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Effect of Ageing on Cognitive Functions in India

Apoorva B*

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Clinical Psychology SOAHS, Manipal University, Manipal

Dr J Keshav Kumar**

Additional Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS, Bangalore

Dr SrikalaBharath***

Professor, Department of Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bangalore

Dr P. Marimuthu****

Additional Professor, Department of Biostatistics, NIMHANS, Bangalore

Abstract

There are few studies done in India on neuropsychological functioning of elderly using culturally sensitive and indigenous neuropsychological test. The study examined the effect of age on cognitive functions among the elderly in India. A community sample of 90 healthy normal men and women participants between the age of 65 years and above, both literate and illiterate, were included in the study. Participants were screened for dementia and psychiatric illness using Hindi mental Status Examination, Mini-international neuropsychiatric interview (MINI Screen) and Everyday Abilities Scale for India. Participants selected after screening were administered NIMHANS Neuropsychological Battery for elderly (Tripathi et al, 2012). ANOVA was used to test the level of significance between the groups. Result confirmed that there was certain age related cognitive decline across the age groups on story memory, digit span, spatial span, word list learning, and recognition, stick construction and Go/No-Go tests. The current study found that there are cognitive decline with age.

Keywords: Age, Cognitive Functions, Neuropsychological Assessment.