



Assessment of the elderlies who live in city center of Manisa/Turkey attitudes towards young people

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General Note



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ABSTRACT

The attitudes of young generation towards being elderly and ageing and the attitudes of the elderly towards ageing and being elderly have been investigated in many scientific studies. There are limited number of studies that evaluate the attitudes of the elderly towards young individuals. The purpose of this study was to assess the elderlies who live in Central Manisa, Turkey attitudes

towards young people. This descriptive and cross-sectional study was conducted with 379 elderlies live in city center of Manisa, Turkey (n=379). The data were collected by a demographic questionnaire and Attitude Scale towards Young People. Independent sample t test, Oneway-ANOVA, Pearson' correlation analysis were used in statistical analysis. The mean age of elderlies were 72.7 ± 6.9 (65-95) years, 52.5% were male. The elderlies' mean scores of Attitude Scale towards Young People were found 166.9 ± 19.7 (111.0-236.0). There was a statistically significant difference between total Attitude Scale towards Young People score, gender, marital status, having children and grandchildren. The results of this study show that the elderlies have a negative attitude towards young people. However, the elderlies having more children and grandchildren than another and divorced or widowed, and female have more positive attitudes towards young people.

Keywords: Elderly, youth, attitudes

Abbreviations: ANOVA - one way analysis of variance

1. INTRODUCTION

Social ageing, which has become the source of many social, political and economic problems, is considered as the most important problem of 21st Century for Turkey. Although our country still holds its position as the country with the youngest population in Europe, it has started to experience a fast ageing process with a fast demographic change. Despite the increasing rate of the aged population in general population, the elderly constitutes a "minority group" that is dependent on young generations (Kilicci, 1998; Uslu, 2011; Tufan, 2017).

The World Health Organization (WHO) prepared an Action Plan to resolve the old-age problems in 2002. In the Ageing Action Plan 2002, there is the title "Preparation of supportive environments that provide the elderly with various opportunities". It must be ensured that this group can follow the developments in the world by providing them with access to information, education and training opportunities. It is necessary that the communication of the aged group with younger generations is increased in a way that is based on solidarity and equation. The United Nations International Old-age Action Plan (MIPAA) was accepted in 2002, and depending on this, the European Region Action Plan was prepared. European Union nominated the year 2012 as the "Active Ageing and Intergeneration Solidarity" in memory of the 10th anniversary of this important development. The year 2012 was announced as the "Intergeneration Solidarity and active Ageing Year" in Europe (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Policy General Directorate for Disabled and Elderly Services, 2012).

The expectation of young and old generations living together is not a new one. The importance of intergenerational relation has always been emphasized in every age, and the importance of it has been widely accepted. Today, it is an expectation with increased importance due to the increased lifetime (Tufan, 2017). The mutual interaction that happens when generations come together ensures that social values, traditions and innovations are transferred among generations. It strengthens the continuity of the society, which is considered as a whole. The understanding and realization of the roles that are the most proper ones for the society from childhood to adulthood happens through intergenerational communication. The ongoing decrease and the resulting elimination of the interaction between generations due to financial liabilities and social changes causes that the conflicting values within the society develop even more. There might appear "labeling" each other with various nasty attributes and stereotyped judgments might appear among the individuals who do not understand each other. On the other hand, knowing the other individual will decrease prejudice and lead people to understand each other (Canatan, 2008). To establish relations between younger generations and the elderly individuals, it must be realized that the following issues are determined and defined; what effects do the elderly have on young generation with which behaviors; what effects do young generation have on the elderly with which behaviors; and it must be ensured that both generations develop a realistic sensitivity. In this way, the unity and togetherness between young generations and the elderly may be ensured (Kilicci, 1998). The attitudes of young generation towards being elderly and ageing (Soyuer et al, 2010; Vefikuluçay-Yılmaz & Terzioğlu, 2011; Adibelli et al, 2013; Yılmaz & Ozkan, 2010) and the attitudes of the elderly towards ageing and being elderly (Ron, 2007) have been investigated in many scientific studies. There are limited number of studies that evaluate the attitudes of the elderly towards young individuals (Arkonac, 1999; Suna et al, 2013; Kıpçak & Dedeli, 2016). The purpose of this study was to assess the elderlies who live in Central Manisa, Turkey attitudes towards young people.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study employed a descriptive and cross-sectional design and the data was collected from 11 Family Health Centers in City Center of Manisa, Turkey (West Anatolian) between December 2014 and December 2015. The research population was made up of 26345 individuals who were 65 years of age and older (N=26345). Odds ratio was used to determine strength of association and was reported with 95% confidence interval. Level of significance for this study was 5%. The minimum required sample size of 379 was obtained by using OpenEpi. The study included 379 volunteers who were 65 years or older, who had sound aural and verbal faculties, who were fit enough to answer. Participants were presented Family Health Centers. A demographic questionnaire and Attitude Scale towards Young People (ASTYP) were used the data gathering. In face-to-face interviews, the demographic questionnaire and ASTYP were filled by the second researcher. Each interview took approximately 30 minutes.

2.1. The demographic questionnaire

The demographic questionnaire included 17 questions about social demographic characteristics (i.e. age, gender, marital status, education level, income, insurance) was designed by researchers (Suna et al, 2013; Kipcak & Dedeli, 2016).

2.2. Attitude Scale towards Young People

The scale was developed by Suna et al (2013) in order to measure adults' attitudes towards young people which consisted of 52-item and 2 dimensions (positive and negative attitudes). The response categories were "1=strongly disagree," "2 = disagree," "3 =undecided," "4=agree," and "5 = strongly agree." Scores were ranged from 100 to 280. The positive attitudes dimension' higher scores indicate a positive attitude towards young people, the negative attitudes dimension' higher scores indicate a negative attitude towards young people. Cronbach's alpha of the positive attitudes dimension and the negative attitudes dimension were .92, .91, respectively (Suna et al, 2013). Kipcak & Dedeli (2016) was stated that valid and reliable scale for measuring elderly' attitudes towards young people. It was demonstrated that Cronbach's alpha of the positive attitudes dimension and the negative attitudes dimension were found .79, .73, respectively for the ASTYP. The scale is well-documented, and norm values for a Turkish population are available (Suna et al, 2013; Kipcak & Dedeli, 2016). In the present study, Cronbach's alpha of the positive attitudes dimension and the negative attitudes dimension were found .86, .83, respectively for the ASTYP.

2.3. Statistical analysis

Statistical evaluation of the data was performed via Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 16.0) soft-ware on computers; social-demographic characteristics and scores of scales were examined using arithmetic averages and standard deviation (SD). Independent sample t test, ANOVA, and Pearson's correlation analysis were used in statistical analysis. A two-tailed *p*-value less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

2.4. Ethical approval

This study protocol was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Celal Bayar University Faculty of Medicine at Manisa, Turkey and Republic of Turkey Ministry of Health Manisa Public Health Directorate as well as. Participants were informed about the aim and nature of the study. The study was initiated upon receiving the approval and consent form of the planned participants.

3. RESULTS

The average age of the elderlies was 72.7±6.9 (minimum-maximum: 65-95) years, and the most of the study participants were retired (58.6%) and male (52.5%). The social-demographic characteristics among elderlies are shown in the Table 1.

Table 1 The socio-demographic variables among elderlies (n=379)

Variables	n	%
Gender		
Female	180	47.5
Male	199	52.5

Marital status		
Married	124	32.7
Single	79	20.8
Divorced/ spouse was died	176	46.4
Education status		
Literate	94	24.8
Primary school	215	56.7
High school	41	10.8
University and postgraduate education (MSc, PhD)	29	7.7
Retired		
Yes	222	58.6
No	157	41.4
Income		
Low	139	36.7
Moderate	207	54.6
High	33	8.7
Health Insurance		
Yes	297	78.4
No	82	21.6
Number of child		
None	107	28.2
1-4	213	56.2
5 and above	59	15.6
Number of grandson		
None	114	30.1
1-4	139	36.7
5 and above	126	33.2
People living together		
Alone	50	13.2
With spouse	216	57.0
Spouse and children	82	21.6
Children	19	5.0
Children and grandson	12	3.2

When they were asked about meaning of youth, their responses included beauty, niceness (14.7%), health, my years with healthy (17.4%), my active years (13.1%), rude, disrespectful (22.1%), lazy, incompetent (20.0%), aware, sensible (10.5%), irresponsible (16.6%).

Total ASTYP score was found to be 166.9 ± 19.7 (minimum-maximum: 111.0-236.0) among elderlies. Table 2 presents mean scores of ASTYP.

Table 2 Mean scores Attitude Scale Towards Young People (n=379)

Attitude Scale Towards Young People and Subscales	Min-Max Score	Mean \pm SD*
Positive attitudes	60.0-143.0	98.7 \pm 12.7
Negative attitudes	46.0-98.0	68.1 \pm 7.6

Total ASTYP

111.0-236.0

166.9±19.7

Note:*SD=Standart Deviation

Relationships among age, total ASTYP score, positive attitudes score, and negative attitudes score were defined to be respectively, total ASTYP score ($r=0.10$ $p=0.06$), positive attitudes score $r=0.08$ $p=0.08$, and negative attitudes score ($r=0.11$ $p=0.02$). A positive significant correlation was observed between age and negative attitudes score. But, there was no significant correlation among age, total ASTYP score, and positive attitudes score. These findings indicated that higher age was associated with higher negative attitudes towards young people.

Comparison of the elderies' scores with various individual characteristics are presented in Table 3. There was statistically significant differences between total ASTYP score, positive attitudes score, negative attitudes score, and gender, but there was no significant differences between total ASTYP score, positive attitudes score, negative attitudes score, and retired, health insurance. Accordingly, gender indicated significant influence in terms of positive attitudes towards young people ($p<0.05$). In addition, there were statistically significant differences between total ASTYP score, positive attitudes score, negative attitudes score, and marital status, number of child, number of grandson, yet there was no significant differences between total ASTYP score, positive attitudes score, negative attitudes score, and income, education status, people living together. Accordingly, marital status, and number of grandson, number of child indicated significant influence in terms of positive attitudes towards young people ($p<0.05$).

Table 3 Comparison of Attitude Scale towards Young People Scores with various elderies' characteristics

Variable	n	%	Total ASTYP Mean±SD*	Positive attitudes Mean±SD*	Negative attitudes Mean±SD*
Gender					
Male	199	52.5	163.6±14.2	96.6±9.5	69.3±9.5
Female	180	47.5	170.4±24.0	101.0±15.2	67.0±5.3
Statistics and significance			t=3.3 p=0.00	t=3.4 p=0.00	t=3.0 p=0.00
Health insurance					
Yes	297	78.4	167.5±20.8	99.2±13.4	68.3±8.0
No	82	21.6	164.3±15.3	96.9±9.8	67.4±6.0
Statistics and significance			t=1.3 p=0.19	t=1.4 p=0.14	t=0.8 p=0.29
Retired					
Yes	222	58.6	167.9±21.3	99.2±13.6	68.6±8.1
No	157	41.4	165.4±17.3	98.0±11.4	67.3±6.8
Statistics and significance			t=1.1 p=0.23	t=0.87 p=0.38	t=1.6 p=0.10
Marital status					
Married	124	32.7	166.3±21.9	98.5±14.5	67.7±8.3
Single	79	20.8	158.4±16.7	93.3±10.7	69.7±7.2
Divorced/spous was died	176	46.4	171.0±18.2	101.3±11.4	65.1±6.4
Statistics and significance			F=11.4 p=0.00	F=11.3 p=0.00	F=10.3 p=0.00

Income					
Low	139	36.7	165.9±16.1	98.1±10.1	67.7±6.6
Moderate	207	54.6	168.0±21.9	99.6±14.0	68.3±8.4
High	33	8.7	163.6±19.7	95.3±13.6	66.0±7.0
Statistics and significance			F=0.96 p=0.38	F=0.29 p=0.87	F=0.36 p=0.83
Number of child					
0	107	28.2	162.9±14.6	96.00±9.3	69.1±8.1
1-4	213	56.2	162.9±19.7	96.2±12.9	66.9±8.5
5 and above	59	15.6	169.9±21.2	100.0±13.7	65.1±5.1
Statistics and significance			F=5.99 p=0.00	F=6.65 p=0.00	F=4.19 p=0.01
Number of grandson					
0	114	30.1	163.3±14.6	96.2±9.3	69.3±9.6
1-4	139	36.7	166.1±17.8	98.3±12.2	67.0±6.4
5 and above	126	33.2	170.5±24.1	101.1±12.2	65.5±5.7
Statistics and significance			F=4.43 p=0.01	F=4.86 p=0.00	F=3.12 p=0.04
People living together					
Alone	50	13.2	167.2±27.2	97.9±16.6	69.2±11.2
With spouse	216	57.0	166.6±19.0	98.6±12.4	67.9±7.3
Spouse and children	82	21.6	166.8±17.9	98.9±12.1	67.9±6.1
Children	19	5.0	170.3±18.2	101.5±10.6	68.8±7.7
Children and grandson	12	3.2	165.7±5.7	97.6±3.2	68.0±2.8
Statistics and significance			F=0.16 p=0.95	F=0.29 p=0.87	F=0.36 p=0.83
Educational status	94	24.8			
Literate	215	56.7	166.3±10.4	98.5±7.0	67.8±4.5
Primary school	41	10.8	167.4±19.4	99.1±3.0	68.2±7.1
High school	29	7.7	168.0±23.1	97.6±3.8	66.7±9.4
University and postgraduate education (MSc, PhD)			166.9±19.7	96.1±1.4	69.7±11.5
Statistics and significance			F=1.60 p=0.15	F=1.64 p=0.14	F=1.52 p=0.18

Note: *SD=Standart Deviation

When the elderlies' total ASTYP scores were applied to the multiple regression analysis as the criterion variable gender, marital status, number of grandson and number of child, it was found to be $R^2=59.3$ $p=0.00$. The first predictor variable was gender ($\beta=0.35$ $p=0.00$), the second predictor variable was marital status ($\beta=0.29$ $p=0.00$), the third predictor variable was number of grandson ($\beta=0.28$ $p=0.00$), and the fourth predictor variable was number of child ($\beta=0.27$ $p=0.00$).

4. DISCUSSION

Fast social changes are that occurred worldwide and in our country influence the daily lifestyle especially in metropolitan cities. As a natural result of this change, uncertainty and conflicts appear between the traditional one and the modern one. The change in the socio-economic conditions and in the roles of women in metropolitan cities may cause that old and wide families are replaced by

elementary family. This situation may change the dimensions like the respect for the elderly, caretaking of the elderly and supporting them within the family (Arkonac, 1999). As a result of this acceleration in social changes, the differentiation between generations has become more visible, and caused that it is handled as a phenomenon. The conflict and differentiation between the old and young generations also affected their perception, attitude and behavior patterns (Suna et al, 2013). The attitudes of young people towards the elderly and ageing (Soyuer et al, 2010; Vefikuluçay-Yılmaz & Terzioğlu, 2011; Adibelli et al, 2013; Yılmaz & Ozkan, 2010) and the attitudes of the elderly towards being old and ageing (Ron, 2007) have been evaluated in many scientific studies. There are limited number of studies that investigate the attitudes of the elderly towards young people (Arkonac, 1999; Suna et al, 2013; Kıpçak & Dedeli, 2016). For this reason, the findings of our study in which we investigated the attitudes of the elderly towards young people could only be compared with limited number of studies in the literature.

According to the Statistical Institution on Turkey 2017 data, the number of the old women living alone (76.7%) is more than the number of the old men living alone (23.3%), (Turkish Statistical Institute News Bulletin, 2016). Although the majority of our study group consisted of men whose wives had dies or were divorced, very few of them lived alone. This situation could be explained with the fact that the majority of the elderly people lived with their wives or children. In another study conducted with Kıpçak & Dedeli (2016) at the nursing homes in Manisa, Turkey, it was also reported that the majority of the sampling group consisted of the elderly who were male and whose wives had dies or were divorced. That is, the socio-demographical properties of the elderly individuals who participated in our study were similar to those of the study conducted with Kıpçak & Dedeli (2016).

Arankoc (1999) investigated that the age stereotypes in young and old adults, and stated that the elderly considered young people as being fast, agile, energetic, active and enthusiastic; but meanwhile, they also defined that young people were snob, rebellious, adventurous, free, frivolous, brat, acting in an impatient manner, non-traditional, noisy and clownish. In another study, the elderly defined young people with the words like "goodness, health, happiness, love, beauty, future, joy, excitement, success, energy, power, irresponsible, not thinking about the future, spoilt, lazy, unthoughtful, disrespectful" (Kıpçak & Dedeli, 2016).

When they were asked about meaning of youth, their responses included beauty, niceness, health, my years with healthy, my active years, rude, disrespectful, lazy, incompetent, aware, sensible, irresponsible. This finding indicated that the definitions of the elderly who participated in our study were more negative. The increase in the communicating between communities, TV, Internet and similar means of communication being used by any individual from any background ensured that the change in the society occurred in a faster manner. Young people have the opportunity of learning new developments and technologies in a faster manner than the elderly. In addition, in interpreting the learnt knowledge, it is possible to claim that young people are more flexible than the elderly. When the fact that newly-learnt knowledge may cause wrong behavioral changes is considered, it is possible to claim that the behavioral change of young people may occur in a faster manner than in the elderly. For this reason, young people having different behaviors than the elderly might affect the perceptions and attitudes of both groups and cause problems (Kutlu, 2002).

Although the factors that define the general attitude of the society towards young people vary to some extent among societies, it is known that the basic sources that form the attitude are similar to each other. Young people think in general that the society has a negative attitude towards them, and claim that this attitude causes that they feel as a marginal group being excluded. Young people associate this negative situation with the differences in their general appearances, clothing styles, and state that the society makes decisions with superficial knowledge instead of listening and trying to understand them. These judgments, which are obtained without sufficient personal interaction, are reflected in the negative attitudes towards young people, and therefore, the interaction between the elderly and young people is decreasing (Suna et al, 2013).

It is considered important that the elderly, who have an important place in the transfer of the culture and values of the society to future generation, and young people, who are considered as the pioneers of the social change and transformations, have positive attitudes for each other in terms of ensuring the intergenerational interaction and cooperation. In our study, in which the attitudes of the elderly towards the young was evaluated with ASTYP, it was observed when the scores received by the elderly from the scale were compared with the results of similar studies that their scores were low in the total scale score and in positive attitude sub-dimension; and the score received from the negative attitude scale were high (Suna et al, 2013; Kıpçak & Dedeli, 2016). These findings revealed that the elderly had negative attitudes towards the young. As people go older, some changes may occur in people in psychological terms. The increasing nostalgia with each passing day, and the distance between the generations increasing may be defined as the symptoms of the changes observed in the elderly in spiritual terms. Although "the old one" is always a deeply-desired wish for the elderly, the world is going bad with each passing day, and the young generation is spoilt in moral terms for the elderly, who cannot adopt themselves to these modern happenings. The elderly, who have such feelings, exclude themselves from the outer world, and become an introvert person. The elderly being introvert and living such a life may guide them to act in an ego-centric manner. It is possible to observe the following characteristics in the elderly who act in an ego-centric manner; not caring for

someone else other than himself/herself; loving only himself/herself; decrease in the desire and strength to live; decrease in the similar feelings and quality changes may be observed (Karakas Asi & Durmaz, 2017).

We found that a positive significant correlation was observed between age and negative attitudes score. This finding indicated that higher age was associated with higher negative attitudes towards young people. It could be explained that the old-age psychopathology reported in the literature. Old-age psychopathology is defined with three basic points, which are; egoism, excessive devotion to the old one, and being afraid of the new one. The first symptom of old-age is the increase in the nostalgia, and the growing distance between the individual and the young generation. According to the elderly, the future of the young is dark, because they do not work. The younger individuals do not have respect for the elderly. Nobody knows their background or future (Koc, 2002). According to some authors, the most important factors that decrease the interaction between the adults and the young are the fact that although young people establish close relations with their families and friends, they have some drawbacks in terms of trust in other people; they have changing thinking styles when compared with the past, and the adults stay away from establishing relations with the young, and only observe them from a distance (Park et al, 2004). In a previous study stated that the adults consider the young as being problematic, ego-centric, adventurous, and extrovert; and it was pointed out that adults assess young people by referring to their youth in forming these thoughts. The beliefs of young individuals in being able to direct their own future during their identity crisis in teenage years, their trust in themselves, and being open to innovations may make adults become concerned (Kipcak & Dedeli, 2016).

In the current study, it was found to be statistically significant differences between total ASTYP score, positive attitudes score, negative attitudes score, and gender. With regard to gender indicated significant influence in terms of positive attitudes towards young people. That is, the elderly women had more positive attitudes towards young people. It could be explained with the fact that elderly women living in their homes or staying with their children and undertake the role of grandmother-grandfather.

In the present study, statistically significant differences was found between the number of the child and total ASTYP score, positive attitudes score, negative attitudes score. Accordingly, number of child indicated significant influence in terms of positive attitudes towards young people. These findings indicated that the elderly who have 5 and above child had more positive attitudes. Contrary to the elderly who have no child had more negative attitudes. Besides, there was a statistically significant difference between total ASTYP score, positive attitudes score, negative attitudes score, and the number of the grandson. With respect to, the number of the grandson indicated significant influence in terms of positive attitudes towards young people. It could be indicated that the elderly who are in more interaction with their children and grandson have more positive attitudes towards young generation. In a study conducted by Scotland Children's and Youth Commission (2007), the attitudes of an adult group (n=1093) towards young people were analyzed and it was determined that the general attitudes of the adults were negative. It was pointed out that the attitudes of the group that were in interaction with young people were more positive. In the same study, it was also determined that the most important barriers between adults and young people were being harmed by young people, being afraid of the perceived strength of young people, and the inclination to act in a hot-tempered manner (Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, 2007). In another study, the attitudes of teachers, police officers, youth workers, the elderly, parents, government officials, members of NGOs, and businessmen towards young people were analyzed. It was determined that the attitudes of the society were in two ways as positive and negative. It was also reported that the profession groups that were in constant interaction with young people were more positive. It was also found out in the same study that the professional groups that are not in interaction with young people have negative attitudes towards young people because of the negative news in the media (Bolzan, 2003).

We found that a statistically significant differences between total ASTYP score, positive attitudes score, negative attitudes score, and marital status. Accordingly, marital status indicated significant influence in terms of positive attitudes towards young people. It could be explained that the elderly whose spouses had died or who were divorced had more positive attitudes towards young people. Losing spouse in the elderly is an important psycho-social problem. Especially losing the spouse with whom the individual has lived for years causes that depressive symptoms increase. On the other hand, good relations with close relations like children and grandchildren is an important reason for emotional satisfaction.²² After the loss of a loved one, the elderly can establish his/her life anew through new connections and relations. During this construction period, it is known that social support and social network play important roles (Bildik, 2010). Therefore, the elderly who participated in our study had positive attitudes due to the social support they receive from their children and grandchildren and are aware of the fact that they sustain their generation through their children and grandchildren. After losing the spouse, the question of where to live the rest of the life and with whom may be the item of the agenda for the elderly. In traditional societies, it is accepted that the care of the elderly being taken by their children is an important norm or value in terms of cultural values system. The increasing responsibilities of the women at work and at home due to the entering of women to the work life in developing or developed countries have caused that the caretaking role of women

changed. This situation also changed the interaction between the children and grandchildren and the elderly. These fast and social changes make it easy to accept “the use of living alone by the elderly and the use of preference in this way” as a positive value. Although living alone or being placed in an institution causes some difficulties for the elderly, it is known that they do not want to disrupt the lifestyle of their children or want to live in their own living environment in an autonomous way (Öz, 2002). It is considered that the elderly want to be together with their peers and cannot get on well with young people. However, it is possible that the elderly transfer his/her experiences to young people and young people “renew” the elderly. The bodily energy and dynamism of young people become merged with the wisdom of the elderly and a more productive and creative society may be achieved. When the elderly people in the family are perceived as a precious individual whose experience is made use of and who is loved and respected, a child who is being raised in such an environment will learn this and this may be transferred to new generations (Öz, 2002). In addition to these, the elderly will be able to know young people and have positive attitudes towards them by living together with them.

It is estimated that the elderly population will surpass the young population until late 21st century in the whole world. One of the sociological problems that have been caused by a biological phenomenon is the issue of whether there will exist a solidarity between the generations (Tufan, 2017). The aim of the “Ageing 2002 International Action Plan” released in the 2002 National Assembly was explained as “guaranteeing the ageing and living of people everywhere to live as citizens with all rights” (Aslan & Ertem, 2012). For this reason, this issue is not a problem merely of geriatric specialists who works in this field, a nurse, social services specialists, psychologists and physiotherapists, but it is also the concern of architects, engineers, ergonomists, and similar occupational groups. When the studies in the literature conducted on the elderlies’ attitudes towards the elderly and ageing (Kutlu, 2002; Ron, 2007; Ozyurt-Cengiz et al, 2013), the society and healthcare professionals’ attitudes towards the elderly (Unalan et al, 2013; Dedeli et al, 2013), young people’ attitudes towards ageing and the elderly (Soyuer et al, 2010; Vefikuluçay-Yılmaz & Terzioğlu, 2011; Adibelli et al, 2013; Yılmaz & Ozkan, 2010) have been evaluated. These studies claimed that the attitudes towards the elderly and ageing were generally in positive way. There are limited number of studies in the literature that assess the attitudes of the elderly towards young people. Of course, there are some limitations in our study. The results of this study may not generalised the community because of the small sample size and only province. However, our study could contribute to a field in the literature that has limited sources on this topic. It is considered that the findings of our study that was conducted to analyze the attitudes of the elderly towards young people will be guiding in scientific studies and projects that will be designed to develop the relations between the elderly and young people.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we found that the elderly had negative attitudes towards the young people. Although the general attitudes of the elderly were negative, the attitudes of those, who had more children and grandson, whose wives had died or were divorced, and those participants who were women, were positive.

In the context of these findings the following are recommended;

- Forming programs and environments where the elderly can come together with their children and grandchildren and spend time;
- Projects may be designed to make the elderly, who do not have children or grandchildren, sustain their communications with the young with social interactions
- Educational programs and discussion program may be organized in mass communication means to change the negative attitudes and prejudices of the elderly and the young about each other.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

- 1.The elderlies have negative attitudes towards young people.
- 2.The elderlies, however, having more children and grandchildren than another and divorced or widowed, and female have more positive attitudes towards young people.

FUTURE ISSUES

It is suggested that appropriate environment should be created to increase elderly can come together with young people and the projects should be designed to make the elderly, sustain their communications with the young with social interactions.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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