

CHAPTER II

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

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SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

2.1 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM

The attitude of the young toward the elderly people is a problem with a good deal of social significance. Most of the people have older relatives. In addition to those, they often come in contact with a number of other old persons in society. The contact of some of them is found normally enjoyable and tolerable, whereas some others irk with their meddlesomeness and still others bore with their oft repeated stories. The typicalities of old age are likely to be common all over as they are due to uniform social and biological changes the older people have to face at advanced age.

Although the attitude of the younger generation toward the aged is a direct function of the changes that affect the aged and their adjustment, it is a joint resultant of a few additional complex factors. These are cultural demands, social conventions, folk-lore, ^{and} religious functions, etc. which has been seen from the Japanese customs, norms in the Chinese society and Indian traditions as stated in the previous chapter. These factors go a long way to form a psychological set that keeps the younger generation constantly prepared to

perceive the aged around them either in a favourable or unfavourable light.

Thus the social stereotypes of the aged emerge. As the above mentioned social and cultural factors have a role in the snapping of these stereotypes it is obvious that the attitude of the younger generation is bound to change from culture to culture and society to society, depending upon the time, place and social surroundings.

These attitudes, which are thus seen to be a joint resultants of the biological, psychological and social changes in the aged on the one hand and the operation of cultural and social factors influencing the youth on the other hand, are not altogether passive entities. They, in turn, influence the social, emotional and other important aspects of the adjustment of the old and facilitate either the perpetuation or bring about a sharp turn in the cultural, social and religious demands or conventions. The problems of the aged are bound to depend largely, upon how the youth perceive them. Any adverse attitude from the social surroundings may make the aged more acutely age-conscious and add to their adjustment problems. A favourable attitude from the youth on the other hand, that makes the aged feel psychologically and emotionally more accepted, respected and wanted, may cause them feel secure, enhancing their

self respect and bringing about a better and adequate adjustment for them. Similarly the same attitudes may perpetuate the cultural conventions too. Quite often, a change in attitudes brings about a change in traditions and social conventions. Attitudes are dynamic and directive by nature. It is this quality of attitudes that pinpointed the specific interest in the subject. It has given the basic, wider problem discussed below, a specific turn.

The background interest of the study is 'old age' as such. A psychological analysis of old age problems and adjustments was felt essential at the present time for a number of reasons. The analysis can give a clue to the factors underlying the problematic situation. Some of them may be biological, some social, some cultural and environmental and others psychological. Amongst the psychological factors the perception of the old themselves about being aged surges to the uppermost which, in turn, is partly related to their perception by the youth. It is here that the attitudes of the young come on the scene.

It is planned to use the measurements of these attitudes as indices for the partial clarification of the youth's perception of the older generation. At the same time, the present study includes procedures to probe

into the problems of the aged, that being the background interest. An attempt is made to decide how far the younger generation (through the attitudes) influences the adjustment of the older people. In case any positive relationship is noted, the investigation may prove valuable to the youth in charge of the older relatives. It may help the young, develop an insight into the life of the aged. The perception of the aged regarding life, is bound to differ a good deal from the perception of the young. In addition, their expectations and satisfactions, as well as their approach and philosophy may be radically different. Some discussion about these basic differences may prove beneficial.

It may also benefit society in planning some constructive activity projects for the aged. Such social projects are conspicuously lacking in India today. The financial schemes like old age pension, outlined at a wider social scale are badly needed. Such schemes are seen to be tackled occasionally and with superficial interest only. The approval to them in some Indian States may be seen at times. However, it is not a uniformly approved federal scheme.

In connection with this problem, an inquiry was made with the different Indian States as to the steps taken for making provision for the aged in society. Under this inquiry all the States were requested to provide information

regarding the projects undertaken by them for the welfare of the aged. Ten States responded to this inquiry.

In the State of Gujarat, there are five institutions for old and infirm at present run by voluntary agencies. Government is giving grant to these institutions." The Maharashtra State has fourteen similar institutions for the aged and infirm, receiving government grant-in-aid. In the West Bengal State several welfare programmes have been undertaken, such as old age pension scheme, Old People's Home and Vagrant Homes for the old and infirm. Besides, there are some other non-official voluntary organizations for the welfare of the old people. There is also a proposal for opening of a Home for the maintenance of the old middle class people. At Delhi no institution for the old persons is run at present. However, under a separate Financial Assistance Scheme, cash grants are provided to old and infirm persons who are found deserving. The Madras State runs three institutions for the aged. In Kerala State there are two Homes for the old and infirm. The Himachal Pradesh reported that Home for Destitutes is run to meet the problems of the aged, crippled and disabled persons. The States of Assam, Orissa and Mysore stated that no projects for the welfare of the aged were undertaken by them, nor any institution is run for the purpose.

Looking to the above information, it is found that only in a few States a start has been made for the provision of old age welfare. It can further be seen that the old age welfare activities are connected with those of the infirm in some States while with those of the crippled and destitutes in some others. In some States the problem has been tackled from the financial aspect alone. This shows that so far, there is no adequate provision for the welfare of the aged who are normal. Actually, it has been found that under all normal conditions too, old age is a problematic stage of development which requires stipulation by the society. Similarly, it has been noted that the old age problems are of a highly complex nature. Measures to tackle them from the partial aspects of the physiological disabilities or monetary dependency alone would not suffice. An intensive, all-sided programme on a wider basis is essential for the welfare of the aged.

Institutions for the residence of the old are a novelty in India. The very idea of institutionalizing the aged may be received as shocking by some. But if it is a social necessity, it is a must. The present study is to clarify the situation so as to decide whether it is an urgent must. Old age is rarely considered as an important developmental phase of life. The present study is likely to create a consciousness of the problematic aspect of old age.

As the attitudes are strongly influenced by the cultural pressures, the study would indirectly throw some light on the cultural patterns, traditions and taboos so far as the treatment of the old is concerned. A research based on the problematic aspect of old age is rare in this country. Although a common explanation may be found in the fact that research is comparatively a very young branch of academic activities, the other possible reason may be that under the cultural influences, one fails to perceive the divergence of old age from adulthood. It is more often considered as a progressive continuation of adulthood. This applies especially to a culture where gerontocracy was prevalent since ages and is not yet fully rooted out.

Most of the research here is based upon childhood or adolescence as the developmental phases of life. Senescence seems to be completely ignored. That is how this neglected area has attracted attention for investigating into.

One more thing that may add to the significance of the present problem is that although, old age may seem remote it is an inevitable situation one has to face - barring, of course, early death. The discussions that deal with the inevitable phase and its peculiarities are hoped to be universally helpful for effective and adequate adjustment during that phase.

Taking all the factors stated, in consideration, the present study is planned. As already mentioned, the background interest is to develop a better insight in the problems and adjustment of the old people in India today. It is desired to investigate into the nature of the different areas of old age adjustment. The variables that are connected with it are to be explored broadly.

The specific interest, however, is to select a single variable, viz. the attitudes of the younger people towards the aged, and attempt a systematic measurement of it. Ultimately, it is planned to find out as to how far the attitudes are contributory to the problems of adjustment of old age.

The first part of the study is concerned with the specific problem of attitude measurement. It is quantitative in nature, concerned with the construction of an objective tool for measuring the attitude, testing the tool and administering it. The second part will be purely qualitative, where an intensive study of some selected cases (on both the extremes of adjustment continuum) will also be made.

2.2 OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESES

The following are the objectives of the present research.

(i) To measure the attitude of the young (ranging between 21-40 years), toward the old people.

(ii) To discuss the general trend of the attitude and to find out the relationship between cognitive and action tendencies.

(iii) To compare the relationship between the attitude trend and each of the following variables :

(a) Age

(b) Education

(c) Sex

(iv) To find out the intercorrelations between the different areas of the attitude of the young towards the old.

(v) To examine the condition of the old from their own point of view by interviewing a selected sample of the old, and to make some case studies at the extremes of adjustment level.

(vi) To discuss in general the problems of the old and to find out whether they exist independent of the attitude of the young or as a function of the attitude.

Out of these six objectives thus stated, the first four are related to the reactions of the youth toward the aged. Obviously, this is the specific purpose of the present investigation. The treatment received by

the old at the hands of the youth is, for the major part, a natural consequence of their attitude. Hence a quantitative study is essential to reveal the trend of the attitude of the young toward the aged. It demands an independent treatment. The remaining two objectives pertain to the problems of the aged and their adjustment. This, being the background purpose, has been treated qualitatively. That is why no statistical quantification is imposed on the data concerning the problems and adjustment of the aged. The purpose of the qualitative discussions is only to disclose the general nature of old age as a developmental phase. Ultimately a broad view is taken of the relationship between the adjustment of the aged and the attitudes of the youth as experienced by them.

Taking into account the modern technological and social changes and the cultural norms pertaining to the treatment of the aged in India, the following hypotheses have been formulated.

(i) The attitude of the young toward the aged, in general, will be favourable.

(ii) Within the attitude, apart from the other tendencies constituting the attitude, the behavioural tendencies will be more favourable due to the long prevailing cultural norms.

(iii) The various areas of adjustment covering up the total attitude will be independent of one another.

(iv) The variables of age, education and sex will play a significant role in deciding the degree of favourability of the attitude.

(v) Owing to the complex changes the aged have to face, old age will be found to be problematic. But the attitudes of the young as experienced by the old will make a considerable difference in the intensity of their problem.

2.3 CONCEPTS

In attempting to study the attitude of the young toward the aged certain concepts require clarification. The exact and definite connotation of terms is sure to help in getting a clearer idea of the main theme of the present work.

(a) Old Age

Old age has been variously defined. The physiological definition describes it as "interferences with metabolic processes in individual cells, its results being, reduced, slower or impaired functions of the circulatory system, of kidneys and of mental responses. Difficulty in working, nervous ailments, impairment of sense organs, greater need for sleep, fatigue, impaired memory, fear and loss of confidence are other symptoms

of old age"¹. A more adequate and comprehensive description of old age runs as follows. "Old age is a composite condition - (a) Physical disability (b) declining mental ability (c) Gradual giving up of social activities - work in the case of man, household management in the case of woman, fewer community activities, changes in family status and modified interests, plans and goals (d) Economic dependence on others - children etc."²

There is much divergence in the opinions expressed as to when the above mentioned changes take place in the individual's life span. The onset of old age is a disputable point. It is not known whether there is a law of senescence valid for the whole organism in accordance with which the individual organisms and tissues age, simultaneously and harmoniously.

The difficulty experienced in putting the line of demarcation, becomes more complicated on observing the various aged people in society. They present marked differences in their bearings concerning their age. Some look quite youthful with respect to looks and behaviour in spite of advancement in years, while others look worn

¹ Phelps and Henderson, Contemporary Social Problems. (Prentice Hall Inc., New York, 1952), P.220.

² Ibid., P.221.

out, faded and sluggish even when they are just in their forties.

According to Tuckman and Lorge¹ the question as to when old age begins cannot be decided upon, once for all, in a final manner. The answer is bound to be relative depending upon the background of the manysided experiences of the person who is perceiving the phenomenon of aging at a particular time. They asked a group of subjects as to when old age began and found many respondents, especially 'undergraduates' (mean age 19.5) and 'middle age groups' (mean age 50.3) who designated its occurrence as sometime in the sixties. On the other hand their 'graduate students' (mean age 31.7) and 'older age' subjects (mean age 74.8) either placed the beginning at a much later date or denied that old age ever begins.

When the problem is handled from the point of view of the aging person concerned, there seems to be even more disagreement about the matter. Old people themselves often seem to resist their own perception of the phenomenon of aging. Masserman² has noted the reluctance of people to admit aging. Out of a group of typical older

¹ Tuckman, J. and Lorge, I., "When does Old age Begin and the Worker Become Old", J. Geront., (1953), V. 8, Pp. 483-488.

² Masserman, J.H., "The Psychodynamics of Aging". Geriatrics (1957), V. 12, Pp. 115-122.

people studied, half of those between the ages of 65 and 69 answered the question 'How old do you feel'? by replying 'Middleaged' or even 'Young'. Not until the group polled, was past 80 years that everyone said they felt 'old' or 'aged'.¹

Phillips² states that the aging individual's own perception of himself as old or not old is closely related to a number of psychological factors, the chief amongst which is his emotional adjustment. Certain physical correlates are also observed to influence this type of self-classification according to the results of the research by Mason.³

Tuckman and Lavell⁴ also express similar views.

Taking into account all these differences of the young as well as the old in deciding the onset of old age, certain objective criteria were used to decide the issue.

¹ Havighurst, R.J. and Albrecht Ruth. Older People. (New York : Longmans Green and Co., 1953), P. 9.

² Phillips, B.S., "A Role Theory Approach to Adjustment in Old Age". American Sociological Review (1957), V. 22, Pp. 212-217.

³ Mason, E.P., "Some Correlates of the Self-Judgment of the Aged". J. Geront. (1954), V. 9, Pp. 324-337.

⁴ Tuckman, J. and Lavell, Martha, "Self-Classification as Old or Not Old", Geriatrics (1957), V. 12, Pp. 666-671.

- (i) Classification of population in the census Data - when the population is classified agewise, in India, the persons over 60 are classified as aged.
- (ii) In many concerns now a days the retirement age is also found to be the same. Formerly it was 55 years for the Government servants. It is being pushed upwards with increased life span and in many semi-government concerns it is made 60 years.

Taking these objective criteria in consideration, old age is defined as 60 years and above.

(b) Young

There is more freedom of choice in defining the age limits of youth, as there are no marked differences in the opinions of people. This does not mean that there is uniform agreement in drawing the limits as to when youth starts and when it ends. But as there are no specific empirical studies pinpointing any controversy, it was felt that there can be flexibility of choice in the matter.

When stages of development are discussed by the developmental psychologists they generally emphasise that the physical as well as mental growth is well nigh complete round about at the age of 20 and remains so

intact till the age of 50. "The first 20 years are one of continuing surge of growth - punctuated at puberty by some change in rate and nature of the growth process. Then comes the most marked and most consistent change in the entire life span, the cessation of growing and levelling off into the adult period of maturity around 18 to 20. A period then comes which may well be called, 'the prime', when growth has just ceased but the great growth energies perhaps briefly continue, and the sex and other energies of the young adult are at their peak"¹. The writers admit that this period lasts through the forties and even through the fifties at times, depending upon the individual differences. The remark made on abilities by the same writers runs as follows.

"The intellectual capacities seem to grow until about 20 and are at their prime from about 20 to 45, with the peak around 30"².

The 'young' whose attitudes are to be measured have to be mature young persons. That is why the minimum age limit was fixed at 21 and the maximum at 40. This could have been extended further. But in order to keep a clear-cut gap between the two samples, of the youth and the aged, it was fixed at a lower limit. Thus in measuring

¹ Pressey, S.L. and Kuhlen, R.G., Psychological Development Through the Life Span (Harper and Bros., New York, 1957), P. 62.

² Ibid., P. 162.

the attitudes of the young towards the old; the attitudes of a sample ranging from 21 to 40 years are taken into account. They are, however, at a liberty to define old age for themselves. They are not given the explanation of the term as specified for the present work. When the study concerns the sample of the old, in order to develop an insight into their problems, the sample of 60 years and above is used for the purpose.

(c) Attitudes

A number of variables actively influence the adjustment of the old. Among them, perhaps the treatment they receive at the hands of the younger generation in society is of considerable importance. It may either elate the self-image the old people have developed so far (if they are properly respected and cared for), or it may shake the established self-image and shatter it, necessitating the old folk to re-establish it in the light of the treatment they receive (if considerable indifference and neglect comes to their share). This would mean a reorganization of their psychological world.

Old age itself is a period of rapid and complex reorganizations and changes in the physiological, social and psychological areas. But if these changes are instigated by the external forces like the social responses they receive from young people, they are sure to be more pressing and acute. To find out the nature of the problems

and difficulties the old are facing, one of the important factors to be investigated is the treatment they get from the younger generation. This is invariably connected with the attitude the younger people have toward the old.

Attitudes are described as the mainsprings of human behaviour. If the attitude of the young tends toward favourableness, their response to the old will be coloured accordingly and vice versa. In spite of the cultural norms in India, as stated previously, one cannot be very sure about the positiveness of the younger people's attitudes toward the old in the rapidly changing social conditions.

As has been already discussed in Chapter I, the recent technological changes like the fast industrialization, independent unitary families, insufficient accommodation and inelastic income, that make the younger people constantly experience a sense of futility and frustration may bring about radical changes in the long term culturally accepted attitudes of the youth. That is because attitudes often express aggression borne by feelings of self-failure and conflict.

A person's ability to deal in a consistent way with several situations is made possible primarily by the enduring pattern of his attitudes. Attitudes being dynamic in nature, pressingly seek for a suitable outlet

for their expression which need not necessarily be verbal. Such an expression helps the person achieve his social and other goals. By expressing his attitude a person may thereby, assert his conformity to the beliefs and ideals of his social group.

According to Allport,¹ "an attitude is a mental and neural state of readiness, exerting a directive influence upon the individual's response to all objects and situations with which it is related". Allport thus stresses what may be called a 'psychological set' that is so much assimilated by the individual that it becomes an inseparable part of his person. Emphasis is also laid upon the directive influence that is caused by this "set". From this definition, it can be said that whatever the other influences, bringing forward a response, the force of the attitudes exerts an exceptionally directive pressure upon it. Thus attitudes are seen to be of utmost importance in determining the behaviour of an individual.

W.M. Fuson² says that it is a "probability of occurrence of a defined behaviour in a defined situation". Here the significant role of attitudes in determining a

¹ Allport, G. W., A Handbook of Social Psychology. (Worcester : Clerk University Press, 1935), P. 810.

² Fuson, W.M., "Attitudes - A Note on the Concept and Its Research Context". American Soc. Review (1942) V. 7, Pp. 856-57.

response seems to be reduced to a level of probability. Thurstone¹ defines an attitude as "the degree of positive or negative affect associated with some psychological object". By a psychological object, Thurstone means any symbol, phrase, slogan, person, institution, ideal or idea toward which people can differ with respect to positive or negative affect. He gives several concrete examples of psychological objects that include even a minority group.

Krech and Crutchfield² define an attitude as "an enduring organization of motivational, emotional, perceptual and cognitive processes with respect to some aspect of the individual's psychological world". This definition seems to recognize the singular force of attitudes in determining the person's behaviour (response). The same authors have described attitudes as the 'main-springs of behaviour' and the 'building blocks of a person's psychological world' that give meaning and continuity to his psychological life.

The way a man treats another man depends upon his beliefs, his feelings and his dispositions toward him. These cognitions, feelings and action tendencies are

¹ Thurstone, L.L., "Comment", Amer. J. Soc. (1946), V. 52, Pp. 39-50.

² Krech, D. and Crutchfield, R.S., Theory and Problems of Social Psychology, (McGraw Hill, 1948), P.152.

interrelated to form a system. This particular system is his attitude toward the other person. The definition fully brings out the total content and context of that system. It seems to include all the major psychological dynamics, like the perceptions, cognitions, emotions and motivations. That is how attitudes are shown to be the sole directive influences controlling the individual's response toward another individual or the way he treats another individual eventually.

In defining attitudes as systems, the inter-relatedness of the components of the attitudes is emphasized. When incorporated into a system, these components become mutually interdependent. The perceptual, cognitive and emotional tendencies on the one hand are closely related to the action tendencies on the other. The feeling component of an attitude refers to the emotions connected with the object. The object is felt to be pleasing; or displeasing; it is liked or disliked. It is the emotional loading which gives attitudes their insistent, stirred up motivating character. The action tendency component of the attitude includes all the behavioural readiness, associated with the attitude. If an individual holds a positive attitude toward a given object, he will be disposed to help or reward or support the object; if he holds a negative attitude, he will be disposed to harm or punish or destroy the object.

(d) Characteristics of the Components

Valence. - Each of the components of the attitude may vary in valence and in degree of multiplexity.

Valence is a characteristic that applies to each of the three components of an attitude system, according to Krech, Crutchfield and Ballachey.¹ The cognitive component of an individual's attitude may be highly favourable. He may think of the object as supreme good. On the other hand, the cognitive component may be highly unfavourable. He may believe that the object is an unmixed evil. The feeling component may similarly vary from extreme positive to extreme negative valence - from unconditioned love to unconditioned hate. The action tendency component too can vary from tendencies to help or support or protect the object in all possible ways to extreme tendencies to attack and destroy the object.

Multiplexity. - Each of the component of an attitude also may vary with respect to degree of multiplexity. This refers to the number and variety of the parts or elements making up a component. The cognitive component can vary from minimal knowledge about an object necessary to recognize it and to distinguish it from other objects, to an inexhaustive set of beliefs about the object. The feeling component may similarly vary from

¹ Krech, Crutchfield and Ballachey, E.L., Individual in Society, (New York : McGraw Hill, 1962), PP. 141-144.

the extreme or undifferentiated positive or negative affectivity about the object to a highly multiplex set of emotions about it. At the same time the action tendencies associated with an attitude may vary in degree of multiplexity from a single disposition to attack or aid the object to a highly elaborated family of dispositions toward the object.

The conception of attitudes as systems having three components raises the question of the degree to which these components are consistently related to one another. The question of consistency implies the question of intercorrelations among the three components in valence and in multiplexity.

(e) Measurement of Attitudes

The assessment of valence has been the major interest of persons concerned with the measurement of attitudes. A number of different methods for securing quantitative measures of valence have been developed. The aim of these measurement methods is to order individuals on a linear continuum which runs from extreme unfavourableness through zero (i.e. absence of attitude) to extreme favourableness.

A direct measurement through questionnaires or rating scales has proved to bring to the surface only the superficial layer of the actual attitude. The more

commonly and popularly used devices are the attitude scales that make an indirect measurement of the attitude possible. This measurement is described as indirect because the individual's response does not directly affirm or negate a straightforward question but it has to signify how far it shows an agreement or disagreement with a given situation. At the same time the situations are so selected that they exhaust all possible positions along the above mentioned continuum extending through the zero. Thus they provide for a quantitative measure of the individual's relative position along a unidimensional continuum. Special procedures have been devised in an attempt to achieve comparability of scores from scale to scale, equality of distances between scale units and unidimensionality or homogeneity of items.

According to Anastasi¹ Thurstone's adaptation of psychological methods to the quantification of judgment data represents an important milestone in attitude scale construction. By these procedures, Thurstone and his co-workers prepared about thirty scales, for measuring attitudes toward war, communism, Negroes, Chinese, capital punishment, the church, patriotism, censorship and many other institutions, practices, issues or groups of people.

¹ Anastasi, Anne, Psychological Testing, (New York: Macmillan Co., 1957), P. 583.

In the 1920's Thurstone published two important articles in which he developed his law of comparative judgment. The statement of the law of comparative judgment was important because it provided a rationale for the ordering of stimuli along a psychological continuum, even in those cases where there is no known physical continuum to which the values of the stimuli on the psychological continuum might be related. The law of comparative judgment has thus made possible the quantitative investigation of all kinds of values and subjective experiences.¹ Since Thurstone's original contribution, new methods for the scaling of stimuli have been developed and Thurstone himself remained an important contributor to these methods and to their application to psychological problems. It is these methods which are now popularly known as psychological scaling methods, since the interest is no longer in relating the scale values of stimuli on a psychological continuum to those on a physical continuum, but rather in the psychological scale values themselves.

In spite of the law of comparative judgment, the question of assigning the scale values to the items presented itself as a subtle and complicated issue. In the beginning Thurstone adopted the method of paired comparisons where a selected sample was made to compare

¹ Edwards, A.L., Techniques of Attitude Scale Construction. (New York: Appleton Century Crofts, Inc., 1957), P.20.

every possible pair of the statements, leading to $n(n-1)/2$ such comparisons. It was on the strength of such summed up comparisons that it was possible to assign a numerical score to each statement. Soon another method of equal appearing intervals was devised which was more suitable, when the number of items involved (to be judged) was large. Here the selected sample had to compare and rate every item separately and on averaging these judgments the scale values were assigned to items.

A scale thus constructed with fixed quantifications, when administered, enabled the researcher to assign a specific position to any individual, along the continuous extent of the scale, depending upon his agreement with the items of his choice. The median value of such statements thus agreed was considered to be the position of the individual's attitude.

Recent investigators are not only interested in the valence of the attitude in general, but also in the intercorrelations between the various components of the attitude. Some are even interested in the multiplexity aspect. In a study by Adorno et al.¹ "The Authoritarian Personality", an anti-semitic scale that was developed, was made up of a number of sub-scales. Some sub-scales tapped the valence of the cognitive components whereas

¹ Adorno, T.W., Frenkel, B.E., Levinson, D.J. and Sandford, R.N., The Authoritarian Personality. (New York : Harper, 1950).

some others refer to the action tendencies. The investigators found that correlations between these two sets of sub-scales ranged from 0.74 to 0.84 indicating a high degree of consistency between all the components.

The correlations, however, should not be taken at the face value, because the same item form was used to measure the two components. Cronbach¹ has shown that when subjects respond to questionnaires composed of items of the same form, 'Response Sets' are induced which lead subjects to respond in a more consistent manner than they would if the questionnaire were made up of items of differing forms.

In a study by Mackenzie² where items on different forms were used to measure the action tendency and the cognitive components of attitudes toward the Negroes, correlations were not found to be so high.

It may be expected to find a greater consistency among attitude components at the extremes of the valence continuum. In a study by Bettelheim and Janowitz³ concerning the prejudice toward the Negroes and Jews,

¹ Cronbach, L.J., "Response Sets and Test Validity". Educational and Psychological Measurements (1946), V.6, Pp. 475-494.

² Mackenzie, B.K., "The Importance of Contact in Determining Attitudes Toward Negroes", J. Abnorm & Soc., Psychol. (1948), V. 43, Pp. 417-441.

³ Bettelheim, B. and Janowitz, M. Dynamics of Prejudice: A Psychological and Sociological Study of Veterans. (New York : Harper, 1950)

based upon intensive interviews with 150 World War II veterans living in Chicago, the above statement seems to be supported. Veterans holding violent or outspoken antisemitic attitudes perceived the Jew in a highly unfavourable light, disliked him intensely, and were in favour of taking strong repressive measures against him.

Concerning the question of the tendency toward consistency among the three attitude components in their degree of multiplexity there appears to be little in the way of empirical evidence. Attempts to develop scales to measure the multiplexity of the components of an attitude seem to be comparatively of a recent origin. Ulf Himmelstrand,¹ a Swedish sociologist at the University of Upsala has attempted to develop a scale to measure attitudes towards democracy. He tries to measure the degree of cognitive differentiation or multiplexity of an attitude. Otherwise most of the attitude scales are concerned only with the measurement of valence.

Considering the above types of studies, it would be proper to make provision in the measurement of attitudes for an independent expression of the behavioural tendencies apart from the other components.

¹ Himmelstrand, U. Social Pressures, Attitudes and Democratic Processes, (Stockholms, Almqvist and Wiksell, 1960), Quoted by Krech, Crutchfield and Bellachey, Individual in Society, (New York : McGraw Hill, 1962), Pp. 141-144.

2.4 SUMMARY

Looking to the special importance and significance of the problem to our society today, due to the changes in the social atmosphere and the heralding of a new technological epoch in the culture, the position of the aged does not seem to be secure as it was in the former times. Under these circumstances, to decide the type of treatment the aged receive at the hands of young, the measurement of the attitude of the young toward the aged is necessary.

It is presumed that the attitude of the young, in general, will be favourable and the behavioural tendencies will be still more favourable due to the cultural pressures. It is also assumed that the degree of favourability of the attitude will be related to some important variables like age, education and sex of the young. A further hypothesis is made that the different areas of adjustment covered up by the attitude will be independent of one another. The last hypothesis is that old age is a critical stage of development, related to the attitudes of the young expressed toward the aged.

The major concepts of old, young, attitude and measurement have been discussed and it is seen that a provision for an independent measurement for the behavioural tendencies of the youth is necessary.