CHAPTER - IV

Methodology
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The present study was undertaken to find out the extent of involvement of grandparents in raising their grandchildren. Their contentment by doing such functions and also to assess the perceptions of grandparents as a resource in the family - by three generations. For this purpose, the present study was planned to be conducted in two phases. The first phase included a pilot study, which was a preliminary evaluation of the major tools and the procedures to be finally adopted. The second phase was concerned with collection of primary data on a selected sample as per the standard procedures and design of the study. For the problem of this nature, survey method was considered as the most appropriate. Survey is a fact-finding study which involves collection of data directly from a population or a sample there of at a particular time (Krishnaswami, 2001).

Survey method has many merits when compared to other methods. A survey, allowed the researcher to come in direct contact with the people desired to study. The greatest strength of this method is its versatility. It facilitates drawing generalizations about large populations on the basis of studies of representative sample. It is flexible to permit the use of various methods of data collection.

4.1 SAMPLE FOR THE PRESENT STUDY

The present study sample focussed on the individuals living in three generation families. Three generation families were selected on the basis of
age of grandchildren (those who are in adolescence group), that is, families where grandparents, parents and adolescent children, living under one roof were identified to constitute the sample of three generationers. The details are on Table-1.

Firstly, a sample of 25 girls and 25 boys of adolescent ages (13+, 14+, 15+ years) were selected from a population of adolescents attending high schools in Tirupati town of Andhra Pradesh, to constitute the sample in third generation.

Care was taken to include those who had two types of grandparents (maternal and paternal) between the ages of 45-75 years with at least one set of grandparents living with them.

The population of adolescents attending high schools in Tirupati town were chosen. Based on the topographical features, the entire area of Tirupati was divided into four major zones (East, West, North and South). Out of 32 Schools in Tirupati town 20 Schools were selected at random. The procedure adopted for the selection of sample was purposive sampling or judgement sampling, as it has many merits. Researcher purposively selected the units of study from the universe. This type of selection was supreme and nothing was left to chance (Kothari, 1996). Thus the purposive sample if chosen with proper care, a sample could be representative of the whole, it was at times expensive and more useful specially when some of the units were very important and must be included.
The dependent and independent variables were selected and defined on the basis of research information available. In addition to sociodemographic variables, life satisfaction of grandparents, marital adjustment of parents and academic achievement of grandchildren were included as independent variables. Perceptions of grandparents' role in raising grandchildren among three generations was the dependent variable.

4.2 TOOLS USED

The objectives of the present study necessitated to use the following tools.

The socio-economic status scale standardised by Rao and Venkataramaiah (1991); three separate interview schedules to assess perceptions of grandparents' role in bringing up grandchildren in three generations (grandparents, parents and grandchildren), life satisfaction inventory (Ramamurti, 1979) and marital adjustment inventory (Deshpande, 1971). Also academic achievement of third generation (grandchildren) was chosen as one of the independent variables. For this the scholastic achievement in their respective standards through the percentage of marks in the final examination was obtained from the school records.

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Table-1: Distribution of the Sample.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Adolescents Age</th>
<th>Adolescents (Generation-III) M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Parents of Adolescents (Generation-II) M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Grandparents of Adolescents (Generation-I) M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>13+</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15+</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M: Male  F Female
To measure the dependent variable, perception of grandparents role in bringing up of grandchildren, interview schedules for three generations were constructed afresh for the present study. In the process of construction of interview schedule various steps involved in test development were followed as stated below. The literature search was carried out thoroughly to draw out the roles of grandparents, and role involvement. In addition to this the investigator conducted extensive interviews with different generations like grandparents, parents and grandchildren to draw insights on roles, role activity and perception of different roles. Also some items from the scales developed by Sujatha Devi (1992) and Sandhya Ram (1995) were drawn.

Based on this, statements containing roles and their expression in the family especially in bringing up of grandchildren were prepared. This list was given to experts in sociology and psychology (with knowledge of aging) to invite their comments and suggestions about the content. Based on the feedback from the experts, several modifications were made in the interview schedules. After this stage, interview schedules with 25 items (in Telugu, the regional language) for each generation, that is, generation-I (grandparents), generation-II (parents) and generation-III (grandchildren) were prepared. In the first phase of the study, the preliminary effort was made to evaluate and test the suitability of the tools, for the measurement of dependent and independent variables as part of the pilot testing.

These schedules were given to 30 subjects (10 men and 10 women in 55-75 years, 10 in 13 to 15 years) to check their relevancy and suitability, to assess the perceptions of grandparents role on the basis of responses and some items were rewritten, some were omitted. Only items which were clear and relevant were retained in the final schedule for each generation.
The pilot study not only helped in selecting suitable tools, but also
helped to overcome the discrepancies in the set tool. It also created awareness
about the problems that would be encountered in collecting qualitative and
quantitative data. It was a very rich experience, which was found useful in
adopting better methods of interviewing and handling the situation and
subjects during testing session by avoiding chaos and errors. The efficiency
of the tools developed for the present research was examined by calculating
reliability co-efficient using correlation, and another way of evaluating the
efficiency was by calculating their reliability and validity.

4.2.1 Description of the Tools

4.2.1.1 Socio-Economic Status Scale

Socio-economic status scale developed by Rao and Venkataramaiah
(1991) was used to assess the socio-economic levels. This tool was thought
suitable to measure present day's status of an urban family. This tool
consisted of five items wherein the details about caste, occupation, education,
income, land, house and family were included.

Five items were found to be significant in indicating the socio-economic
status of an urban family. The items included in the scale were, such that,
information could be easily collected. The scale had the added advantage in
its simplicity of administration. Items in the scale facilitated to obtain
quantitative and objective information. The English version of the scale is
appended (Appendix-I)

Scoring and Rationale. The items were scaled from the lowest to the
highest, each sub-item represented a point on the scale. The information
needed for checking on the scale was collected by simple interview.

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Based on the information gathered, the total score was calculated depending upon the total score obtained by the family, the socio-economic status was categorised under A, B, C, D and E groups (Table-2) as stated by Rao and Venkataramaiah (1991).

Table-2: Levels of Socio-Economic Status Categorisation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Scores of the Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>29 and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Higher Middle</td>
<td>21-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>17-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Lower Middle</td>
<td>10-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>0-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reliability and intrinsic validity of the pilot tested scale was 0.81 and 0.9 respectively.

4.2.1.2 Interview Schedule to Assess Perceptions of Grandparents (Generation-I) With Regard to Grandparental Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren

This scale was specially devised for the purpose of the present investigation by the investigator. The scale has 12 main statements with 4 and 2 sub items for 2nd and 11th items respectively, regarding the roles of grandparents in bringing up grandchildren. The English version of the schedule is appended (Appendix-IIA).

Scoring and Rationale: Each item was provided with a three point rating scale viz., Always/Very much ‘3’, Sometimes/moderate ‘2’ and Never/No ‘1’. The subject was asked to indicate his/her perception on this 3-point rating scale. The minimum possible score was ‘16’ and maximum ‘48’. Values between 16-32 indicate lower scores, and 33-48 indicate higher scores. Higher score indicates favourable perceptions of grandparents role in bringing up grandchildren.
4.2.1.3 Interview Schedule to Assess Perceptions of Parents (Generation-II) With Regard to Grandparental Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren

This interview schedule was developed by the investigator to obtain the information on the perceptions of mother and father on the roles of grandparents in rearing grandchildren. The schedule has '11' main statements with '3' sub-items for 2 and 4 statements, and 2 sub-items for the 11th statement. The English version of the schedule is appended (see Appendix-IIB).

**Scoring and Rationale:** Statements were scored on a three point scale viz., Always '3', Sometimes '2' and Never '1'. The minimum possible score was '16' and maximum '48'. 16-32 indicates low score, and 33-48 indicates high score. Higher score indicates favourable perceptions of grandparents role in bringing up grandchildren.

4.2.1.4 Interview Schedule to Assess Perceptions of Grandchildren (Generation-III) With Regard to Grandparental Role in Bringing Up Grandchildren

This schedule was developed by the investigator to assess the perceptions of grandchildren on role of grandparents in raising grandchildren. The schedule consists of '9' main statements with sub statements for 1, 2 and 7 items. English version of the schedule is appended (Appendix-III).

Each item is provided with a three point rating scale ranging from always '3' to Never '1'. Questions were posed to the adolescents and answers were noted down on the spot. The minimum possible score was '16' and maximum '48'. The values less than '32' indicates low scores. Values between '33' to '48' indicates high scores. Higher score indicates favourable perceptions of grandparents role.
Reliability and validity of the tools were tested as a next step. Reliability was referred to the consistency of subjects responses on a measure over time. This was determined by measuring subjects on two occasions, usually separated by few weeks. Then the two sets of scores were correlated to see how closely the first set was related to second set of scores (Mark, 1991). Intrinsic validity was obtained by square root of its reliability. Thus showed how well the obtained scores measured the true score component of the tests.

The test-retest reliability (with a gap of 15 days on a sample of 30) for interview schedule of generation-I was 0.90; for generation-II, it was 0.76, and for generation-III, it was 0.93. Thus the schedules to assess perceptions of grandparents role among three generations were found to be reliable and suitable. Description of other details of schedules for three generations were given in sub-sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. The intrinsic validity scores for the above schedules were 0.95, 0.87 and 0.9646 for generation-I, generation-II and generation-III, respectively.

4.2.1.5 Life Satisfaction Inventory

This questionnaire was prepared and standardized by Ramamurti (1979). The questionnaire consisted of 20 statements eliciting the degree of satisfaction, one has achieved throughout one's life. Subjects read the statements and marked 'Yes' or 'No' depending on the applicability of the statement to them. The English version of Life satisfaction Inventory is appended (See Appendix-III).
**Scoring and Rationale:** Based on the key, favourable response for each item was scored as '1' and unfavourable response was scored as '0'. Higher the score, higher the life satisfaction. Maximum score was '20' and minimum score was '0'. Life satisfaction was classified into two categories as shown below. The scores between 0-10 was considered to be lower level of satisfaction. Scores 11-20 were considered as higher level of satisfaction.

4.2.1.6 **Marital Adjustment Inventory**

Marital adjustment of subjects in generation-II (parents) was measured through an inventory developed by Deshpande (1971) in two languages (English and Marathi) to understand the degree of marital adjustment. The inventory covered fifteen different items related to in-laws, customs, traditions, food habits, likes and dislikes, social participation, bringing up children, preferential differences, mutual respect, decision, personal daily activities, affection and love, sexual satisfaction, confrontation and quarrels, success of marriage and divorce. The English version of the inventory was translated into telugu and these English and telugu versions were given to 5 men and women who knows both the languages to check the meaning, clarity and appropriateness of items.

**Scoring and Rationale.** Statements were scored by 5 point scale. Based on the range of scores obtained, 40 was the least possible score, 70 the highest possible score. Scores between 40-55 were considered as less adjusted, scores between 56-70 were considered as well adjusted.

As a next step, the life satisfaction and marital adjustment inventories were given to 10 men and women with a gap of 15 days to check test-retest consistency. The reliability was found to be 0.98, 0.82, respectively and the intrinsic validity of these tools were 0.97 and 0.91, respectively.
4.3 PROCEDURE OF TESTING

The investigator met the family members and rapport was established and the significance of the study was explained. In the first session of the interview, the subjects were contacted to get their consent and fix the convenient interview dates.

The major tools described earlier were all administered to each subject. In the first session, the socio-economic status scale was given and interview schedule for adolescents was administered. In the second session, interview schedule for both the parents of adolescents and marriage adjustment inventories were given. The third session was with the grandparents of the adolescents. The investigator visited the houses of these subjects generally in the evening by prior appointment. As the family members were interviewed in different sessions, the confidentiality of the information was maintained. The time taken for interviewing the subjects ranged from twenty minutes to half an hour.

4.4 ANALYSIS PLAN

The data was carefully analysed and appropriate statistical techniques like 't' test, ANOVA were employed to determine the influence of socio-demographic variables on dependent variable. Then, the step-wise multiple linear regression was used to predict the most influencing variables and to find out the differential contribution of socio-demographic variables on perceptions of three generations, interaction effects were examined and finally correlations between the dependent and behavioural variables were observed. The above statistical analyses were followed as stated by Krishnaswami (2000) Analysis and interpretation of data were dealt in detail in the next chapter.