6.1 INTRODUCTION

A silent revolution has occurred in the last 100 years - unseen, unheard, and yet so close. The biggest achievement of the century is longevity. All over the world life expectancy has risen, leading to a sharp rise in the number of Older Persons. In India life expectancy has gone up from 20 years in the beginning of the 20th century to 62 years today. Our country has more than 75 million elderly people and a very large percentage of this constitutes the poor and the destitute who are bereft of even the basic necessities of life, namely food, shelter and clothing. With the decreasing death rate and increasing longevity, this segment of our society is growing at a rapid pace. Moreover, the priority for the welfare of the aged has been low amongst the various welfare schemes being implemented by the government and voluntary agencies. This is so because the elders are generally considered spent forces, who have outlived their utility for the growth of the society. Once the caretakers of their children now the elders look to their children to be their caretakers and it is here that the problem actually begins to grow, because, despite the parents having reared up three to four children these children put together find it difficult to look after their parents, their elders.

Our elders possess a wealth of experience, skills and above all the desire to contribute to the over all well being not only of the family but also of the whole society and certainly cursed be the ones who will not be able to in-cash from these rich treasures but unfortunate part is that despite being aware of all this the elders almost all around the world are being ignored, set aside and at times even badly treated. Again philosophically they are all for the care of their elders but there lays a wide gap between what they say and what they stand for; hence it was in the right direction to take a deep probe into the attitude of the youth towards the elders in relation to their value system. The present study was a modest attempt in this direction.
6.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The purpose of the research was:

“A Study of the Attitude of the Youth towards the Elders in Relation to their Value System.”

6.2 OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS USED

The operational definitions of the terms used in the study are given below:

• Attitude

The liking and disliking of an individual for a person or an idea that involves a tendency to behave in a certain manner, resting partially on rational and partially on emotional aspect.

• Youth

Young people (boys and girls) of early adulthood stage, a stage of existence just before maturity, attending college at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

• Elders

Senior members of the family, who have completed the traditional adult roles of making a living and child bearing, and are in the later adulthood stage after crossing sixty years.

• Value System

Coherent set of values adopted and/or evolved by a person, organization, or society as a standard to guide its behaviors in preferences in all situations.
6.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives were framed for the study:

1. To study the attitude of the youth towards the elders in relation to their value system.

2. To study the difference in the attitude of males and females towards the elders in relation to their value system.

3. To study the difference in the attitude of undergraduates and postgraduates towards the elders in relation to their value system.

4. To study the interaction effect of gender and education in respect of attitude towards the elders and value system.

6.5 HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

Keeping in mind the objectives of the study, the following hypothesis were formulated:

Ho 1: There exists no significant relation between the attitude and value system of the youth.

Ho 2: There exists no significant difference in the attitude of males and females towards the elders in relation to their value system.

Under this context the following null hypothesis were formulated:

Ho 2.1: There exists no significant difference in the attitude of males and females towards the elders.
Ho 2.2: There exists no significant relation between the attitude and value system of males.

Ho 2.3: There exists no significant relation between the attitude and value system of females.

Ho 3: There exists no significant difference in the attitude of undergraduates and postgraduates towards the elders in relation to their value system.

Under this context the following null hypothesis were formulated:

Ho 3.1: There exists no significant difference in the attitude of undergraduates and postgraduates towards the elders.

Ho 3.2: There exists no significant relation between the attitude and value system of undergraduates.

Ho 3.3: There exists no significant relation between the attitude and value system of postgraduates.

Ho 4: There exists no significant interaction effect of gender and education in respect of attitude towards the elders and value system.

Under this context the following null hypothesis were formulated:

Ho 4.1: There exists no significant interaction effect of gender and education in respect of attitude towards the elders.

Ho 4.2: There exists no significant interaction effect of gender and education in respect of value system.
6.6 METHOD OF THE STUDY

The research method employed in the present study was part of a field research namely questionnaire and the technique employed involved the use of Attitude Scale and Value scale named Study of Values. As the present research was of survey type the complete thesis is based on a comprehensive survey and stands on the granite ground of core data collected from grass root levels of real situations. The main purpose of this research was to study the attitude of the youth towards the elders in relation to their value system.

For this purpose an intensive survey was conducted to collect information on:

- The difference in the attitude of males and females towards the elders in relation to their value system.
- The difference in the attitude of undergraduates and postgraduates towards the elders in relation to their value system.
- The interaction effect of gender and education in respect of attitude towards the elders and value system.

6.7 DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The present study was undertaken keeping into consideration the objectives of the study. The investigator planned the entire procedure of research work in terms of research design suitable to the present study. The main purpose of the study was to determine the attitude of the youth towards the elders in relation to their value system. For this purpose the present study followed the survey method, which was not simply about amassing and tabulating.
facts but included proper analyses, interpretation, comparisons, identification of trends and relationships.

6.8 SAMPLE FOR THE STUDY

Taking into consideration the nature of the inquiry and other related factors, the investigator adopted a sample of 400 youth from the college and university student population of Calcutta. Samples were further grouped and sub-grouped on the basis of gender and education. At every stage of selection the principle of randomization was followed. The idea was to introduce and eliminate the subjectivity and biasness in the sample selection procedure, fulfilling the statistical conditions of sampling thus making the observed data seem more reliable.

Sampling frame for the present study is depicted hereinafter:

- Table 6.8.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduates</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.9 TOOLS USED IN THE STUDY

Taking into consideration the objectives of the study, availability of time at disposal of the investigator, scoring procedure and easiness of interpretation of the test results, the following tools were used for the present study:

- **Attitude Scale** developed by the investigator to assess the attitude of the youth towards the elders, utilizing item analysis approach, achieving validity and reliability. Attitude Scale was developed for the use of college students studying in undergraduate and postgraduate classes.

- **Study of Values** by Dr. Raj Kumar Ojha to measure the six basic interests or motives in personality: The Theoretical, the Economic, the Aesthetic, the Social, the Political and the Religious. Study of Values was designed for the use of college students studying in undergraduate and postgraduate classes.

6.10 VARIABLES

The present study consisted of the following independent and dependent variables:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Variables</th>
<th>Dependent Variables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Gender</td>
<td>1. Attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>2. Value System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.11 TECHNIQUES USED FOR STATISTICAL ANALYSES

Most research studies result in large volume of raw data which must be suitably reduced so that the same can be read easily and can be used for further analyses. The role of statistics in research is to function as a tool in designing research, analyzing its data and drawing conclusions there from. There are two major areas of statistics namely, Descriptive Statistics concerned with the development of certain indices from the raw data, and Inferential Statistics also known as sampling statistics, concerned with the process of generalization.

Relationships or differences supporting or conflicting with original hypothesis were subjected to statistical tests of significance to determine with what validity data can be said to indicate any conclusion(s). In other words, the data collected through various tools and techniques was subjected to classification, tabulation, categorization and quantitative analyses.

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics comprising Mean and Standard Deviation was calculated for all the variables mentioned in the objectives of the study.

Inferential Statistics

ANOVA (Analyses of Variance) was employed to study the significant difference between the variables mentioned in the objectives of the study. ANOVA was further employed to study interaction effects. Correlation and Regression was conducted to study the relation between attitude and value system for different variables.
6.12 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Drawn on the basis of analyses and interpretation of the data obtained, the findings are mentioned below:

1. The attitude of the youth towards the elders in relation to their value system is slightly favourable.

2. There exists a significant difference in the attitude of males and females towards the elders in relation to their value system. The attitude of females is more favourable than the males towards the elders.

3. There exists a significant difference in the attitude of undergraduates and postgraduates towards the elders in relation to their value system. The attitude of undergraduates is more favourable than the postgraduates towards the elders.

4. There exists no significant interaction effect of gender and education in respect of attitude towards the elders.

5. There exists a significant interaction effect of gender and education in respect of value system.

*The fruit of Silence is Prayer;*

*The fruit of Prayer is Faith;*

*The fruit of Faith is Love;*

*The fruit of Love is Service;*

*Service to the Elders;*

*Serve the Elders.*