Determining Y – And Z-Generations' Discrimination and Attitudes Toward The Elderly

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Abstract

Objective: This study intends to specify the behavior of people from generations Y and Z regarding their discrimination against elderly people.

Methods: The participants were 261 members of generation Y and 240 from generation Z who voluntarily participated in the study. The data of the study were collected using the following tools: "Descriptive Feature Form," "The Ageism Attitude Scale," and "An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness."

Results: In the study, it was determined that the total score average of the Ageism Attitude Scale was 86.02 ± 11.45 for people born in Generation Y and 86.19 ± 12.39 for people born in Generation Z. It was determined that the total score average of the Attitude Scale towards Old Age and Aging was 137.21 ± 33.81 for people born in Generation Y and 138.60 ± 32.65 for people born in Generation Z, and it was observed that the average scores were close to each other and the difference between them was not statistically significant ($p>.05$). In the study, it was determined that there was a statistically significant difference between marital status, education, income, presence of chronic disease and working in elderly care according to the average scores of the "Ageism Attitude Scale". In the study, it was determined that there was a statistically significant difference between occupation and the desire to live in the same house with the elderly, according to the average scores of the "Attitude Scale Towards Old Age and Aging".

Conclusion: These results indicate that there are no significant differences in general attitudes between generations; however, factors such as marital status, education, income, presence of chronic illness, profession, and willingness to live with the elderly were found to have a significant impact. The study highlights the need to develop social and educational policies that focus on these influential factors to improve attitudes toward aging and the elderly.

Keywords: Attitude, Nurse, Generation, Aged, Aging

Öz

Y ve Z Kuşağındaki Kişilerin Yaşlı Ayrımcılığı ve Yaşlanmaya İlişkin Tutumlarının Belirlenmesi

Amaç: Bu çalışma Y ve Z kuşağındaki kişilerin yaşlı ayrımcılığı ve yaşlanmaya ilişkin tutumlarını belirlemek amacıyla yapılmıştır.

Metod: Tanımlayıcı türde olan araştırma Y kuşağında doğan 261 kişi, Z kuşağında doğan 240 kişi ile tamamlanmıştır. Araştırmanın verileri "Tanımlayıcı Özellik Formu", "Yaşlı Ayrımcılığı Tutum Ölçeği" ve "Yaşlılık ve Yaşlanmaya İlişkin Tutum Ölçeği" kullanılarak toplanmıştır.

Bulgular: Araştırmada, Yaşlı Ayrımcılığı Tutum Ölçeği toplam puan ortalamasının, Y kuşağında doğan kişilerde 86.02 ± 11.45, Z kuşağında doğan kişilerde ise 86.19 ± 12.39 olduğu saptanmıştır. Yaşlılık ve Yaşlanmaya İlişkin Tutum Ölçeği toplam puan ortalamasının Y kuşağında doğan kişilerde 137.21 ± 33.81, Z kuşağında doğan kişilerde ise 138.60 ± 32.65 olduğu saptanmış olup puan ortalamalarının birbirine yakın olduğu ve aralarındaki farkın istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olmadığı görülmüştür ($p>.05$). Araştırmada "Yaşlı Ayrımcılığı Tutum Ölçeği (YATÖ)" puan ortalamalarına göre medeni durum, eğitim, gelir kronik hastalık varlığı ve yaşlı bakımında çalışma durumları arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu saptanmıştır. Araştırmada "Yaşlılık ve Yaşlanmaya İlişkin Tutum Ölçeği (YYTÖ)" puan ortalamalarına göre meslek ve yaşlı ile aynı evde yaşama isteği arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu saptanmıştır.

Sonuç: Bu sonuçlar, kuşaklar arasında genel tutumlarda önemli bir farklılık olmadığını, ancak medeni durum, eğitim, gelir, kronik hastalık varlığı, meslek ve yaşlılarla yaşama isteği gibi faktörlerden anlamlı şekilde etkilendiği saptanmıştır. Çalışma, yaşlılık ve yaşlanmaya dair tutumların iyileştirilmesi için sosyal ve eğitim politikalarının, özellikle etkili bulunan faktörlere odaklanarak geliştirilmesi gerektiğini işaret etmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ayrımcılık, Hemşire, Kuşak, Tutum, Yaşlı

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INTRODUCTION

Globally, falling birth rates and the gradually increasing elderly population have increased interest in elderliness and problems that arise from old age (Kılıç, 2019). The World Health Organization defines individuals aged 65 years and above as elderly (World Health Organization, 2020) and there are currently nearly 600 million who are defined as such. The main share of this growing elderly population is expected to be in developing countries such as Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute(TUIK), 2019). While the population of people aged 65 years and above in Turkey was 6,192,962, this figure reached 7,550,727 in 2019; in other words, while the elderly constituted 8.0% of the Turkish total population in 2014, it increased to 9.1% in 2019 (Başpınar et al., 2020).

With advancing age and health problems, social and psychological problems can also be lived through. For the elderly, these problems create more individual challenges (Uysal et al., 2020); as the requirements of the elderly increase in terms of chronic diseases, and physical, social, psychological, and similar areas, their need for healthcare also increases. Additionally, discrimination against the elderly, which affects people living in each field, is also on the rise (Uysal et al., 2020).

The concept of age discrimination refers to attitudes against elderly persons. In the literature, these three concepts are often evaluated together (Yılmaz& Terzioğlu 2011; Başpınar et al., 2020) in three forms: positive, negative, and neutral (Sevim, 2019; Üstün & Taş, 2021; Göktaş, 2021). One study showed that youngsters who have more interactions with elderly people have more positive views (Karaağaç et al., 2019), whereas another study has shown that participants have a somewhat negative attitude toward elderliness and becoming older. For this reason, elderliness and becoming older are perceived differently in each segment (Kurtkapan, 2020).

Lower mentioned that generations have unique powerful or weak aspects, attitudes, and value judgments (Lower, 2008). As a result of elderly people being confronted with various problems in the community, the concept of elderly discrimination has become more evident. While conducting a literature review, we found that most studies focused on generational attitudes toward elderliness and elderly discrimination concepts (Sevim, 2019; Karaağaç et al., 2019; Kurtkapan, 2020; Göktaş, 2021). It is always possible for men to discriminate against women, young people against old people, members of the same religion against other religious groups. This is an indication that factors such as gender, race, age, etc. affect individual attitudes significantly. From this point of view, this study examines the behavior of people from generations Y and Z regarding their discrimination against elderly people.

Research Questions:

1. What is the average score of people in Generation Y and Z on the Ageism Attitude Scale and its sub-dimensions?

2. What is the average score of people in Generation Y and Z on the An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness?

3. Are the Ageism Attitude Scale mean scores of people in generation Y and Z different according to the independent variables?

4. Are the mean scores of the An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness of people in generation Y and Z different according to the independent variables?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Type of Research

This research focuses on the elderly discrimination of people of generation Y and Z and aging it was done in descriptive-comparative type in order to determine their attitudes.

The Variables of the Research

Independent Variables: descriptive characteristics of people in generation Y and Z it creates independent variables.

Dependent Variables: Aging and aging of individuals in generation Y and Z related attitude scale and elderly discrimination attitude scale sub-dimensions and total score the averages are to form the dependent variables.

Settings of the Study

This research is among the people covering the Y and Z generations living in Erzurum. It was carried out online. November 2020 – December 2021 research has been done.

Design and Sample

This study focuses on people in generations Y and Z living in the province of Erzurum. According to the data obtained from the Erzurum branch of the Turkish Statistical Institute, the number of people aged between 15 and 40 years of age residing within the provincial borders of Erzurum is 203,970 (TUIK, 2019). However, due to the difficulty of reaching the whole provincial population, a snowball sampling sample was selected.

N = Universe

n = Number of samples

p = The incidence of the feature we are interested in in the universe (0,50 is taken)

q = The frequency with which the feature we are interested in is not seen in the universe (1-p)

Z = Standard value by confidence level (from the normal distribution tables, it is found that 95% to 1.96)

t = Condonable fallacy (0,05 is taken)

n = N x p x q x Z2 / [(N − 1) x t2] + (p x q x Z2)

n = 203.970 x 0,5 x 0,5 x 1,962 / [(203.970− 1) x 0,052] + (0,5 x 0,5 x 1,962)

n = 383

According to a formula for determining a reasonable sample size, the minimum number of participants that could represent the universe with a confidence interval of 95% was 383. The inclusion criteria for the study were as follows: being in the age range of Y and Z generations, to be literate, able to answer phone or computer study questions, volunteering to participate in the study, no psychiatric problems in the research. The study was conducted with a total of 501 people (261 people from generation Y and 240 generation Z).

Data Collection

Data were collected by the researchers from March to April 2021. The participants voluntarily took part in the study by filling out a questionnaire application after meeting the inclusion criteria.

Data Collection Tools

In the study, data on the "Descriptive Feature Form", "The Ageism Attitude Scale," and "An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness" were collected in accordance with previous literature (İletmiş & Arpacı, 2017; Kaçan et al., 2018; Altuğ, 2020).

Sociodemographic Questionnaire

In the questionnaire form, there were a total of 15 questions, nine of which were regarding age, sex, marital status, income level, family type, occupation, presence of chronic diseases, continuous drug use, whether participants wished to be assigned to elderly care, whether they had a relative in a nursing home, whether they lived with anyone over 65 years of age, how long they had lived with someone aged over 65 years of age, and whether they lived with their parents after establishing their own family. Additionally, six more questions aimed to determine the factors that can affect their attitudes toward elderly people and elderliness.

The Ageism Attitude Scale (AAS)

The AAS was developed by Yılmaz Vefikuluçay in 2011 (Yılmaz & Terzioğlu, 2011), the scale, validity and confidence of which were realized based on 23 items. This is a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1=I absolutely disagree to 5=I completely agree. Furthermore, the AAS is composed of positive and negative attitude statements. Positive attitude expressions are scored as 5=I completely agree, 4=I agree, 3=I am indifferent, 2=I do not agree, and 1=I completely do not agree, whereas negative attitude expressions are scored in the opposite way. As such, the maximum score that can be obtained from the scale is 115 and the minimum score is 23. Therefore, the higher the score, the more positive the attitude toward elderly discrimination (and vice versa). The Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient of the scale developed by Yılmaz Vefikuluçay (Yılmaz & Terzioğlu, 2011) is 0.80, and it was found to be 0.78 for this study.

Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness

The validity and reliability study of which was conducted by Otrar (2016). This is a self-administered, 5-point Likert-type scale containing four subscales and 45 items. The "difficulty of accepting elderliness" subscale comprises 12 items, the "social exhaustion perception" subscale comprises 15 items, the "difficulty of coping with life" subscale comprises 10 items and the "negative image" subscale comprises eight items. The total score in each subscale is calculated by dividing the sum of all items to the total number of items in the subscale. A higher score in a particular subscale is interpreted as an increase in the characteristic that names the subscale. Higher total scale scores indicate negative attitudes in general, whereas lower total scale scores indicate positive attitudes and perception towards old age. In a study conducted by Otrar (2016), Cronbach's alpha for the internal consistency of this scale was found to be 0.97, and it was 0.95 for this study.

Ethical Considerations

Before the study was conducted, approval was obtained from Atatürk University Faculty of Medicine Clinical Research Ethical Council on November 5, 2011 (Approval no. B.30.2.ATA.0.01.00/473). Participants of the study were informed that their personal information would not be disclosed to any person other than the researcher, and that no one else would be able to access the information.

Data Analysis

Statistical data analysis was carried out using the

Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) 20.0 program. Additionally, average calculation, t-test, ANOVA, Mann-Whitney U test, and Kruskal Wallis test were used for comparison analysis. $p < .05$ was evaluated statistically significant.

Limitations and Generalizability of the Research

The research was limited to people who fit the Y and Z Generations in Erzurum and this the results obtained from the research were only applied to the province of Erzurum within the scope of the research generalizable.

RESULTS

The results showed that 67.4% of people born in generation Y and 74.2% of people born in generation Z were women. Further, 97.5% of the people born in generation Z and 69.0% of people born in generation Y were single; 56.8% of people born in generation Z were senior high school graduates, and 61.4% of people born in generation Y were university graduates. Moreover, 54.2% of people born in generation Z and 43.7% of people born in generation Y had incomes that were less than their expenses; 80.0% of people born in generation Z and 88.5% for people in generation Y lived with their nuclear family. Further, 95.0% of people in generation Z and 35.2% of those in generation Y were students. The findings also indicated that 7.5% of people in generation Z and 12.6% of people in generation Y had chronic diseases; 58.3% of people in generation Z and 68.6% of people in generation Y did not want to be assigned to elderly care. When asked about their relationship with individuals aged over 65 years old, 70.8% of people in generation Z and 65.9% of people in generation Y stated that they wanted to live in the same house (Table 1).

Regarding the AAS, the average score of people in generation Y was 86.02±11.45, and their average score with respect to the An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness was 137.21±33.81. Furthermore, people born in generation Y had a score of 37.60±5.94 for the sub-dimension of limiting the life of the elderly, 30.14±5.74 for positive discrimination toward the elderly, and 18.28±4.57 for negative discrimination toward the elderly. The average score of people in generation Z in the AAS was 86.19±12.39, and their average score with respect to the An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness was 138.60±32.65. People in generation Z had a score of 36.86±6.24 for the sub-dimension of limiting the life of the elderly, 31.57±6.14 for positive discrimination toward the elderly, and 17.77±4.28 for negative discrimination toward the elderly.

When comparing the average scores of both generations on the AAS and the attitude scale toward aging and elderliness, the sub-dimension and total average scores of people born in generations Y and Z were close to one another and the differences were statistically insignificant (p>.05) (Table 2).

The distribution of the score averages on the AAS for both generations with respect to their socio-demographic characteristics is shown in Table 3. This shows that an increase in the education level of generation Y, an increase in their income levels, and their desire to be assigned to elderly case increased the average scores of elderly discrimination and were statistically significant (p<.05). The single status of individuals in generation Z, higher education levels, absence of chronic diseases, and their desire to be assigned to elderly case increased average scores of elderly discrimination and were statistically significant (p<.05). However, for generation Y, a statistically significant difference was not found between gender, marital status, family type, profession, chronic disease, and their desire to live with their parents after establishing their own family with respect to the average AAS score (p>.05). Additionally, for generation Z, a statistically significant difference was not observed between gender, income level, family type, profession of individuals, and their desire to live in the same house with their parents after establishing their own family with respect to the average AAS score (p>.05).

Table 4 illustrates the comparison of score averages on the An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness with respect to the socio-demographic characteristics of individuals in generations Y and Z. The fact that Generation Y individuals have an income-generating profession, the desire to be assigned to elderly care homes, and the desire to live with their parents after establishing their own family increases the average scores of the attitude scale towards aging, and the results are statistically significant (p<.05). For individuals in generation Z, a wish to be assigned to elderly care facilities and a desire to live with their parents after establishing their family increased the average scores on the An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness and getting old, which also statistically significant (p<.05). In contrast, a statistically significant difference was not found between sex, marital status, income level, family type, chronic disease, and score averages of An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness and aging with regards to individuals in generation Y (p>.05). Similarly, for individuals in generation Z, a statistically significant difference was not observed between sex, marital status, income level, family type, profession, and chronic disease in relation to the average scores on the AAS (p>.05)

Table 1. Distribution of sociodemographical features of persons in Y and Z generations

	Z Generation (n=240)		Y Generation (n=261)		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Gender						
Men	62	25.8	85	32.6	147	29.3
Women	178	74.2	176	67.4	354	70.6
Marital status						
Single	234	97.5	180	69.0	414	82.6
Married	6	2.5	81	31.0	87	17.3
Education status						
Primary and Seconder school	40	16.6	23	8.8	63	12.5
High school graduates	136	56.8	78	29.8	214	42.7
University	64	26.6	160	61.4	224	44.7
Income status						
Less than expense	130	54.2	114	43.7	244	48.7
Equal to expense	98	40.8	101	38.7	199	39.7
More than expense	12	5.0	46	17.6	58	11.5
Family type						
Extended family	48	20.0	30	11.5	78	15.5
Nuclear family	192	80.0	231	88.5	423	84.4
Working status						
Self-employment	0	0.0	19	7.3	19	3.8
Officer	0	0.0	86	33.0	86	17.1
Student	228	95.0	92	35.2	320	63.8
Other	12	5.0	64	24.5	31	6.1
Chronic disease						
Yes	18	7.5	33	12.6	51	11.0
No	222	92.5	228	87.4	450	88.9
Want to be assigned to elderly care						
Yes	100	41.7	82	31.4	182	36.3
No	140	58.3	179	68.6	319	63.6
Want to live in the same house						
Yes	170	70.8	172	65.9	342	68.2
No	70	29.2	89	34.1	159	31.7

Table 2. Comparison of the Distribution and Mean Scores of Y and Z Generation Individuals of the Age Discrimination Attitude Scale and the An Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness

Ageism Attitude Scale		Min-Max	X±SS	t	p
Limiting the life of elderly person	Y Generation	16-45	37.60±5.94	-1.11	.144
	Z Generation	21-45	36.86±6.24		
Positive discrimination towards elderly person	Y Generation	8-40	30.14±5.74	2.16	.737
	Z Generation	18-40	31.57±6.14		
Negative discrimination towards elderly person	Y Generation	6-30	18.28±4.57	-1.03	.574
	Z Generation	6-29	17.77±4.28		
Total	Y Generation	30-115	86.02±11.45	0.12	.128
	Z Generation	45-114	86.19±12.39		
Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness	Y Generation	57-221	137.21±33.81	0.37	.920
	Z Generation	67-208	138.60±32.65		

Table 3. Distribution of Ageism Attitude Scale score average of people in Z generation as per their sociodemographical aspects

	Y Generation			Z Generation		
	n	X±SS	U or KW (*p*)	n	X±SS	U or KW (*p*)
Gender						
Men	85	86.64±10.80	-1.78 (.076)	62	84.16±10.82	-1.11 (.265)
Women	176	84.69±12.22		178	86.89±12.87	
Marital status						
Single	180	86.22±11.24	-0.20 (.834)	234	86.62±12.19	-2.22 (**.027**)
Married	81	85.52±11.48		6	69.33±8.08	
Education						
Seconder school and primary school[1]	23	77.5±12.05	9.31(**.009**) 3>2	40	66.0±8.49	-2.14 (**.032**) 3>1
High school graduates[2]	78	74.55±10.12		136	86.74±9.51	
University[3]	160	84.58±9.61		64	87.00±3.41	
Income						
Less[1]	114	83.25±11.11	13.66 (**.001**) 2,3>1	130	87.05±12.35	0.55 (.755)
Same[2]	101	88.48±11.34		98	85.41±11.58	
Expenses[3]	46	87.39±10.32		12	83.17±19.62	
Family type						
Extended family	30	86.67±12.78	-0.631 (.528)	48	85.75±14.78	-0.15 (.875)
Nuclear family	231	85.92±11.12		192	86.29±11.79	
Occupation						
Self-employment	19	80.63±8.89	9.93 (.077)	228	86.32±12.26	3.80 (.282)
Officer	86	86.03±10.51		4	94.5±16.26	
Student	92	86.05±11.15		2	60.0±nan	
Other	64	90.07±10.83		12	84.33±9.29	
Chronic disease						
Yes	33	88.52±11.39	1.63 (.103)	18	94.33±8.62	2.10 (**.037**)
No	228	85.64±11.26		222	85.52±12.43	
Want to be assigned to elderly care						
Yes	82	89.62±11.51	-3.71 (**.001**)	100	89.78±11.94	-2.81 (**.005**)
No	179	84.35±10.83		140	83.61±12.13	
Want to live in the same house						
Yes	172	87.25±11.38	-1.95 (.051)	170	88.18±12.77	-1.85 (0.065)
No	89	85.15±11.2		70	84.12±11.73	

U= Mann Whitney U; KW= Kruskall Walliss

Table 4. Distribution of score averages of Attitude Scale toward Aging and Elderliness with respect to sociodemographical characteristics of persons in Y and Z generations

Features	Y Generation			Z Generation		
	n	X±SS	t or F (*p*)	n	X±SS	t or F (*p*)
Gender						
Men	85	137.30±34.77	0.09 (.921)	62	134.67±32.82	0.77 (.441)
Women	176	137.01±31.86		178	139.95±32.65	
Marital status						
Single	180	139.15±34.14	-1.31 (.191)	234	139.28±32.55	-1.45 (.149)
Married	81	133.20±33.23		6	111.66±28.86	
Education						
Seconder school and primary school	23	137.50±22.20	-1.61 (.281)	40	137.85±32.60	-1.65 (.479)
High school graduates	78	138.25±41.91		136	131.25±33.91	
University	160	139.36±40.08		64	129.36±39.08	
Income						
Less	114	139.50±31.53	0.56 (.571)	130	142.20±36.99	1.06 (.349)
Same	101	134.61±33.53		98	133.36±25.10	
Expenses	46	137.78±40.23		12	142.16±36.67	
Family type						
Extended family	30	133.56±35.08	0.64 (.521)	48	142.75±35.36	0.69 (.488)
Nuclear family	231	137.79±33.80		192	137.55±32.04	
Occupation						
Self-employment[1]	19	151.00±21.61	3.56 (**.004**) 1,2>3,4	0		0.05 (.982)
Officer[2]	86	145.25±34.39		0		
Student[3]	92	134.50±32.20		228	138.54±32.21	
Other[4]	64	131.25±33.91		12	145.00±72.12	
Chronic disease						
Yes	33	136.24±32.36	0.19 (.847)	18	119.88±34.52	1.804 (.074)
No	228	137.46±34.19		222	140.10±32.17	
Want to be assigned to elderly care						
Yes	82	123.65±26.89	-4.56 (<.001)	100	130.74±32.30	-2.26 (**.025**)
No	179	143.56±35.00		140	144.20±31.94	
Want to live in the same House						
Yes	106	131.04±32.38	-2.49 (**.013**)	122	131.78±30.64	-2.366 (**.020**)
No	155	141.59±34.36		118	145.62±33.40	

t: Indpendent t-test; F: One-Way ANOVA

DISCUSSION

When the literature was examined, studies conducted to determine attitudes or discrimination against the elderly and the aging were found (Başer & Cingil, 2018; Karaağaç et al., 2019). While some of the studies conducted in relation to elderly discrimination revealed positive attitudes, others revealed negative attitudes. While there are studies in relation to elderly discrimination and aging in Turkey, a study for determining the attitudes of people in generations Y and Z in relation to elderly discrimination and aging was not found. Thus, the current study is a preliminary work that aims to fill this gap in the context of Turkey. The findings revealed that there was no

statistically significant difference between the average scores of people in generations Y and Z with regard to elderly discrimination and aging. In the Turkish culture, having respect for elderly people is an important value, and the impact of elderly people in the family is significant (Altuğ, 2020). Recent studies, such as those by Ayalon and Tesch-Römer (2018), indicate that younger generations may hold more progressive views on aging compared to older cohorts. Based on the belief that each person could become an elderly person in the future, the attitudes of people working in elderly care facilities constitute an important determinant factor (Malak, 2019). For this reason, the attitudes of people in generations Y and Z toward elderly people and aging have a significant effect.

However, the comparative analysis between Generations Y and Z remains underexplored.

When all the sub-dimensions and total average scores of the AAS are examined for both gender in each generation, the differences were not statistically significant, which is following previous studies' findings that sex did not have a real impact on the attitudes toward elderly discrimination (Toygar & Karadakovan, 2020, Sülüker and Türkoglu 2021). In contrast, other studies contrastingly concluded that male participants had more positive attitudes compared to female participants (Köse et al. (2015; Bulut Enes & Çilingir 2016). Therefore, while studies are showing that gender does not affect respect and attitudes toward elderly discrimination, there are also studies revealing that there is a difference based on gender.

In the study, when the average scores of people born in generations Y and Z were compared based on their educational level, it was seen that the elderly discrimination attitude scores of people who were university graduates were higher than people who were senior high school, junior high school, and elementary school graduates and that the differences were statistically significant. Previous studies found that as education level increased, positive attitudes also increased (Karlin et al. 2006; Lambrinou et al. 2009; Levy, 2009). Therefore, higher education levels might prompt more positive attitudes toward elderly discrimination. Additionally, universities are often environments that encourage diversity and inclusion. In such environments, students can interact with people from different age groups, which can help develop more positive attitudes towards the elderly. Social experiences gained during college education may contribute to individuals being less prejudiced against the elderly (Nelson, 2016).

Further, when the average AAS averages of people born in generation Y were compared with respect to their income levels, it was found that the scores of people whose income and expenses were equivalent were higher with respect to other groups and that this difference was statistically significant. Further analysis showed that this difference originated from the group who had incomes that were lower than their expenses. Previous studies have also concluded that positive attitudes toward elderly discrimination increase with an increase in income level (Yılmaz & Özkan, 2010; Sülüker & Türkoğlu, 2021). Thus, we can conclude that discrimination attitudes toward the elderly could be positively affected by financial means.

Among participants belonging to generation Z, the difference between AAS scores and individuals' desire to live with their parents in the same house after establishing their own family was found to be statistically significant. Bulut, and Yılmaz and Özkan, found that the attitudes of people wanting to live with their parents in the same house were more positive (Yılmaz and Özkan 2010; Güven

et al. 2012; Bulut Enes & Çilingir 2016). Thus, the findings in this study are in accordance with the existing body of literature.

Further, it was found that attitude score scales of people born in generations Y and Z who wish to live with their parents after establishing their family were higher, and the difference was statistically significant. In a study conducted by Bulut, it was found that the attitudes of surgical nurses wanting to live with their parents to benefit from their experiences or to be more involved were more positive (Bulut Enes & Çilingir 2016). In the studies they conducted, Yılmaz and Özkan, and Güven et al., found that the attitudes of individuals who wanted to live with their parents to be more involved were also more positive (Yılmaz and Özkan 2010; Güven et al. 2012). According to this study, the reason individuals want to live with their parents is often to have better communication, to benefit from their experiences, to be more helpful with regard to their needs in the house, and to develop positive attitudes toward the elderly by observing the positive aspects of aging.

The lack of significant differences in attitudes between Generations Y and Z may be attributed to several factors. Firstly, the rise of social media and digital communication has facilitated greater exposure to diverse perspectives on aging, potentially leading to a shared understanding of the challenges faced by older adults. Secondly, the increasing visibility of ageism in public discourse may have fostered a collective awareness among younger individuals, irrespective of generational boundaries. Moreover, this study raises important questions regarding the effectiveness of current educational and social initiatives aimed at combating ageism. If both generations exhibit similar attitudes, it may indicate a need for more targeted interventions that address the root causes of age-related discrimination rather than relying on generational stereotypes.

CONCLUSION

This research contributes to the growing body of literature on intergenerational attitudes towards aging and discrimination. The findings suggest that there is no significant difference between Generations Y and Z in their perceptions of elderly discrimination, highlighting the importance of understanding the complexities of ageism in contemporary society. Future research should explore the underlying factors that shape these attitudes and investigate potential strategies for fostering more positive perceptions of aging across all generations. Furthermore, more qualitative studies should be conducted to examine the factors that affect elderly discrimination of people in generations Y and Z in more depth.

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