CHAPTER II

Review of Literature
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter deals with the review of the available literature pertaining to the study undertaken. Review of literature was expected to provide knowledge about the data and other materials available for operational purposes, which would enable the researcher to specify his/her own research problem in a meaningful context. This aided the researcher to rephrase the problem into analytical or operational terms. This task of formulating or defining a research problem was expected to examine all available literature, in order to get acquainted with the selected problem. Thus a review of available literature consisting of studies made earlier, which were similar to the one proposed were collected. All the available literature was categorised based on the variables, analysed critically and evaluated in this chapter under the following sub-headings.

2.1 STUDIES RELATED TO DEPENDANT VARIABLES

2.1.1 Studies on Perceptions of Grandparents Regarding their Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren

Role is the 'part', a person plays in the family or other social group. It was an organised set of activities and attitudes expected of a person with a given status or position in a group. Roles for certain positions may remain the same from generation to generation or they may be different and changeable as in periods of social change.
Grandparents play different roles in the family as caregivers, companions, watch dogs and as advisors, which were perceived differently by different people in the family. These roles depend on many factors and they influenced the relationships among three generations in the family. Thus the available literature relevant to these aspects was presented in this section as abroad and Indian studies.

Studies Conducted Abroad

Grandparents in a three generation family played a major role in psycho-social development of grandchildren, apart from the other caregiving activities (Kivnick and Sinclair, 1986) Flaherty (1988) found the same in a survey of thirty one (31) Mexican-American grandparents aged 43-76 years on the interaction behaviours in fifty three (53) of the grandparents and grandchild dyad. Grandchildren between the ages of three (3) and twelve (12) years saw their grandparents' often did not live in the same household. Interaction behaviour, culture transmission and religious training were the areas explored. Results showed a high degree of involvement by most of the grandparents. It was reported that grandmothers visited granddaughters more than the grandsons, especially if they were the children of daughters. Both the grandparents were reported being involved in the socialisation of grandchildren and their involvement was not significantly different.

Here, interactions with grandsons and granddaughters was similar. However, some significant differences in the behaviour, due to nativity of
grandparents was found in the areas of Spanish usage and play with grandchildren. Factors influencing the grandparents involvement like geographical proximity, interaction behaviour, culture transmission and religious training were examined here.

Burton and Benton (1985) studied the young African-American grandmothers and found that their entry into grandmother's role at an earlier age was in conflict with their young adult roles. Grandmotherhood represents overload of roles associated with a variety of cumulative developmental crisis that affected individuals well-being and arise at a time of high commitment to other activities and investments. However, the (age of onset of) grandmothering in this study was overemphasized as a factor which helps in bearing over load of roles in times of crisis.

Subsequently, Cherlin and Furstenberg (1985) studied the way the grandparents related with a teen aged child and found that the 'fun seeking style' which was found quite common did not appear at all. This was because the grandparents did not act out this role rigidly, but change their behaviour as their grandchildren grew up. They also found that, in addition to talking, joking and advising, they exchanged help and some even had a larger role in raising the teenagers. It was found that a high percentage of grandparents were quite ‘involved’ and about one fourth were quite ‘detached’. A slightly larger fraction were rated as ‘passive’ and the remaining were classified as ‘active’. This is in contrast to the Flaherty’s (1988) position, which was on young grandchildren. This could be attributed to age differences of grandchildren.
Robinson (1989) examined grandparenting, intergenerational love and hate from cases of a seventy-three (73) year old woman providing support and assistance for a twenty-two (22) year old grandson and his family, he also illustrated that premature grandparenthood might be experienced instead as a nuisance or even a burden. Another case provided an example of an eighteen (18) year old’s negative identification with her grandmother and her involvement in struggle between her and her grandmother. Finally, grandparents were negatively identified here by older adolescents. This could be studied with a larger sample and compared with other age group adolescents. Here age effects of grandchildren were similar to Cherlin’s (1985) conclusions.

Grandparents of teenagers across culture were studied by Furstenberg and Cherlin (1985), where their roles were differentiated and found little engagement in playful, leisure oriented activities and more emphasis on exchange of services between the generations and on the exertion of parental type of influence by grandparents in relation to the latter role. African-American grandmothers were found to have retained more authority over, bringing up of grandchildren.

Timberlake and Chipungee (1992) examined how 100 middle class African-American grandmothers perceived themselves in relationship to their grandchildren. The subjects completed interviews regarding one (1) daughter’s elementary school child. The tool measured demographic information and three (3) scales used were measuring the dependent variable, value of grandchildren and the independent variables like personal circumstances and situational context. Results revealed that grandmother’s role was least valued by subjects and was found not essential for family survival. Those who
assumed the role later in life or who provided more parenting activities with the least parental mediation, valued their grandchildren most highly. Grandparents often acted as mediators between the children and parents thus buffering in many a critical occasions.

Grandmother's role in the middle class African-American families was found to be unimportant and not essential for family survival. There was negative relation between grandparent's actual role and perceptions of grandchildren and their relationship. Though the sample was African American young grandchildren, the findings contradict the Flaherty, Facteau and Garner (1987); and Flaherty's (1988) conclusions. This could be attributed to personal circumstances and situational context than socio-demographic factors, like age and ethnicity. Pietropinto (1985) studied familial grandparent relationships by surveying four hundred physicians. About sixty-six per cent of the physicians felt that grandparents were less involved with offsprings now than a generation ago. This was consistent with Cherlin and Furstenberg's (1986) position and further grandparents more often were provided with financial assistance to their children, rather than vice-versa and the decreased authority of elders in the family has undermined intimate relationships. Most felt that a good relationship between grandchildren and grandparents made the child better disposed towards the elderly in general. Grandparents were a source of love and affection and they get along better with their grandchildren than with their own children. The sampled physicians indicated that most people felt positive about being grandparents, with women deriving more satisfaction than men and cited parents were usually responsible for lack of a close relationship between grandparents and grandchildren.
Flaherty, Facteau and Garner (1987) observed the functions of nineteen (19) Black grandmothers (aged 29-59 years) who were engaged in the care of their adolescent daughters, infants were explored. The study was initiated in two metropolitan postpartum units and continued in the homes of the grandmothers when the infants were two weeks through three months old. Tools used were demographic data forms, focussed interview and observational field schedules and taped interviews with grandmothers. The data on caregiving, decision making and meaning of being a grandmother elicited seven grandmother functions related to their role as primary caregiver’s of infants, managing, care taking, coaching, assessing, nurturing, assigning and patrolling, coaching and assessing ensured adolescent’s development in mothering roles and preparation for infant care. Roles related to psychological development of mother-infant interactions and patrolling supported mothers chances of survival in hostile environments and care-taking functions supported patterns of good mothering.

Hurne (1988) examined intergenerational relations in the Finnish families using semistructural interviews, with sixty nine (69) maternal grandmothers, their daughters and their twelve (12) year old grandchildren in the areas of geographical distance between the generations, contacts between them, mutual aid and support, filial responsibility and affective relations. It was found that the daughter's loosened their ties with her mother and was less dependent on her than on her husband and grandmothers did not have a certain role in the lives of grandchildren. Results do not support the contention that the oldest generation was left alone but do partly support the contention that the grandmother’s role is a ‘role less’ role. Many grandmother's had difficulty in defining their main tasks spontaneously.
Huine’s (1988) study on Finnish families revealed that the grandmother’s roles were not clearly specified and their functions were not viewed in a particularly form as in the Flaherty, Facteau and Garner’s (1987) study on black grandmothers. These discrepancies in observations appear to be due to socio-cultural variations.

Grandparent’s roles varied and acquired more responsibility in case of family crisis like death of their children, divorce and re-marriage. Jendrek (1994) interviewed (114) grandparents who responded to advertisements in media, schools and courts. In spite of their odd commitments and physical disabilities, they were more active and shouldered the responsibility of bringing up of grandchildren. On the other hand, Blau (1984) inquired into the role of grandparents in custodial matters. Most professionals agree that children suffered from fractured family situations. They only disagree to the degree to which children suffered at various stages of growth and development. Grandparent’s might play a significant role in the life cycle of children (by sanctuary) where there was security and a sense of family bond was attained. Grandparent related experiences aided the children to resolve developmental conflicts in them. Thus grandparents in a family acted as a rich resource in transmitting culture and experiences for the better development of their grandchildren.

Johnson (1988) studied the role of grandparents in fifty (50) divorcing families during the divorce process. Subjects were interviewed for a month, and again after twenty six months, for forty months the families were followed. Findings indicated that more women provided major assistance to children and grandchildren. Young grandmothers were more active, some decline in assistance acquired with paternal grandmothers was observed and, there was a greater decline in expectations. Hence the roles and expectations
were analysed and it was found that women became ambivalent and
dissatisfied. Though the grandmothers were actively involved as in Flaherty’s
study they tend to be dissatisfied due to poor interrelations between
generations, which is contradicting Pietropinto’s findings.

Langer (1990) examined one hundred and eighteen non-
institutionalized Jewish grandparents aged sixty five (65) years and older,
with at least one adult grandchild over eighteen (18) years of age for
functional exchange of services, emotional and tangible relations between
grandparents and grandchildren. The reciprocal and non-reciprocal exchange
of services was measured by the frequency of exchange and perception of
potential support between each dyad and found that relationships were not
reciprocal in either expressive or incremental support. Grandparents’
perceptions of reciprocity was that they received more than they gave. In
Jewish families grandchildren’s support to the grandparent’s cut weighed the
grandparent’s support. This might be due to higher age of adolescent
grandchildren. Subsequently, Poe (1992) observed the emotional, physical and
economic impacts of black grandparents aged 45-70, who had at least one
custodial grandchild and assumed primary parenting responsibilities for their
grandchildren. Most of the biological parents of these grandchildren were
substance abusers. The grandparents took on the parenting responsibilities
as an alternative to foster placement with non-relatives, attempting to rescue
their innocent grandchildren from repeating the self-destructive cycle of their
parents.

Minkler, Fuller-Thomson, Miller and Driver (1997) assessed the "effect
of undertaking custodial care of a grandchild on grandparents' depression
levels and what characteristics are associated with higher depression levels
among caregiving grandparents". The data was collected through national
longitudinal, probability sample at two points in time, one in 1987 and 1988, and the second was collected from 1992 through 1994. The modified version of the depression scale developed by Center for Epidemiological studies was used to measure depression. It was noticed that primary caregivers for a grandchild had twice the levels of depressive symptoms above the traditional depression scale cut point. Thus undertaking the primary care of a grandchild is associated with an increase in levels of depression. It was suggested that physicians need to explore familial role changes with middle and older patients who had symptoms of depression. Special attention should be paid to the most at-risk sub sets of grandparent caregivers, those who were new caregivers, those in poor health, those who were younger and woman.

In the above investigation, psychological health problems associated with caregiving grandparents of deviant children was examined. The awareness of such problems to the physicians and researchers aids in promoting educational programmes to tackle them. These grandparents took on the parenting responsibilities as an alternative to foster placement with non relatives, attempting to rescue their innocent grandchildren from repeating the self-destructive cycle of their parents. At a time when they expected to lay down the burdens of jobs and child rearing, these grandparents were making great personal sacrifices to care for their neglected or abandoned grandchildren.

Kelley (1993) assessed the stress in grandparents raising grandchildren as well as the antecedents to the child's placement with the grandparents. Data was collected from a Postal questionnaire from grandfathers (aged 40-78 years), grandmothers (aged 40-71 years) who were members of a State organization for grandparents raising grandchildren. Tools used for the study were the symptom check list-90-R a 90-item multidimensional self-report
symptom inventory, was used to measure symptomatic psychological distress in respondents, and stress factors were assessed with the 120-item parenting stress index. Respondents reported increased psychological distress and scored higher than the normative sample on depression, inter personal sensitivity, hostility, paranoia, obsessive-compulsive and somatization, forty four (44) per cent of respondents had psychological distress above the 90th percentile. Social isolation, restriction of role, and impaired relationship with their spouse were found to be predictors of increased stress. Seventy-six per cent of the grandparents expected to raise their grandchildren until they reached adulthood. Negative effects of grandparenting for the grandparents were examined. They were more related to psychological aspects.

Whereas day-care grandparents provide regular help to the grandchild’s nuclear family, it was also found that there were effects of providing care on the caregivers ‘lives’ in four categories: life style changes, friendship relationship changes, family relationship changes and spouse relationship changes. In 1994, he also examined the policy, program needs of white grandparents who provide regular care to their grandchildren. Results showed that their needs echoed, those previously reported by black grandparents. Participation in their grandchild’s medical care, the use of social service agencies, experiences with lawyers, child, respite care and grandparent support groups.

Wearing and Wearing (1996) analyzed discourses on grandmotherhood and examined the impact of these discourses on the way the grandmothers incorporate grandmotherhood into their daily lives and their subjectivities. Local papers were content analyzed and semi-structured interviews were conducted with twenty grandmothers (aged 44-65 years) living in a middle-class regimented area in Sydney. For these women, grandmotherhood...
is important and brings joy, but it is not the whole of their identity. When responsibility for child care is involved, expectations and parameters need to be negotiated. Implications for the helping professions, child-care policy, and ageing policy involve the acknowledgment and valuing of grandparents' caregiving activities, as well as the recognition of their freedom to explore new horizons, at this stage of the life course. When the findings of the Timberlake and Chipunze (1992) on middle class African-Americans were compared the perceptions of grandmothers of Sydney were positive. However these differences could not be attributed to racial, as the sample was very small to generalize the findings.

Blunk and Williams (1997) studied perceptions of the elderly for four hundred and twenty four (424), five (5) year old children. The social attitude scale of ageist prejudice (SASAP) was used to examine how these young children perceived elderly people after being exposed to a developmentally appropriate class room curriculum that focussed on the characteristic and positive aspects of the elderly. In a pretest-post test design of the study, results indicated that young children were more negative towards elderly persons' abilities than towards their social characteristics and that the level of grandparent visitation was unrelated to SASAP score. The findings resemble the Timberlake and Chipunze's (1992) investigation on adolescent age group. But Blunk and Williams examined young children of five year (6) year olds to find out similar effects. So a similar research could be done with the late adolescent and adult age groups, in order to elicit the perceptions of all the generations.

Community based assistance programs were started in many developed countries to meet various needs of elderly. Not much was known about such programmes in developing countries like India. Thus the generational
research like this if worked on extended population might help the policy makers in planning such programmes. Grant, Garl and Cohen (1997) worked on an innovative school based inter generational model to serve grandparent caregivers. A comprehensive social service and medical programme developed through the partnership of large urban teaching hospital and an inner city School district, to help meet the variety of social, mental health and medical needs encountered by grandparents caring for their grandchildren. Twenty three grandmothers aged (42-72 years) completed questionnaires that were used to evaluate the programme. It was concluded that this programme served as an important bridge between grandparents and the services they need.

Janette (1997) examined the link between grandparents' perceptions and their role satisfaction, role performance, and importance attached to the role, and their psychological well being. Two generation adult samples of University of Southern California study of generations (1991), were chosen for the study. Correlation analysis revealed that the three (3) grandparent role variables (i.e., importance, performance, and satisfaction) were moderately correlated. A multivariate analysis of covariance failed to yield significant differences for grandparents psychological well-being based on their scores for the role variables. Here the predictions made by the investigator showed no relation to the psychological well being of grandparents.

Many changes occurred in family life such as an increase in the number of reconstituted and single-parent families and the greater opportunity for maternal employment within North America and European societies had led to re-evaluation of the nature and limits of the family and the role of family members. As a result, family members other than the
mother and family structure, other than the nuclear family have become the
focus of research. Lavers, Sonuga and Edmund's (1997) review article
suggested that the impact of grandmothers involvement was conditional on
a range of factors including the level of need experienced by the mother and
child, the mother and grandmother relationship history, the developmental
stage and life circumstances of the grandmother, the levels of disagreement
between mother and grandmother over child related issues and the perceived
inappropriateness of involvement in cultural and interpersonal terms. This
clearly indicates changing trends in the family structure and research in that
area. Elderly status and roles were very conditional. This limits the grand
parenting activity levels in the modern family, which might lead to strained
interpersonal relations. People could be made aware by educating the family
members on importance of one another in soothing the family distortions.

Morrow-Kondos, Weber, Cooper and Hesser (1997) explored the
problems and role inconsistencies grandparents encounter when raising their
grandchildren. Ten grandparents aged 39 to 58 years from a support group
participated. Ten open ended questions were used together data in a non
structured format using standardised interviewing techniques. Results
revealed that the major stress areas for grandparents were their relationships
with adult children, becoming surrogate parents and legal issues. The sample
was very small, thus these results have to be verified with replications for
consistency.

Schulter, Scherman and Carroll (1997) studied grandparents and
children of divorcees of seventy seven children aged (9 to 13) years of divorce
and their selected grandparents completed questionnaires that include a
demographic section. The family adoptability and cohesion evaluation Scale-II
(Dolson, 1982) to assess their relationships and an instrument was designed
to identify the shared activities and desires of grandparents and
grandchildren. Partners had similar present and future perceptions of relationships and activity factors. Grandchildren and grandparents connected emotional bonding with each other. Grandparents thought that good relationship with the custodial parent was important. Most healthy and least healthy subgroups were identified, membership in the healthiest group was related to geographic proximity and gender of the subject.

Edularbs (1998) reviewed some of the literature on grandkin and grandparents in grand families with a focus on how the relationship influences the children school functioning. The term 'grandfamily' refers to the families in which grandparents have become full-time surrogate parents to their grandchildren. Grandchildren in these families were called ‘grandkin’. They also studied the difficulties of grandparents who raised their grandkin, including elevated levels of stress that negatively affected their well being and difficulties grandkin face, including developmental problems with attachment and establishing social networks, which leads to poor psychological adjustment and development. Because these children often experience severe academic and behavioural problems in school as well. The grandfamily school support network was discussed as a means of ameliorating the difficulties experienced by grandkin and grandparents.

Caliander and Huges (1998) identified the live experiences of six African-American and four Latino grandmothers as the primary caregivers for their grandchildren who were HIV infected or have AIDS. The similarities and differences between the two groups using Vanmanen's method of hermeneutical phenomenological research were examined. Subjects (aged 49 to 69 years) completed unstructured and open ended interviews and a demographic questionnaire. Four themes identified were: Upholding the primacy of the family; Living in the child centered present; Being strong as mature woman and Living within a constricting environment.
Although there were differences related to family structure and cultural differences, grandmothers were alike. Owens and Brome (1997) examined the family environment and social support among African-American non-grandmothers, grandmothers and grandmothers to be. The impact of teenage pregnancy on the family system was studied by investigating differences in perceptions of the family environment, role satisfaction, social support and psychological symptoms, among African-American mothers whose teenage daughter was never pregnant, pregnant or already a mother. The family environment scale, the symptom check-list-90 revised and a structured interview were used to assess the variables. Forty two mothers (ages 29 to 60 years) of teenagers served as subjects and were identified as belonging to the non-grandmother, grandmother or grandmother-to-be groups. Results showed that non-grandmothers reported a more positive family environment and less satisfaction with the role of grandmother than grandmothers and grandmothers-to-be.

Family environments seemed positive to non-grandmothers, but the role satisfaction was less. The sample chosen for the study seemed to be novel. Where as, Seligman, Goodwin and Karren (1997) studied the family adjustment of childhood disability and perceived levels of support by grandparents. This study explored the perceptions of forty two (42) mothers of children with disabilities, the amount of instrumental and psychological support offered by child's maternal and paternal grandparent's. Results revealed that the grandmothers were perceived to be more supportive than grandfather's. The paternal grandmother's were less supportive than the maternal grandmother's.
Watson (1997) investigated how the grandmother's role in the family differed as a function of age and specifically sought to understand the perceived strengths and needs of grandmothers as a function of three age related variables they were, age at the time of survey (younger Vs. older), age at the birth of the first grandchild (earlier Vs. later) and age at the birth of the oldest grandchild Hundred grandmothers completed the grandmother strengths and needs inventory (Strom and Strom, 1993) Analysis revealed three main effects of age on the role of grandmothering Old grandmothers aged 58 to 67 years perceived themselves to have more information about grandchildren than younger grandmothers aged 47 to 57 years; Women who became grandmothers later in life (between the ages of 46 to 62 years) perceived themselves to be stronger in teaching grandchildren; and Women who became grandmothers later in life saw themselves as less frustrated in the grandparental role However, age effects on the role of grandmothering were examined with a very small sample where the generalizations could not be possible.

Boon and Brussoni (1998) studied the grandparental impact in young adult's relationship with their closest grandparents. The role relationship strength and emotional closeness was more specifically explored. Young adults (aged 16-37 years) completed a questionnaire evaluating their relationship with their living grandparents to whom they felt emotionally close, if they felt close to more of their living grandparents, the grandparent with whom they had the most contact. Participants perceptions of the strength of this relationship was significantly and positively related to their responses on measures of the extent to which their closest grandparent influenced various aspects of their lives (Example: Their beliefs and values, how much they would have missed had they never known their grandparents).
Szinovacz, (1998) presented a demographic profile of grandparents of today using national survey of families and households. In this, specific dimensions of the grandparenthood were addressed, which include grandparents survival, the timing of grandparenthood, grandparents involvement in other roles. Surrogate parenting and step-grandparents were also studied. Data confirmed that grandparenthood was a real universal experience in the sample. However, about fifteen percent of African and Hispanic men were not grandparents. A majority of African women made the transition to grandparenthood either before the age of forty years or after sixty years, traditionally "off time" periods for their life transition. Data indicated heterogeneity among grandparents of different genders and races or ethnicities and suggested modifications in previous descriptions of modern grandparenthood.

Some Indian Researches Relevant to the Study

Vijay Kumar (1996) surveyed 200 randomly selected aged respondents who were interviewed from a rural sector in Chittoor District. Results showed the differences in the health status of the aged living in joint, nuclear and post parental families. Utilization of health services was seen to be related to economic conditions, marital status and personality. We can generalize the results, as the size of the sample was considered as big.

Savita (1994) in a study of sons support to their parents is tested with the help of case study selected from the Pondichery. The problems related to the aged especially in adjusting with the younger generations. The study stresses the need for changing the attitudes of elderly population towards the aged homes through proper information, education and communication activities.
Vishnupriya (1997) studied the role and involvement of grandparents in child rearing and their life satisfaction. The study was conducted in the town of Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India, with grandparents living with their grandchildren. The sample consisted of one hundred and twenty grandparents of which sixty were maternal grandparents and sixty were paternal grandparents. Questionnaire was used to gather the information through home visits. Results revealed that paternal grandparents differed significantly from maternal grandparents and there was a significant difference between grandmothers and grandfathers in bringing up their grandchildren. Socio-demographic variables had an effect on role performance of the grandparents. There was positive correlation between role performance and life satisfaction of the respondents.

Mehata and Mallya (2001) indicated in their study, "Self-Appraisal of elderly in Slums of Vadodra City", that perceptions of old age were associated with physical changes, health deterioration and social events such as marriage of their children and birth of a grandchild, which gave them a new status in life. Their health problems were seen as a part of onset of old age. It was also linked to lack of health facilities for minor preventable health problems. Some of them felt that the health problems made an impact on their contribution to the family, yet a majority contributed to the family either financially or by participating in the routine activities of the household or by looking after their grandchildren, as they had the responsibility of rearing their grandchildren apart from spending for their own selves and they had to consider their grandchildren's future along with their own.

Srivastava and Sweta (2002) investigated the effect of marital status on depression and self-esteem in aged persons. A sample of sixty widows (30 male + 30 females) and thirty pairs of couples (30 males and 30 females) aged
sixty five years and above were taken for the present study. Depression and self-esteem were assessed by using Dubey Depression Scale, and Prasad and Thakur, self-esteem inventory respectively. Findings revealed that there was significant effect of marital status on depression and self-esteem of aged.

Overview

The following observations are made from the studies reviewed in this sub-section.

Good relationship between grandparent and grandchild makes the grandchild better disposed towards the elderly in general. Old grandmothers perceived themselves to have more information about grandchildren than younger grandmothers. Age of onset of grandmothering was found to be an influencing factor on the role performance of grandmothers. There were no significant gender variations in interaction with grandchildren, their involvement in the socialization, culture transmission and religious training.

Functions related to grandparental role were found to be, primary caregivers of infants, managing, caretaking, coaching, assessing, nurturing, assigning and patrolling. Coaching and assessing ensured adolescent’s development in mothering roles and preparation for infant care. In Indian context, grandmothers played a major role than grandfathers. Paternal grandparents differ significantly from maternal grandparents. The role performance of grandparents and their life satisfaction were positively correlated. The factors related to the role of grandparents viz., importance, performance and satisfaction were moderately correlated, but there was no influence of these variables on grandparent’s psychological well being.
Some viewed grandmother's role as least valuable and not essential for family survival and grandmothers do not have a certain role in lives of grandchildren. Thus stating it as a "role less" role.

Exchange of help between the grandparents and grandchildren was noticed, some even had larger role in raising teenage grandchildren. There was little involvement in playful and leisure oriented activities. Grandparents acted as mediators between the children and parents in buffering many critical situations. They get along well with their grandchildren than their own children. For some women though grandmotherhood is important and brings joy, it is not their identity.

Grandparents, who are primary caregivers of grandchildren showed more depressive symptoms than others. Major stress areas of grandparents were their relationships with adult children, becoming surrogate parents and legal issues. Stress, difficulties, grandkin face, developmental problems with attachment and social networks leads to poor psychological adjustment and development.

Young children were more negative towards elderly persons abilities than towards their social characteristics. Grandmothers and grandmothers-to-be reported less positive family environment and less satisfaction with the role of grandmothers than non grandmothers.

Problems related to aged especially in adjustment with younger generations were noticed and it was suggested that the elderly should be made aware of aged homes though proper information, education and communication.
2.1.2 Studies on Perceptions of Parents on Grandparental Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren

Parents in a three generation family would be a bridge and the sandwich generation in building up of relations between grandparents and grandchildren. So their perceptions regarding grandparents role might influence their relations with grandchild and family psychological wellbeing (Mathews and Sprey, 1985). Some important tasks of parents at their present life stage was to find out when to relinquish authority and how much responsibility they still must take if they were to be adequate in their relationships with their children. Being parents of teenaged children was an experience new to them and often found to be difficult. They might be involved with trying to define their roles at this point in their lives, as their children try to define theirs. Parental monitoring is essential at this stage, as it works best with parents who already have a reasonable relationship with their teenaged children. Family members should show mutual respect and there should already be family rules in place that govern behaviour. In a three generation family, sometimes each may be unaware that the others were also struggling to adjust to the requirements of a stage of life that makes new demands.

Studies Conducted Abroad

Mathews and Sprey (1985) concluded that "close bonds between grandchildren and their paternal grandmothers are facilitated, first, by the father's being perceived as close to his mother, second, by the grandchild's having access to the grandmother in childhood". However they went on to say that close bonds with the maternal grandmother are not dependent on these factors. The significant variables were the ties between the mother and her mother (grandmother).
Wilson (1986) studied the perceptions of adult child rearing activities by interviewing grandmothers, mothers, fathers and children between ages of eight and fourteen years from sixty black families. It was found that the three main effects were the two levels of family structure (single-parent or dual-parent), two levels of grandmothers' domicile (living with the family or living in the local community), and gender of the child. Results showed that grandmothers perceived themselves and were perceived as having more active involvement with children, when they lived with their single adult daughter than in other conditions. As fathers of sons were perceived as more involved with their children than were the fathers of daughters. Findings indicated that black family patterns were more complex than previously assumed. Here the influence of family structure and lineage on the roles of grandparents were examined. But sometimes due to their physical inability, their actual capability of role performance varies with the expected one by the younger generations. Thus the present research in this aspect might throw some light on the relationship patterns and perceptions of one another's role in the family.

Milkie, Simon and Powell (1997) examined children's perceptions and evaluations of maternal and paternal roles through content analysis of 8,027 essays written by school age children (mean age 8.3 years) in which they explained why their parent was the "best" mother or father. The parental qualities and activities children value and how children from familial relationships, document the salience of gender and gender process in families. Differences were found in the relations with father when they were compared from 1971-1981 with early 1990's. A shift in emphasis was found from a caretaker/provider role to a more recreational role among fathers. It was argued
that these findings underscore the need of family, gender and social psychological research to incorporate children's perceptions. The content of essays from school age children signified the importance of familial relationships in the attitude development of children.

Some of the Indian Researches Relevant to the Study

Santhadevi (1986) found that there is no significant difference between attitudes of working and non-working mothers. It was found that education, occupation, size of the family, socio-economic status of the respondents had a significant association with attitudes towards parental roles. Age and sex of the parents did not have any influence on their attitudes.

In the above study the effect of socio-demographic variables on the attitudes towards parental roles were examined. This helped the researcher to choose some of the variables for the present study.

Anna Mathew (1987) attempted to gather empirical evidence regarding child-rearing practices from a sample of 250 families (rural and urban areas of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh). Though both the groups wished their children to be reared by their grandmother's right from birth, rural mothers when compared to urban mothers sought most of the help from their mothers. In taking care of their children, in all areas of development (health, social development, emotional development, intellectual development) and in day-to-day activities like toilet training (say oil bath) disciplining, in providing toys, in preferring play, in educational aspirations, at the time of ill-health of the child etcetera, grandmother's help was sought as a mark of active role players in child rearing.
Suparnachandra, Debkumar and Prafulla (1993) studied the roles and status of the elderly persons and explored the applicability of the disengagement theory by tracing the relationships between expected and actual behaviour of the aged from three hundred and sixty one elderly persons and two hundred and two non-elderly persons from thirty one randomly selected villages around Girdih in Bihar. Although disengagement theory, argued that general inactivity was a normal feature of aging and part of the process of withdrawing from society. Findings indicated that rural people in Girdih did not lend much support to 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 family.

In this study though the sample was moderately large, it was confined to only the rural population. These aspects could be studied in the urban sector too, and also the differences, could be examined.

Sandhyarani (1995) studied the perceptions of family members belonging to three generations on elderly, sixty children, mothers and grandparents were interviewed. Results revealed that most of the grandchildren were well cared by their grandparents. Grandchildren felt responsible and gained pleasure in attending to the needs of their grandparents. Majority of the grandchildren liked their maternal grandparents more than the paternal grandparents. Grandparents and grandchildren participate together in watching TV, going to temples and story telling. Majority of grandparents expressed that they were satisfied by involving themselves in attending to grandchildren needs and were happy in
participating in social activities along with their grandchildren. Majority of grandparents were democratic in their approach in disciplining grandchildren. Majority of grandparents preferred to live with their family members and were supported by their children. Though they were financially better, seventy five percent of mothers stated that they were taking suggestions from their parents/in-laws. Almost all mothers viewed that their parents/in-laws did not favour any particular grand child. None of them expressed any difficulty in enforcing discipline on their children in the presence of their parents/in-laws. Fifty percent of the mothers expressed happiness to live with their parents/in-laws as they sought support from them in their household responsibilities. Fifty percent of the mothers considered it as their responsibility to look after elderly.

The mutual benefits of the presence of the elderly and younger generations in a family were stated. Grandparents involvement in social activities of children were examined. Parental attitudes were positive in the areas of gender and disciplining aspects of grandchildren. But broad generalisations could be made with extensive research in each of these areas.

Syamakuman (2000) in her study focussed on the different aspects of child-rearing attitudes and was carried out on four hundred adolescent school going children between the ages of 13 to 15 years were selected through purposive sampling from twelve different schools of Trivandrum district and their parents.

The findings indicated that the children do not perceive the attitudes held by the parents in the same way. She also found that, though there was a strong association between the child rearing attitudes filed by both parents, boys and girls perceived the attitudes of fathers and mothers differently. The
attitudes of parents and those perceived by children assume greater significance in the context of the abnormalities and maladjustments found among the youth of today.

Overview

The following observations are made from the studies reviewed in this sub-section.

There was no significant difference between attitudes of working and non-working mothers. Education, occupation, size of the family, socio-economic status showed a significant association with attitudes towards parental roles. Close bonds between maternal grandmother and grandchildren were influenced by mother and grandmother ties.

Grandmothers perceived themselves and were perceived as having more active involvement with children, when they lived with their single adult daughter. Fathers of son’s were perceived as more involved with their children than were the fathers of daughters. Paternal roles perceived by children indicated a shift from provider role to more recreational role.

Youngsters expected the elderly to take the responsibilities of better household management, care of children, provide advice and counsel to younger ones and take part in decision making. Family bonding and parental support were negatively related. Mothers expressed happiness to live with their parents or in-laws. They felt it as their responsibility to look after elderly. There was a strong association between the child rearing attitudes by both parents, but boys and girls perceived differently. The attitudes of parents and those perceived by children assume greater significance in the context of the abnormalities and mal-adjustments found among the youth of today.
In Indian context, both rural and urban people wished their children to be reared by their grandmother's right from birth, but rural mothers sought most of the help from their mothers. Mothers viewed that presence of their parents-in-laws was a real support and were happy about that. They did not face any difficulty in enforcing discipline on their children in the presence of elders in the family.

2.1.3 Studies on Perceptions of Grandchildren on Grandparental Role in Bringing them Up.

Grandchildren of adolescent age group were included under generation-III in the present research. Study of adolescents would be a matter of serious concern not only to parents but also to school people and all, who were interested in the welfare of younger generation and progress of society. It would be useful to understand adolescents, and to study the ways in which adolescents perceive themselves and their world for several reasons. By understanding adolescents we could help understand themselves better and handle their life situations more effectively. We can guide and educate them to use resources, and provide conditions each individual needs for his best development.

The perceptions of adolescents on the roles, an elder person performs in the family would enable them to understand the family members in a better way and to maintain good interpersonal communication and strong familial bonds. Thus a brief review of the available literature on the perceptions of grandchildren on grandparenthood was examined and the details of the same were presented below as abroad and Indian studies.
Studies Conducted Abroad

Kivett (1985) worked on the above aspects and revealed that grandmothers role was perceived subordinate to other family and social roles. The association between grandfather and grandchildren were limited and showed low levels of mutual aid. Geographical proximity appeared to be the most frequently associated variable with the grandfather-grandchild relationships. Grandparent and grandchild relations seemed to depend upon their patterns of association, levels of affection and their mutual help in their day-to-day life. Familiarity with the elderly was found to be more important than intergenerational contact in terms of its influence on children's attitude towards elderly.

Kocarnik and Ponzetti (1986) confirmed the same by working on two different groups. Group-1 had nineteen children enrolled in a child care programme adjacent to a nursing home that allowed elderly residents to interact with the children and provided ongoing intergenerational activities. The second group consists of two and eleven years old children from a child care programme without an intergenerational component. The mean age of the children was five years. To study children's attitudes towards elderly, women subjects were interviewed individually, by showing photographs of females classified as young, middle aged and elderly. Findings suggest that familiarity was more important than contact in terms of its influence on children's attitudes towards photographs of elderly women. Implications for intergenerational activities in early childhood programmes were discussed. It could be inferred that subjects of older age groups might not have capacity to respond on the interaction programmes. However the sample size was very small to make any valid conclusions.
As the age of the children increased, their pattern of attachment and communication varied. As a result, grandparents developed positive attitudes towards grandparenthood with their increase in age. Dellman, Papaha, and Lopez (1987) confirmed this with two hundred and twenty-five predominately working class adolescents aged between thirteen to eighteen years and found that grandparents played confidant and companion roles in the lives of grandchildren.

Ponzetti and Folkrod (1989) examined the descriptive essays of two hundred and five boys and two hundred and eleven girls in grades of 1 to 5 on their grandparents and their influence on children's developmental cognitive levels. They found that girls were significantly more likely to mention love than did boys. Younger grade children (1 and 2 grades) reported more affective provisions like attachment, nurturance etcetera from their grandparents. Older children (4 and 5 grades) reported more cognitive provisions, guidance, pride in family history etcetera. Girls reported less social integration and fewer exchanges of material things. The method used for gathering information was novel and size of the sample was also considerably high and consistent. Grandparent's influence on children's developmental and cognitive levels were studied. Despite the different methodologies employed, several conceptual similarities were seen among these studies. Thompson, Tinsley, Scalora, and Parke (1989) did not devise typology in the same sense as those discussed so far. Rather, emphasized on the status granted to grandparents legal standing to petition for legally enforceable visitation with the grandchildren in all fifty states of the U.S. some of the psychological assumptions underlying this policy were problems in judicial determinations of whether visitation was in a child's best interest and both intended and unintended consequences for family functioning arose from this policy. Efforts to ensure multi generational support for children were admirable.
In bereaved families, the grandparental roles differ with the type of help the family was in need. As a whole their involvement might lessen the effects of ill happenings and enables the younger generation to regain normalcy with their moral support. In this regard, Trygstad and Sanders (1989) examined step grandparent, step-grandchild relationship with fifty four (54) college students aged between nineteen to thirty five years and their step-grandparents aged between fifty seven to ninety eight years. Results indicated that, step grandchildren maintained contact with grandparents beyond high school. The majority of step grandchildren wanted more contact with step grandparents and almost half of the step-grandchildren rated the relationship with their step grandparent as important. Step grandchildren perceived the relationship as both personal and a social role, and expected few behaviours from their step grandparent. The relationship strengths between step grandparent and their grandchildren here were rated neither high nor low in their satisfaction, with the parents remarriage. The importance of relationships with the step grandparent and the respondents age when he/she became a step child were important factors. However the problem of step grandparent and step grandchild is rare in the indian context

Creasey and Koblewski (1991) studied seventy one female and seventy one male college students, perceptions of relationships with maternal and paternal grandmother's and grandfather's (aged between 58 to 95 years) using Furman and Buhrmester's (1985) relationship inventory. Grandparents were not viewed as major targets of intimacy nor were they reported to be the bearers of instrumental aid. Granddaughter's had better relationships than grandson's. Grandparent's, regardless of kinship status, were still rated as important attachment figures of those older adolescents.
Hodgson (1992) surveyed two hundred and eight adult grandchildren (aged 18 yrs) concerning relationships with their closest grandparent. Grandparent-grandchild relationships were significantly meaningful along the lines of levels of contact and perceptions of closeness. It was also found that the interaction levels were high for most and the relationships with their grandparents were close and enduring. Interstate relations were noticed as influencing factors than economic and demographic factors.

VanRanst, Verschueren and Marcoen (1995) studied the reasons for adolescents valuing their grandparents from five hundred and sixty three adolescents and young adults in Belgium. The grandparents meaning scale which probes a priori dimensions of meaning, was completed by one hundred and forty seven early adolescents, one hundred and seventy five middle adolescents and two hundred and forty one late adolescents. Results revealed that adolescents generally found their grandparents important and felt close to them. Grandparents were valued primarily because they provide affection, reassurance of worth and reliable alliance. Relational, affective and care-giving meanings were assigned more often to grand-mothers', whereas advising, teaching and narrative roles were ascribed more frequently to grandfathers. Maternal grandparents were generally perceived as more important and closer than paternal grandparents. Early adolescents gave more importance and meaning to their grandparents than middle and late adolescents, there were no differences between grandsons and granddaughters. As the age and lineage showed significant differences in viewing their grandparents, gender effects were not noticed, as in the case of many small sample studies.
Grandchildren who had more frequent and diverse contact with the grandparents, felt intimate, and this was significant to grandparents. Grandchildren, as this, influence their lives. Boon and Brusson, (1996) examined one hundred and seventy one undergraduates aged between 16 to 37 years. The relationships with the living grandparents (N=125) who were closer was evaluated. In cases where non of the grandparents were intimate, the grandparents with whom they had the most contact were choosen (N=46). The inference revealed that relationships experienced as close differed in a number of important ways from those experienced as distant. This conclusion is consistent with Hodgson’s (1992) research.

Strom and Strom (1997) developed a theory of grandparent development that included the formulation of assumptions, goals for guiding instruction, curriculum design, and a measurement tool to assess learning needs and evaluate the effects of educational intervention. Cultural considerations were illustrated by a three generation study of seven hundred and seventy seven African-American, one thousand eighty six Caucasian, and six hundred and seventy two Hispanic grandparents, parents and grandchildren (aged 7 to 60 + years) who were administered the grandparent strengths and needs inventory. Perceptions of each generation about the attitudes and behaviours of grandparents were examined with multivariate analysis of variance and post-hoc comparisons. Results of the study showed significant differences between generations and within cultures. Each generation identified elements of grandparent success and issues that deserve considerations in building educational programs.

Educating the other generations on the importance of elderly in the family was an important aspect, to be examined further to develop relevant programmes for the new generations. Holladay, Lackovich, Margaret and Coleman (1998) explored how granddaughter’s account for the development
of their relationships with their maternal grandmothers. The retrospective interviewing technique was used with forty-two (42) female college students to elicit turning points in their relational histories. Increase in intimacy resulted from decrease in geographic separation, engaging in shared activities, deaths or serious illness in the family, and family disruptions. Decrease in closeness were associated with negative experiences with the grandmother, increase in geographic separation and the transition to death or serious illness. Participation in shared activities were the most significant ones in the relationships with maternal grandmothers.

Verschueren and VanRanst (1988) observed different sets of roles performed by grandparents from two hundred and thirty-nine university students. The results revealed that young adults generally found their grandparents important and they were valued primarily for their emotional support, reassurance growth, a link with the past. Patterns of individual differences in importance of grandparents were also noticed. In this study grandparents were viewed by the adolescents in more responsible roles, which accounts greater importance and value for the family.

Jay, Sara, Kuang-Hua and Silva (2001) gathered the data from mothers on parenting and family climate and conducted a longitudinal study with 1000 children of 3, 5, 7, 9, 13 and 15 years of age from Dunedin and New Zealand. Intergenerational relations were predicted between young adult children aged 26 years and their middle-aged parents. Analysis on distinct developmental epochs revealed greater prediction from the middle childhood and early-adolescent periods than from early-childhood years. Majority of the respondents indicated that more supportive family environments and child rearing experiences in the family of origin forecasted more positive and less negative parent-child relationships (in terms of contact, closeness, conflict, reciprocal assistance) in young adulthood, though the associations were
modest in magnitude. It was inferred that the negative effects on intergenerational relations, through unsupportive child-rearing environments in one developmental period studied could be offset by relatively supportive family environments in the remaining developmental periods. Here the effects of family environment in the familial relations and development of an individual at each stage of development was noticed. Thus we can infer that, generation cohesion and the attitudes were important for normal development of any person.

**Some of the Indian Researches Relevant to the Study**

Reciprocity in fulfilling the needs of the grandparents was observed, in a study reported by Rekha (1996). According to Rekha, adolescents felt responsible towards their grandparents and they considered it as their pleasure and responsibility in attending to the needs of grandparents and felt that their needs were met by their grandparents. One hundred and eighty adolescents, with ninety boys and ninety girls of 8th, 9th and 10th standards were observed by (Radharam, 1997). Confirmed the same and also revealed that grandparents were democratic and permissive in disciplining the child. They play a major role in transmitting culture. They participated in some recreational activities like watching TV, going to temples and story talking. Variables like birth order and family type had significant impact on the perceptions of adolescents. Age, gender, family size and income does not significantly influence perceptions of adolescents which is in contrast to Van Ranst's et al. (1995) observation where the gender significantly influenced the perceptions. This discrepancy could be attributed to sample fluctuations.

Chaudhary (2001) observed a living bond between grandparents and grandchildren, with a sample of hundred children both boys and girls belonging to age group of six to eight years with working and non-working
mothers. Results showed that the grandparents gave a special care and unique kind of love and care, which gave the children a sense of emotional security and happiness. Grandparents inculcated values and wisdom in grandchildren and provided a variety of cognitive and social stimuli which the grandchildren received directly from their grandparent. Though grandparents expressed extremely caring and loving behaviour towards their grandchildren, they prove dominating in trying to inculcate disciplinary attitudes in their grandchildren, by acting as role models to their parents. It could be concluded that grandparents had a significant impact on child development and on the family as mentors, role models and care-takers.

Overview

The following observations are made from the studies reviewed in this sub-section.

Grandchildren tend to be significantly closer to maternal than paternal grandparents. Geographical proximity appeared to be the most frequently associated variable with grandfather and grandchild relationships. Younger grandchildren reported more affective provisions like attachment, nurturance etcetera from their grandparents. Older grandchildren reported more cognitive provisions (guidance, pride in family history etcetera).

Young adults generally found their grandparents important and they were valued primarily for their emotional support, reassurance growth, a link with the past. More supportive family environment and child rearing experiences in the family of origin forecasted more positive and less negative parent-child relationships. Maternal grandparents were perceived as more important and closer than paternal grandparents. Early adolescents gave
more importance and meaning to then grandparents than middle and late adolescents. Their age, lineage, geographical proximity, family size and income did not significantly influence the attitudes of grandchildren on grandparental role. Grandchildren who had more frequent and diverse contact with grandparents felt intimate. The relationship between the step grandparent and their grandchild's age when he/she became a step child were important factors.

Grandparents played confidants and companion roles in the lives of grandchildren. Grandparents needs were attended by adolescents, they also felt that their needs were looked after well by their grandchildren. Grandparents were found to be very important by young adults. They were valued for their emotional support, reassurance growth, a link with the past. Age, lineage, geographical proximity, child-parent relationship and parent-grandparent relationship were the factors related to strength of grandchild-grandparent bonds. Perceptions of grandparent and grandchild roles were positive indicating affection and respect for grandparents. There were significant differences in perceptions between generations and within cultures. Gender, race and family form, birth and family type had significant impact on role attitudes among adolescents from various backgrounds.

Grandparents gave a special care and unique kind of love and care, which gives the children a sense of emotional security and happiness. Grandparents inculcate values and wisdom in grandchildren. They also provide a variety of cognitive and social stimuli which the grandchildren received directly from their grandparent.
2.2 STUDIES RELATED TO INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

2.2.1 Studies Related to Socio-Demographic Variables Which Influence the Perceptions of Three Generations on Grandparental Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren.

Perception of a role varies among different people in a family, there were many factors, influencing the perceptions of family members. Some of the factors which seemed to effect the perceptions were grouped as socio-demographic variables (age, gender, education, socio-economic status, family type, type of grandparents, number of grandchildren, birth order of the grandchild) A brief review of available literature relevant to these factors was presented in this section.

Research Studies Conducted Abroad

Factors like gender, type of grandparent and status might effect the interaction of grandparents and grandchild. Elsenberg and Teusas (1988) examined the relation between gender of grandchildren, parents and grandparent relationships, with a sample of sixty male and sixty female undergraduate grandchildren. Results revealed strong effects for gender of grandparent and parent. Grandchildren had closer relationship with grandmother, particularly with maternal grandmothers than other grandparents. Results also suggested that gender of grandparent was more important than proximity in determining the quality of grandchild-grandparent relationships.

Thomas (1989) observed the same in his study on one hundred and fifteen grandfather's and one hundred and eighty six grandmother's aged between forty three years and eighty six years. Female grandparents

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expressed greater satisfaction with these relationships than did males. Males stressed family extension through grandchildren and the pleasures of indulging grandchildren to a greater extent than did females. These gender differences might reflect personality development in adulthood. Further, there was some evidence that the family environment and behaviours of elders in the family affected the development of child's personality, which formed as a basis for the researcher to choose some socio-demographic variables for the study.

Kennedy (1990) worked on college students’ expectations of grandparents and grandchildren's role behaviour from seven hundred and four college students who responded to a 35-item survey questionnaire was used to assess students' expectations of the grandparents’ role. Fourteen percent of the subjects had a complete set of grandparents, fifteen percent had at least one grandparent, and two percent had eight or more. Subjects identified degree of closeness with most close grandmother and grandfather. He found that perceptions of grandparent and grandchild roles were generally positive, indicating affection and respect for grandparents. Gender, race and family form had significant difference on role attitudes among college students from various backgrounds. Though the sample was very large the nature of the data could not be assessed and generalised.

Myers and Williams (1991) studied beliefs and memories about child rearing across generations. They indicated that paternal grandmothers showed less continuity with their own pasts with reference to child rearing techniques or values, than did maternal grandmothers. They inferred that mother's parents had frequent and close relations with children as they gave
first hand experiences to their daughters on aspects of household maintenance and bringing up children, as a result more associated with that lineage. However the sample size and techniques of data collection were not specified in the abstract.

Roberto and Stroes (1992) studied one hundred and forty two college students aged 17-54 years for the significance of grandparents in their lives. Results revealed that young adults perceived their grandparents particularly their grandmothers, as influential in their value developments and reported stronger relationships with grandmothers than with grandfathers. Differences in participation, value development and relationships were also found according to the role in which they conceptualised grandparents. This study showed gender variations in relationships with grandparents. The sample was too small to confirm the conclusions.

Creasey and Kaliher (1994) investigated the role of grandparents within the developing grandchild’s social networks from one hundred and sixty nine, third, fifth and seventh grade children and measured perceptions of social support and conflict with each available grandparent. It was found that grandchildren reported supportive relations with grandparents. Older grandchildren, perceived less supportive relationships in contrast to younger grandchildren. Paternal grandfathers were generally perceived as less supportive, compared with other three types of grandparents. While granddaughters were expected to have stronger relations with grandparents than their grandsons. In the above study age, lineage and gender effects in relationships between grandparents and grandchildren were explored. But the sample used in the study was very small to derive any valid generalisations. This study aided the researcher to choose above aspects for the present study.
Nussbaum and Bettin (1994) analysed audiotapes of one-hour story telling interaction between forty sets of grandparents and their college age grandchildren. Results showed that there was gender differences in the types of stories grandparents share with their grandchildren, grandmothers spoke longer about family, grandfathers talked more about their youth, morals and health. There was content variation and amount of time the grandparent spent based on the gender of grandparents. But these results could not be considered as valid because the sample was very small.

Ashton (1996) examined emotional and concrete help exchanged between seventy six black and ninety two white grandmothers aged 70+ years and one hundred and forty four of their adult grandchildren aged 18-50 years. Geographic distance, the grandchild’s kinplacement, the grandchild’s gender and race had significant effects on mutual support. Black grandmothers received more frequent help from their grandchild and reported a higher level of comfort in asking help from their grandchild. Black grandmothers felt significantly more burdened by their grandchild’s requests for help than did whites. The variables like geographic distance, the grandchild’s kinplacement, gender and race influence the mutual support, which was believed to vary the perceptions of both the generations involved in bringing up grandchildren.

Fuller-Thomson, Minkler and Driver (1997) examined one hundred and seventy three (173) grandparent caregivers (mean age 59.4 yrs) of US and presented a national profile. More than one in ten grandparents were found to have cared for grandchild for atleast six months, with most of them engaged in a far longer-term commitment. Custodial grandparenting, cut across gender, class and ethnic lines, single women, African-Americans and low income persons were disproportionately represented in three (3) groups, (women, recently bereaved parents and African-Americans), who had
approximately twice the chance of becoming caregiving grandparents. The inter racial differences between the grandparents belonging to different family backgrounds were examined, but the group of subjects tested were very small to determine a trend.

Pearson, Hunter, Look and Ialongo (1997) worked on grandmothers involvement in child care, living in an urban community. They examined the co-residence of grandparents with grandchildren, the types of family structures the grandparents lived in, the extent to which they took on parenting roles and possible factors related to their involvement, including age, employment status, family structure and grandchild's gender. One hundred and twenty three of such households with grandmothers age ranged from 41-86 years were selected for the study. Neither grandmother's age nor employment was associated with grandmothers parenting involvement, but family structure was associated with grandmothers who were the sole parent, twenty one per cent or co-parent with a grandfather 6.5 per cent were most involved in child care and had the fewest number of helpers 41 per cent. Grandmothers living with single mothers fortyone percent were the next most involved, while nine percent of grandmothers in mother/father households were least involved. In this study, grandmothers involvement in the child care activities did not change with age, which is in contrast to Creasey and Kalihar (1994) study. Employment status of the grandmothers did not influence the grandmothers involvement in childcare activities, but their role was noticed more in the bereaved families and in families with crisis.

King and Elder (1998) studied grandparents who felt efficacious in their role and the consequences of such beliefs for actual involvement with an adolescent grandchild. A sample of eight hundred and eighty three grandparents aged 51-92 years from the Iowa youth and families project and the Iowa single parent project were selected. Data was analysed using
bivariate and multivariate regression models. Results showed much variability in perceptions which influence the grandchild. Church attendance, knowledge of one's own grandparents, a farm history, a strong grandparent-parent bond, proximity and having fewer grandchildren emerged as significant predictors of efficacy of grandparents' perceptions. Grandparent taking responsibilities for their grandchildren, a greater understanding of the experiences and resources that enhance their sense of personal efficacy in this role warranted priority in generational studies.

In the area of generational studies, the findings of this study could be generalised as it was examined with sufficiently large sample of the subjects, who were the part of a national project. Hooyman and Kiyak (2002) indicated that for women especially, the status of grandparenthood could engage 50 per cent of their lives. Among 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 66 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 reached the age of 30 years.

Some of the Indian Researches Relevant to the Study

Pandit (1988) in a study of attitude of youth towards the aged on the areas such as attitudes of young towards the aged, the effect of sex on the attitudes of the youth towards the aged, and the differences in attitudes of different types of family are evaluated. The findings of the study indicated that youth showed favourable attitude towards the aged, and there was no significant difference between joint and nuclear families. Youth of joint and nuclear families differed in their attitudes towards the aged in two areas of appearance, personality, emotional, health and social factors.
An empirical assessment of how need hierarchies related themselves to social as well as economic classes and in turn to life satisfaction among the middle-aged and elderly women among 30 rural middle aged and elderly subjects in the age group of 40-60 years. The results suggest that the constituents of life satisfaction would vary with social and economic satisfaction. Hence, strategies of minimization of life satisfaction would have to be different for different socio-economic groups. Further, they would also depend upon the age group to be handled (Jamuna, 1990).

Ramamurti (1990) studied some psychological factors that were related to happiness and life satisfaction among elderly men. A sample of hundred (100) elderly middle-income group men above sixty (60) years of age was randomly drawn from urban areas of Tirupati. The investigator studied the relationship of the following variables to life satisfaction and happiness in old age. The variables were self-acceptance, satisfaction with intrafamilial and social interaction, self-perception of health, functional ability, flexibility of behaviour, perception of social supports, marital satisfaction, economic well-being, involvement in activity, belief in after-life and karma, death anxiety, general intellectual ability and span of interests. Results indicated that self-acceptance, good intrafamilial and spouse interaction, self-perception of health, flexibility of behaviour, perception of social supports, external locus, and positive acceptance of aging to be positively related to happiness in old age.

Lakshminarayan and Eswara Moorthy (1992) conducted a study on, "comparison of urban and rural aged on adjustment". The sample consisted of 160 aged (58-78 years) (80 from urban areas and 80 from rural areas). Life satisfaction index-2: Havighurst, 1971 was used. Results showed the better adjustment of the urban aged, this might be due to the conducive
environment with proper health care and recreational facilities and sufficient economic support. Moreover, chances for social interaction and part-time job for healthy aged were relatively more in urban areas and they would have caused better adjustment for them.

Mahanta (1993) examined the socio-economic life of the aged with reference to an ethnographic study of the life pattern of the elders of ‘pally’ a typical village of Assam. Data was gathered through census survey for which an unstructured interview schedule was used. The study was conducted for three (3) years under thorough observations for a total length of about three months a year. It was noted that aged remained the most important segment of the household despite many odds concomitant with old age as disabilities, decline in physical strength and mobility. But the aged literally belonged to all the male off springs, newly formed nuclear households, living with everyone periodically in turn. Despite separation, the old couple remained very much the guiding spirits and mentors of all the lineage kinsmen. This longitudinal study proved the importance of aged in the Indian families and their involvement in their children’s families irrespective of their family type.

Mangla (1994) in his case study examined the changing status of the elderly of this community, which was well defined and they enjoyed high social status, authority, respect and security in spite of industrialization, urbanization, occupational mobility, education and growth of an industrialistic philosophy. This might be due to the longing for traditional values, strong joint family system, kinship bonds and dependence on traditional occupations. Vijayalakshmi (1997) studied ‘adolescents’ attitudes towards elderly in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh. A sample of one hundred and fifty adolescents out of which one hundred, were boys and fifty
were girls. Results revealed the existence of significant influence of age on attitudes of male adolescents towards elderly. Adolescents aged thirteen years differed significantly between boys and girls. Whereas the difference was not significant in fourteen years age group. There was a significant association between type of family, size of the family, income level and the attitudes of the adolescents towards the elderly. Birth order had no significant association with the attitudes of adolescents.

Soneja and Tyagi (1999) observed the living conditions, role and status, economic, health and socio-psychological needs and kind of support required by the different categories of older people and indicated that more than half of the total respondents belonged to young old category of 60-69 years. Less than one third of the total population of elderly under study were above 80 years who belonged to rural areas and 'lower' income group. The educational level was highest among upper class elderly and lowest among rural category. More than two-thirds of elderly lived in their own houses because they were settled permanently in villages and thus land and property got transferred from one generation to the next generation. A prevalence of nuclear family was found in upper class elderly whereas as one moved down the economic hierarchy a predominance of extended and joint family system was found. As age advanced the incidence of chronic and degenerative disease increased. The incidence of morbidity was higher. Majority had retired from their work and felt a drastic change in their daily routine. Most of the elderly of upper class spent their time reading newspaper, watching TV and listening to music whereas the elderly in rest of the groups spent their time in performing household chores or attending to their grandchildren. A decline in social interaction was reported because of enhanced immobility with increasing age, limited financial resources, poor health, liabilities in the family etcetera. The psychological well being of the elderly was also affected by their role and status in the family.
Vishnupriya and Bharathi (2001) revealed in their study that age, education, socio-economic status affected the role performance of grandparents in child rearing. Family type, family size and place of residence of the grandparents influenced the role performance of grandparents in child rearing. Sex of the grandchild also had significant effect on the role performance of grandparents.

Jayashree (2000) interviewed hundred retired male respondents of high-income group in Mangalore urban area of Karnataka state. Respondents were in the age group of 58-65 years. Majority of them were Hindus and were married and having their spouse alive. Fifty five percent respondents were graduates, twenty six percent respondents had their secondary education and nineteen percent were highly qualified. Study in relation to the living arrangements of elderly revealed that majority of the respondents had a strong aversion to reside with married daughters and overwhelming joy and tendency to live with married sons. The traditional norm of living with sons during old age was clearly evident in the present study.

Lakshmi Archana (2002) studied the effect of socio-demographic variables on role involvement and satisfaction of custodial grandparents in equal number of grandparents, fifty grandmothers and fifty grandfathers of Tenali town of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Data was collected through personal interviews and the results showed that Age, occupation and socio-economic status did not significantly influence the role involvement and satisfaction of custodial grandparents. Gender of custodial grandparent significantly influenced their role involvement but did not significantly influence the satisfaction.

Shah (2000) indicated in his study, changing family and their impact on the elderly, revealed that the quality of life of elderly-assured food, nutrition, medical care, company etcetera was not easily observable and it
depended on a great deal on the nature of inter-personal relations in the household which covered attitudes, emotions and sentiments. There were no deep and rigorous studies of these relations. In the absence of such studies, one had to depend on personal and general observations and on insights derived from a few micro studies.

Overview

The following observations are made from the studies reviewed in this sub-section.

Geographic distance, the grandchild’s kin placement had significant effects on mutual support between grandparents and grandchildren. Gender, race and family form had significant difference on role attitudes among grandchildren. Maternal grandparents were more associated with their grandchildren. Paternal grandmothers showed less continuity with their own pasts. With reference to child rearing techniques or values. Older grandchildren, perceived less supportive relationships in contrast to younger grandchildren. Gender differences were noticed in the types of stories grandparents share with their grandchildren.

Grandchildren have closer relationship with grandmother, particularly maternal grandmothers. Family environment and behaviours of elderly in the family affected the development of child’s personality. Granddaughter’s had stronger relations with grandparents than their grand sons. Type of family, size of the family, income level seemed to influence the attitudes of the adolescents towards the elderly. Age, occupation and socio-economic status did not significantly influence the role involvement and satisfaction of custodial grandparents. Gender of custodial grandparent significantly influence their role involvement but did not influenced their satisfaction.
Grandchildren were strongly related to grandmothers than with
grandfathers. Grandmothers involvement in the child care activities did not
change with race, age and their employment status. Efficacy of grandparent's
perceptions depends upon the knowledge of one's own grandparents, farm
history, strong grandparent-parent bond, proximity and having fewer
grandchildren. Elderly showed a strong aversion to reside with married
daughters and overwhelming joy and tendency to live with married sons. The
traditional norm of living with sons during old age was clearly evident in the
present study. Psychological well being of the elderly was affected by their
role in the family.

2.2.2 Studies related to Behavioural Variables and Perceptions of
Three Generations on Grandparental Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren.

2.2.2.1 Effect of life satisfaction of grandparents on their
perceptions of grandparental role in bringing up their
grandchildren.

Grandparenthood provides a sense of emotional fulfillment for many
order persons as they derive satisfaction by being with grandchildren, doing
for them giving to them and teaching them. A brief review of available recent
literature on life satisfaction of grandparents was presented below as abroad
and Indian studies.

Studies Conducted Abroad

In a descriptive study on grandparent satisfaction and family structure
by Hittunger (1989). A sample of forty five multigeneration families in Denton
country, Texas, contributed to empirical knowledge about grandparent,
grandchild relationships. The study substantiated other research on
grandparenting particularly in the area of timing of grandparenthood. The study also supported the view that the grandparents chronological age and the time in his or her life cycle when grandchildren appear (role entry), religious affiliation, lineage and frequency of contact all contribute to satisfaction with the role of grandparent. Almost all the respondents described themselves as satisfied grandparents, and indicated their pride and pleasure derived from their grandchildren. The major contributions of the study was in the descriptive details and was ruling out any one as the 'one' variable that really matters in determining satisfaction among grandparents. Though this study added to the empirical knowledge about grandparent-grandchild relationships it was tested on a very small sample.

Coke and Margee (1990) examined the correlates of life satisfaction among one hundred and sixty six (166) old African-Americans of 65 to 88 years. Predictors of study were self rated health, self perceived adequacy of income. Weekly hours of participation in church activities and family role involvement were significant predictors of life satisfaction. Results showed significant gender differences. Female seniors tended to manifest greater life satisfaction, than male seniors. Females also had higher mean scores on hours of church, participation per week and higher on family role involvement. They were more likely to consider their income adequate than males.

Kranse (1990) studied the effect of support from formal sources, informal sources and life satisfaction with perceived health problems by a longitudinal study and found that formal support reduced the deleterious effects of perceived health problems on changes in life satisfaction through time. Though this was a longitudinal study the technical details were not specified in the abstract.
Victor D'Souza, (1993) found that the participatory roles of the elderly in developmental activities in family would make them better able to cope with the problems of aging. In this way, the effort to ameliorate the quality of life for the elderly and to meet their diverse social and cultural needs enhances their capacity to continue good relations and achieve satisfaction.

Ardelean (1997) examined the personality and individual development by introducing the wisdom as a predictor of life satisfaction, using a sample of 120 elderly women and men. He found that wisdom (defined as a comprise of cognitive, reflective and affective qualities) had a profoundly positive influence on life satisfaction, independent of objective circumstances such as physical health and financial situation. Life satisfaction varied according to vulnerabilities anxieties and strengths of older individuals.

Sherwood (1997) examined the relationship between role salience and life satisfaction in mid life women, who were maintaining multiple roles in home making, parenting and working were selected through quota sampling. The data from this sample consisted of responses to test packets completed by sixty five (65) multiple role women of ages 34 to 56 years, by using the salience inventory (SI) and the satisfaction with life scale (SWLS). Analytical procedures included analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Pearson Product moment Correlation (Pearson r) to determine relationships between the variables. There existed a significant relationship between congruence of home and family roles using the SI and life satisfaction.

Somary and Sticker (1998) worked on one hundred and three (103) first time grandparents (age 40-78 years) and studied the expectations of grandparenthood while their first grandchild was still in uterus, one to two years after their first grandchild was born, they were given the grandparents
questionnaire (Thomas, 1990) again. Expectations and experiences of
grandparenthood were compared separating grandparents by sex and lineage.
Results revealed that grandmothers reported greater satisfaction and overall
meaning in grandparenthood than grandfathers, where as grandfathers felt
more able to offer child rearing advice to the parents, with regard to lineage.
Maternal grandparents were more satisfied in grandparenthood than they
expected to be, where as paternal grandparents were not.

Silverman (1999) worked on the empirical data concerning older
mothers and their adult children, one hundred and twenty four women whose
children were grown and no longer living at home provided both quantitative
and qualitative data concerning their subjective well-being and three
predictor variables. The three predictor variables included: closeness of
relationship to adult children, ambivalence about having had children; and
expectations, both about their relationship with their children and the
motherhood experience as a whole. Demographic variables (eg. health,
income, age, marital status, and presence of grandchildren) also were
assessed and examined as possible predictors of the mother’s sense of well
being. Subjective well-being was measured by satisfaction with life (SWLS)
and absence of dysphoria (CES-D). The other variables were assessed with a
questionnaire constructed by the author.

Some of the Indian Researches Relevant to the Study

A study by Mahajan (1987) on problems of the aged in unorganised
sector in Haryana, Punjab state, was conducted with a sample of three
hundred and fifty two cases, who lived in the families. 56.03 per cent male
and 59.79 per cent female subjects were satisfied with the type of
relationships they had with the members of their families. 28.05 per cent
male subjects and 25.86 per cent female subjects were moderately satisfied. 16.85 per cent of male subjects and 14.36 per cent of female subjects were unsatisfied. He concluded that, economic factors in the shape of dependency and inability to work even in the family were the main forces of conflicts and streamlined relationships.

The satisfaction was found in three sections. Most of the subjects were at the higher range of satisfaction, especially the females, with the type of relationships they had with other family members. As this was an Indian study, this formed as a basis for selecting the life satisfaction as one of the behavioural variable for the present study. Gurudas and Laxminarayanan (1989) studied the life satisfaction of the aged with reference to their marital status. It was found that the men who lived with their spouses had, more life satisfaction than those who had lost their wives. Marital status was found to influence the life satisfaction of the aged, not many research studies included this aspect in studying life satisfaction. Hence it can be included as one of the factors in life satisfaction studies.

Anuradha and Indira (1991) investigated on, "the relationship between life satisfaction, social interaction and loneliness among the elderly", and data was collected from both rural and urban areas of Bangalore district by using semi-structured interviews and questionnaires. The study indicated that social interaction was a major source of life satisfaction among the elderly.

Jayashree and Rao (1991) conducted a study on, "effects of work status on adjustment and the life satisfaction of the elderly". The sample had 260 male urban elderly population in the age group of 55-85 years and who had at least education up to junior school. Results indicated that social adjustment
was significantly better in case of the persons who were re-employed after then retirement than their retired non-employed counterparts clearly indicating that taking up some job, after retirement by some elderly people obviously resulted in better financial security, and a continuity in their social participation and activities which in turn might have contributed to better social adjustment. There was no significant difference between the mean scores of life satisfaction of the aged persons with the spouse living and others with spouse not living. At the same time, they rationalized the life situation as inevitable and made a compromise with existing conditions. They channelised their affection, which they had for their spouse towards others in their family, particularly the grandchildren. They reported that they were getting emotional comforts with their grandchildren.

Godavari, Madumathi and Sunil Kumar (1991) examined the difference in life satisfaction of elderly women, their income, marital status and area of residence. Life satisfaction was measured through five questions referring to feelings of loneliness, frequency of worrying, feeling of non-usefulness, feeling of happiness and present life satisfaction. Marital status, income and area of residence were found to affect the life satisfaction significantly. Sample size was 228 women. The results could be generalized from this study, as the sample was considerably large.

Sunanda (1990) studied the reactions to frustration as related to life satisfaction and self acceptance of aged. Women and men of the middle age (40-49 years), advanced middle age (50-59 years), young old (60-69 years) and old-old (70 years) from rural and urban areas in each age group were selected. Equal number, that is fifty each of rural men, rural women, urban men and urban women were chosen. The results revealed that there was
significant age difference in life satisfaction among the middle aged (40-49 years), advanced middle aged (50-59 years), young old (60-69 years) and old-old (70 years) subjects. Life satisfaction was found to be higher in the middle aged group compared to older group. There was no significant sex differences on life satisfaction among the subjects in different age groups. There were significant differences in life satisfaction among rural and urban subjects in different age groups.

A study on life satisfaction conducted by Sujatha Devi (1992) on grandparents involvement in upbringing grandchildren and their life satisfaction on grandparents with equal number of paternal grandfathers, grandmothers, maternal grandfathers and grandmothers. Results revealed that there was no significant relationship between grandchild care and life satisfaction. However significant relationship between involvement of grandparents in education, recreational needs and life satisfaction were seen. She also reported significant association between total involvement of grandparents in child rearing and life satisfaction. Life satisfaction influenced the grandparents involvement of in meeting educational and recreational needs than the caregiving activities.

Revathi, Hosnath, Goankar and Khadi (1983) studied the differences in the level of the life satisfaction among the elderly people according to their age and type of family with a sample of two hundred and ten elderly people (61 to 89 ages) of Dharwad city, and found that the younger respondents had greater life satisfaction and the respondents who were living separately from their children were more satisfied than those who were living with their married or unmarried children. Age of the elderly seemed to influence their life satisfaction.
Nalinddevi and Karpagan (1996) worked on life satisfaction of selected rural and urban elderly persons from three villages and three urban areas with hundred and twenty elderly persons in the age group of 60 to 70 years. It was found that the most commonly stated satisfaction by the elderly people were that they could seek their help to solve certain problems. It was also found that there was significant differences in the life satisfaction of the respondents in the area of friends in relation to the area of living and sex. The rural respondents had significantly more life satisfaction in friendships than the urban respondents. Men had significantly more satisfaction than women. There was no significant difference in the satisfaction, scores of the elderly persons, in the area of friends in relation to income, family status and occupational status. Significant difference was found in the life satisfaction of the respondents in the area of activities and recreation in relation to the area of living and occupational status. The rural respondents had significantly more life satisfaction than the urban respondents. Respondents who were continuing in employment had significantly more life satisfaction than the unemployed respondents. There was no significant difference in relation to income, gender and family status.

Factors affecting the satisfaction with the social activities of grandparents were examined with a small sample. However, to generalise the inferences, it could be tested with a larger sample.

Neelima (1997) in her study found that grandparents who adopted the fun-seeking style played with their grandchildren and grandparents enjoyed with them as a leisure activity and developed an informal relationship.
Although grandparents derive a great deal of pleasure from their grandchildren, grandparents' level of satisfaction with life did not appear to be related to the degree of involvement with the grandchildren.

Bakhsh, Runcesheh and Sandhu (2002) examined, one hundred and twenty elderly for the level of satisfaction derived by the aged living with families and in senior citizen homes of Ludhiana. Results revealed that majority of the aged living with families were satisfied with various types of needs, on the other hand, majority of the respondents living in senior citizen homes were not so much satisfied even with their basic needs of food, clothing and housing. The main reason could be their poor economic conditions. The suggestions given by the respondents for increasing level of satisfaction were 68.3 per cent help in reducing their worries, 58.3 per cent provide them with social and emotional security, 53.3 per cent involve them in family decisions and 53.3 per cent stated that younger generation should give them proper respect.

Lathakiran (2002) observed role involvement, role satisfaction and marital satisfaction of elderly, from the Kurnool town of Andhra Pradesh, India. With a sample of one hundred and twenty pensioners, sixty males and sixty females from the three pension groups of below 3000/-, between 3000/- and 5000/- Data was gathered through purposive sampling method and a questionnaire was used to elicit the information from respondents. The information was analysed through chi-square test. Results reveal that age, income and gender of elderly pensioners did not have significant association with their role involvement, while the role satisfaction was significantly associated. The type of family and marital satisfaction of the respondent significantly influenced both the role involvement and role satisfaction.
Overview

The following observations are made from the studies reviewed in this sub-section.

Grandparents' age, time in his or her life cycle when grandchildren appear, religious affiliation, socio-economic status, health factors, lineage and frequency of contact all contribute to satisfaction with the role of grandparent. Almost all the respondents described themselves as satisfied grandparents. Gender differences in life satisfaction were noticed where females tended to manifest greater life satisfaction. Wisdom of the elderly positively influenced their life satisfaction, independent of objective circumstances such as physical health and financial situation.

The elderly commitment in qualities of activities were more satisfying than the number of activities pursued. Marital status of the elderly was directly related to life satisfaction. Involvement of grandparents in education, recreational needs, life satisfaction and total involvement of grandparents in child rearing had significant association with life satisfaction. There exists significant difference in life satisfaction among rural and urban subjects and their employment. Life satisfaction of elderly varied according to vulnerabilities, anxieties and strengths of older individuals. Grandmothers were more satisfied than grandfathers. Maternal grandparents were more satisfied in grandparenthood than the paternal grandparents. There existed significant relationship between congruence of home and family roles and life satisfaction and fulfillment of older mothers expectations on motherhood had a greater impact of life satisfaction than their income or health. Although grandparents derive a great deal of pleasure from their grandchildren, their level of satisfaction in life was not related to the degree of involvement with grandchildren.
2.2.2.2 Effect of Marital Adjustment of Parents on Perceptions of Grandparent's Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren.

Marital adjustment of parents influence the family psychological well being. The adjustment between the parents and cohesion with which they live in the family determines the family atmosphere, this in turn was important in the development of their attitudes, perceptions and also their children's behaviour and development.

A brief review of the literature (Foreign and Indian studies) collected regarding this aspect was presented in this sub section.

Studies Conducted Abroad

Almejadi (1989) investigated two hundred Kuwaiti couples who has children of 2-16 years age. They were provided with a research booklet containing three parts, part one included a measurement of marital satisfaction and was constructed in a way that utilized demographic variables about the parents. Part two included a measurement for child-rearing attitudes and parental satisfaction with their child-rearing techniques. Part three of the booklet included a measurement for parent's attributions to the child's misbehaviour.

It was found that demographic variables influenced marital satisfaction. Level of education and number of children were found to influence marital satisfaction of Kuwaiti couples. Other family variables related to parenting in terms of parents satisfaction with their child-rearing techniques were influenced by children's age. The results of this study revealed the fact that, mothers with children of younger age were dissatisfied.
with their child-rearing techniques while satisfaction and child-rearing techniques increased for the mothers with children of older age groups. However, the research findings also revealed that parents general child-rearing attitudes did not influence their parent's marital satisfaction. Parental marital satisfaction was influenced by other factors like demographic variables than their child-rearing attitudes.

Freysinger (1994) examined the relationship between spending leisure time with children and parental satisfaction among one hundred and sixty-four female and one hundred and seventy-three male Euro-American parents. Subjects completed a survey on their leisure activity involvement, reasons for this involvement, leisure companions, parental and marital satisfaction. Step-wise multiple regression analysis indicated that significant predictors of parental satisfaction varied based on gender. For women, the only significant predictor of parental satisfaction was marital satisfaction. For men, both marital satisfaction and leisure spent with children significantly predicted parental satisfaction. The marital satisfaction of parents being a significant predictor of parental satisfaction might influence their role perceptions as well as perceptions of other family members roles. Thus marital satisfaction of parents could be included as a behavioral variable in the present study. Presence of older members in the family and their role in assisting them, did not show any significant difference in the ratings of marital and relationship satisfactions. This was confirmed in a state-wide survey of citizens of Michigan State by Griffore (1997).

Marital quality was examined as 92-dimensional construct comprising positive and negative evaluations by Fincham and Linfield (1997), they worked on one hundred and twenty-three couples by assessing their marital
quality, behaviour, attributions and general affects. Existence of positive and negative marital quality dimensions were confirmed by factor analysis. Ambivalent (high-positive and high-negative) and indifferent (low positive and low negative) wives differed in reports of behaviors and attributions but do not differ in scores on the conventional marital quality tests. As the marital quality was assessed in relation to behavioural attributions marital quality was not related to the behaviour in the wives. This study was in contrast to the general opinions of the effects of marital quality on the other psycho-social aspects of individuals in a family. As the study was confined to a very small sample, we could not generalise the conclusions.

Hamel (1997) studied the factors that contribute to marital satisfaction and step family success. He also evaluated the marital satisfaction in light of the contextual, problem-solving and investment models of relationship satisfaction. A questionnaire on the assessment of marital satisfaction in step families with Kansas marital scale as a global measure of assessment was sent to six hundred and sixty (660) step families selected from the mailing list of the step family Association of America. A total of four hundred and five individuals (163 men and 242 women) responded. Results showed that contextual model variables of social support were more useful in predicting marital satisfaction in step families than were demographic or spiritual support variables. Contextual model was the best predictor of marital satisfaction for men in step families.

Problem solving model variables had less impact on marital satisfaction for men in step families. Investment model was the best predictor of marital satisfaction for women in step families. Where as the contextual, problem
solving, and investment models of relationship satisfaction predicted a large proportion of the variance in marital satisfaction in a step family, there were differences between the models for men and women in step families and between step family types.

Negy and Douglas (1997), compared the marriages of seventy five (75) Mexican American and sixty six (66) non-hispanic white American couples sampled from the same geographic region of the south western US, using the marital satisfaction inventory-revised (MSI-R). Multivariate analysis indicated modestly higher levels of relationship distress among the Mexican American couples, although group differences dissolved after controlling for variables other than ethnicity. Ratings of higher acculturation among Mexican-American couples were modestly related to higher levels of marital distress for wives but unrelated to relationship satisfaction for husbands.

To clarify the relationship between marital adjustment and social adjustment. Kitamura, Aoki, Fugino, Ura, (1998) conducted a study on sixty seven married men and seventy nine married Japanese women, between the ages of twenty five to eighty four years, Marital adjustment test was administered for the whole sample and its sub-categories were significantly co-related with five sub category scores of social adjustment scale-II. House hold adjustment (except the spouse); External family adjustment, Work adjustment; Social leisure adjustment and General adjustment. Among men, the social adjustment scores showed a stronger correlations with the marital satisfaction scores. Thus marital adjustment might be a part of social adjustment for women, but the two might be discrete for men. So marital satisfaction often need to be considered as far as parents and married couples adjustment was concerned. Satisfied couples tend to have more stable marriages than their counter parts. The following is a study which examined the effect of marital instability over the life course.
McNeal and Amato (1998) conducted a longitudinal study on marital instability over the life course to determine the long-term consequences of marital violence in the family of origin from 1980-88 for offspring out comes into young adulthood in 1992. Four hundred and twenty (420) offspring aged seven to nineteen years in 1980 were analysed. During the first assessment, parents were assessed for parental violence, marital discord and divorce. Adult offspring were assessed for close relationship. Results revealed that parents, who reported offspring reports of negative outcomes in early adulthood, including poorer parent child relationships, lower psychological well being, and more violence was noticed with their own relationships. Most of these associations were independent of parents non-violent conflict, divorce, self reported abusive behaviour towards children and alcohol/drug use. It was concluded that problems in the family of origin have long-lasting consequences for the lives of children and given large number of children who were affected by marital violence every year. Thus the negative aspects of marital adjustment in which the children were affected was studied longitudinally from which the valid conclusions could be universalised.

Rao, Yadav and Halyal (2000) attempted to determine the nature of relationship between each of the Big-Five factors of personality and marital-satisfaction among (349) male teachers from the colleges of Hubli-Dharwad corporation area and found that the teachers who are more prone to experience pleasure and undisturbed emotions in their family roles and in their interpersonal relationship with their spouses, correspondingly they experience greater level of marital satisfaction.

Overview of this sub-section indicate that:

There were gender differences in the predictors of parental satisfaction; Presence of older members in the family and their role in assisting them did not show any significant difference in the marital and relationship
satisfactions, behavioural aspects of the wives were influenced by marital quality, marital adjustment was part of social adjustment for women and it was discrete in case of men, marital violence affected the psychological well-being of the children, demographic variables (level of education, number of children and family variables) related to parenting influenced marital satisfaction; parents general child-rearing attitudes did not have any influence upon their marital satisfaction. Social support and relationship satisfaction influenced the marital satisfaction more in step families than demographic or spiritual support variables.

2.2.2.3 Effect of Academic Achievement of Grandchildren on their Perceptions Regarding Grandparental Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren.

The academic achievement of grandchildren was chosen as a variable to examine its relation to the perceptions of grandchildren about grandparents' role. The grandfamily support network was considered as a means of ameliorating the different experiences by grandkin and grandparents.

A brief review of available literature was presented below (foreign and Indian studies).

Relevant Studies conducted Abroad

Martinez-Pons (1989) examined three Hispanic groups of students (Puerto, Rican, Cuban, and Central/South American) regarding their relationship between family-environmental process and academic
Two student achievement processes were examined: their time spent on homework and their educational-occupational aspirations. The three parental achievement processes investigated were their press for English, press for independence and educational-occupational aspirations for their child and two background characteristics of the parents, their time residing in the United States and their level of academic attainment. Results showed that paternal achievement processes played a larger role than maternal processes in the academic achievement of these Hispanic students. In addition, it was found that these student's educational-occupational aspirations were related to their academic achievement and that their homework time was affected by their educational and occupational aspirations.

Cuban fathers displayed significantly higher levels of press for English, press for independence and educational-occupational aspirations than Central/South American fathers. The fathers of later group in turn showed higher levels of each of these three family processes than Puerto Rican fathers.

Interracial differences in the relationship between environmental processes and academic achievements were examined. It also revealed that parental achievement was one of the motivating factors of the academic achievement of children which can be interpreted in the results of the present research. Addes (1989) investigated the relationship between parental involvement and children's academic performance. More specifically, the study explored the relationship between family patterns of cohesion and adaptability and children's academic performance in reading and arithmetic. Family satisfaction and certain parental behaviours pertaining to education were also examined in relation to their effect on academic performance.
Seventy nine sixth graders of a cross-sectional sample were placed in three reading and arithmetic groups (over achievers, on level, under achievers) according to their scores on the comprehensive tests of basic skills (CTBS). Each child was administered with Family Adaptability and Cohesion Evaluation Scales (FACES) and the family satisfaction scale. One parent from each family also completed the above questionnaires in addition to a parent educational attitudes and behaviour questionnaire and a demographic form. The results showed that there was no significant relationship between these family characteristics and children's academic performance. The homogeneity of the sample in terms of class and educational background, with its leaning towards high achieving children is a possible explanation of results. Family satisfaction was examined as a measure of assessing family functioning from the subject's perspective. High family satisfaction was hypothesised to be related to academic achievement. This relationship was not statistically supported, although a trend in the expected direction was reported. Some significant findings were reported between parental education attitudes and behaviours and children's academic performance. In the reading (correlated with aptitude) group, the parents of overachievers were statistically the most satisfied with their children's education was predicted. Contradicting to it, the findings showed that the parents of children in the lowest reading group (grade equivalent and in both arithmetic groups, group equivalent and achievement related with aptitude) were the most satisfied with the quality of performance. There is an evidence to prove that the environment of the family would effect the scholastic performance of the children.

Pecharn (1990) investigated the relationship between family environment factors, family form, and student academic achievement. Sophomore high school students (N=221) from an upper middle class public high school in Texas completed the Family Environment Scales (FES) (Moos
and Moos, 1986) and identified eight significant variables through a linear model of fourteen variables. Higher achievement was associated with the FES moral religious emphasis and Cohesion subscales of two parent families that had been together for half or more of the life of the student, gender, female and Honors English class placement. Lower achievement was associated with the FES achievement orientation and conflict sub-scales, one-parent families, families that had been together for less than half the life of the student, gender, male, and lower English class placement. The finding that low achieving students with the highest achievement orientation scores could be related to the prodding these students probably receive from parents to improve their grades.

In the above study parental aspirations and academic achievement were examined for rural and urban, and varied family structures. The sample was sufficiently large to confirm the results. Ellen and Diane, (2001) longitudinally studied a sample of one hundred and eight French Canadian school age children on association between attachment and school-related cognitive functioning. The affective quality of mother-child interaction patterns, child cognitive engagement and quality of child attachment to mother were evaluated during a laboratory visit that included a separation-reunion procedure occurring when the children were approximately 6 years of age. Children's mastery motivation and academic performance were assessed 2 years later (at age 8). Analyses indicated that secure children had higher scores than their insecure peers on communication, cognitive engagement and mastery motivation. As the grandparents serve many roles as a family mentor, nurturer, quality of the grandchild and grandparents attachment develops a sense of security in grandchildren which could aid in the child's academic performance.
Messner (1996) studied the adolescents’ perceptions of life in single-parent family and its relationship to academic achievement and school attendance. Adolescents living in single-parent family homes, one hundred and nineteen (119) and adolescents living in dual-parent family one hundred and nineteen (119) homes from two middle-class suburban school districts were surveyed. Single and dual-parent students’ academic performances were compared using t-tests. No significant differences in attendance rates and grade point average (GPA) between single and dual-parent family students were found. Combined comparisons were made between the single-parent and dual-parent student attendance and responses to questions in one of five different areas were compared: relationship between parents, student relation with each parent, family configuration, student perceived role in the home and student-perceived family economic status. The great difference was in the student’s perceived relationship between their parents. A higher percentage of dual-parent than single-parent students had high GPAs and had good attendance and viewed their parents as having a supportive relationship. Here importance of family environment and marital aspects of the parents were examined as a factor influencing scholastic achievement with large sample of single-parent and dual-parent families.

McDaniel (1997) examined the influence of family background and structure on academic achievement. The research focuses on the 11th and 12th grade population in the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at the University of North Texas, Denton. The data were collected with a survey instrument administered in college classes. Twelve hypotheses related to parents, home environment, family structure and interaction, family roles, and family values were proposed. The multivariate analysis showed that the
variable being read to, reading independently, father's education, mother's education and ethnicity significantly influenced academic achievement. The study underlines the fact that multiple factors in family structure and background have an influence on academic achievement.

Skillings (1997) investigated the effect of environment of family life and culture among students from single-parent families who were successful in school and to describe how the family as a dynamic social unit influenced their decision to succeed academically. Ten successful students of public schools in suburban communities in Mid west (in all cases, the mothers) were selected for the study. Data was gathered through interview and it was tape recorded, summarised and analyzed. It was found that the family culture from previous generations promoted the importance and value of education. The grandparents passed on a tradition of emphasis on the importance of education. This emphasis became even stronger with the successful students' parents' generation. All the mothers were very much involved with their children's education and had expectations for their children to attend college to prepare for rewarding and successful careers. Here the indirect influence of grandparents on children's education and this as part of the culture and tradition transmitted through family was examined with a small sample. Though the content in the findings exhibited new trends, the observations could not be generalized with this sample size.

Some of the Indian Researches Relevant to the Study

Sadham (1993) found that most of the employed mothers were from extended families. Mother-in-law was a person who looked after the child when mother was out. Children were better in social adjustment, involvement in academic activities and play activities, more confident and independent.
Goel (2003) examined a sample of 500 girls from different colleges of Agra, who were between the ages of 16-20 years, were selected. Data was gathered by using Maslow security-in security inventory and achievement scores. It was found that low achievement had a positive relationship with the feeling of insecurity. Whereas the average and high achievement had a negative relationship with the feeling of insecurity.

The following observations were made while reviewing studies under this sub-section.

Scholastic performance of the child was related to the frequency of grandparent contact. A sense of security, obtained by children due to presence of grandparents showed high academic performance. Some studies showed contradicting results. It was observed that the aspirations of parents on academic achievement of children was similar irrespective of their family type (broken or intact homes). There was no significant relationship between the family characteristics, family form, ethnicity and feeling of security in children and children's academic performance. Parental achievement and children's educational-occupational aspirations were related to academic achievement. Family culture from previous generations promoted the importance and value of education which influenced children's educational aspirations. Academic achievement was influenced by security feeling in children.
SUM UP

The review of some relevant studies in this chapter under different sub-headings in summary reveals that

Age of onset of grandmothering was found to be an influencing factor on the role performance of grandmothers. There were no significant gender variations in interaction with grandchildren, their involvement in the socialization, culture transmission and religious training. Functions related to grandparental role were found to be primary caregivers of infants, managing, caretaking, coaching, assessing, nurturing, assigning and patrolling. Coaching and assessing ensured adolescent's development in mothering roles and preparation for infant care. In Indian context, grandmothers played a major role than grandfathers. Paternal grandparents differed significantly from maternal grandparents. The role performance of grandparents and their life satisfaction were positively correlated. Some grandparents had larger role in raising teenage grandchildren and exchange of help between grandparents and grandchildren was noticed.

Education, occupation, size of the family and socio-economic status showed a significant association with attitudes towards parental roles, but working and non-working mothers did not differ in their attitudes. Youngsters expected the elderly to take the responsibilities of better household management, care of children, provide advice and counsel to younger ones and take part in decision making. The attitudes of parents and those perceived by children assumed greater significance in the context of the abnormalities and mal-adjustments found among the youth of today. Mothers viewed that presence of their parents/in-laws was a real support and were happy about that.
Grandchildren tend to be significantly closer to maternal than paternal grandparents. Geographical proximity appeared to be the most frequently associated variable with grandfather and grandchild relationships. Maternal grandparents were perceived as more important and closer than paternal grandparents. Their gender, age, lineage, geographical proximity did not significantly influence the grandchildren's perceptions. But gender, race, family form, birth order and family type had significant differences on role attitudes among older adolescents. Grandparents gave a special care and unique kind of love which brought about a sense of emotional security and happiness in children. Grandparents inculcate values and wisdom in grandchildren, they also provide a variety of cognitive and social stimuli which the grandchildren received from grandparent.

Grandchildren were strongly related to grandmothers than with grandfathers. Grandmothers' involvement in the child care activities did not change with race, age and their employment status. Efficacy of grandparents' perceptions depends upon the knowledge of one's own grandparents, farm history, strong grandparent-parent bond, proximity and having fewer grandchildren.

Involvement of grandparents in education, recreational needs and total involvement of grandparents in child rearing had significant association with life satisfaction. Grandmothers were more satisfied than grandfathers. Maternal grandparents were more satisfied in grandparenthood than paternal grandparents. It was also noticed that although the grandparents derive a great deal of pleasure from their grandchildren, their level of satisfaction in life was not related to the degree of involvement with grandchildren.
There existed gender differences in the predictors of parental satisfaction; presence of older members in the family and their role in assisting them did not show any significant difference in the marital and relationship satisfactions, behavioural aspects of the wives were influenced by marital quality; marital adjustment was part of social adjustment for women and it was discrete in case of men; marital violence affected the psychological well being of the children.

Scholastic performance of the children was related to the frequency of grandparent contact. There was no significant relationship between the family characteristics and children's academic performance, but family form, ethnicity and a feeling of security in children significantly influenced the children's academic achievement.