

A STUDY TO EXPLORE THE REASONS FOR STAY WITH OR AWAY FROM ELDERLY PARENTS - SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CITIZENS OF BHOPAL CITY

Dr Lila Simon, Ms Riya Singh, Ms Shrashti Sahu

Associate Professor and Former Head - Department of Management BSSS, Bhopal
lilabsss@yahoo.com
7089934650

Student BBA, BSSS, Bhopal
singhriya2408@gmail.com
6263447113

Student BBA, BSSS, Bhopal
Shrashtisahu04@gmail.com
8839391288

Abstract

A family environment is a state where children learn, observe and relationships work as they observe parents, grandparents, siblings and other members, to pick up value systems. As per emotional viewpoint, families are considered as social groups and the dependence of a child on parents or other caregivers of the family makes it a highly significant social group.

Experts have always felt that the present generation wants to experience freedom and do not prefer sacrificing their career so as to take care of their elderly parents and as a result of which we find most of the elderly couples staying alone after their retired life. However, there is also a reverse part. Many of the elderly couples don't prefer moving out of their homes to join their children who may be working in other country or states for better professional growth and life style.

With these thoughts in mind, the researchers of this article made an attempt to survey the citizens of Bhopal city to find their mindset in this area. A survey was conducted among the citizens which included Students, Youth with Job, Newly Wed Couples and Couples with children. A response from 476 participants helped us to understand the minds of people of our city.

This paper aimed at studying the emotional attachment of children with their family members. We also tried to understand the preference of stay with spouses and elderly members of the family as with the present generation it is observed that most of the youth prefer a nuclear family system unlike the old joint family concept.

Keywords: emotional attachment, citizens, career opportunities, family, values

INTRODUCTION

The present times of pandemic did make a lot of difference in the life style of people and their thought procedures. Unlike in the past as most citizens were more preferring materialistic life, the pandemic did teach lessons of life and most of them has started to be more serious about the life styles and health cares. Many have really started respecting their body and has changed their routine unhealthy eating patterns. The pandemic days did witness positive as well as negative impacts as most of the family members were spending time together due to intense lockdowns and it gave opportunity to know each other better on one hand and on the other many families experienced a lot of domestic violence as well. An environment where children learn to use their talents and understand to cope up with the physical world is very important. As we have observed that values are always caught and never taught. The youngsters quickly imitate the elders in most cases, so the environment in which a child is nourished and brought up is of utmost importance.

Unlike the joint family system in the past, the present time is witnessing that families are left with just elderly couples and kids really don't bother to attend them. The citizens need to understand the importance of having healthy family relationship and children at home should be taught importance of true relations. Children, as they grow should be able to realize that it is just not a successful career or a financial boom that always can bring about happiness among the family members moreover families which are living together and willing to help each other with mutual sharing definitely achieve professional success as well.

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In a joint family system, a child learns to manage the feelings and are also able to handle the stress because of the emotional attachments among the family members and there is always someone to talk and engage. The past generations really cherish childhood days of gathering and sharing. The summer holidays were the times when the members gathered together to celebrate the company of all relatives all young and old and enjoying the taste of all local seasonal fruits, which most of the present generation has not even seen.

Today the arrival of a guest disturbs the mental peace of the family both young and old. Time for all of us to think how right is this, perhaps each one will have our own justification. Past researches indicated that the environment as a create rule to contribute towards a child's development and learning healthy relationship among the family members brings about Health relationship with parents and the adolescence feels secured. When we talk about family most of the elders are left abandoned and children are away from their homes living behind the parents thinking about prosperity and careers but how far is it true? Is it to achieve the real prosperity or is it that you don't want to stay back to take care of the elderly at home?

A study on family relationship from the emotion theory is of high significance as families are social group and when a child is emotionally attached to his/her parents in a healthy manner, they feel safe. (Gunjan, Dec2012) With the current situation wherein parents are struggling to maintain family and career, one must have to prioritise between the two, however both are important. An individual having a career and stays near his/her family forever is the most fortunate as they believe earning less money and more satisfaction.

For many their family is more important than career and they believe that family is the only bond, which keeps us alive. But there is another part of this coin as well. The present generation is highly educated and are employed in top companies by staying away from their families and living a robotic life.

Home is a physical place with mental meanings. Through an ethnographic study followed by reflections reveal young women and men on moving away from the parental home. (Elina Lahelma, Tuula Gordon, 2003)

Pathways to independent living in early adulthood: Marriage, semi autonomy, and premarital residential independence. Parents' education and continuing in school decrease the likelihood of leaving home via marriage and increase the likelihood of leaving home via residential semi autonomy or premarital residential independence [PRI]. All other factors considered affect all pathways out of the parental home in the same direction, but in differing magnitudes. (Frances K Goldscheider, Julie DaVanzo, 1989)

On exploring how and why students make the decision to stay at home, it was an argue that the decision cannot be reduced to economic expediency, but reflects young people's access to legitimate cultural capital and family and peer endorsement of leaving home as an expected process and outcome of going to university. As more students from non-traditional backgrounds are often encouraged to move to universities globally, leads to a greater diversity in students' experiences of university life (Jackie Patiniotis, Clare Holdsworth, 2005)

Adults with less access to colleges and fewer well-educated adults in the local population account for much of the rural-urban difference. Research has proved that half of all rural college attendees leave home and do not return by age 25. Those that do return are drawn largely by home ties and intervening life choices rather than by local job opportunities. (Robert M Gibbs, 1995)

The paper was a small attempt to find the reasons for which students prefer either to stay with or move away from their family members.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the opinion among the citizens on prioritizing family relationship and career prosperity
2. To find the reasons why citizens in Bhopal prefer staying with their parents
3. To find the reasons why citizens in Bhopal prefer moving away from their parents
4. To find the difference in opinion among different categories to leave Bhopal.
5. To understand the emotional attachment towards the family members

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire was prepared by means of google form and circulated to citizens of Bhopal city and 476 responses were found suitable to be used for the analysis. Stratified Random sampling method was used to collect the data. The respondents were as per the following category:

Category I -Students 223

Category II -Single and having Job 51

Category III -Newly Married with no children 14

Category IV -Married with children 80

Limitation of the study: The study was restricted to only the urban areas of Bhopal city. This data was collected before the pandemic infected the Bhopal city.

Discussions: Reasons Identified for not wanting to leave family: These were some of the responses that we could get from respondents who consider family as a priority. The statements are as received from respondents and no changes are made for the fear of misunderstanding. Repeated reasons are avoided.

Table 1: Reasons for not wanting to leave Family

Love my Family /Emotionally attached/ Motivators...😊"	Family is my priority than money
Single Child	Family is my first priority
It's our turn to take care of them	Traditional Joint Indian family
Feel protected and secure with Family	Family more important than Money
I want to celebrate my success with my family	Pointless to earn the whole world and lose your own soul
Family is the biggest support one has	Because family is the most important thing in the world
I love them more than money and comfort.	Emotional connection
Family is a first priority because family members are the backbone of a person. They support in all the situations	What will I do with money when I have no family?
I will happily earn less and spend more time with family Rather than earning more for family and being away from them	I will continue to do job with staying with parents in their old age
Because of my parent's bad health	Would like to see kids growing up with me rather than earn more money
To obtain early settlement and secure retirement one needs to be ready for such sacrifices	Till last breath of our life we can pay back to our parents what they did to us
So better to live with family and care for parents rather just looking for some money by going far away from them and leaving them alone	It's just that my parents are diabetic for a long time now...I can't leave them for money...If I am capable... I'll earn in Bhopal itself. And I'll make sure that my parents are not left behind to still cook and work for their survival...I want to give them the life they deserve and I know they need their family and not my earned money
Because, I don't want them to be stay without me and live alone anywhere for mine and my parent's future life. And after when i will become settled very well, I want stay with my family	For me my family is my world and world can be left only after death

1. Reasons for wanting to leave family:

Looking at the trend of youth in Bhopal, to leave parents and work in metro cities, this was an attempt to identify the reasons for migrating to other cities. These were some of the responses that we could get from respondents who wants to leave the family.

Table 2: Reasons for wanting to Leave the Family Members: -

The reasons are as mentioned by the respondents are compiled as under. The words are not edited but presented as expressed by the respondent

Better job	achieving personal goals/dreams
Better career	own success story
Better Status	Like to live alone.
Better Higher Studies	Explore my knowledge
Family Problem	Better life style
More successful life	Grow more independent and stronger
Want decision making power	I want to leave, please help

Hardly connected to Family	Not emotionally attached to family
Financial Problem	To Support financially
I want to make my parents proud by achieving success	Want Life at Metro/other cities
Prefer to earn and come back	Prefer to stay in Bhopal
Less opportunities in Bhopal	Happiness
I want to teach myself to appreciate my parents	It is said that nothing is appreciated as long as it is with you
To become independent and want to achieve success in my life to make my parents and family be proud on me	For my own success story

RANKING OF REASONS FOR LEAVING BHOPAL

While survey it was observed that 67.7% of the students, preferred to move out of the city for higher studies. But at the same time, 67.7 % of the citizens who are single and with job did not want to leave their parents just for the sake of a better job. Same was the case those married with children and has job. This was a clear indicator that people want to stay with their family members once they are grown up and matured. Six reasons were identified that relate to emotional attachment with family and the citizens were asked to rank the reasons for leaving Bhopal. A comparative chart was prepared [Figure 1] to understand the similarity in the mindset of different category of respondents chosen. The category of married and married with children were combined to simplicity as it was considered that once married and settled in Bhopal will not have much variations in the mindset of those who are married and with children.

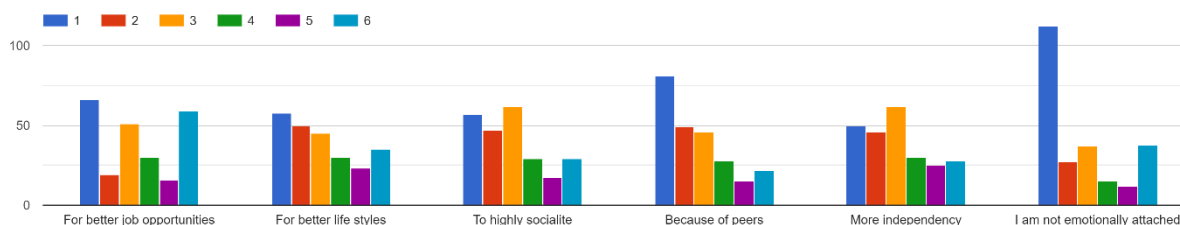
Scores when combing all with Job

Table 3: Rank wise reasons for leaving Bhopal by different Categories

RANK	Students	Single with Job	Married with and without children
I	Peer Pressure	No emotional attachment	No emotional attachment
II	No emotional attachment	Peer Pressure	Peer Pressure
III	Highly socialite	Highly socialite	Highly socialite
IV	Independency	Independency	For better life styles
V	For better life styles	For better life styles	Independency
VI	Better job opportunities	Better job opportunities	Better job opportunities

Figure 1

Give reasons for the following(Rank 1-6 as per your preference)



DISCUSSIONS

Table 3 suggests that be it is students, single with job or married with children, citizens have agreed on and revealed that they are not emotionally attached to their family members. This is especially the case where the members have older people. But the survey also revealed that the married with job prefer staying with their

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spouse. The younger generation also expressed their interest on independency and expressed that they prefer moving away from their family as there is lot of restrictions from the parents. At the same time better job opportunities is not a reason for moving away.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Most respondents were of the opinion that if they can get better opportunities in Bhopal, it would give real pleasure and they would feel more Secure in the presence of family and hence the government should work on exploring new avenues for this generation.
- ✓ Leaving family is not a voluntary choice for many but since citizens feel that better opportunities are available outside Bhopal so it becomes more of a necessity to move away from your family /elders in order to achieve and enhance career goals which would fetch higher income for the family.
- ✓ Students are bothered about their higher studies and better placements as they don't find much scope in this city. One must realize that the students of this city are really brilliant and these minds should be facilitated with opportunities so that we see a better Bhopal
- ✓ The government should work on awareness programs for students and skilled manpower, so that the youngsters can easily find job opportunities and they can settle down with their elderly parents. This will in one way or the other will be a motivation for all localities and also help in reducing crime on senior citizens.

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