



Studying the nature of social security process of elderly people in urban and rural areas

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Abstract

Individuals over the age of 60 years can be recognized as an age group which may face different biological changes. Security of them who are regarded as an older population is a social responsibility. In the rural areas this social responsibility is realized through the human family, but there is no such a situation in urban society. In general terms, aging can be identified as a problematic situation to be discussed in the society perspective. It is important to separately study how social security is implemented in rural and urban areas. Accordingly, Research problem was, "Is there any difference in the social security system of the elderly between rural and urban area?" As well as the objective of the study is to study whether there is a difference between the elderly protection in rural and urban areas.

Two Grama Niladhari Divisions with rural and urban features were considered in the study. Accordingly, 75 sample was taken under the proportional stratified sampling method, 35 were from the 59/A/1 Arachchikanda Grama Niladhari Division and 40 from the 533/C Egodawatta Grama Niladhari Division. There were 74% elderly residents of the Arachchikanda Grama Niladhari Division living under the care and safety of their children and it is confined to only 15% in Egodawatta. 91% elderly residents in Arachchikanda mentioned that they were satisfied with the area they are living. But only 23% people posted their consent in Egodawatte. 89% elderly residents in Arachchikanda expressed the satisfaction of having the opportunity to get in touch with others but only 33% stated that in Egodawatte. Thus, there is a difference in between social security process of the elders between rural and urban areas. Therefore, it is possible to identify that other institutes have involved providing social concentration to elders in urban areas.

Keywords: adult security, aging, social conservation, rural, urban

Introduction

Aging is a global issue which not only can be seen in Sri Lanka. Even in developed countries it has become a problem when implementing new policies due to high number of ageing population in countries. According to United Nations (2015) reports that the global population share of aged persons (aged 60 years or over) increased from 9.2 per cent in 1990 to 12.5 per cent in 2015 and will continue to grow as a proportion of the world population, reaching 21.1 per cent by 2050 (Perera, 2017) ^[10]. This study shows essential concepts on social security. Social security is the protection that a society provides to individuals and households to ensure access to health care and guarantee income security particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work, injury, maternity or loss of a bread winner (Faculty of Social Sciences, 2010) ^[3].

Human being is a magnificent product by the nature passes through several stages of life in various forms, from time to time. Human being is born as a child. Young child gradually becomes a young person, and a knowledgeable person with the time to time. Only rules of the nature are unchangeable even in advance technological conditions. Therefore, man is a product of the nature cannot avoid these three aging categories. Persons over 60 years of age who are change biologically can be identified under three age groups. Young old 65-74, old-old 75-84, oldest-old over 85 (Hooymann &

Kiyak, 1993) ^[4]. Aging causes a functional deterioration and vulnerability that also creates physical changes as well. With the increasing of his age, older people become incapable to carry out his normal functioning as he did before. Thus, aging is a social process that involves individual and population aging, biological and psychological aging, individual and social change, individual and cultural differences within and between age cohorts and cross-cultural and sub-cultural differences in values, beliefs and norms (Md, Tahmina, & Md, 2006) ^[8]. The proportion of people over 65 years of age is higher in rural areas than in urban areas, and their numbers are expected to increase in the next decade (Baernholdt, Yan, Hinton, Rose, & Mattos, 2012) ^[2].

However there are different attitudes and opinions in the society about the elders. Finding solutions for social security of elderly people and implementing policies important for the wellbeing of elderly people. Although Social Security is an important insurance program for people of all ages, at any given point in time the largest single demographic group of recipients is those age 65 and over (<https://www.epi.org/publication/ib206/>). Here, we can identify several key social security methods. Elderly people who are living with their children, the husband and the wife living together, living alone in the house and living under the protection of an employee, residing in a day care center or elderly home Etc... are few of them. However, social security

of elderly people who are living in rural areas is protected by rural families. In previous studies, it was found adult children tend to provide care and support to their elderly parents and co-reside with them as necessary (Liu, Han, Xiao, Li, & Feldman, 2015)^[6].

From the macro-social level, modernisation theory is often used to explain the changes in family support for the elderly in both developed and developing economies. According to this perspective, the collapse of extended family and shifts towards nuclear family explain the decline in family support for the elderly. Currently, material constraints of families are the main cause for the decline of family support for the elderly in developing economies (Aboagye, Agyemang, & Tjerbo, 2014)^[1].

When we consider about Sri Lankan society, in rural areas elderly people are protected by the human family, but such protection is not ensured by the human family in urban area. There is a trend of transferring the role of elder protection from family to other institutions in urban area. There for this social security of elderly people has become a major problem in contemporary society.

Literature Review

In studying the form of operation of elder’s protection in urban and rural areas, it is very important to study prior studies on that. According to the book of Rural Sociology written by G.L Bultena, extensive family pattern in rural areas has abandoned the loneliness of elders. Also, elders in rural areas are keeping face to face relationships with each other. But, nuclear family in urban area has isolated the elders. Gray R Lee and Marie L Lassey has published their article under the topic of “Rural-Urban Differences among the elderly: Economic, social and Subjective Factors” in the magazine of Journal of social issues. They have expressed that there are no differences between rural and urban areas on elder protection. Mudey Abhay, Amberar Shrikant, Goyal C Ramchandra, Agarekar Sushil and Wagh V Vasant has published their study under the topic of Assessment of Quality of life among Rural and urban Elderly population of Wardha District, Maharashtra, India in on the magazine of “Studies on Ethno medicine”. They have mentioned that physical and mental condition of elders who are living in rural areas is higher than elders who are living in urban areas.

Research Problem

Is there any difference in the social security system of the

elderly people between rural and urban area?

Objectives of the study

Key Objective

Study whether there is a difference in the social security system of elderly people between the rural and urban areas.

Secondary Objectives

- To identify the reasons affecting the difference in the social security of the elderly people.
- To understand the problems in the social security of elders in relation to urban and rural areas.
- It problem exist to recommend solution for social security of elderly people.

Research Methodology

Research Area

This study is based on two different Grama Niladari Divisions, 59/A/1 Arachchikanda Grama Niladari Division which belongs to Gonapinuwala Divisional secretariat, Galle District and Sothern province, as the rural area and 533/C Egodawatta Grama Niladari Division which belongs to Kesbawa Divisional secretariat, Colombo district and Western Province as the urban area.

Research Sample

75 Elderly people whose age is more than 60 years of sample has considered during the study. 35 of them from Arachchikanda Grama Niladari Division and balance 40 of the sample has selected from Egodawatta Grama Niladari Division. It was selected under a Stratified Sampling Method.

Data Collection

Primary data collected from questionnaires, Interviews, Group discussion and Observations used in this study. Accordingly, questionnaires have filled by conducting interviews in the research area. Also accuracy of collecting data has further confirmed through observations.

In addition to primary data sources books, magazines, internet & newspapers have used as secondary data sources to collect information.

Data Analysis

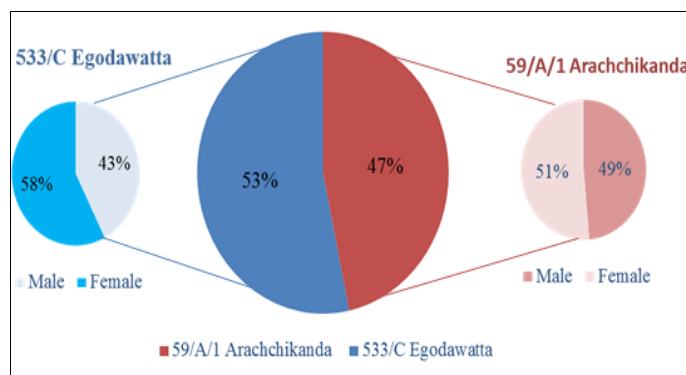
Data Analysis was managed through SPSS computer data analysis system.

Results based discussion

Table 1

1. Gender	Number = 75		Percentage	
	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta
Male	17	17	(48.57)	(42.50)
Female	18	23	(51.43)	(57.50)
2. Age Structure	Number = 75		Percentage	
	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta
Young Old (65-74)	28	26	(80.00)	(65.00)
Old – Old (75-84)	04	13	(11.43)	(32.50)
Oldest- Old (over 85)	03	01	(8.57)	(2.50)
3. Income level	Number = 75		Percentage	
	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta

Less than 1000	03	01	(8.57)	(2.50)
From 1001 to 5000	21	15	(60.00)	(37.50)
From 5001 to 10000	10	19	(28.57)	(47.50)
From 10001 to 20000	01	04	(2.86)	(10.00)
More than 20001	00	01	(0.00)	(2.50)
4. Satisfaction on Income level	Number = 75		Percentage	
	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta
Highly Satisfied	06	03	(17.14)	(7.50)
Satisfied	19	13	(54.29)	(32.50)
Not Satisfied	07	17	(20.00)	(42.50)
Highly Not Satisfied	03	07	(8.57)	(17.50)
5. Residence	Number = 75		Percentage	
	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta
With Children	26	6	(74.29)	(15.00)
With The Spouse	8	15	(22.86)	(37.50)
Alone	1	12	(2.86)	(30.00)
With A Servant	0	7	(0.00)	(17.50)
As A Beggar	0	0	(0.00)	(0.00)
In A Day Care Center	0	0	(0.00)	(0.00)
In a Elder's Home	0	0	(0.00)	(0.00)
Other	0	0	(0.00)	(0.00)
6. Satisfaction On Place of Residence	Number = 75		Percentage	
	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta
Highly Satisfied	19	00	(54.29)	(0.00)
Satisfied	13	09	(37.14)	(22.50)
Not Satisfied	03	24	(8.57)	(60.00)
Highly Not Satisfied	00	07	(0.00)	(17.50)
7. Satisfaction on Level of Freedom to Have Relationships with Others	Number = 75		Percentage	
	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta	59/A/1 Arachchikanda	533/C Egodawatta
Highly Satisfied	17	00	(48.57)	(0.00)
Satisfied	14	13	(40.00)	(32.50)
Not Satisfied	03	22	(8.57)	(55.00)
Highly Not Satisfied	01	05	(2.86)	(12.50)

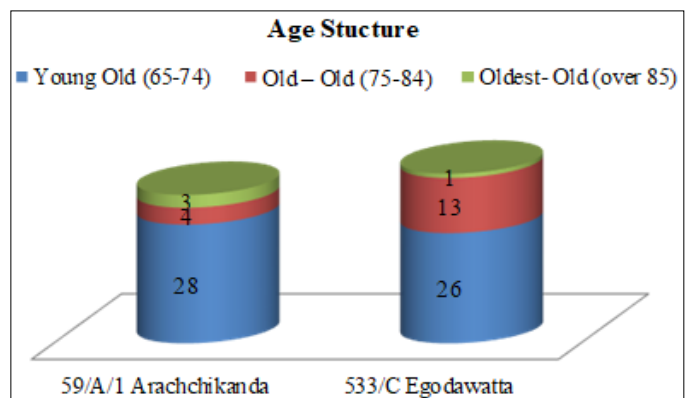


Source: Field study-2017

Fig 1: Sample & Gender

Total sample included 47% from Arachchikanda Grama Niladhari Division which is representing the rural area & 53% from Egodawatta Grama Niladhari Division which is representing the urban area. Further, 51% of female and 49% of male were in Arachchikanda Division & 58% of female and 42% of male were in Egodawatta Division. Studied sample in the study included 58% females and 43% males from Egodawatta Grama Niladhari Division & 49% males and 51%

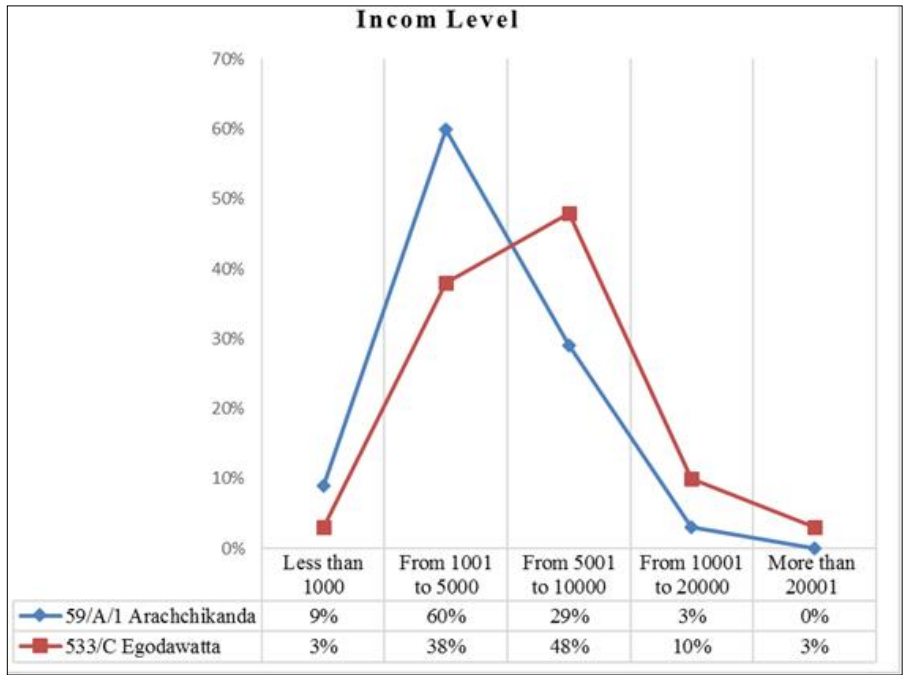
females in Arachchikanda Grama Niladhari Division.



Source: Field study-2017

Fig 2: Age Structure

When recognizing sample as per aging groups of Arachchikanda 80%, 11.3%, 8.57% were in the age groups of 60 – 74, 75 – 84, more than 85 respectively. In the case of Egodawatta those percentages were 65%, 32.5%, 2.5% respectively.

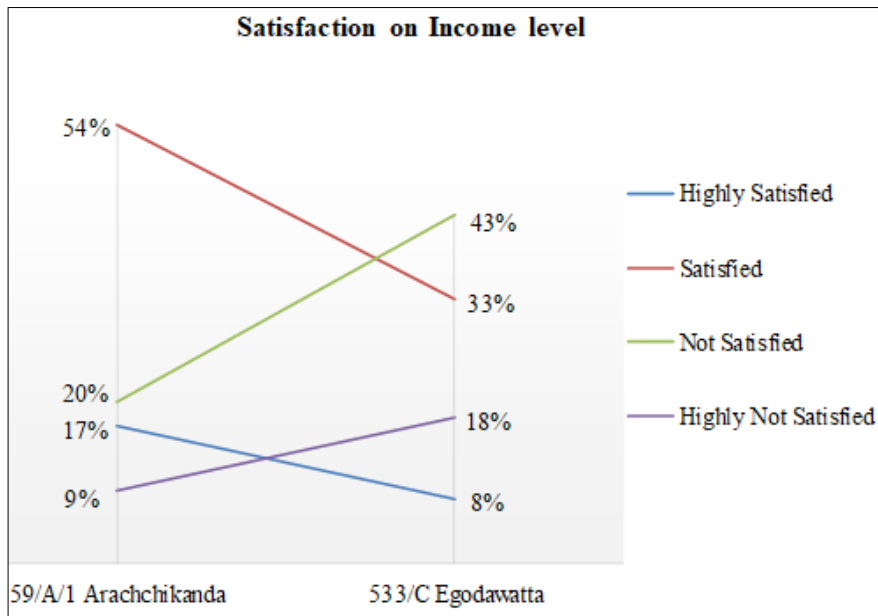


Source: Field study-2017

Fig 3: Income Level

When it comes to the monthly income level, 60% or the majority of the sample Arachchikanda Division represented the range of Rupees 1,001 to 5,000 and 2.86% represented the

range of Rupees 10,001 to 20,000. Also 9% of them were earning less than 1000 per month. In Egodawatta, 48% were in between the income level range from rupees 5001-10,000.

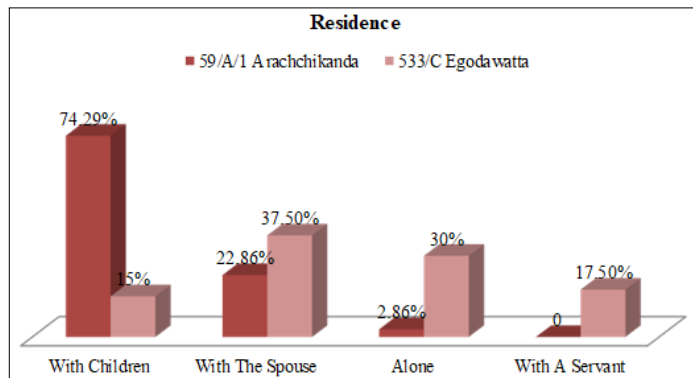


Source: Field study-2017

Fig 4: Satisfaction on income level

Expense level in urban areas are high with compared to rural areas. High level of expenses in urban areas has caused to reduce the satisfaction on income level of people who are living there. Main point observed in the study under the satisfaction on income level is that people who are living in rural areas are highly satisfied in economic perspective more than people who are living in urban areas.

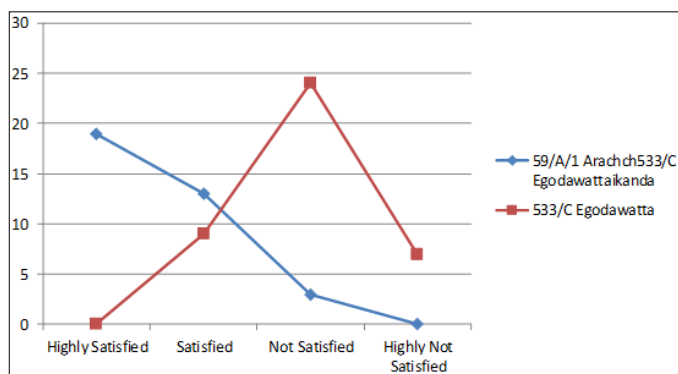
Accordingly, information on satisfaction level of income for the study has collected under four levels as highly satisfied, satisfied, not satisfied & highly not satisfied. Satisfaction levels on income in Arachchikanda were 17%, 54%, 20%, & 9% respectively. When it comes to Egodawatta those were 7.5%, 32.5%, 42.5% & 17.5%.



Source: Field study-2017

Fig 5: Residence

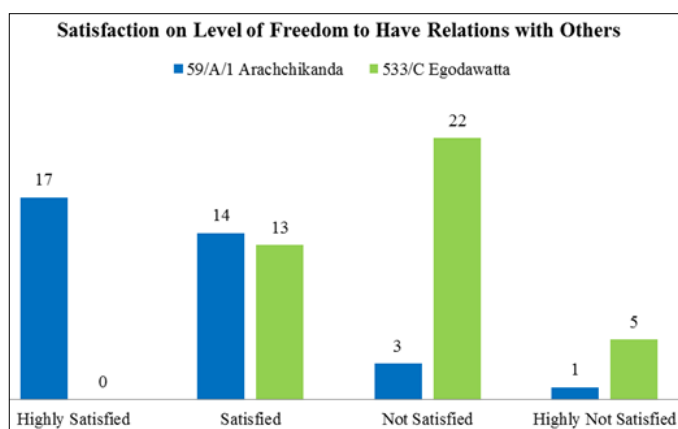
Even though 74.29% of elders from Arachchikanda Division are living with their children, that percentage in Egodawatta Division which is a urban area was 15%. Majority from Egodawatta are living with their spouse or alone. Percentages were 37.50% and 22.86% respectively.



Source: Field study-2017

Fig 6: Satisfaction on place of residence

91.43% of elders from Arachchikanda expressed their satisfaction of their places. But satisfied elders in the Egodawatta was 22.50%.



Source: Field study-2017

Fig 7: Satisfaction on level of freedom to have relations with others

Number of people who satisfied & highly satisfied in Arachchikanda Division are high among the people who

expressed their opinion about satisfaction level of freedom to have relationships with others, as per above statistical data. Accordingly, it is clear that 88.57% from Arachchikanda Division are satisfied while 67.5% from Egodawatta are not satisfied.

Therefore, there is a difference between rural & urban areas in the perspective of economical & rural security of elders. Accordingly, Security level of elders in urban areas are in a negative situation compared to rural areas.

Conclusion

In generally there is a difference between rural & urban areas a social security of elderly people. There are different methods such as elderly security methods, economically and socially. In present elders in rural areas are secured by the extended families. However, after extended families become nuclear families, responsibility of security on elders gradually transferred from family to other institutions. Also, increasing in the employment of woman in urban areas has caused to this situation adversely. Economical satisfaction of elders was negatively affected by the higher living cost in urban environment.

Recommendation

Steps such as modernization of education system by adding cultural values to the education to reestablish the relationship between parents & children, Enhancing family counselling programs, creating trained labors to secure protection of elders who are living alone can be taken to ensure protection of elders in urban.

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