is commonly known as "aging. They affect physical as well as mental structures and functioning's.

The period during old age when physical and mental decline is slow and gradual and when compensation can be made for these decline is known as senescence - a time of growing old or of aging. People may become senseless and in their fifties if not until their early or late sixties, depending upon the rate of physical and mental decline.

## **HYPOTHESIS**

- ✓ Perception of younger people of the aged would be positively related to socio-cultural factors (educational levels) in both the groups.

## **METHODS**

**Sample** -A random sample of 400 younger people of jointfamily were selected, out of which 200 each, rural and urban,were used as subjects in this study. Their ages ranged from 25-35 years with a mean age of 32.51 years.

**Test-** For measuring socio-cultural status of the subjects, Kuppaswamy 's Socio-economic status scale (Urban) was used. Having lowest income people will be treated as Socio-culturally deprived in the sample.

**Scale-** Socio-Economic Scale by Kuppaswamy.

This scale measures three areas of the individual, (A) Education, (B) Occupation, and (c) Income. The SEM Scale(Urban) contains 7 items in each of the three variables, the scale can be used by collecting information about an individual's Socio-economic background in a specially devised information inventory. Then the score card can be completed and the status score of the individual can be worked out.

There are two forms of the scale. Form 'A' is meant for adults who are either earning or who are out of employment, Form 'B' is meant only for students. Both forms can be used as self-administering forms in the case of literate persons. Form 'A' may be used as a schedule to be completed by the investigator by asking questions especially in the case of illiterate persons. Form 'B' required college and school students to answer the particular items regarding their parents or guardians.

Kuppaswamy (1962) says that the importance of the knowledge about the social environment of the individual is being increasingly realized by research workers in the fields of social sciences. Economics realised long back the importance of the socio-economic background of the individual in determining his economic behaviour. Psychologists know well that there is high positive correlation between intelligence and occupation. Educational research has shown that the aspirations as well as the achievements of a pupil is related to the group or the class to which he belongs or with whom he identifies himself. Sociological researches have proved into the relationship of behaviour like adoption of new practices, with factors in the socio-economic environment of the individual.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

It was predicted that urban and rural younger people would differ significantly in terms of their opinion scores. As found in a number of studies (Tuckman and Large (1952) it was thought that education and economy plays a vital role in the younger people's perception of the aged. In order to verify this contention, the opinion (Perception) mean scores of urban and rural young people towards the aged were compared by computing the 't' ratio, because the distribution of opinion scores is normal. The comparison of the means for the rural and urban younger people, has been summarized in Table 2.

**Table - 1** Comparison of Urban and Rural Younger People in terms of Their Mean Opinion (perception) Scores. N = 400

Group	Mean	S.D	S.E.M	T-ratio	df	p-value
Urban Younger People	23.36	13.46	.98	13.96	398	.01
Rural Younger People	31.61	15.11	.97			

An examination of Table 1 reveals that the mean opinion (Perception) scores for the urban younger people group (23.36) is lower than the mean opinion (Perceptions) scores for the rural younger people group (31.61). Hence it is clear that rural young people have more favourable opinion/perception/ attitude toward the aged/older people than those of urban younger people. The mean difference is statistically significant ( $t=13.96$ ,  $df = 398$ ) as such hypothesis is retained and the rural younger people are actually found high in their favour opinion than the urban younger people.

In an attempt to examine the differences between able the four groups, namely, illiterate, Matriculate, Intermediate and graduate urban and rural younger people regarding their opinion/ perception/attitude of the aged, 't' test was applied (Table 2).

**Table – 2**

Mean and SD of the four groups (Illiterate, Matriculate, Intermediate and Graduate Urban Younger People) in terms of their opinion/perception scores and t-ratio.

Group	No.	Mean	S.D.	S.E.M	df	T	P-value
Illiterate	50	21.96	11.61	.98	98	6.34	0.05
Matriculate	50	23.11	12.71	.99			
Intermediate	50	19.98	11.36	.86	98	11.21	0.01
Graduates	50	18.87	10.46	.83			
Matriculate	50	23.11	12.71	.99	98	10.98	0.01
Graduates	50	19.98	11.36	.86			

An inspection of Table 2 shows that the mean differences between the four groups are significant beyond .05 and .01 level of confidence. The mean difference between illiterate scorers and matriculate scorers among urban younger people groups ( $t = 6.34$ ,  $df = 98$ ,  $p\text{-value} = .05$ ) and the mean difference between intermediate scorers and graduate's scorers among urban young people groups ( $t=11.21$ ,  $df = 98$ ,  $p\text{-value} = .01$ ). similarly, the mean difference between matriculation and graduates urban younger people's group opinion scorers ( $t=10.98$ ,  $df = 98$ ,  $p\text{-value} = .01$ ).

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