

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERGENERATIONAL INTERACTION AND AGEISM AMONG YOUNG ADULTS IN THE POLOG REGION

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the relationship between intergenerational interaction and ageism among 122 adolescents (ages 15–18) in the Polog region of North Macedonia. Drawing on Allport's Contact Hypothesis and Terror Management Theory, the research utilized a correlational design and the Fraboni Scale of Ageism (FSA) to assess cognitive, affective, and behavioral dimensions of age-based prejudice. Results indicated a significant negative correlation between the participants' desire for intergenerational contact and discriminatory attitudes ($r = -.20$, $p < .05$). However, other subscales, including antilocution and avoidance, did not reach statistical significance at the .05 level, and no significant differences in ageism were found based on gender, place of residence, or living arrangements with grandparents. These findings suggest that while interest in intergenerational engagement serves as a potential buffer against discriminatory behaviour, prejudice remains a complex phenomenon within the region). The study highlights the practical necessity of implementing structured service-learning and community-based intergenerational hubs to foster social cohesion and reduce age-based marginalization among the adolescent population.

Keywords: Ageism, adolescents, intergenerational dynamics, discrimination.