

An empirical study of the changing societal value system and dependence on old age homes in Bangalore

Dr. Latha BR

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology Maharani Women's Arts, Commerce and Management College Seshadri Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Abstract

World Population is facing rapid changes in age structure. Because of epidemiological and demographic transition, the mortality rates have been declined in the world. At the same time, because of availability of family planning services and other social conditions fertility rates are also declining. As a result, people are surviving more and it is producing elderly people gradually. In India in the past, traditional social values and religious observances use to be supportive to the elderly. Today however economic change and disappearance of joint family system and increase of mortality started drastically eroding the support base of elderly. A person who reaches the age of 60 in India can now expect to live for more than 15 years. But many cannot afford to take life easy in their old age. This calls for a strong supporting system from relatives, NGO's and Government.

Keywords: old age homes, NGO's, youth

1. Introduction

Due to stable growth of the senior citizens in the country, new ideas of their role in social development are formed. On one side, wisdom and a feeling of satisfaction with life and fulfilment of trust, the highest level of personal integration are typical for the senior citizens. They make many-sided contribution to social development, welcome positive changes in life management and organization, show interest to social, cultural and economic life of the district, support solidarity of generations and keep intellectual and moral values, preserve capacity for a reasonable labor activity (Vladimirov, 2004; Shakhmatov, 1996). (Saljakhutdin Fardievich Taziev (2015) [1].

2. Senior Citizens

Although there is a large body of research and numerous publications focusing on disabled, marginalised or dependent people, few studies have explored the issue of senior citizens or retired people who capably manage their lives, and whose health problems are only those that typically accompany the ageing process. These people fall between the ages of 65 and 80 or even older as health conditions are improving ². The world population 60 plus is increasing rapidly. Thus, in Indian population, senior citizens also form a noticeable percentage of total population. According to the 1947 census, the population of senior citizens in India was 350 million and it was increased to 1.15 billion in 2010. According to current literature, individuals belonging to the age group of 60 and more than 60 years are considered as senior citizens in the society. (Shakuntala Patil and Sunanda Itagi 2015) [4]

3. Defining "Senior Citizen"

We use a simple definition: "seniors" are users aged 65 years or older. We had no upper end, though the oldest participant in our research was 89 years old.

Of course, this is a simplification. It's not as if people change all their behaviors on their 65th birthday. The human aging process starts when you turn 20; people in their 40s already

have sufficiently reduced eyesight to require somewhat larger font sizes than eagle-eyed designers in their 20s.

In testing middle-aged users, we've found that between the ages of 25 and 60, people's ability to use websites declines by 0.8% per year.

Thus, in one sense, we need to start thinking about older users' problems long before they turn 65.

4. Human Values As Mental Contents [5]

Action is the essence of human technology interaction. People use technologies to achieve their personal goals, and for this reason action forms a logical conceptual postulate, i.e., intuitive basic concept in analyzing interaction processes [19] for conceptual postulates). The main aim of scientific human technology interaction analysis is to find explanations for interaction Phenomena.

This means that we have to be able to explain human action. One natural ground for explaining actions is mental contents. Mental contents refer to the information contents in human mental representations. Evidently, all human actions must be controlled by mental representations. There is no action that would not be represented in human nervous system, because our movements, perceptions, and thoughts have their neural responses. However, our neural states differ from each other with respect to the information contents, and our deeds differ respectively with respect to their contents. This means that through understanding mental contents associated to an action we can understand the respective action, its quality and other properties compared to other actions [20].

5. Global Scenario of Elders [6]

Globally the number of older persons have more than tripled since 1950 by 2050 the population age 60 + or above is projected to increase again three fold to reach two million. Countries with more than 100 million people of age 60 and above include China, India, United States, Japan, Russian Federation and Germany. With anticipated increase of world population older than 60 years to 20% by next four decades,

there is a growing concern of long term viability of inter generation and governmental social support system protecting legal rights and welfare care services of elderly persons This is the background for the first time, Government has adopted a comprehensive approach linking the question of ageing to other frame work of Social and Economic Development of Human Rights which was agreed at the United Nations Conference in 1999 and later in 2002 at Second World Assembly adopting The Madrid International Plan of Action on ageing and the Political Declaration Ageing is one of the greatest social and economic challenges to European societies in the 21st century. It will affect all Member States and it will cut across nearly all EU policy domains. By 2025 more than 20% of Europeans will be 65 or over, with a particularly rapid increase in the number of citizens over 80 years old. Institutions that teach seniors (65+ years old or retired) need to address courses to a target group that is not aiming to get a degree or to improve their career opportunities. They must therefore apply different methodologies and also create specially designed courses, activities and materials. From a broader perspective, their main aim is to increase senior learners' well-being and quality of life (QoL). In this context, teaching becomes a socio-educational activity where more formal, non-formal and informal activities are blended. The knowledge students acquire is important, but other skills, attitudes and aims should not be forgotten such as socialisation, integration, adapting to society, active citizenship, etc.^[7]

6. Indian Situation

Statistics shows that by 2050, India will be home to one out of every six of the world’s old persons. Elderly population is expected to increase to 173 million by 2026 and by 2050 nearly 80% of the world older persons will live in developing countries including India. A study of Help Age India pointed out that 1/5 th of the elderly persons live alone in India. This proportion has registered a sharp increase in the past two decades and is more evident in the case of elderly women.

7. Elderly and Human Rights

As per 2001 Census, total population of Senior Citizens (60+) was 7.7 crore, of which population of males and females was 3.8 crore and 3.9 crore respectively. The share of people aged 60 years and above in the total population as per Census 2001 is given below:

Table 1: Population (2001) (Fig. in crore)

	Persons	Males	Females
All India	102.9	53.2	49.7
Senior Citizens (60+)	7.7	3.8	3.9
As % of total	7.5	7.1	7.8

Source: Census, 2001

Population of senior citizens in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Puducherry is more than the national average (7.5%). In rural areas, the percentage share of elderly population in total population is highest in the State of Kerala while Andaman & Nicobar Islands has the lowest share. In urban areas, the percentage

share of elderly population in total population is highest in the state of Kerala while Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest share.

8. Issues and Challenges in Supporting the Older Poor in India^[8]

- The institution and functioning of the family as a support structure for older people is under severe pressure because of poverty, unemployment and changing attitudes and as such external support is needed to strengthen the family and provide supplementary income;
- Since the older people are disadvantaged by stereotypes which largely discredit the poor older workers in the unorganized sector, necessary measures are required to create opportunities, increase the competence of older workers and counterbalance this negative image;
- Incidence of widowhood among women even before reaching old age results in a serious disadvantaged experience of old age;
- Lack of food is a major cause of poor health; priority for elderly in these circumstances receiving nutritional supplements is highly desirable.
- The configuration, design and general physical environment in which older people live including housing, transport, work place and recreation could be made more user friendly to achieve greater independent personal mobility, safety and convenience;
- Systematic and analytical studies on the needs of the elderly in India, both urban and rural, are required to add substance to the many preliminary and exploratory studies already made;
- On account of the shortage of trained personnel in many specialist fields, the training of professionals to organize and promote services and programmes for the elderly needs to be given high priority, especially in such areas as family support, financial provisions, health care and community involvement.
- The specialised health needs of the older people require greater attention through the expansion and integration of geriatric and gerontological training in the medical curricula, mainstreaming of geriatric services in the Primary Health Centres and geriatric rehabilitation in the integrated Community Development programmes as an integral component of community based services would ensure that the full range of support services is accessible to older people in the health system.

9. Elderly Abuse as a Social Concern^[9]

Elder abuse is one of the serious social problems where the human values are made assessed with the people’s behavior. Nowadays the attitude of the young people as become very worst in behavioral pattern, they are neglecting their parents and keep on abusing them. There are many reason s for abuse, *Firstly*, human tendency is to get into the all kind of assistance, and human beings are social animals. The most serious thing is going away with the human values. Hence there is a need to protect their rights. *Secondly*, there is a need to think of human morality, abusing elders and violence on there for selfishness of the younger generation. These are the basic fundamental issues leading elder abuse presently.

The human beings are bounded with the human relationship which cannot be abolished. There should be strict law in order to punish them seriously, and create deterrence among those who neglect their parents.

10. Sample Size

The study involved a convenient sampling of paid and free based old age homes located in Bangalore by using. It was proposed to take up 200 senior citizens inhabitant in the aforesaid old age homes by using stratified random sampling. But the responses have been mustered from only 168 respondents.

11. Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Age of the Respondents

Age in years	Number	Percentage
60-65	30	17.86
65-70	35	20.83
70-75	45	26.79
75 and above	58	34.52
Total	168	100.00

(Source: Primary Data)

Analysis

17.86% of the respondents are in the age group of 60-65 years. More than 1/3rd of the respondents belong to age group of 75 years and above. Around 47% of the respondents are in between 65 & 75 years of age.

Table 2: No. of Years of Stay in the Old Age Home

No of years	Number	Percentage
0-2	37	22.02
2-4	49	29.17
4 years& above	82	48.81
Total	168	100.00

(Source: primary Data)

Analysis

A question was posed to know the duration of stay in the old age home. 3 categories have been identified for the same.

Table 5: Changes in Family /Relationships that has led to Depletion of Human Values in the Society

Factors	SA	A	N	DA	SDA
Physical illness of old age people	68 (40.48)	48 (28.57)	20 (11.90)	20 (11.90)	12 (7.14)
Financial needs because of increased cost of living	70 (41.67)	45 (26.79)	22 (13.10)	18 (10.71)	13 (7.74)
Role reversal & shift in control in DM after ageing	72 (42.86)	43 (25.60)	25 (14.88)	18 (10.71)	10 (5.95)
Inter-personal conflicts	65 (38.69)	55 (32.74)	22 (13.10)	15 (8.93)	11 (6.55)
Inter-generational prejudices	68 (40.48)	52 (30.95)	28 (16.67)	11 (6.55)	9 (5.36)

(Source: Primary Data)

Analysis

A question was posed onto the changes in family or relationships that has led to depletion of human values in the current society. Five variables have been identified for this statement. 40.48% of respondents strongly agreed on the statement that physical illness of the old age people and the complexities therein was the reason.

28.57% of the respondents denied the same. For the statement, financial needs because of increased cost of living, 13.10% of the respondents were neutral. 10.71% of the

48.81% of the respondents have stayed for 4 years and above 1/3rd of the respondents fall in the - 4 years.

Table 3: Factors Responsible to join Old Age Home

Factors	Number	Percentage
On own will	57	33.93
children's advice	79	47.02
reference from others	32	19.05
Total	168	100.00

(Source: Primary Data)

Analysis

A question intending to know the intention of the respondents to join old age home was posed to the respondents. 3 factors were identified for the same. 33.93% of respondents have joined the old age home on own will. 47.02% of respondents because of the children's advice and 19.05% of respondents have joined because of the reference from others.

Table 4: Socio-Economic Challenges in the Families Leading to Old-Age Home Dependency

Factors	Number	Percentage
Decrease in older bodily function	88	52.38
Increase Nuclear Family System	16	9.52
Need for family support for the elderly	48	28.57
Changing role of women-working women	16	9.52
Total	168	100.00

(Source: Primary Data)

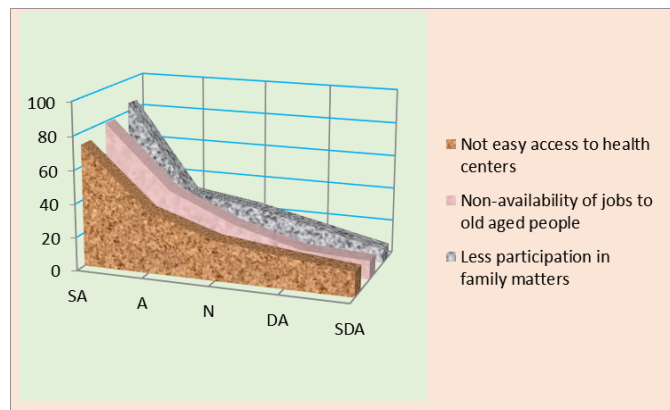
Analysis

A question was posed on Socio-Economic challenges in the families that has led to old-age home dependency. Four reasons identified were posed to the respondents. 52.38% of respondents find that it is the decrease in older bodily function. 9.52% of respondents felt that it is because of the nuclear family system. 28.57% of respondents contend that the reason for increased old age home dependency is due to the need of family support for the elderly and 9.52% of respondents backed the changing role of women- working women to be the reason for the same.

respondents agreed on the statement that the role reversal and shift in control in DM after ageing makes the families to unsettle with the family set-up.

5.95% of the respondents denied the statement. For the statement Inter- personal conflicts among the older and new generation, 13.10% of the respondents showed neutrality in the opinion. 40.48% of respondents agreed on the statement inter- generational prejudices have led to human values to deplete. 30.95% of the respondents denied the statement.

Physical Factors Leading to the Neglect of Old Aged People



(Source: Primary Data)

Analysis

A question was posed on the physical factors leading to neglecting old age people in the families. Three variables have been identified for this statement. 43.45% of respondents felt strongly that it is the not so easy access to health centres. 22.02% of the respondents denied the statement. For the statement Non-availability of jobs to old aged people, 14.29% of the respondents were neutral. 47.02% of the respondents agreed on the reason, less participation in family matters. 23.21% of the respondents denied the statement.

12. Conclusion

If combating elder is the goal, which is increasingly being recognized by societies, then the target of services must be extended beyond older people to include the larger networks and community. Education and outreach, and engaging community organizations are essential. Besides, in developing preventive and combating strategies, mechanisms to regulate care and monitor it in the family, community and institutional settings is necessary.

What programmes and initiatives can be undertaken requires an understanding within which they can operate. What measures need to be adopted from the social service, health and criminal justice perspectives require outlining and debating upon. The lack of a common definition that transcends the cultural and institutional and boundaries of agencies, institutions, countries and state limits the ability of policymakers, advocates, gerontologists and researchers to understand current trends in elder abuse and neglect.

13. Suggestions

While there are difficulties in establishing a nationality uniform response system to elder abuse and neglect as a significant social problem of concern, some innovative elder abuse prevention programmes and initiatives can be developed within social service, health and mental health, and criminal justice frames.

- Community-based services for older people including nutrition programmes, transportation, case management, selected home care, information and referral, advocacy, and other services intended to empower older people to be self-directing for as long as possible can be useful.

- Public education campaigns that define elder abuse and neglect and explain how older adults can protect themselves from abuse and neglect have an important role to play.
- Developing caregivers’ support programmes which are intended to educate and provide emotional support to caregivers of older people can help prevent abuse and neglect.
- Establishing ‘Respite care’ services to enable caregivers to get a break from the pressure of caregiving, particularly if the older adult being cared for, is an Alzheimer’s patient, can help to prevent abuse and neglect.
- Encouraging counselling for family members who may have unresolved conflicts with older adult family members and are at risk of becoming abusive is a necessary tool to prevent abuse and neglect.
- In the health care field elder abuse prevention can be promoted by initiatives, such as, education of physicians and nurses on elder abuse and abuse prevention. It is important that the health care system develop and implement prevention strategies as well as detection and intervention strategies to address elder abuse and neglect among patients.
- Preventive criminal justice programmes can include distribution of handbooks that include information on older peoples’ rights as a means for elder abuse prevention.
- The courts can become active in fraud and abuse prevention by tackling cases in time, without delay.
- Community policing initiatives have been developed that target prevention of elder abuse that rises to the level of a crime and these need to be strengthened and have wider coverage.
- In some states, legislations have been passed to strengthen state-based elder abuse prevention efforts. These need to be encouraged in other states too.
- But more than legislations, community education programmes can be effective in prevention of abuse and neglect.
- Finally, to extend the service needs of elder abuse victims beyond the traditional ageing service networks.

14. References

1. Elder Abuse in Indian families: Problems and Preventive Actions; International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications. 2014, 4(10). ISSN 2250-3153
2. International Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Studies ISSN 2394-6288 (Print) & ISSN 2394-6296 (Online); Problems Faced by Senior Citizen in Contemporary Society: Findings from the Household Survey in Karachi-Pakistan. 2015; 2(11):27-36.
3. Active Life of the Senior Citizens through Education; International Education Studies; ISSN 1913-9020 E-ISSN 1913-9039; Published by Canadian Centre of Science and Education. 2015, 8(4).
4. Education and quality of life of senior citizens; Pilar Escuder-Mollon and Salvador Cabedo
5. Factors influencing distress among senior citizens; IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)

2014; 19(1):04-06. e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845. www.iosrjournals.org

6. The contents of 'worth' in ageing citizens' wishes for technology and design Jaana Leikas and Pertti Saariluoma
7. Papiya G. Mazumdar & Sumit Mazumdar, Dynamics of Family Support for the Elderly in Rural India: The Influence of Co-Residence with Children, <http://iussp2009.princeton.edu/download.aspx?submissionId=91597>
8. Senior Citizens' Lifestyle And Life Wisdom In Preschool Children's Pictures; Lewicki, Czeslaw, Uberman, Marta International Council On Social Society; Regional Cooperation Newsletter – South Asia January –February-March 2014.
9. Education and quality of life of senior citizens; Pilar Escuder-Mollon and Salvador Cabedo Intergenerational Learning and the Contributions of Older People; Sally Newman; 2008.
10. The New Generation of Seniors and the Ageism Paradigm Shift; Charlene lane, 2011.