ABSTRACT

In the last eighteen years since the publication of the first paper by Aptar and Smith outlining the basic principles of the theory of psychological reversals, interest in the theory has grown rapidly. Reversal theory generates a lot of research in such areas as personality, motivation, psychophysiology, social behaviour, aesthetics, education, sports, religious diversity, polite language, experiencing personal relationships and mental health. Of equal importance, practical and therapeutic techniques can be derived logically from these models, thus facilitating the kind of link between theory and practice so often missing from psychological endeavours. The breadth of interest in reversal theory, and the personality correlates of telic dominance (fear of failure, level of aspiration) and the interacting effect of certain demographic variables (age, sex, religion, socioeconomic status) has prompted us to undertake the present investigation.

The present study precisely sought to determine (1) the relationship between telic dominance and ego-strength, telic dominance and self-monitoring, and ego-strength and self-monitoring among retired and pre-retired elderly; (2) the relationship between telic dominance and ego-strength, telic dominance and self-monitoring, and
ego-strength and self-monitoring among retired and pre-retired elderly of joint family, nuclear family, high socio-economic status, and middle socio-economic status; (3) the difference between retired and pre-retired elderly in two Zr coefficients (i.e. relationship between telic dominance and ego-strength, telic dominance and self-monitoring and ego-strength and self-monitoring; (4) the difference between retired and pre-retired elderly of joint family, nuclear family, high socio-economic status and middle socio-economic status in two Zr coefficients.

Chapter One "Introduction" covered the problems of old age, diversity and socio-demographic profile of the aged, theoretical approaches to aging, nature of retirement and pre-retirement, theoretical and conceptual framework of the personality variables viz., telic dominance, ego-strength, and self-monitoring, significance of the present study and research objectives.

Chapter two "Review of Studies" covered researches directly related to the variables under study vis-a-vis all the Indian studies conducted on human aging. The review of studies was given under five major heads: studies on telic dominance, studies on ego-strength, Indian studies on aging (socio-demographic correlates of aging, social-psychological correlates of aging, adjustment of the elderly, attitude of retired and pre-retired
elderly, problems of elderly and psychological well-being of elderly.

Chapter three "Methodology" has dealt about the subjects, tools, procedure and data analysis. One hundred retired (61-70 years) and 100 pre-retired elderly (50-59 years) served as subjects for the present study. The tools employed in this study were Telic Dominance Scale, Ego-strength Scale and Self-Monitoring Scale. The data were analyzed by means of Pearson product moment correlation method and Z-test.

The data analyzed by means of statistical tests were presented in 6 Tables and the description, discussion, and conclusions accrued from the findings were given in Chapter Four.

The main findings of the study were:
- Significant positive relationships existed between telic-dominance and self-monitoring scores among pre-retired elderly and pre-retired elderly of joint family.

- Ego-strength and self-monitoring scores were positively related among retired elderly, retired elderly of joint family; pre-retired elderly, pre-retired elderly of joint family and middle socio-economic status.
- Significant differences were found between retired and pre-retired elderly and between retired and pre-retired elderly of joint family in the relationship scores of telic-dominance and ego-strength.

- Pre-retired elderly scored significantly higher than the retired elderly in the relationship scores of telic-dominance and self-monitoring.

- Telic dominance scores were significantly correlated with ego-strength scores among retired elderly of joint family, high socio-economic status and middle socio-economic status.