



A comparative study of the locus of control among institutionalized and non-institutionalized aged

Abstract

The purpose of the present study was to investigate the impact of institutionalization, sex and age of the aged on locus of control. The sample for the study comprised of 180 Institutionalized and 180 Non-institutionalized aged from Ahmadabad city. Institutionalized aged were selected from various old-age homes in Ahmadabad. Personal data sheet and Rotter (1966), Internal-External scale were used to collect the required data. 2x2x3 factorial design was planned where institutionalization, sex and age were considered as independent variables and locus of control as dependent variables. Accordingly, 2x2x3 ANOVA was carried out to test the hypothesis. Results revealed significant difference between Institutionalized and non-institutionalized aged on Locus of control. There has been significant difference in the male and female Locus of control of the institutionalized and non-institutionalized aged. Older aged (60-69years) exhibited higher amount of Locus of control than the aged between 70-79 years and aged between 80-89 years. The interaction effects are not significant.

Introduction:

The changing demographic profile of India highlights a rapid increase in the aged's population. Due to increased life expectancy and better living condition, the population of old people is rising day by day. Primarily as consequence of a rapidly increasing proportion of the aged in the human population the study of aging is rapidly developing. The objectives of modern research on aging are to make life in the last stages of human existence pleasant and livable (Douglas, 1980).

The process of industrialization, urbanization and modernization is ushering changes in value system and traditional family system. With decline of family solidarity various institutions have come up to take care of aged. Generally in India negative factors tend to predominate the decision to enter an old age home, while gerontology has its objective a "Livelier Longevity", the question arises, what is the effect of old age homes on the well-being of the elderly.

Locus of control indicates physical and mental wellness. Sinha (1990) has stated that locus of control is difficult to define. It has been taken to consist of discomfort or desirability and from any disturbance of mental functions. It is a somewhat malleable concept which has to do with people's feelings about everyday life activities. Such feelings may range from negative mental states or psychological strains such as anxiety, depression, frustration, emotional exhaustion unhappiness, dissatisfaction to a state which has been identified as positive mental health (Jahoda, 1958; Warr, 1978).

A research in locus of control of elderly has gained momentum recently. Studies on indicators of locus of control demonstrate greater anxiety (Dhillon and Jasra, 1992) and depression (Venkoba Rao, 1989;

Mathur and Sen, 1989; Baum and Boxley, 1983), Lower life satisfaction (Chadha, 1991; Bhardwaj, Sen and Mathur, 1991), and more adjustment problems among elderly (Singh, Singh and Dawra, 1983; Chandrika and Ananthraman, 1982).

Aims of the study:

1. To study the locus of control among institutionalized and non-institutionalized aged.
2. To study the locus of control among aged Males and Females.
3. To study the locus of control among Low, medium and high age in aged.

Hypothesis:

1. There is no difference between the locus of control of the institutionalized and non-institutionalized aged.
2. There is no difference between the locus of control of the aged males and females.
3. There is no difference between the locus of control of the low, medium and high age in the aged.
4. There is no interaction effect of the locus of control in the residence and sex of the aged.
5. There is no interaction effect of the locus of control in the residence and age of the aged.
6. There is no interaction effect of the locus of control in the sex and age of the aged.
7. There is no interaction effect of the locus of control in the residence, sex and age of the aged.

Sample:

Sample in this study consisted of 360 subjects which included equal number of males and females. The subjects were between 60 to 90 years. Of these 360 subjects 180 elderly were staying in old age homes and 180 were staying with their family. The institutionalized samples were drawn from 7 old age homes run by various social organizations in Ahmadabad. The non-institutionalized sample was also drawn from the same city. An attempt was made to match the two samples as far as possible.

Tools used:

The following tools were used in the present study:

1. Personal Data sheet :

A personal data sheet developed by the investigator was used to collect information about Residence, sex, age etc.

2. Locus of Control Scale :

Rotter (1966), Internal-External locus of control scale was used to obtain locus of control scores. The scale was administered in groups. The Internal-External scale contains 28 items, in 6 which are fillers. Each item has two statement (a) and (b) and the respondent is required to choose one of the statements that is more true of him. Scoring in values assigning one mark if the keyed statement was checked. The maximum possible score is twenty two and minimum is zero. High score indicates high level of internal locus of control and low score indicate high level of external locus of control. The test – retest reliability coefficient is 0.83 and author has reported satisfactory validity of the scale. The Gujarati version used in the present study had correlation between 0.70 and 0.85 with the original English version on different bilingual population.

Statistical Analysis:

In this study 'F' and Test was used for statistical analysis.

Result and Discussion:

Table No. 1

Summary of the 2x2x3 analysis of variance based on locus of control of elderly persons with respect to residence, sex and age

Source of Variation	Sum of Square	df	Mean Sum of Square	F
A (Residence)	53.23	1	53.23	5.79 *
B (Sex)	245.03	1	245.03	26.66 **
C (Age)	2877.84	2	1438.92	156.57 **
AxB	1.74	1	1.74	0.19 NS
AxC	40.21	2	20.11	2.19 NS
BxC	72.15	2	36.08	3.93 NS
AxBxC	24.87	2	12.44	1.35 NS
SSW	3197.43	348	9.19	
SST	6512.50	359		
* P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, NS = Not Significant				

Table No. 2

Scores, means and difference of mean of locus of control of elderly persons with respect to residence, sex and age
(N = 360)

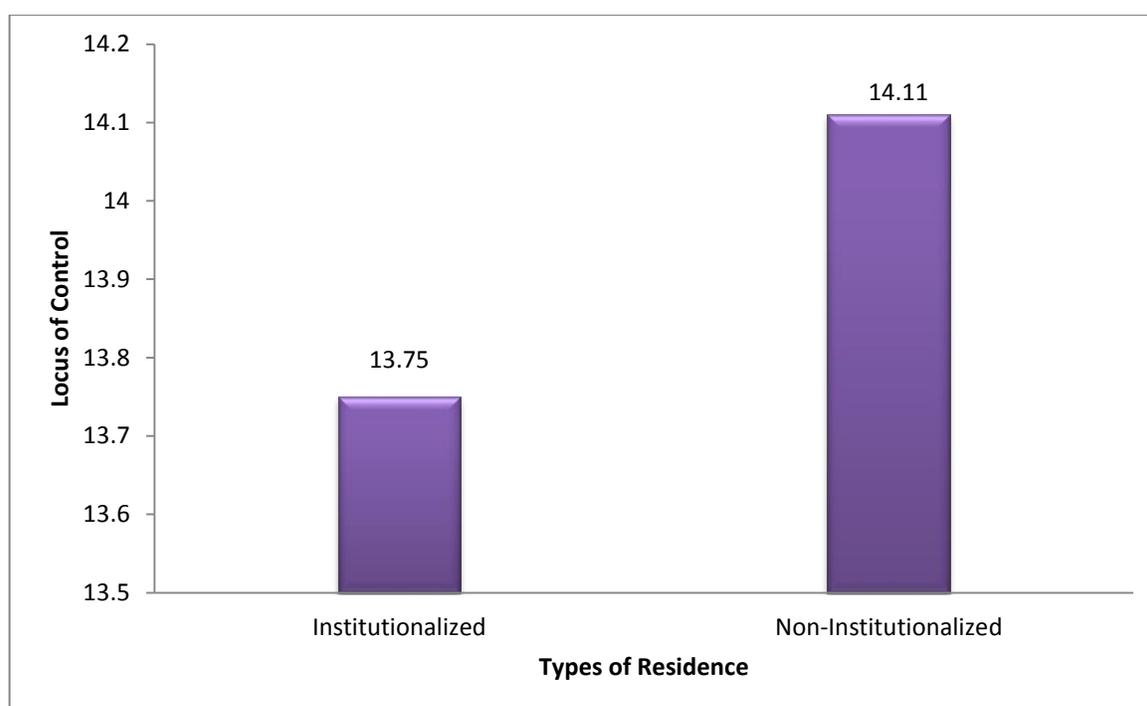
Independent Variable	N	Mean	Difference of Mean
A1 (Institutionalized)	180	13.75	0.36
A2 (Non-Institutionalized)	180	14.11	
B1 (Male)	180	14.76	0.65
B2 (Female)	180	13.11	
C1 (Low 60-69 Years)	120	17.37	Low and Medium 3.39
C2(Medium 70-79 Years)	120	13.98	Low and High 6.93
C2(High 80-89 Years)	120	10.44	Medium and High 3.54

According to table No. 1 it is observed that 'F' value of locus of control of elderly persons staying in institutionalized and non-institutionalized is 5.79, Which does show significant difference to a level of 0.05. looking at the table No. 2 it is observed that score of locus of control of institutionalized and non-institutionalized elderly persons are 13.75 and 14.11 respectively. Their difference is 0.36. The difference can be seen in the mean value is due to certainty situation but there is significant difference between means. The null hypothesis is rejected. Hence it can be said that locus of control of institutionalized than non-institutionalized aged is more. This difference can also be seen from figure (graph) No. 1 designed on the basis of obtained result.

Graph No. 1

X = Types of Residence (Institutionalized A₁and Non-Institutionalized A₂)

Y= 1.00 Sem. = 0.10 Average Score



It is observed from table No.1 that 'F' value of locus of control of male and female elderly persons is 26.66 which does exhibit significant difference at a level of 0.01. From table No. 2 it can be seen that score of locus of control of male and female elderly persons are 14.76 and 13.11 expectedly. The difference between them is 0.65. The difference can be seen in the mean value is due to certainty situation but there is significant difference between means. The null hypothesis is rejected. Hence it can be said that locus of control of female than male aged is more. This difference can also be seen from figure (graph) No. 2 designed on the basis of obtained result.

Graph No. 2

X = Sex (Male B1 and Female B2)

Y = 1.00 Sem. = 0.50 Average Score

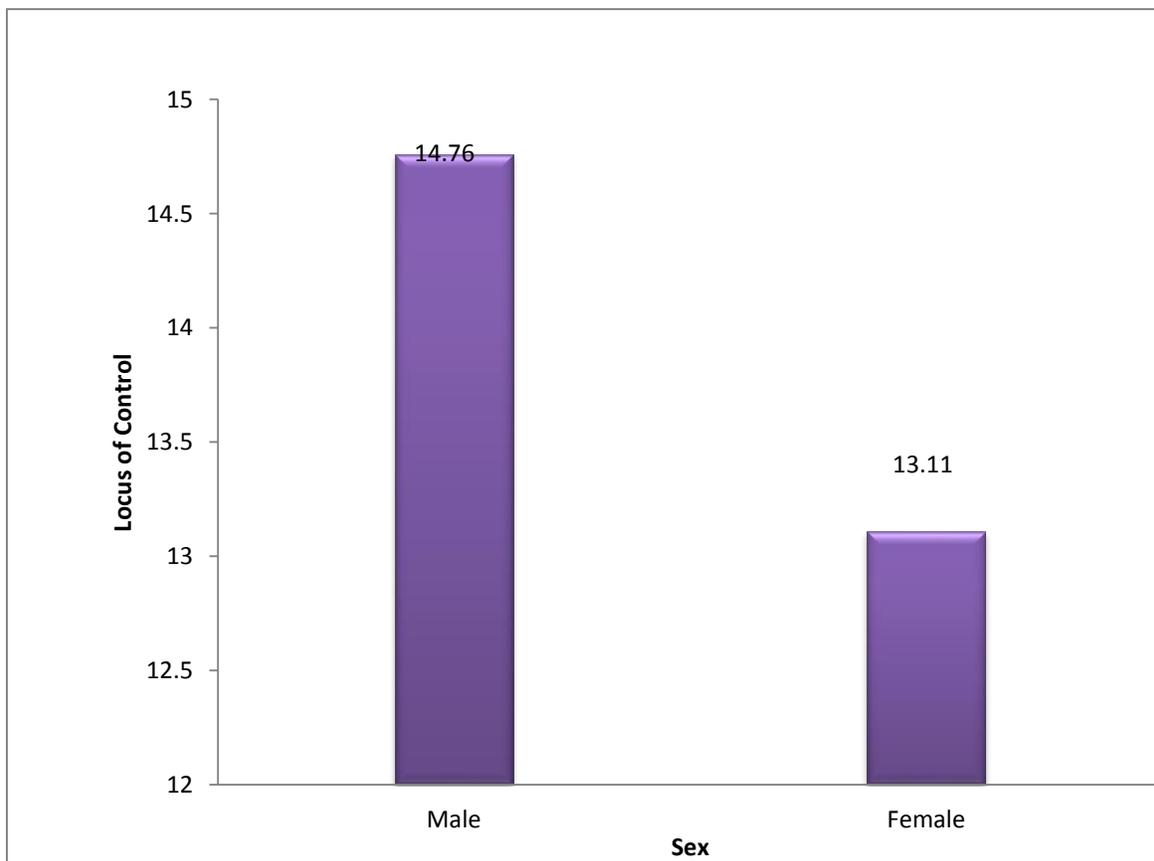


Table No.1 scores that 'F' value of locus of control amongst low, medium and high aged persons is 156.57 which is significant at a level of 0.01. Table No. 2 indicates that mean scores of locus of control of low, medium and high aged elderly persons are 17.37, 13.98 and 10.44 respectively. The difference between the mean score of locus of controls of low and medium aged elderly persons is 3.39 where as that of low and high aged elderly persons and medium and high aged elderly persons is 6.93 and 3.54 respectively. The difference can be seen in the mean value is due to certainty situation but there is significant difference between means. The null hypothesis is rejected. Hence it can be said that locus of control of Low than medium and high age of aged is more. This difference can also be seen from figure (graph) No. 3 designed on the basis of obtained result.

Graph No. 3

X = Age (Low C₁, Medium C₂ and High C₃)

Y= 1.00 Sem. = 2 Average Score

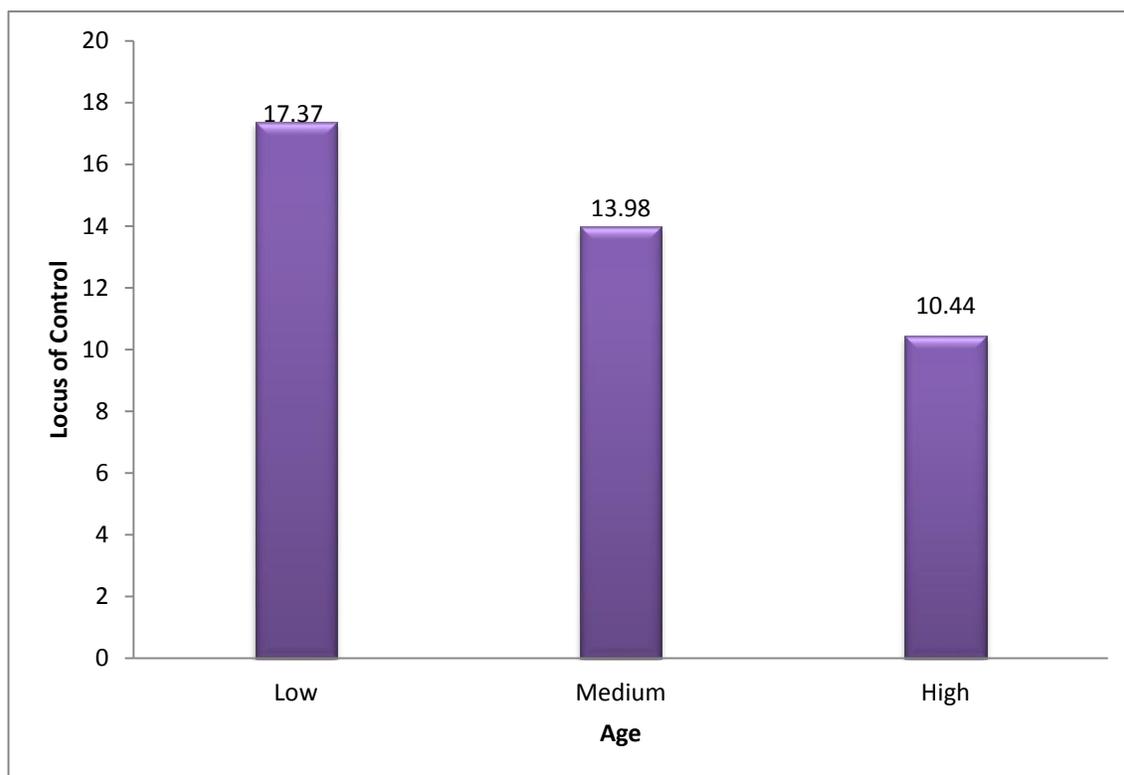


Table No. 1 it can be observed that 'F' values obliged from four interaction AxB, AxC, BxC and AxBxC with respect to residence (Institutionalized and non-institutionalized) Sex (Male and Female) and age (Low, Medium and High) statistical. These 'F' Value show no interaction therefore from these data it can be said that residence, sex and age, and their interaction with one another do not affect our locus of control.

Conclusion:

1. There is no significant mean difference between the Psychological well-being of the institutionalized and non-institutionalized aged.
2. There is no significant mean difference between the Locus of control of the aged males and females.
3. There is significant mean difference between the Locus of control of the Low, medium and high age in aged. Older aged of Lower age (60-69years) exhibited higher amount of Locus of control than the aged between medium (70-79 years) and aged between Higher age (80-89 years).
4. There is no significant mean interaction effect of the psychological well-being in the Residence and sex of aged.
5. There is no significant mean interaction effect of the locus of control in the Residence and age of aged.
6. There is no significant mean interaction effect of the locus of control in the sex and age of aged.

7. There is no significant mean interaction effect of the locus of control in the Residence, sex and age of aged.

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