

REPORT OF IGI PROJECT UNERTAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY 2015 -2016

Although the traditional family values of respect for elders and acceptance of responsibility for them still persist, the changing social and economic context is raising new problems. The social structure of Indian communities is changing rapidly by globalization, urbanization, and migration, changing work culture and shift towards nuclear families. This has shrunk the social life of the elderly, imposed limitation on their societal roles and vitiated the quality of life that is essential for them. The priorities of the young seem to be replacing the needs of the elderly. In such a climate the much needed tolerance of and care for the older generation must be instilled in the youth by implementing value based education that enhance cross generational expressive ties.

What is lost in this quasi banishment of the old from centre stage is not quantifiable, not quite definable. That sense of sanity, those solutions cannot come out of books or computers. Breaking with them is like removing the chains linking us to a past, to a culture, to a civilization. The old are community itself, heirs to collective wisdom, with them goes whatever dignity or grace there was in the Indian family .The elderly tried to keep the family together, could keep temper under control; children took over after their death. Aging itself is not an obsession in India. Several factors have undermined the status, care an protection of old people which were provided by the joint family, the kinship group and the community that are themselves undergoing change. Bose has summed up the situation very clearly when he says that the position and status of the old have however been seriously undermined by factors such as changing values, growing individualism and rising aspirations for consumer goods as a result of the impact of education ,urbanization, westernization and industrialization which prompt the

younger generation to give primacy to themselves .Factors like less number of children due to acceptance of the small family norms and hence greater vulnerability in the matter of participation of women in employment in cities in white collar jobs, leave the old unattended during daytime. This in turn creates stress among the elderly who are prompted to opt for separate residence so that they will not be burdened with such problems.

The complexities of modern life and living which discount the value of traditional system and practice place a premium on lateral transmission of knowledge in contrast to vertical transmission from the older generation, thereby devaluing the knowledge and experience of the old. The fast pace of social change accentuates the intergeneration differences in values and lifestyles .Larger investments than in the past on the education and upbringing of children could result in less resources being available for the care of the aging along with inflationary pressure is causing greater hardship for the elderly.

The fundamental question to be addressed by the nation is how do we want to perceive and utilize this group of increasing population .Are they perceived as passive dependent group demanding better care and service? Or can they be considered as a rich resource of wisdom and experience forming a part of strong human resource of the country. It is time for the social science research to respond to the growing, yet unmet needs of the aged.

One such initiative is taken by the NGO THRED to create awareness among the youth regarding the problems of the elderly by encouraging them to interact with them.

Our college Officiating Principal Mrs. Archana Patki decided to involve the sociology students in the Intergeneration Interaction Project with an objective of

sensitizing the students regarding the needs of the elderly. It was meant to familiarize them to the science of healthy and productive aging. It was decided to involve 54 English medium, 11 Gujarati medium and 18 Marathi medium sociology students for this project.

The teacher coordinators who guided the students on the project are Mrs. Radhika Soman, Mrs. Shanti Seshadri, Dr. Bhavana Dubey and Mrs. Kiran Jadhav. We began the project by inviting Dr. Ravikala Kamat who gave a talk to our students regarding the project on promoting harmony through Intergenerational interaction. The project was meant to facilitate dialogue between the youth and elderly and inculcate a sense of social responsibility among the youth. Our students were oriented about the project .They were explained the need to have a positive attitude and develop listening skills by being empathetic towards the elderly .Our teacher coordinators asked each student to collect information of four senior citizens either from their neighbourhood or from their families or by visiting old age homes.

Our teacher co-ordinators guided the student volunteers to develop insights; how to interact with the elderly and cope with different situations, to share and reflect and write a report of their experiences .Our students were asked to visit old age homes, Nana Nani parks, Senior Citizens Associations, places of worship and interact with care givers to understand the daily routines of the elderly. The student volunteers were asked to collect the biodata of their adoptive senior citizens and share them with the teacher coordinator for guidance and approval.

We began the project around the mid of February and completed by the 23rd March2016.

Before involving them in the IGI project, students were hesitant to interact with the senior citizens. Some of them had the notion that senior citizens are short

tempered and lacked patience. After the interaction with the elderly their perception about the elderly underwent a change. Many students shared their experiences with the senior citizens with enthusiasm.



Student's interaction with Senior Citizens

Some of the important findings of the IGI project from the point of view of student volunteers were:

1. They benefited in terms of a better understanding of the aging process. They developed a positive attitude towards the elderly.
2. They felt that they are socially responsible towards senior citizens by contributing their time/talents/skills and energy by interacting with the senior citizens.
3. They benefited in terms of knowledge about our traditions, culture and values. They learnt the value of being honest.
4. After the interaction they felt that the senior citizens are not a bunch of useless people and their role in society is still significant and they still have the potential to contribute to society.



Student's interaction with Senior Citizens: Teaching Cursive Writing & Painting

5. Since they are the store house of knowledge they should be respected for their wisdom and ability to contribute to their families and progress and promote social harmony.
6. Some felt inspired from them to cope up with life .For some they were a source of inspiration.
7. Some developed a sympathetic attitude towards them. They felt that senior citizens lose status and respect when inactive, incoherent, dependent and senile. Some also realized that their grandparents are important persons and

they must take some time to spend with them.



Sharing feelings & sentiments



Narrating stories

8. They learnt cooking tips, nutrition tips and tips on good health from the elderly .They interacted with them on food habits, travelling ,technology ,education, rituals ,customs at the present time and at their time.
9. They learnt the importance of hard work in life from the senior citizens.
10. Some students kept them occupied by playing games with the Senior citizens. Some students accompanied them for a walk. They were glad to hear the inspirational stories from them. Some said that they learnt the art of saving from the senior citizens.
11. They enjoyed interacting with the elderly. One student conducted activity like drawing, singing for the senior citizens. She involved them in singing. She also conducted stress management workshop for them



Sharing a meal

12.They felt that senior citizens felt that they were neglected as the youngsters do not have time for them as they were busy in their own life.



Sharing views & discussion on various issues

13. Some learnt the significance of staying in the joint family.
14. Some students interacted with senior citizens thrice and more than two hours.
Some students interacted with them over the phone and even email.
15. Some students felt that the government should provide special concession for senior citizens in hospitals, railways and bus travel.
16. Some of them stated that in the near future they will create awareness among the future generation on the need to spend time with the senior citizens. Many of them have given analytical report of their experiences with the Senior citizens.



Feeling happy after learning painting

**Consolidated tabulations of perceptions of youth regarding
Senior Citizens**

	Response yes	Response no
1. Do you have any elderly member residing at home?	42	40
2. Are they your grandparents? If not what is their relationship with you?	35	41
3. If your grandparents /elderly are living away from you, do you visit them atleast once in two months?	21	45

Indicate below how many Ts(true) and how many Fs(False)

	True	False
1. All five senses tend to decline in old age	54	29
2. Lung capacity tends to decline in old age.	54	29
3. Older people are not as strong as young people.	63	15
4. All five senses get worse as people get older.	69	14
5. About 80% of the aged say they are healthy enough to carry out most normal activities.	67	16
6. The majority of old people are unable to adapt to change.	60	23
7. The majority of old people say they feel miserable most of the time.	66	17
8. The majority of old people say they are lonely.	63	20

9. Older people tend to become more religious as they age.	73	10
10. The majority of old people are senile.	52	31
11. It is almost impossible for the majority of old people to learn new things.	25	58
12. The majority of old people are working/would like to have some kind of work to do.	69	14
13. In general, most old people are pretty much alike.	45	38
14. Most older workers are not as good as younger workers.	67	16
15. Inactivity and lack of exercise slow down old people more than age.	79	4

Some students said that they have interacted with their grandparents for more than an hour while majority said that they spend less than an hour interacting with their grandparents. Some said that they interacted with the grandparents during the vacations when they could spend more time with them.

Out of 83 student volunteers 42 said that they have elderly member residing at home and 40 said that they did not have any elderly residing at home .When asked whether they were their grandparents 35 answered in the affirmative and 41 said no.54 students agreed to the fact that all the five senses tended to decline in old age and 29 didn't agree to it.54 students agreed to the fact that lung capacity tended to decline in oldage.29 didn't agree to that.63 students felt that older people are not as strong as young people.15 didn't agree to it.67 students felt that about 80% of the aged are healthy enough to carry out most normal activities.16 students did not agree to it.

Out of 83 students 60 students agreed to the fact that majority of old people are unable to adapt to change and 23 students did not agree to it.66 students said majority of old people say they feel miserable most of the time while 17 students did not agree to it.73 students agreed to the fact that older people tend to become more religious as they age while 10 students didn't agree to this.52 students felt that the majority of the old people are senile while 31 students did not agree to it. They felt hat elderly also have good memory.

25 students felt that it is almost impossible for the majority of old people to learn new things while 58 students did not agree to it.45 students felt that in general most old people are pretty much alike while 38 students did not agree to it.67 students felt that most older workers are not as good as younger workers while 16 students did not agree to this. Out of 83 students 79 students agreed to the fact that inactivity and lack of exercise slow down old people more than age while 4 students did not agree to this.

On account of this project our teacher coordinators could also benefit in terms of interaction with the students on the issues of aging which is sociologically

significant. It also helped in developing the team spirit among the teacher coordinators which is crucial in the effective functioning of the department. Interacting with senior citizens enables the youth to develop social networks, communication skills, problem solving abilities and above all a positive attitude to aging.

Youth involved in such programmes are less likely to fall into the trap of bad habits. IGI programme's social significance lies in the fact that they facilitate the transmission of cultural traditions values from the older to the younger generation .Clearly the IGI Project has created a platform for understanding the issues of the senior citizens. The insights gained by the students involved in the project will go a long way in their understanding of the rights of the elderly so as to help them to lead a dignified and fulfilling life.

Enclosures- Annexures containing the list of students who took part in the IGI Project with their contact numbers.

ANNEXURE-1

List of English Medium Sociology students who participated in the IGI Project TYBA

Sr. No.	Name of the student	Contact No.
1	Annapadmavati	9702815277
2	Priyanka Madhukar Gaikwad	8082646276
3	Nancy Geddepol	9892898780
4	Haseena GulamMortuza	8082128075
5	Khan Nazneen Mehboob	8655117683
6	Khan Sana Javed	9004119769
7	Saba Parveen Khatri	7738714565
8	M Suvidha Eshwari	8286740395
9	C. Padmini Chinnadurai	8286434450
10	Shaikh Maseera Sufiya	8898711733
11	Shaikh Yasmeen	9224429808
12	Elavarsi	9967851831
13	Juliet Mercy. A	7208399090
14	Priyanka Prajapati	8898241284
15	Komal S. Vaid	8879398014
16	Shelina Shahbuddin	9867949362
17	Jaiswar Chandni	7738791812
18	Manisha SureshKajaniya	9594143171
19	Khan Fatima	9773598123
20	Kunchi Namrata Suresh	9987119100
21	Gretal Mhatray	9768439701
22	Qureshi Ayesha	7666658708
23	Sauleha Ali hasan	8655642750
24	Tarannum Shaikh	9323526817
25	Singh K. Shashibala	8268379685

List of SYBA English medium girls who participated in the IGI Project

Sr. No.	Name of the Student	Contact No.
1	Gala Bijal	9223481311
2	Yadav Vidya	8692837386
3	Yadav Muthulaxmi	8655182191
4	Aarti A . Singh	8767738928
5	Shaikh Shagufta	7738184622
6	Ansari Shabeena	9220379950
7	Khan Sanjida	7678068820
8	Chaudhary Khushnumal	7208898401
9	Sayyed Nikhat	9768578096
10	Sayyed Aksha	8383002514
11	Ayesha Ahmed	9819257242
12	Shah Noorjahan N.Ahmed	9664900687
13	Qureshi Farheen	9232240111
14	B. Mamta	8286998931
15	Tiwari Shivani	8828093756
16	Yadav Sudha	9168745409
17	Devendra Kaushalya	7208481841
18	Vaddebocha Kavita	8828189993
19	Muchale Ayesha	8655979952
20	Komal Shipri	8268497706
21	Charushila Chavan	8655979952
22	Verma Priya	8268497706
23	Khan Shabina	9892801246
24	Khan Tahmina	8425933046
25	Khan Safina	9768027139
26	Ansari Mobashira	8655431190
27	Shaikh Shifa	655431170
28	Choudhary Rahima	9022613184
29	Mamta Dhobi	9664085034

List of Gujarati Medium Sociology students BAI, II &III

Sr. No.	Name of the Student	Contact No.
1	Mojindra Nikita D	2286837520
2	Shah Darshita N	9504428058
3	Chaudhary Leena	9820459605
4	Chavda Manisha. K	8286142148
5	Kanpuria. Vina. L	8692081182
6	Mehta Dimple	8692032420
7	Chauhan Priya S	7045250234
8	Parmar Shilpa A	9819728926
9	Rathod Aarti M	7078077236
10	Shastri Krupa.S	9167472338
11	Vaghela Shweta R	8652079087

List of Marathi Medium Sociology students BA I

Sr. No.	Name of the Student	Contact No.
1	Swapnali S Patil	9699736497
2	Dakshata.S.Surve	7718017759
3	Priti L. Hasnale	8108050793
4	Manasi A Chalke	7506876189
5	Archana S Borge	8422053021
6	Ashwini T Kshirsagar	8828269337
7	Ruchita P Polekar	8108186648
8	Harshada S Parab	8689876581
9	Sonali S Waghmare	9833492867
10	Pratiksha B. Tikekar	7039841738
11	Deepali D Khandekar	8692963067
12	Indu G.Pradhan	9987800970
13	Shirani. S.Ghadigaskar	8097843446
14	Simran A Patekar	7506740827
15	Smita.K.Gharge	9702956872
16	Ekta N.Kamble	8097559740
17	Vrushali G. Shinde	8693857553
18	Kranti M Salvi	9594573751