ABSTRACT

Grandparenting is a special relationship in any culture. Grandparents and grandchildren seem to have a synergy like no other relationship. The current study attempted to provide a picture of perceptual trends on grandparental role among three generations in the family. Generational differences regarding grandparents' role with respect to selected socio-demographic variables and behavioural variables were examined with one hundred and fifty, three generational families selected purposively where grandparents (grandmother and grandfather) (300), parents (mother and father) (300), and grandchildren (150) (13+, 14+, 15+ years) lived in the same household of a semi urban town, Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh, India. Data was collected through interview schedules and analysed using SPSS ANOVA, 't' test for comparison of perceptions with respect to socio-demographic variables. Significant contributors were identified through MRA and the interaction effects between the identified socio-demographic variables were determined and correlation between the perceptions of three generations and the behavioural variables were also determined.

The findings revealed that age, gender, type of grandparent, socio-economic status and life satisfaction significantly influenced the perceptions of grandparents (generation-I). Number of grandchildren significantly influenced grandmother's perceptions and the type of family significantly influenced grandfather's perceptions. Gender and socio-economic status were found to be the most influencing variables of grandparents (generation-I) perceptions on grandparental role.

Perceptions of parents (generation-II) significantly differed with their age, gender, education, occupation and marital adjustment. There was no significant influence of family type and combined effects of other variables on perceptions of generation-II. Birth order of the grandchildren (generation-III) and their academic achievement significantly influenced their perceptions. There was no significant effect of age, gender and education on grandchildren's perceptions.

The findings could be treated as an important area in understanding family relations and also contribution of various factors which indirectly aids in the cohesive living of different generations in this modern world.