

Socio-personal factors affecting parental perception towards contribution of non-resident Indian children

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ABSTRACT

A study was planned to see the effect of topic socio-personal factors affecting parental perception with respect to contribution of non-resident Indian Children. The sample of 200 parents were drawn from 150 families for which, 28 villages were covered to finalize the sample. The findings revealed that maximum numbers of parents were middle passed, whose children had migrated to overseas. As education of parents increased, less number of children had migrated to overseas. Maximum number of children had migrated from Jat families and minimum from Khatri families. Maximum number of children had migrated from families having small land holding (<5) ha.

INTRODUCTION

Old age is usually the period between retirement and death. Chronological age is a poor criterion for marking old age. There are such marked differences between individuals in the age at which they actually begin to age. Due to better living conditions and medical facilities life span has increased and aging does not start till the mid-sixties or early seventies. For some, old age is one of the longest period in the life span, while for others; it is one of the shortest period. Lateef (2008) showed that study was both reactionary and retroactive in nature; it did not limit focus to the immediate problems of care for the retirees but extended concern to possible accompanying problems of inadequate care of the retirees by children

in the future.

In recent times, the rapid socio-economic transformation has affected every aspect of traditional Indian society. Industrialization with resultant urbanization and migration of population has affected institutions like the age old joint family. Technological advancement, impact of mass media and higher degree of mobility, higher education and job opportunities to women, have influenced long established life styles, conventional value systems and customary place of aged and women in the society. Thus, the society is witnessing a gradual but definite withering of the joint family system as a result of which a section of the family, primarily the elder, are exposed to somewhat emotional neglect and a lack of physical support. As a result of demographic changes and the

changing family context, it can no longer be assumed that the older persons live comfortably at home receiving care from family members. Tareque (2008) showed that older population is growing at a considerably faster rate and the life expectancy is also increasing with the advancement of time. The elderly should not be considered as a burden to the society. Their valuable experiences should be utilized fruitfully. Both government and society should take the responsibility of elderly.

Das and Basu (2008) revealed that population aging is one of the major challenges of the 21st century. This demographic shift has immensely affected the social fabric, cultural values and economic structure of the society to a great extent. India being an important member of the developing countries will have to bear its share more in the coming decades. This backdrop gives an immense scope to study socio-economic and health implications of population ageing in this context. It makes an attempt to examine (i) demographic, (ii) psycho-social implications of population ageing in the Indian context. It was found that the aging process has been influenced by the socio-economic development of the society. Kaushik (2008) found that socio-demographic variables like religion, caste, marital status, educational level and occupational status do not significantly influence sense of security among aged women. It was found that aged women cared for and respected by their family members, possess sense of security. It is suggested here that efforts should be made to enhance mutual caring and sharing between the aged and their significant others for ensuring their sense of security as well being.

Objectives :

- To study the relation of caste of parents and financial contribution made by NRI children per month towards their parents.
- To examine the impact of family structure and financial contribution by NRI children per month
- To study the financial contribution made by NRI children per month towards their parents.
- To find out the financial contribution made by NRI children per month more towards land holdings.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Selection of sample :

The present study was conducted on aged parents of Non-Resident Indian Children residing in rural areas

of *Jagraon* subdivision of Punjab. For selection of sample, parents of Non-Resident Indian Children were contacted through snow ball method. The sample of 200 parents were drawn from 150 families for which, 28 villages were covered to finalize the sample. The sample were equally divided according to the age range of respondents such as 65-75 years and 75-85 years. Under each age category, 100 respondents were taken, which were then divided into two categories *i.e.* single parent family category (50) and two parent family category (50). Further, the sample for the single parent family constituted 25 fathers and 25 mothers in both age groups; similarly the sample were equally distributed over both sexes in the category of two parent family as 25 fathers and 25 mothers.

Note: An Indian citizen who stays abroad for employment/carrying on business or vocation outside India or stays abroad under circumstances indicating an intention for an uncertain duration of stay abroad is a Non-Resident Indian (NRI).

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The basic unit of society *i.e.* the family has been influenced by the commercialization, modernization, urbanization and westernization. In India, the urbanization and industrialization have brought about major changes in the social structure. The centuries-old joint family system disintegrated, and with it collapsed the safety net of parents and grandparents. The joint family system that used to act as a strong backbone for social and emotional support for family members is rapidly vanishing. Measurement of socio-personal factors affecting parent's perception of contribution made by their Non Resident Indian children. The Tables given below is a picture of the measurement of socio-personal factors of respondents such as age, caste, change in land holdings and family structure in relation to contribution made by NRI children.

The results presented in Table 1 revealed non significant differences between age of parents and financial contribution by children per month. Though the association is non-significant yet large proportion of aged parents received financial help between Rs. 7,000-14,000 per month from their children settled overseas.

The results presented in Table 2 revealed significant association between caste and financial contribution made by children. Respondents from Jat and Khatri castes received significantly more amount as compared to

families of Scheduled caste. Majority of respondents from Jat and Khatri families received Rs.7000-14000 per month significantly from children. The NRI children of Jat and Khatri families were more interested to contribute for their parents.

The results presented in Table 3 revealed non significant differences in average change in land holding experienced by the aged parents of both age groups. As in the age group 65-75 years, single fathers experienced more changes in land holding followed by two parent family and single mothers. As fathers can manage land

and had more interest in farming whereas in age group 75-85 years single mothers experienced more change in land holding followed by two parent family and single male parent family. This shows that NRI children were contributing towards the property of their parents.

The results presented in Table 4 revealed significant association between change in land holdings and financial contribution. The respondents having land holdings (less than 5 ha) received more amount from their children as compared to medium and large land holdings. Majority of respondents from all categories received amount

Sr. No.	Age of respondents	Less than 7000	7000-14000	More than 14000	Total	² -value (chi square test)
1.	65-75 yrs	12 (42.86)	24 (50.00)	13 (52.00)	49 (48.51)	
2.	75-85 yrs	16 (57.14)	24 (50.00)	12 (48.00)	52 (51.49)	0.523 NS
	Total	28	48	25	101	

Note : NS=Non-significant

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages

Sr. No.	Amount (Per month in Rupees)	Jat and Khatri	Scheduled caste	Z values	Total
1.	<7000	24 (25.00)	3 (60.00)	1.724NS	27 (26.73)
2.	7000-14000	47 (48.96)	0 (0.00)	2.140*	47 (46.53)
3.	>14000	25 (26.04)	2 (40.00)	.688NS	27 (26.73)
	Total	96	5		101

Note: - * indicates significance of value at P=0.05

NS=Non Significant

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages

Sr. No.	Average change	Change in land holding (Mean Scores± S.D)						F values	
		65-75 years			75-85 years				
		Single parent family		Two parent family	Single parent family		Two parent family		
		Father	Mother	Both parents	Father	Mother	Both parents		
1.	Average change	5±1.732051	2.5±0.707107	3.5±1.048809	2.73 NS	5.5±5.196152	11.75±9.604686	10.143±9.8561	0.55 NS

Note: - NS=Non-significant

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages

Sr. No.	Land holding of parents	Less than 7000	7000-14000	More than 14000	Total	² -value (chi square test)
1.	Small(<5)	18 (64.29)	27 (60.00)	13 (46.43)	58 (57.43)	2.046*
2.	Medium (5-12)	5 (17.86)	16 (35.56)	11 (39.29)	32 (31.68)	
3.	Large (>12)	5 (17.86)	2 (4.44)	4 (14.29)	11 (10.89)	
	Total	28	45	28	101	

Note :- * indicates significance of value at P=0.05

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages

Sr. No.	Family structure of parents	Less than 7000	7000-14000	More than 14000	Total	² -value (chi square test)
1.	Single male parent family	5 (18.52)	22 (46.81)	13 (48.15)	40 (39.60)	12.142*
2.	Single female parent family	13 (48.15)	14 (29.79)	3 (11.11)	30 (29.70)	
3.	Two parent family	9 (33.33)	11 (23.40)	11 (40.74)	31 (30.69)	
	Total	27	47	27	101	

Note: - * indicates significance of value at P=0.05

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

between Rs.7000-14000 per month from the children. As indicated by parents, children felt concerned to increase their parental property by contributing financially. This gives a picture of better understanding between parents and their NRI children.

The results presented in Table 5 revealed significant association between family structure and financial contribution. As respondents from single male parent family received more amount as followed by two parent family and single female parent family. Majority of respondents from all categories received amount between Rs.7000-14,000 from the children. Similar work related to the present investigation was also done by Punia *et al.* (2010); Jain and Kang (2014) and Pradhan (2014).

Summary:

Increasing urbanization has resulted in a gradual collapse of the traditional joint family system that provided earlier the stability, respect and a sense of belonging and honor for old people. This calls for a new orientation amongst the elderly so that they may learn to live in harmony with the younger generation that has to face a highly competitive world in these days of globalization

Salient findings:

- Maximum numbers of parents were middle passed, whose children had migrated to overseas.
- As education of parents increased, less number of children had migrated to overseas.
- Maximum number of children had migrated from Jat families and minimum from Khatri families.
- Maximum number of children had migrated from

families having small land holding (<5) ha.

Conclusion:

– Majority of parents and children settled overseas were happy because of better quality of life and more job opportunities there. The parents also felt that children were contributing equally in maintaining the better standard of life in India so that parents could lead a comfortable life.

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