ATTITUDE OF UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENT TOWARDS AGEISM AND ELDER ABUSE IN PERSPECTIVE OF EDUCATION RELATED TO GERONTOLOGY

THE THESIS SUBMITTED AS FULFILLMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ARTS AT JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY, KOLKATA

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Abstract

The main focus of the present study were Human ageing, Ageism, Elder abuse and the Education related to Gerontology. To elderly people ageism becomes as an everyday new challenge with elder abuse. Nowadays in everywhere husband and wife are busy to earn money and their children are also engaged in a rat race of competition for searching a glamorous stable future. They have no leisure to spend a quality time with their elderly parents and grandparents. The objectives of the research was to examine the attitude of undergraduate and postgraduate student towards ageism and elder abuse in perspective of education related to gerontology. Total 1456 undergraduate and postgraduate students were the sample from West Bengal. Descriptive survey method was used to collect the data. A three scales questionnaire was used- (i) Student's Attitude Scale based on Ageism (SAA) (ii) Student's Attitude Scale based on Elder Abuse (SAEA) (iii) WH MCQ based on Education or Curriculum related to Gerontology. For qualitative addition an open ended semi structured interview schedule was used for the students along with some teachers, experts and elders. Hypotheses were tested using descriptive statistics mean, SD and inferential statistics independent t-test, one-way ANOVA and Pearson product moment correlation(r). It was found that the respondents shows a mixed feelings and opinion in their attitude. Somewhere they are bold and straight with their comments and responses. A significant correlation was found between ageism and elder abuse in perspective of education related to gerontology, according to the UG and PG level students. Coincidentally their point of view has explored some surprising and thought provoking findings which is not only unexpected as well as stunning or threatening for the future elderly group. The result of the present study will definitely indicate to the importance or necessity of the education related to gerontology, which young generation should know about for their sensitization as early as possible.