

Abstract

Different developmental theories have been proposed to predict goals selection across the lifespan. Prior studies in the literature suggest that people with older age tend to select security, generativity or emotional related goals whereas younger age people put knowledge acquisition or self enhancement goals at higher priorities. There is a lack of knowledge about goal-selection differences between young-old and old-old in the existing literature. 30 older people were recruited to complete a semi-structured interview about their goals. Differences in number of goals and types of goal (5 domains) between young-old (aged 60-74, n=15) and old-old (75 or above, n=15) were examined using ANCOVA analysis. Results revealed that no difference was found on number of goals between the 2 groups. For goals domain, difference between young-old and old-old were only found in the Knowledge-acquisition/Openness to change domain but not in other types of goals examined. Findings from the present study demonstrated that the age-related differences in goal selection were no longer salient in old age except the decline in the Knowledge-acquisition/Openness to change domain of goals.