CHAPTER VI

Discussion & Conclusions
DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the interpretation of the results obtained in the present study, in the light of observations reported in the existing reviewed literature. The results were examined systematically with regard to various socio-demographic sub-groups and psychological factors (behavioural variables) by indicating the possible practical implications.

Grandparents play a crucial role in family life when they are in three or multi generational families. The nature of this role vary with a multiplicity of factors like, cultural, demographic, social, economic, psychological and historical factors.

Hooyman and Kiyak (2002) averred that for women especially, the status of grandparenthood could engage 50 per cent of their lives. Of the 80 per cent of older people with children, 94 per cent were grandparents and nearly 50 per cent were great grandparents. Another way of grasping the significance of this change was that over 86 per cent of adult children had begun life with all grandparents living and more than 75 per cent had at least one grandparent alive when they attained the age of 30 years.

In many cultures and historical periods, decision making and economic power devolves upon the elderly, relations between grandparents and members of other generations were formal and authoritarian, characterised by prerogative and protective care on one side, and by dependence and respect, on the other (Kivnick and Sinclaire, 1996).
Conversely, in cultures and periods in which the elderly were removed from functional authority, grandparent-grandchild relationships were warmer and more indulgent, they were characterised by a friendly equality that can ease the tension among family generations.

Extended life expectancies increased the number of multi generational families and lead to an unprecedented emergence of long-term intergenerational relationships. According to demographic figures, we find more number of elderly people who were the rich resource for the modern family. Their roles were very important, their services are necessary and their presence was found to be in-valuable. In this regard, their physical ability and mental stability were essential to render help to the younger generations.

The sample distribution in the present study showed that a bulk of the sample (about 50%) of grandparents were literates belonging to middle age. The trend in this distribution signifies that the grandparents could be actively involved in the upbringing of grandchildren. Their involvement might be really a good investment of experiences and abilities as they were literates. They could also aid the grandchildren by assisting in their educational activities.

Another noteworthy observation in the present study was, the distribution of parents showed that large chunk of sample were less than 35 years of age and were primary school dropouts and most of them were married around 20 years of age, which was a very common feature in the Indian culture especially in semiurban and rural areas.

The place and profile of the study was a renowned pilgrimage center in the world, most of the population here were settlers from multifarious
backgrounds mainly dependent on small business to support their living. The people are generally traditional, God-fearing and respect family values. Thus the researcher envisaged the three generational families where elders and adolescent grandchildren lived harmoniously together.

In the light of the above backdrop, the current study attempted to provide a profile of perceptions of grandparents role in bringing up grandchildren among three generations in the family. All the three said generations tend to show rather favourable perceptions towards grandparental role. This tacitly explains the interplay of relations among family members in India.

6.1 Comparison of Perception Scores of Three Generations with Socio-Demographic Variables

The perception of grandparents role by first generationers were examined in different socio-demographic groups as a first step.

From the observations with regard to role perceptions of first generationers, it is evident that the age, gender, type of grandparent, socio-economic status, in case of grandparents number of grandchildren among grandmothers and type of family, in case of grandfathers showed significant influence on the perceptions of grandparents towards grandparental role. There seemed to be no significant influence of education on perceptions of grandparental role among grandparents.

Grandparents were the part of immediate family in the Indian joint families who constitute a rich source of experience, warmth and joy. In the contemporary society the importance of their role in grandchildren's lives cannot be over emphasized as they were expected to be more involved in
young and middle ages of grandparenting. In the younger ages grandparents would be more active and have the zeal to engage themselves with their grandchildren, hence they tend to develop positive attitudes towards bringing up grandchildren. Despite their attaining stability from the past experiences, with the advancing age their capabilities and interests tend to change. So they were liable to act based on the situational needs, instead of being a primary caregiver. Healthy grandparents could forge strong bridges that connect generations. As Lee (2000) rightly reported, they could add to family occasions by sharing stories, holidays, vacations and unconditional love and acceptance of their grandchildren.

The results (Table 15) supports the hypothesis (1) that, "Perceptions of grandparents (generation-I) with regard to grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren significantly differ with their age". Thus the hypothesis (1) is accepted.

Similar results were reported in some studies (Jyothi, 1995, Siznovacz, 1998). The results support the perspective that, grandparenthood is more salient in young-old age than in the old-old age. Grandparenthood at the first instance, that is for the first time in their life would be seen as on time, when it occurs between the ages of 42 and 57. As researchers suggested that on time grandmothers avoid the strains of off-time transitions and feel good about their grandparenthood timing (Kivnick and Sinclair, 1996). Besides, grandparenting for the first time would provide them novel and unique experiences, bereft of their children and enjoy their participation while bringing them up. The unifying bond between the two generations becomes stronger and facilitate good interpersonal relationships between them, and everlasting throughout their life.
The results of the study was supported by the observations made by Pearson, Hunter, Look and Ialango (1996), Watson (1997) that, old grandmothers (58-67 years) perceived themselves to have more information about grandchildren than younger grandmothers (47 to 57 years). In bereaved and estranged families Johnson (1988), observed a few young grandmothers who were more active in providing major assistance to children and grandchildren.

Gender differences were noticed in all walks of life. The whole humankind is based on two species (male and female) which were genetically determined before birth. All societies in general allocate roles on the basis of sex and anticipate this allocation in the socialisation of children. Not only the males and females were expected to acquire sex specific self-concepts and personality characteristics but to be masculine or feminine was also defined by that particular culture. The psychological characteristics and behavioural patterns expected for each sex were referred to as sex roles. These vary with different cultures. It was commonly acknowledged that the male's role carried greater advantages. Males being the head of the family were considered as superior to females, while the female role was that of a mother and grandmother. She was supposed to be affectionate, sympathetic, understanding, compassionate, soft-spoken, warm, tender etcetera (Kapila, 1992). To be acceptable in society they have to take up the prescribed traditional roles as descended from the history and act them out based on the context and culture. The elderly who were at the peak of experience on developmental ladder, might differ in many aspects depending on the situations and their physical and mental states. The roles prescribed to
grandparents also varied with their gender. As the grandmothers in the joint family acted as a nurturer, caregiver, culture transmitter, grandfathers acted out patrolling and disciplined roles. As a result grandmothers tend to have somewhat better chances of developing good relationship with their grandchildren especially with granddaughters.

The results in Table-15 supports the hypothesis (2) that, “Gender of the grandparents (generation-1) significantly influence their perceptions towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren”. The individual means of perception scores were observed grandmothers showed highly favourable perceptions, when compared to grandfathers (Table-15). Overall gender effects were studied on the perceptions of grandparents and were found significant. Hypothesis (2) is therefore accepted.

It is no gain saying the fact that grandmothers were more involved in filial responsibilities and bonding of younger generations through her valuable contributions in caregiving and family matters. Grandfather’s role on the other hand would be very superficial and fixed, mostly related to recreational and economic aspects. Hence grandmothers were more prone to be overloaded with physical work and need to manage with the attitudinal and generational differences within the family. Though they were the more supportive ones as Seligman, Goodwin and Karren (1997) said, with the diminishing physical ability and health status, sometimes they tend to perceive their role negatively. In the Indian context, Lakshmi Archana (2002) noticed that gender of the custodial grandparent as the significant, influencing variable in grandparent’s role involvement and satisfaction.
Education of an individual makes him more aware of his roles in the society and family. It gives a wider perspective to an individual to understand the world and brings in maturity. This makes the person to develop positive outlook and make him to view others and the world in a broader perspective. The results of this section do not support the hypothesis (3) that, “Perceptions of generation-I towards grandparents’ role in bringing up grandchildren significantly differ with their level of education. The results corroborate with the observations of Sujatha Devi (1992); Vishnupriya and Bharathi (2001).

However, Mangala (1994) reported contradicting findings that education had an effect on elderly and their kinship bonds.

Discussion during field interviews explicitly revealed that literate grandparents understand their grandchildren better and could think in a right perspective about their behaviour and possess some knowledge in managing their teenage grandchildren. But the illiterate grandparents with their love, commitment and interest added to experience also would be capable of enacting the roles equally well with literate grandmothers. Thus there was no noticeable difference in their perceptions (Table-16). Hence the hypothesis (3) is rejected.

Grandparents based on their lineage were named as maternal and paternal grandparents especially grandfather pass on the family history and possessions, hence serves a more formal position. As most of the relationships would be on the maternal line, maternal grandparents would be closer in the early stages of life in many cultures and India is no exception to this. Maternal grandparents with their early love and care, reserved a special
position in a child's life. But paternal grandmothers showed less continuity with their own pasts, with reference to child rearing techniques or values, than did maternal grandmothers (Myers and Williams, 1991). Thus these discrepancies in their roles clearly lead to the differences in the perceptions based on the type of grandparent (maternal/paternal).

The results obtained in Table-15 support the hypothesis (4) that, "Perceptions of grandparents (generation-I) towards their role in bringing up grandchildren vary with the type of grandparents". Thus the hypothesis (4) is truly accepted. Similar trend was observed in some western studies where paternal grandfathers were less supportive when compared with other three types of grandparents (Creasey and Kahn, 1994). This can be attributed to the fact that, joint family which is, generally patrilineal and hence grandchildren stay with their paternal grandparents, as they are the legal heirs of the family. So grandfathers, who generally value their future heirs, may differ in their attitudes towards their grandparental role. In India, Mahanta (1993) examined this trend in Assam through census survey, where aged literally belonged to all the male offsprings of newly formed nuclear households, living with every one periodically in turn though they live separately. They remained as guides and mentors of all the lineage.

Children of different ages preferred different styles of grandparenting. The younger ones liked to get love, food and presents. The middle groups preferred mutuality in the relationship and emphasized on shared experiences, where as the oldest ones preferred indulgence. It seemed that, different styles of grandparenting fit best with different stages of development for both the adults and children. The results of Table-15 partially supports the hypothesis (5) that, "Number of grandchildren in the family significantly influence the grandparents (generation-I) perceptions towards their grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren". From the
results of the Table-15, it was clear that number of grandchildren in the family significantly influenced only the grandmother's perceptions towards their grandparental role. Whereas grandfathers did not show any variation in their perceptions in terms of grandchildren in the family. Thus the hypothesis (5) is partially accepted.

The difference between the perceptions of grandmothers and grandfathers can be explained as follows. Usually, grandmothers are the primary caregivers who look after the physical, health and psycho-social needs of the grandchildren. If there are too many grandchildren, they fall under different stages and vary in different aspects. It seems that, different styles of grandparenting fit best with different stages of development for both grandparents and children. So they have to be more competent to manage all the grandchildren by not measuring themselves up to other's expectations. Though some grandparents feel efficient in their role, when it comes to actual involvement with grandchildren, they vary with consequences of such beliefs.

King and Elder (1998) examined this effect in adolescent grandchildren and found that efficacy of grandparent’s perceptions was predicted by the factor of small number of grandchildren.

The families chosen for the study were, joint and extended which were more similar in structure and functions, except that the close relatives also stay together in an extended family. The roles did not differ among the family members except the preferences. As far as the resources were sufficient and interpersonal respect was maintained. The people involved also adopted a tendency to adjust, adapt and accommodate themselves, in the family.

Taking the joint and extended families into consideration, Brazelton (2002) stated that, even with all the advantages of an extended family, the
course of those relationships did not run smooth. Parents and grandparents were bound to disagree over child rearing choices. In case of joint families, the means of perception scores (Table-15), between grandfathers and grandmothers varied markedly. The findings in Table-15 partly support the hypothesis (6) that, "Family type of grandparents (generation-I) significantly influence their perceptions towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren". The results of the present study indicate that there was no significant influence of family type on the grandmother's perceptions of grandparents role in bringing up grandchildren, whereas grandfathers' perceptions were significantly influenced by type of family. The similarity in perceptions of mothers belonging to joint and extended families could be due to the fact that, they might have experienced similar family situations and relationships within the family members might have an effect on their perceptions than any other factor. As Anuradha (2000) also stated that family relationships matter much for elderly than family type. Though the grandmothers in joint families take up active role in caregiving to their grandchildren, their attitudes might not differ in extended families. Though the presence of other relatives levied more burdens on grandmother's role, she caters to everybody's needs, which requires a lot of patience and capability, which the grandmothers might have acquired through collective living even in the childhood. So, family type does not matter to grandmothers and their perceptions did not differ. Whereas grandfathers differed in their perceptions with respect to family type. Thus the hypothesis (6) is accepted partially. Although there were differences related to family structure, grandmothers were alike and lived in the child centered present (Caliander and Hughes, 1998).

In so far as the socio-economic status is concerned, it determines the standard of living of the grandparents. Though their personal economic needs
were less, they need to spend on their children and grandchildren, with whom they live and save for them and others too. Hence, they should be economically independent and self-sufficient in order to maintain cordial relations and thus aids to smoothen the family tensions and ensure lasting peace.

The results (Table-16) support the hypothesis (7) that, "Socio-economic status of the family significantly influence the perceptions of grandparents (generation-I) towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren." Thus the hypothesis (7) is accepted. In low socio-economic status group, perceptions differed more between the grandmothers and grandfathers, followed by high and middle status groups. Overall mean trends of perception scores of grandmother’s and grandfather’s invariably indicated more variation according to socio-economic status. In low socio-economic status families, grandfathers will be busy in earning their survival to support the family and also their interests vary, as they prefer to spend time with their friends of the identical age group. Added to this, grandparents might not prefer to take up the responsibilities of their grandchildren, when they were struggling to meet their own ends, rendering care to grandchildren would not be their utmost priority to attend to. Obviously under these wearing states, they find less time to enjoy and spend with grandchildren owing to social, health and economic constraints. They tend to have less favourable perceptions. As grandparents of high socio-economic status had more free time they spend their time in reading newspaper, watching T.V, and listening to music and also spend more time with their grandchildren. Whereas the elderly in rest of the groups spend time in performing household chores or attending to their grandchildren (Soneja and Tyagi, 1999). The results were similar to the findings of Vijayalakshmi (1997), Lakshmi Archana (2002); Bakshi, Rajaneeash and Sandhu (2002) as they also observed positive correlation with socio-economic status and perceptions of grandparents. Further Coke and
Margee (1990), and Ardelt's (1997) findings were in line with the present investigation. However, Jyothi (1996) in her study observed contrasting results on the effect of socio-economic status on grandparental role attitudes. The perception of grandparents role by second generationers were examined in different socio-demographic groups as a second step.

The findings of Section-3 of results chapter indicate that age, education, and occupation of parents (mother and father) had an effect on the parents' perceptions on the role performance of grandparents. Income, occupation and health did not have any significant effect on their perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.

In three generation families, parents belong to middle generation which serves as a bridge between grandparents and grandchildren to build up their relations. Obviously, their wellbeing, attitudes and caring practices will enhance the personality development of their children and the overall status of the family. Among many factors which influence the perceptions of parents, some of them, which are salient, are discussed in detail in this section.

Age is an important demographic variable which affects psychosocial factors in all walks of life. Family dynamics is no exception to this and age of an individual certainly influences the individual's role performance.

The mean perception scores of both mothers and fathers showed an increasing trend along with age. Highly favourable perceptions were noticed in the age group of above 40 years. It could be seen from Table-16 that the perceptions of both mothers and fathers regarding grandparents' role significantly differed with reference to their age. Thus, the results of this subsection support the hypothesis (8) that, "Perceptions of grandparents role in
bringing up grandchildren among parents (generation-II) vary significantly with their age. Thus the hypothesis (8) is accepted.

This might be attributed to the fact that with the advancement of age, the capabilities increases and behavioural and attitudinal changes occur. With this one can accept the elders position more easily and derive better understanding towards their role in the family as caregivers of grandchildren. An Indian study conducted by Harsha (1987) supports the present results, stating that, with an increasing age, the level of satisfaction also increased. However, the findings of Shantha Devi (1986) contradicted the present results. She found that age did not influence the attitudes of mothers towards grandparental role.

Socialization practices lead to gender discrimination. Females were taken less seriously by their counterparts even in the areas, which they out-do men. The distinction between males and females serves as a basic organizing principle for every human culture.

The emergence of gender differences in the perceptions of grandparental role between parents, with the mothers showed more appreciation of grandparent's role than their male counterparts. The results in Table-18 support the hypothesis (9) that, "Gender of the parents (generation-II) significantly influence their perceptions towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren. Thus the hypothesis (9) is accepted.

Individual attitudes, behaviours and understanding might differ with the level of education. It was predicted that education of the mother and father effects their perceptions of grandparental role. In general, while bringing up a child, child rearing practices, attitudes of parents, influence the personality of the child. Educational status of the parents enhances their
ability to think and act according to societal updates and at the same time, they will be in a position to convince the others in the family with their view and attain capability to deal with different personalities and situations.

From the results it could be inferred that the perception mean scores showed an ascending trend in case of both mothers and fathers. Parents with lower levels of education exhibited unfavourable perceptions, whereas highly educated parents showed favourable perceptions towards grandparental role. Thus, the hypothesis (10) that, "Perceptions of parents (generation-II) towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren significantly differ with their level of education" is accepted. As mentioned earlier one's behaviour, understanding and outlook was very much influenced by their education. Educated parents promote intellectual skill, and capable of convincing other generations to adopt the practically feasible ways.

Further, the hidden feelings of gratitude towards their parents, as their moulders and the traits which they internalized from their parents all these years enabled them to have varied perceptions on grandparental role. This could be accounted to their exposure to socialized environment through education, which might have enabled them to adjust and understand better and possess right attitudes in collective living. Similar view was obtained by Tashakkori (1998), McKengie and Campbell (1987). In another study, Thompson (1979) stated that mothers who were highly educated usually had more approved attitudes towards child rearing practices.

This probably suggests that, as long as households functioned as a workshop as well as family house, there was no clear separation between.
family life and work life. But in the industrial society where mothers take up employment outside the family, women invest relatively less time in motherhood, but the willing grandparents at home substitute this. Grandparents performed certain light, house-hold chores and take care of their children in their absence to help them work. Sadhani (1993) observed the same and further, as grandparents valuable help facilitated the mother's to work, they naturally possessed positive perceptions on grandparent's role in bringing up grandchildren. Shantha Devi (1986) observed both non-working and working mothers and found that there was significant association between their attitudes towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.

The reason behind such discrepancy could be due to the fact that, mothers who had no income were satisfied with whatever the grandparents did, as they understood that they were not economically independent. So her desires too were not above limits and the resultant effect could lie on their view towards the grandparents' role.

In case of mothers who were earning very meagre amounts, they might be in a depressed state as they were unable to meet the family needs, thus their desires remained unfulfilled. So this might reflect their attitudes in determining their perceptions regarding grandparental role.

Thus it may be concluded that the satisfaction increases with the educational level of individuals, enabling them to possess positive and favourable perceptions towards grandparental role. Now-a-days, both parents, especially mothers, are employed outside the house due to economic necessities, as they possess broader outlook they will be aware of the emotional requirements of their spouses, and elders in the family.
Results in Table-16 supports the hypothesis (11) that "Perceptions of parents (generation-II) towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren significantly vary with their occupation" Thus the hypothesis (11) is accepted.

Researcher expounds this as, usually younger mothers and girls, in joint family are kept under greater restrictive measures, they have less say in family matters, this leads to lack of independent judgement towards any aspect in life. Though family is a primary institution, where the attitudes and characters are moulded with utmost care and attention. The personaliities of younger women and girls might also be moulded as per its norms.

Results of this section (Table-16) do not support hypothesis (12) that "Family type significantly influence the perceptions of parents (generation-II) towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren. The hypothesis (12) is therefore rejected.

This could be obvious as the child grows up in a large family learns to trust people, understand and tries to mix up with many people. Deep emotional ties build up over a longer period in a joint or extended family. As the interaction and proximity with their elderly and different family members is possible. It will be difficult to predict the fruits of these interpersonal relations. They are liable to influence either positively or negatively. These discrepancies in personal factors might have influenced their perceptions. Wilson (1986) observed that, grandmothers were involved more with grandchildren when lived with their single adult daughter.
The perception of grandparents role by third generationers were examined in different socio-demographic groups as a third step

The generation-III consists of children of adolescent age group. Adolescence is a transition stage between childhood and adulthood in the developmental process. It is a critical period in the life of human beings, during which the boys and girls grow and develop physically and socially. An individual has to meet the challenges of growth at the same time expected to adopt the cultural and social norms, and also carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned by the parents and the society. In carrying out these duties and responsibilities, the adolescents meet complex problems. This may be explained as the heavy burden of duties, responsibilities measures upon cultural or social norms. As the elderly especially the grandparents insist the need to follow social and cultural norms, "How does the adolescent perceive these attitudes of elderly towards their behaviour and personality"? The answer lies in the strength and relationship of grandparent-grandchild bond. Another question is, "How do the grandparents view the adolescent's reactions"? These are somewhat difficult to answer as each individual differs in his personality and behavioral traits, which again are determined by many socio-cultural and environmental factors.

In pursuance of the above facts, various socio-demographic factors which influence the perceptions of grandchildren on grandparental role were assessed empirically, that is, the manner in which age, gender, education and birth order influenced the adolescent's perceptions on grandparental role. In this attempt the trends on perception of grandparents role in relation to age of generation-III was examined by the hypothesis (13) that, "Perceptions of grandchildren (generation-III) with regard to grandparental role
significantly vary with their age. The results of the study do not support the above hypothesis. Thus the hypothesis (16) is rejected.

The investigator accordingly interprets this as grandparent and grandchild bond as a crucial one endowed with thick web of love and affection. This starts early in life and continues over the life span. Adolescence, is a preparatory stage for adulthood and during this stage the grandparent bond is an informal one, more liable to be interactive, fun seeking and recreational which does not require any serious or total involvement. The evidence from Indian researchers Radharani (1997) and Rekha (1996) support this finding. But Vishnupriya (1997) found contrasting observations on pre-schoolers. These differences could be due to sample variations and age of the grandchild to be cared for.

Though the hypothesis is rejected, the trend in the means of perceptions of generation-III of 13+ and 14+ years shows increasing favourable perceptions and decreasing trend in case of 15+ years was noticed. As the early adolescents will be experiencing pubertal changes, the grandparents with their valuable guidance and support, train them to manage with the changes of this stage. Thus grandchildren also feel secure and very much attached to, by recognising their skill and services. So the young adolescents are liable to have favourable perceptions on grandparental role than older adolescents.

Notwithstanding, a couple of researches conducted abroad showed contrasting results. Van Ranst, Verschueren and Marcoen (1995) observed more positive perceptions attributed by early adolescents to their grandparents than middle and late adolescents. This approach might definitely influence their perceptions positively. Creasy and Koblewski (1991) noticed older adolescents feeling of grandparents as important attachment figures.
According to the process of social learning theory, boys and girls were taught and rewarded for showing behaviours that were entrusted by society to be gender appropriate. It was just parents, of course, who provided socialisation for children. But elderly and society as a whole communicated clear messages to children as they were growing up. Our educational treatment also provides differential treatment to boys and girls. For example, boys were five times as likely to receive significantly more praise, criticism and remedial help than do girls (Kaushik and Malhotra, 1997). The same discrimination sometimes occurs in the preferences and treatment of children in the family by elders. Thus, the children also tend to possess differential attitudes towards other family members relating to the experiences and family environment. Vijayalakshmi (1997) observed that the perceptions of adolescent, boys and girls aged 13 years differed significantly.

The results of this present study do not support the hypothesis (14) that, "gender of the grandchild significantly influence their perceptions towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren". Thus the hypothesis (14) is rejected.

Despite the fact that gender differences exist in physiological and psychological aspects of human beings, they might not differ in their behaviour, attitudes and the roles they played in the same environment. In some Indian cultures male children were viewed separately and shown more care and attention than females for the obvious reasons that, they were the patriarchal continuity of the family. There were economic reasons behind the preferences related to marriage system. The dowry system prevalent in the
Indian culture might have made the parents to socialize differently their boys more than their girls. All these might reflect the differences in the family which in turn influence the perceptions of male and female adolescents. But in the present study significant variations were not noticed. This discrepancy could be attributed to the social awareness and duplicity of western culture, which brought about changes in the people’s attitude on gender discrimination. This might have indirectly influenced the perceptions of adolescents on grandparental role, uniformly irrespective of gender.

The results of this sub-section are supported by studies carried on Indian samples (Radharani, 1997; Rekha, 1996), whereas Thomas (1989); Creasy and Kahler (1999); ‘O’ Bryant (1987); Van Ranst (1995) and Ashton (1996) observations showed contrasting results. This might be due to technical and socio-cultural variations of the sample examined.

Education of the grandchildren was chosen as one of the variable influencing their perceptions on grandparental role. As the education brings about refinement of attitudes and thought children of higher standards were expected to have favourable perceptions on grandparental role. The results (Table-17) do not support the hypothesis that, "Educational level of grandchildren (generation-III) significantly influence their perceptions towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren". Thus the hypothesis (15) is rejected. This might be due to the fact that though the adolescents were in different standards all of them were in consecutive years and belonged to high school. All the children might be experiencing the similar environment and treatment by grandparents at home. This might also be attributed to sample fluctuations.
The next variable studied in generation-III was birth order. The first born in the family received a warm welcome from grandparents and provided experience of parenting for the second time. It was common that the middle born were the neglected ones as they neither grab the utmost attention nor was pampered as the last born. The results (Table-17) supports the hypothesis that, "The birth order of the grandchildren (generation-III) significantly influence their perceptions towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren." Thus, the above hypothesis (16) is accepted. This could be attributed to the fact that, now a days the family size has shrunk and the gap between the consecutive births of children was increasing and each child has the chance to be treated uniquely. Vijayalakshmi (1997) contradicted the results of the present study Trygstad and Sanders (1989) observed that in bereaved or deviant family situations step-grandchild was important in determining the step-grandparent and step-grandchild bond. The discrepancies in these findings could be attributed to sample fluctuations. However, the results should be tested with larger sample to draw generalizations. Thus the three hypotheses based on age, gender and educational effects of the grandchildren on their perceptions of grandparental role were rejected. The results in this sub-section conclude that, the perceptions of grandchildren would imply that there were other subjective factors which contribute to the perceptions of grandchildren than the objective ones studied here. It is useful to understand adolescents perceptions and to study the ways in which adolescents perceive themselves and their world for several reasons. By understanding them we can help them understand themselves better and handle their life situations more effectively.
6.2 Contribution of Independent Variables to the Dependent Variable (Perceptions of Three Generations)

The results pertaining to the perceptions of grandparents role in generation-I indicate that:

The contribution of various socio-demographic and psychological factors to the perceptions of the grandparents role by three generations was studied with the help of step-wise multiple linear regression with the following variables: age, gender, education, socio-economic status, type of grandparent, number of grandchildren, family type, and life satisfaction. From the summary of multiple linear regression analysis output pertaining to generation-I, it is clear that the significant contributors to the dependent variable, perception of grandparental role are: gender of the grandparent, life satisfaction, number of grandchildren and socio-economic status.

Gender contributed to 11.72 per cent of variance to the dependent variable. This could be due to the fact that, the gender differences are clear-cut right from the birth and in all walks of life. So in the case of grandmothers and grandfathers also, the gender effects were clearly seen in their role involvement and perceptions. Generally speaking caregiving to younger ones itself was a role assigned to women by the traditional society.

Indian norms are set up in such a way that the household chores, along with the socialization of children are the roles of females in the family and economic or material support is the male role. Among the sample, grandmothers played a greater role than grandfathers in socializing their grandchildren.
The present study results were supported by some studies carried out abroad. Kennedy (1991), Roberto and Stroes (1992) inferred that there were significant differences in the role performance of grandmothers and grandfathers. Nussbaum and Bettini (1994), Hooyman and Kiyak (2002) indicated that care of grandchildren was one of the most important tasks of all grandparents. However, grandfathers extended minimum assistance than grandmothers. Grandmothers concentrated more on family duties while grandfathers talked more about youth, morals and health. Outdoor crafts and community activities were characteristic of grandfathers while family caring, social and communication activities were more the characteristic of grandmothers.

Similar results were also reported by an Indian study conducted by Anna Mathew (1987) who inferred that grandmothers played active role in child rearing. They were involved more in taking care of health, social, emotional and intellectual needs of their grandchildren.

The next variable entered was life satisfaction which contributed 6.9% of variance. It is evident from the studies that, it was the support from the family that keeps a person satisfied and contented in his/her life. Contentment with life depended on one's financial and social status, health and activities of daily living. Studies carried out earlier by Revathi, Hoosath, Gomkare and Khadi (1993) indicated that age of the elderly seemed to influence their life satisfaction. Mehta and Mallya (2001), reported that in the Indian context various socio-behavioural factors played a significant role in determining health of the older adults, many stress related disorders lead to poor health status of the elderly which in turn lead to adverse family relationships.
Number of grandchildren was the next variable which entered as a significant contributor with an additional contribution of 2.84% of variance to the grandparents' perceptions.

If the number of grandchildren in the family were more grandparents, especially grandfathers, who spend their leisure time and enact fun seeking roles of grandparenting and enjoy the presence of more number of grandchildren. Where as the grandmothers who need to perform the familial roles of caregiving and nurturing might feel it difficult to manage with different age groups of children, which requires a lot of patience, skill and competence. Thus grandparents might vary in their perceptions towards grandparents' role.

In the next step socio-economic status has entered as a significant variable contributing an additional variance of 0.2% to the perceptions of grandparents. This indicates that grandparents of higher socio-economic status had favourable perceptions. This could be explained as the grandparents of higher economic status were in a position to spend their money and leisure time with their grandchildren through which they derive pleasure and satisfaction. On the other hand, their counterparts who belonged to low and middle socio-economic status could not spend with their grandchildren, moreover they might be facing financial problems due to insufficiency of the money to meet their own personal expenses. They could not do anything in exchange for their grandchildren, as they do not have enough savings to take care of their needs. All these factors might probably affect the individuals psychologically and hence hamper their mental and physical functioning. This might also be the reason for the lower involvement and perceptions of grandparents of low-income group with regard to grandparents' role in bringing up grandchildren.
The present results were supported by Lakshminarayanan and Eswaramoorthy (1992), who found that in the lower income strata the elderly were supportive verbal agents in guiding the youngsters in pre and postnatal care. They indicated that income of the elderly had psychological implications affecting their activities. The elderly of the urban sector were well adjusted and involved well as the environment was made conducive, by economic support.

**The results pertaining to the perceptions of grandparents role in generation-II indicate that:**

Age, marital adjustment, occupation and education were identified to be the most significant contributants to the dependent variable, perceptions of generation-II on grandparental role.

Age contributed to 11% of the variance to the perception score of parents which was found to be significant contributor. Usually when the parents were younger, their temperament would be more dashing as they might turn more matured and will be in an able state they try to accept and see things in a matured way. However, a study based on a larger sample will throw more insights to emphasise the above fact.

Similar results were reported in Indian context by Anuradha (2000) who indicated that, as age increases, there is an increase in adjustmental problems and decrease in satisfaction. Another Indian study by Harsha (1987) contradicted the above indicating that as age increased satisfaction also increased.
In the next step, marital adjustment entered as a significant contributing variable which explained 9.44% of variance to the perception score of parents. Marriage is more or less universal human social institution and is a vital factor determining mental health of the partners. It provides an opportunity for satisfaction of their needs for companionship, affection and sexual expression. Marital adjustment is a very important dimension of general human adjustment and it is a function of several factors. The traits that contribute towards happiness in marriage existed in some degree in the individuals themselves. Most of the investigators found that happiness in marriage is likely to be found in men and women who were well socialized as young people who participate in the activities of society and family and who have positive attitudes and perceptions on others. The following are some studies which support the present results: Freysinger (1994) found that marital satisfaction was a significant predictor of parental satisfaction, which might influence their role perception as well as perceptions of other family members. Kitamura, Aoki, Fugno, Ura (1998) tested marital adjustment in Japanese couples and found that marital adjustment was part of social adjustment for women, but for men the marital adjustment and social adjustment were discrete.

Education was the next selected variable by the system. This contributed 9.8% to the variance, next to marital adjustment. The educated parents who had broader outlook towards people and life would be understanding the grandparents and their roles well. As they need their services when away at work, which might have influenced their perceptions.
positively. Thus, education was found to be one of the significant contributors to the perceptions observed in generation-II (Table-19). This was supported by Suparnachandra, Debkumar and Prafulla (1993), who noticed that general inactivity was a normal feature of aging and part of the process of withdrawing from society. The rural people of Ghaziabad found that inactivity was not supported by it. The expectations of non-elderly people clearly revealed that elderly people must have functions and responsibilities for better household management and care of children, provide constant advice and counsel to the younger ones and take part in decision making in almost all the vital issues of the family.

Occupation was the next significant contributing variable to the perceptions of parents on grandparental role with an additional contribution of 7.06% of the variance to the perception scores of parents. This could be due to the fact that, in the modern industrialised society, both the parents were employed, which necessitated the elderly in the family to take up some familial roles in order to facilitate their children to earn. Thus, this might bring about positive attitudes in the perceptions of generation-II towards grandparental role. Fuller-Thomson, Minkler and Driver (1997) examined grandparent caregivers of US and found that custodial grandparenting was influenced by their social class. African-Americans and low income persons found to be twice the chance of becoming caregiving grandparents. In such families when the support was rendered by grandparents to raise their children, parents of the children tend to have positive relations.
The results with regard to perceptions of grandparents role among third generationers indicate that:

Academic achievement and birth order of the grandchild were the significant contributors to the perceptions of grandchildren on grandparental role.

Academic achievement has explained 31.21% of variance in grandchildren's perception scores (Table-20). Some researchers reported that children's academic performance depended on intelligence, environment and socio-economic status. As a result of rapid changes in the family pattern, the parents have more responsibility to work for the betterment of the children and grandparents. The interest that every parent takes in his child's progress in school influences his/her attitude towards the child's academic performance.

Children who perceived their parents as holding supporting attitudes towards their school life, had more positive attitude towards their school and utilise their ability more fully, and consequently showed good academic performance. In case of children who received less parental support, their performance would be naturally poor. Thus a peaceful environment at home was desirable for good scholastic achievement of younger children in the family. Thus brought about security in the younger generations and secure children get higher scores than the insecure ones, in the school which was proved by Ellen and Diane (2001).
Birth order of the grandchild was the next variable which contributed to 21.07% of variance to the perception scores of grandchildren on grandparental role. The general tendency in the grandparents to show much affection by over protecting their grandchildren especially in case of the first-born child.

Generally, many first babies feel crowded by all the attention they get especially by the worried parents, also by the eager and proud grandparents. In case of a later born child, the elders make allowances for individual differences. The middle born children usually get less attention thus, these discrepancies in treatments of children could be seen more prominently in many families. Thus birth order of the grandchild might significantly effect the role performance of the grandparents, and also affect their perceptions on grandparents' role in bringing up grandchildren.

6.3 Results Pertaining to Interaction Effects of Socio-Demographic Variables on Perceptions of Three Generations Indicate that in Generation-I

Results on interaction effects of socio-demographic variables and the dependent variable (Perceptions of grandparents role) in generation-I

There was a steady increase in perception scores for both grandfathers and grandmothers with increase of the socio-economic status, irrespective of the number of grandchildren. But there was an exception with grandfathers of middle socio-economic status. The grandfathers with less number of
grandchildren also obtained higher perception scores. The observation was supported by some studies reported in the review Coke and Margee (1990) found significant gender differences in satisfaction. Females who had higher involvement in family roles were more satisfied and also considered their income adequate than males. A general belief that satisfied individuals would possess positive outlook towards life, people and surroundings, could be used to interpret the above findings. As also stated by Coke and Margee (1990), females tend to have high perceptions than males, which is inline with the present observation. Some grandparents adopted fun seeking style, and spend their leisure with grandchildren and enjoyed with them. As they derive a great deal of pleasure from their grandchildren, number of grandchildren would definitely matter for them (Neelima, 1997). They could be more satisfied and possess positive attitude towards grandparental role, if other constraints like economical and health were apart.

Interactions between the gender, number of grandchildren and socio-economic status were examined next using ANOVA. No significant effects with number of grandchildren were found. However, there was a significant interaction between socio-economic status and gender, suggesting that gender with socio-economic status were most significant factors for the grandparents in determining their perceptions. Though number of grandchildren was identified to be a significant variable, it had its independent effect in influencing grandparents perceptions (Table-23). Elsenberg and Teuas (1988) noticed that, the factors like gender and socio-economic status might effect the interaction of grandparents and grandchildren. They also suggested that
gender of the grandparent was more important than proximity in determining the quality of grandchild-grandparent relationships. If they had good relations the grandparents were expected to have positive perceptions. Thomas (1989) also observed the same and concluded that the gender differences might reflect personality development in adulthood. Further, Fuller-Thomson, Minkler and Driver (1997) observed that custodial grandparenting cut across gender, class and ethnic lines. Thus it could be concluded that gender and socio-economic status were more strongly associated with perceptions of grandparents on grandparental role.

Results on interaction effects of socio-demographic variables and the dependent variable (Perceptions of grandparents role) in generation-II

The most workable and comfortable relationship between grandparents and parents (as between other close relatives, friends, and associates) was the one in which there was freedom to express the feelings on both sides. One begins to learn how to be a grandparent by first being a grandchild and appreciate what one's own grandparent means. As an active parent one could see the interplay between the generations above and below. One still can learn as grandparent from daily experiences.

Results of Table-24 pertaining to the parents in lower age group showed that education and occupation of incumbents were the important determinants of positive perceptions. The parents who would be reproductively active were mostly dependent on elders for help in bringing up
their young children in the Indian family setting. The grandparents support and guidance might have been superimposed above all generational conflicts. In case of aged parents, children also grow up with them, they would be in pre-adolescent and adolescent stage where the attitudes of parents and grandparents might differ in choosing the child rearing techniques. While the parents in lower occupational levels adjust by agreeing to the elderly or trying to convince them or overlook them whereas the parents who were from higher socio-economic status might have opinions of upbringing their children in a trendy way, which would be against their parents (generation-I) view. Thus, there existed a generation gap, leading to the discrepancies in their perceptions. This could be resolved either by convincing the elders or the elders trying to understand the views of younger people and interfere less in their child rearing practices, by not meddling with their freedom. This could be explained as, mothers, whether they were working or non-working, were mostly bothered about the outcome of the grandparent's role performance that is, their children's development. In this process, the mother felt that the grandparent's role performance was outdated and the grandparent felt that mother's methods and ways of socializing the child were completely wrong.

Having discussed the role performance of grandparents, the various factors affecting their role performance in grandchild rearing, the investigator thought of analyzing even combined effects of these factors on perceptions of middle generation (the parents of the children). Table-25 showed that age and education had independent effect on grandparents perceptions and all the combined effects were not found significant. This might be due to the fact
that age as a physical factor which affects the attitudes of individuals and associated with maturity of their thoughts and opinions. Education brings about refined attitudes and broader outlook towards any aspect. In practical situations and matters related to feelings each factor might influence independently.

Some observations made by Godavari, Madumathi and Sunil Kumar (1991) in their study were noteworthy. The findings testify that middle generation in the lower economic strata were found to give much value and importance to the words of the old. They also played major role during sickness of elders and hence satisfactions could be affected. They also indicated that income, marital status, and area of residence affected satisfactions.

This discussion perhaps would be of some help to both parents and grandparents in understanding one another better and also understanding the children’s reactions.

**Results on interaction effects of socio-demographic variables and the dependent variable (Perceptions of grandparents role) in generation-III**

Among the grandchildren the interaction effects of the predicted variables were examined (Table-25). The birth order was the only significant identified variable influencing the perceptions of third generation from stepwise multiple linear regression analysis. The gender of the grandchild, which
seemed to influence the perceptions as evident from the literature was chosen to determine the combined effect with the birth order. The mean values of the perception scores were compared in the interaction cells, to detect relevant variations (Table-28). Interestingly, both first-born male and female grandchildren showed unfavourable perceptions towards grandparents' role in bringing up grandchildren.

The possible reason that could be attributed to the fact that the first born in the family were always expected to be responsible to take care and help the later born children to grow up. As the first born would be guiding and partly taking care of younger ones they might have to obey the elder's suggestions and bear the consequences if anything goes wrong. Elders expect the younger children to follow the elder ones, thus enforce them with good discipline. Naturally elderly in the family and their attitude appear to be taxing for them, which leads to low perceptions towards grandparental role. While in case of female grandchildren perceptions were high in third and later born group. Later born grandchildren were comparatively less burdened and pampered more than the other children. So there were chances for them to have positive attitudes and perceptions towards elderly in the family. The results of ANOVA showed that birth order was the significant variable influencing the perceptions (Table-26) of grandchildren on grandparents' role in bringing them up.

6.4 Relationship Between Behavioural Variables and Perceptions of Grandparents Role Among Three Generations

In addition to social and demographic factors examined the researcher was interested in seeing the association of certain behavioural variables of
three generations in relation to their perceptions of grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren. In order to determine these social and psychological aspects were treated separately to obtain an independent trend.

The interest in explaining the quality of family relations has led the researcher to conduct extensive surveys and to examine the influence of socio-demographic variables on the perceptions of three generations. In addition to it the researcher was also interested to examine the impact of objective indicators of perceptions such as behavioural variables on three generations.

Recently, psychologists were more concerned with what is generally called subjective or psychological well-being. Those who have studied the structure of effects have identified two broad factors and interpreted that positive and negative effects were akin to the basic psychological phenomenon of pleasure and pain (Watson and Tellegen, 1985). Researchers have shown that positive and negative effects were not the polar opposites, but they were relatively independent dimensions and both contribute to overall happiness (Diner and Emmons, 1984).

6.4.1 Relationship Between Life Satisfaction and Perceptions of Grandparents on Grandparental Role Among Generation-I

Grandparents were given a second chance to enjoy parenthood with few anxieties and in a more relaxed way. Caregiving is a delicate task, the behaviours involved are very sensitive and service oriented. Therefore they often suffer from stress and strains in human relationships among the family.
members. So long as these relationships were good, and people were tolerant caregiving would be satisfactory, otherwise caring becomes unsatisfactory. Nayar (2000) indicated that good interfamily relations were positively related to happiness in old age, and females were less satisfied than males. It usually depends on the caregiver's attitude and perceptions (Ramamurthy, 1990) A satisfied individual would have a positive outlook towards people and life. As the grandchildren expand their vision of the future and at the same time were happy reminders that they have been successful in their life goals. The results (Table-28) revealed that "Life satisfaction of grandparents (generation-I) significantly influence their perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren" is accepted. It is evident, that the grandfathers perceptions were positively correlated with life satisfaction \((r = 0.272)\). The strength of the relationship was 27 per cent and significant (Table-30). Life satisfaction of the grandmothers significantly influenced \((r = 0.46)\) their perceptions on grandparental role. The strength of the relationship was 46 per cent and it was significant. The grandparenthood for grandmothers would still be incomplete and dis-satisfying unless they get the experience of grandparenting by their total involvement (Sujatha Devi, 1992).

As stated in the review of studies on grandparenthood each new grandchild could be a fresh delight, a deeply satisfying reward for the long years of her parenthood. For most people, besides drawing satisfaction from a successful social life, effective parenting was an important goal of life. Grandmothers experienced greater satisfaction and overall meaning in grandparenthood than grandfathers (Pietropinto, 1985, Nigel, 1986, Somary vand Sticker, 1998).
An interesting observation was noticed, in the present study, that is, life satisfaction scores of grandfathers showed low correlation when compared to the grandmothers. As the grandmother's involvement with grandchildren would be more than grandfathers, grandfathers usually involved in lighter chores like patrolling, recreation, and in advising their wives. But the domestic chores performed by grandmother's did not constitute any single pattern, hence they tend to show personal variation. However, this discrepancy in grandparents' perception based on life satisfaction could be tested with a larger sample to draw generalizations.

6.4.2 Relationship Between Marital Adjustment and Perceptions of Parents (Generation-II) on Grandparental Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren

Satisfaction with one's marriage was important in our growing monogamous society, an important component of individuals well-being. The independence of each nuclear family from its own kin, and the relative social isolation of urban households made the spouse the primary companion and source of emotional sustenance. The results of the intensive and extensive research studies have enabled psychologists to conclude that happiness and chronic emotional reactions that underlie it were probably best understood as reflections of enduring dispositions (Mc Crae and Costa, 1991).

Successful family living involved a healthy, emotionally satisfying environment and sufficient resources within the aging individual to make effective uses of the outer resources, which were available. For happiness in living there must be a re-evaluation of the roles of young and old in the household and mutual tolerance. Each must recognize that the other has
rights of one's own habits, attitudes, interests, and abilities, which vary with age and the individual, and each must be ready to accept those in the other. One should have positive individual characteristics, which facilitate the acquisition, development and maintenance of satisfying personal relationships (Kim, Martin and Martin, 1989).

In view of the above facts, the investigator hypothesized that, "there exists significant relationship between parents perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren and their marital adjustment." Predicting that it was at this point where the main basis of misunderstandings arise in between the two generations affecting the family ties, the details of which were discussed.

An observation of results in Table-29 revealed that perceptions of fathers were positively correlated with their marital adjustment (r = 0.293). The strength of relationship was 29.3 per cent and is significant. It could be concluded that fathers with high levels of marital adjustment had high perceptions on the grandparent's role in upbringing grandchildren. Mother's perception scores were positively correlated with their marital adjustment (r = 0.454). The strength of the relationship was 45.4 per cent. Father's perceptions were also in line with those of mothers. The results of the present study evidently demonstrated that mother's marital adjustment was highly significant and positively correlated with the perceptions of grandparental role. The higher the marital adjustment, more was the favourable perceptions. Thus we can say that parents are in one way evaluated their grandparents' role through their marital adjustment. Slight gender differences were noticed between the strengths of relationship. Thus the
hypothesis (18) that marital adjustment of parents (generation-II) significantly influence their perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren is accepted (Table-29). Accordingly, the results demonstrated the relationship between parents perception of grandparental role and involvement with their marital adjustment was supported by (Sandhyaram, 1995) She reported on marital satisfaction of mothers which were correlated with grandparents role and involvement in bringing up their grandchildren. The overall adjustment in marriage occurs, when two personalities operate with minimum conflict. Their qualities and attributes need adjustment if they work well and be happy (Olsen, Martin, Charles and Halverson, 1999). The relationship between the spouses was so central a feature to an individuals psychological, social and emotional life that an unhappy relationship might impair the satisfactory relationship with their children and outside the family (Kulik, 1999; Vermulst and Dubas, 1999).

The present results were also supported by some western researchers. Henry, Ceglian and Wayne (1992) indicated that there were significant differences in the sources of satisfaction for young-older group. The young seemed more apprehensive about the present and more optimistic about the future and high levels of intergeneration contact (grandparents support to the young parents and children) were reported with both parents and grandparents highly satisfied with the contact.

Thus, the observation that the perceptions of parents was influenced by type of marital adjustment would imply that behavioural and personality traits of parents operate by means of indirect pathways of determining the
perceptions of parents on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.

It can be concluded that, the higher the marital adjustment of parents, the higher was their perception about grandparental role in bringing up of grandchildren.

6.4.3 Relationship Between Academic Achievement and Grandchildren's Perceptions on Grandparental Role in Generation-III

Academic achievement has become an index of child's future in this highly competitive world. It is only a drop in a vast sea of education. The baffling facts which have come into limelight are that in spite of having similar educational facilities, environment, aspirations, and even intelligence, academic achievement of children differ from each other (Sudha and Bindra, 1993). Further, academic achievement of adolescents was expected to depend upon environment and personality traits. Grandparents with positive attitudes would create enriched stimulative social environment, which aids in the personality development of the younger generations. Hence a positive attitude in the child brings out positive outlook and adjustment, within the prescribed environment. Thus, they accept and understand people in the family and also act out in acceptable ways.

From the correlation results (Table-30), it is clear that the strength of relationship between the grandchildren's perceptions on the grandparents' role in bringing them up and their academic achievement was \( r = 0.614 \) significant. The strength of relationship was around 61.4 per cent. Thus the
hypothesis (19) that, "Academic achievement of grandchildren (generation-III) significantly influence their perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren" is accepted. This could be due to the fact that the perceptions of grandparents role in caregiving is an aspect related to the attitudes, familial relations and bonds which are important in determining the family environment of the child.

The existing evidences from the studies support these findings. As the environment is the key for the psychological adjustment and development of the children, the environmental effects would influence their scholastic performance (Mc Daniel, 1997, Skilling, 1997). Grandparents tend to create a stimulative environment to their grandchildren, and facilitate them to compete with this high competitive world. Pecham (1990) found that family environment affected the academic achievement of high school students. However, there were also contradictions. Addes (1989) reported that there was no significant relationship between the family environment and children's academic performance. Thus the results should be further tested empirically on a larger sample to draw generalizations.

Some of the important findings of this sub-section were: The life satisfaction of the grandparents had significant relationship with the grandparent's perceptions on grandparental role. Marital adjustment of parents was positively correlated with their perceptions on grandparental role. Academic achievement of grandchildren had significant relationship with their perceptions.
CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions are made from the analysis of results and discussion of this study:

*Findings with regard to perceptions of grandparental role among grandparents (Generation-I)*

1. Grandparents showed significant difference in their perceptions of grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren with respect to their age.

2. There was no significant difference in the perceptions of grandparents (generation-I) role in bringing up grandchildren with regard to their educational levels.

3. Perceptions of grandparents (generation-I) role in bringing up grandchildren differed significantly with their socio-economic status.

4. Maternal and paternal grandparents significantly differed in their perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren with respect to type of grandparents.

5. Perceptions of grandmothers showed significant difference with respect to number of grandchildren. Whereas, there was no significant difference in perceptions of grandfathers on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren with respect to number of grandchildren.

6. Grandfathers showed significant difference in their perceptions with respect to family type but there was no significant difference in grandmothers perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren with respect to family type.
Gender, number of grandchildren, socio-economic status and life satisfaction were identified as the significant contributors of perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren in generation-I.

Grandfathers and grandmothers with more number of grandchildren belonging to high socio-economic status group had favourable perceptions in bringing up grandchildren.

The combined effect of gender and socio-economic status on the perceptions of grandparents role in bringing up grandchildren (generation-I) was found to be highly significant.

The combined effects of gender, number of grandchildren, number of grandchildren, socio-economic status, gender, socio-economic status and number of grandchildren did not show any effect on the perceptions of generation-I on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.

There was a significant relationship between the life satisfaction and the perceptions of grandparents (generation-I) on their role in bringing up grandchildren.

Findings with regard to perception of grandparental role among parents (generation-II)

1. Perceptions of parents (generation-II) on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren significantly differed with respect to their age.

2. Male and female groups in generation-II differed significantly in their perceptions of grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.

3. Educational level of an individual in generation-II significantly effect on their perceptions of grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.
Occupation level significantly influenced their perceptions on
grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren in generation-II.

No significant effect of family type on the perceptions of parents on
grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.

Age, education, occupation and marital adjustment of the parents were identified to be the most significant contributors of perceptions of parents towards grandparental role.

The older parents who were graduates and businessmen showed favourable perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren than their other counterparts.

The variables age, education and occupational status exhibited their influence independently and the combined effects did not add any effect to the perceptions of generation-II on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.

There was a significant relationship between the marital adjustment of parents and their perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.

Findings pertaining to perceptions of grandparental role among grandchildren (generation-III)

There was no significant difference in the perceptions of grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren with respect to their age in grandchildren (generation-III).
There was no significant difference in perceptions of grandchildren (generation-III) on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren with respect to their gender.

There was no significant difference in perceptions of grandchildren (generation-III) on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren with respect to their educational level.

Birth order of the grandchildren had a significant effect on their perceptions of grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren in generation-III.

Academic achievement and birth order of the grandchild were found to be the most significant contributors to the perceptions of grandchildren (generation-III) towards grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren.

Academic achievement of an individual in generation-III and their perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren were significantly related.
IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Intergenerational relations and interactions are expected to become more complex in the future with the increase in life expectancy and advancement of knowledge and technology, the relationships in the family are going to be affected.

The grandparents who are raising their grandchildren help to preserve crucial kinship ties and provide an inestimable social and economic service to society. Most of them report a deep sense of satisfaction and mastery from their caregiver role, but these gains are often at a great personal and family cost. The findings of the study could be treated as an important area in understanding the family relations and also the contribution of various factors which indirectly aids in the cohesive living in the modern world, which is very much needed to mutually support the dependent generations. As there is an interplay of social, environmental and psychological factors on the development of younger generations and their well-being, the family is the base which acts as a platform to build-up strong personality traits which are carried throughout the lifespan of an individual and aids him to achieve his goals and stand as a successful individual.

This study is expected to help in recognizing the influencing factors for the collective living in traditional three or multi-generational families. The findings could be used to educate the younger generations and also elderly on importance of interrelationships and factors affecting them within the family context. As the interrelationships in the family would be reciprocal to smoothen their obligatory ties and objections. To make the people aware of these, the educative interventions, with counselling programmes need to be planned at individual and family level to build favourable attitudes towards elderly. The empirically identified constituents of interpersonal interactions from this type of studies could be used for planning intervention programmes.

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The findings also could be used in clinical setup to sort out problems and intergeneration conflicts. Hence it might be of diagnostic and therapeutic value and used by family counsellors, child guidance workers and people working with government and non-governmental agencies carrying out community education programmes.

Suggestions for further research

- Case studies of different family patterns may be studied to elicit the situational differences in cohesive living among joint and extended families.

- Interaction patterns between the family members in multigenerational families may be studied.

- Geographical and cultural variations among three generational / multigenerational family members perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren may be stated.

- A comparison of nuclear, extended/joint and bereaved/broken family members perceptions on grandparental role in bringing up grandchildren may be stated.

- The perceptions of three generations may be studied on the same measures and may be extended throughout the life span.

- The intervention programmes may be planned and their effect on families may be studied.

- Longitudinal community based surveys of this type which may pertain to the lifespan of the child would be important for policy makers to throw light on these arising new issues.