

Problems of the Elderly: A Sociological Study in Agra

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ABSTRACT

This paper focused on "Problems of the Elderly: a sociological study in Agra". The main objective of research paper is to study the background and socio-economic profile of the elderly and the main problems of the elderly in Agra city. Our sample size is 30 Elderly in Agra city. For the purpose of data collection A structured interview schedule was used to collect the information on their back ground, and the main problems of the elderly for the aged in the families, and the perceptions of the aged regarding the care and support they are getting from their family members, their views regarding main problems in old age. The data was analyzed using the percentage method. The major finding was the main problems of the elderly are felling alone, financial problem, health problem, disrespect and neglecting behavior by family members, and adjustment problem with family and to motivate the young generation to live in joint families and more interact with elder and also support and care.

Keywords: Elder pupil, socio-economic status, Age, Marital status, Family.

I INTRODUCTION

The Traditional Indian social system has been changing very fast due to the steadily engulfing forces of modernization, urbanization, industrialization and other such processes. It has drastically affected the rural family structure in general and the age-old joint family system in particular. In urban fringes the joint family system has been disintegrated to a large extent and therefore, the social and economic significance of this institution has significantly diminished. The fact of consumerism and individualistic attitude of the younger generation has necessitated drifting away from their villages to gain more comfort and achieving future goals in urban areas. In such a situation the poor and helpless aged parents are left behind alone in villages where they feel socially helpless and economically insecure and thereby they are compelled to lead a life of uncertainty and tribulation.

Under the prevailing psycho-social Scenario in the rapidly changing Indian society, status of the aged requires special attention. The affect of aging is quite visible on motivation, adjustment and emotional life etc. of the aged. The problem which has not been India's main concern has now started posing threat to family life's and social systems of the country. With the social changes taking place at a fast pace, the importance, role and status of the aged also started dwindling. Due to modernization and mechanization of the society and nucleation of the family, position of the aged has further come down. Due to loss of income and position, their active life, social status and social interaction are also affected adversely.

Definition of Elderly

"Elderly" has been defined as a chronological age of 65 years old or older, while those from 65 through 74 years old are referred to as "early elderly" and those over 75 years old as "late elderly."

II REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Irene M. Hulicka (1975) conducted an empirical study in the Psychology and Sociology of Aging. It is purely a quantitative analysis, which clearly analyzes demography, intellectual functioning, perceptual functioning, learning, memory, problem-solving and creativity, life satisfaction and adjustment to ageing, work and retirement. This book discusses how the process of ageing and behaviour of older people are connected. There are surveys, which showed the impact of environment on old people. The influence of improved physical and social environment appeared not only in the increased satisfaction of residents with their living situation but also in more favourable attitudes about themselves and towards others, in more active and social patterns of life, and in signs of improved physical and mental health. About the attitudes of the aged towards euthanasia, Irene pointed out that their religious faith is an important consideration. The need of casework with the ageing is emphasized by Edna.

Ingrid Arnet Connidis (2001) in Family Ties and Aging has attempted to weave the vast range of information about the many facts of family relationships and ageing into a critical, comprehensive and integrated whole. The life experience of any age group are so closely tied to the family that the examining of such ties can lead to a better understanding of later life. Most relationships in old age are a continuation of those begun in earlier life; however, changes also occur in response to other changes associated with ageing. Connidis made five theoretical assumptions to explain the family ties in later life. First, the family ties of later life are best understood in the life course perspectives; they represent both continuity and change. Second, understanding the family ties of older persons require examining relationships, not only families, but also both older and younger persons to give and receive in their familial relationships. Third, family membership should be defined broadly and not restricted to a traditional notion of what constitutes family. Fourth is the arrangement of social life. The fact behind

this search is the importance of individual persons who have the ability to act on their own behalf and the influence on one's position within the social structure. Fifth, the meaning of family at both the cultural and individual level is an important facet of understanding how ties are both negotiated and evaluated by family members and by others.

III OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives formulated for this study are:

- (i) To study the background and socio-economic profile of the elderly in Agra city.
- (ii) To study the main problems of the elderly in Agra city.

IV RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

(i) Method:-

In the light of objectives of the present study, the

researcher adopted survey method for data collection.

(ii) Delimitations of the study:-

- This study focused only on the elder pupil
- This study focused only on the Agra city.

(iii) Sample Design:-

Sample size: 30

Sample frame: Elderly in Agra city

(iv) Research Tool:-

For the purpose of data collection A structured interview schedule was used to collect the information on their back ground, factors affecting the care and the support for the aged in the families, and the perceptions of the aged regarding the care and support they are getting from their family members, their views regarding main problems in old age. The data was analyzed using the percentage method.

V ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

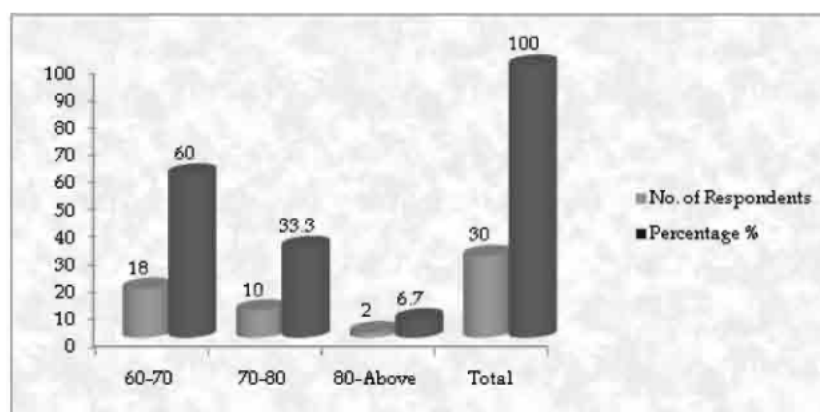
(i) Age:

Table -1
Distribution of Respondents according to Age

S.No.	Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
1	60-70	18	60
2	70-80	10	33.3
3	80-Above	2	6.7
	Total	30	100

Table No 1 shows the age-wise distribution of the respondents. It shows that out of 30 respondents, 60 percent respondents belong to the age group between 60-70 years. While 33.3 percent

respondents belonged to the age group between 70-80 years and the minimum of the 6.7 percent respondents belonged to the age group between 80-above years.



(i) Marital Status:-

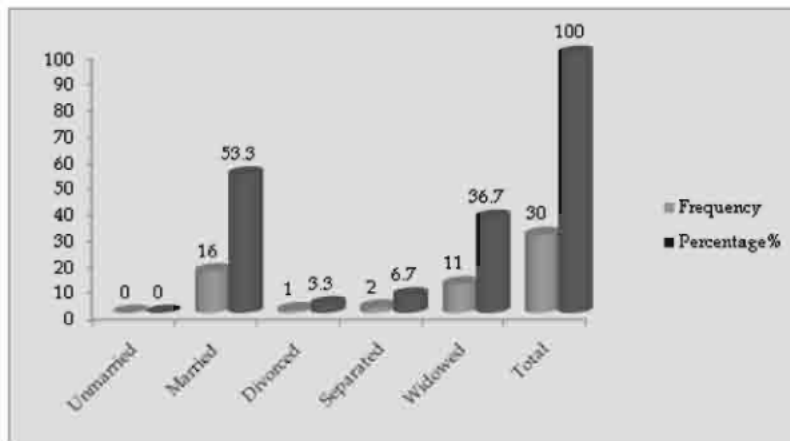
Table 2
Distribution of Respondents according to the Marital Status

S.No.	Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Unmarried	00	00
2	Married	16	53.3
3	Divorced	01	3.3
4	Separated	02	6.7

5	Widowed	11	36.7
	Total	30	100

Table No 2 shows the Marital Status wise distribution of the respondents. It shows that out of 30 respondents, nobody are Unmarried, 53.3 percent respondents are Married 3.3 percent

respondents are Divorced 6.7 percent respondents are Separated, 36.7 percent respondents are Widowed.



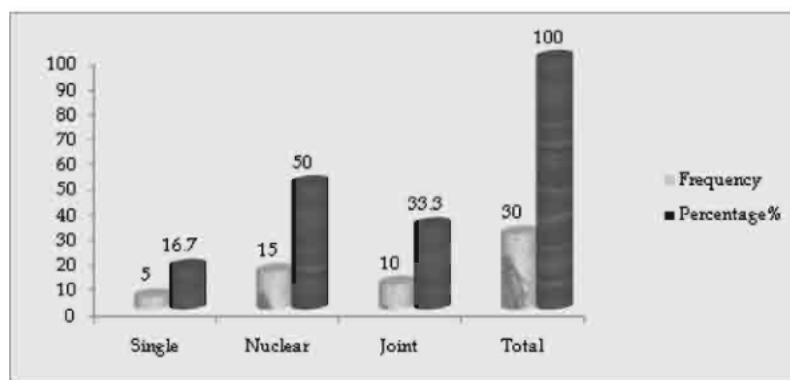
(j) Type of Family:-

Table 3
Distribution of Respondents according to Type of Family

S.No.	Type of Family	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Single	5	16.7
2	Nuclear	15	50
3	Joint	10	33.3
	Total	30	100

This table 3 shows the type of family of the respondents. It shows that out of 30 respondents, 16.7 per cent respondents belonged to single, 50 per cent respondents belonged to joint family,

while 33.3 per cent respondents belonged to nuclear family. So majority of the respondents belonged to Nuclear family.



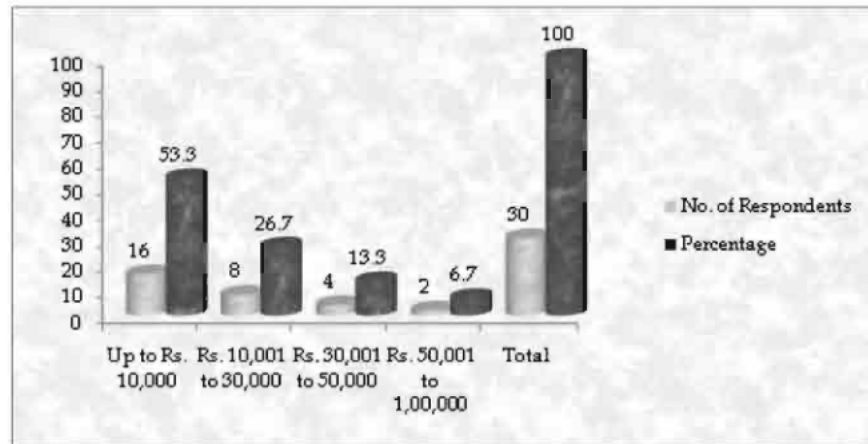
(k) Income :-

Table 4 Distribution of Respondents according to Income

S.No.	Annual income	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Up to Rs. 10,000	16	53.3
2	Rs. 10,001 to 30,000	8	26.7
3	Rs. 30,001 to 50,000	4	13.3
4	Rs. 50,001 to 1,00,000	2	6.7
	Total	30	100.00

The table 4 shows that 53.3 per cent respondent were earning up to Rs. 10,001 ,while 26.7 per cent of the respondents were earning Rs. 10,001 to 30.000, 13.3 per cent respondent were earning their annual income between Rs. 30,001 to 50.000 and

only few 6.7 percent respondents have been earning between Rs. 50,001 to 1,00000 as their annual income. This shows that majority of the respondents had low income.



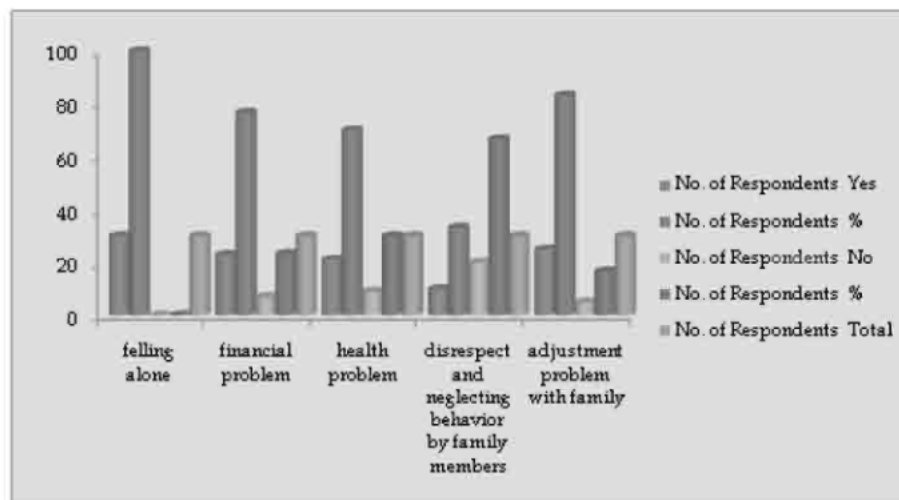
(i) Main problems in old age :-

Table 5
Distribution of Respondents according to main problems in old age

S.No.	PROBLEMS	No. of Respondents				
		Yes	%	No	%	Total
1	filling alone	30	100	00	00	30
2	financial problem	23	76.7	07	23.3	30
3	health problem	21	70	9	30	30
4	disrespect and neglecting behavior by family members	10	33.3	20	66.7	30
5	adjustment problem with family	25	83.3	5	16.7	30

Table 5 shows that the elderly respondents were asked to know the main problems in old age. It shows that out of 30 respondents, 100 per cent respondents expressed that filling alone, 76.7 percent respondent to faced financial problem and rest of not ,70 percent respondent expressed that health problem is the major problem in old age and

rest of not, 83.3 percent respondent expressed that the old age problem found to be adjustment , arising due to cultural change and elderly not able to adjust with the time. Another old age problem found that the minimum 33.3 respondent expressed that the faced the problem of disrespect and neglecting behavior by family members.



VI FINDINGS

The Indian case studies to indicate that the so-called "joint Family system" is a myth. The many elderly living with their sons and their families are often neglected and uncared for. The Government of India concerns for the welfare of its Elderly but they are not succeed The Indian government plan focused on the governmental role in adopting programmers for the care and protection of the elderly, synchronizing these with the changing socio-economic conditions of each society and they are planning various policy-oriented programmers were Introduced, but they are not successful because many problems affect these policies like that ignored rural-urban differences as well as the local disjunctions of class and power. Today every person have all such things except than time. Time is most important factor to provide one person to other. Everybody run after the physical and material need and facilities .The concept of social isolation implies a relative lack of participation in social relationships. Social relationships enable social contacts, interaction, communication and exchange of views, feelings, miseries, worries, attitudes etc. Isolation from the family the primary group and from the larger community brings loneliness and depression. The another old age problem found to be adjustment, arising due to cultural change and elderly not able to adjust with the new culture and new society life style. The current era there are many national and international NGOs working for the problems of elderly? Most have concentrated their work among Lower-economic status group and their problems of the society because of this group are identified as "capability poor", which means they do not have access to minimum levels of health care or education for earning a decent living because the Government is unable to deal with such a huge dependent population.

VII SUGGESTIONS

- (a) The Various factor socio-economic, cultural, gender, caste and physical affect lives of the elderly which reveal the specific needs of the elderly for welfare.
- (b) The socio-economic security in later life is a very important. Hence, emphasis should be given on providing them wider opportunities for savings and making assets to live a comfortable later life.
- (c) The elderly face many problems after retirement. The government provided pre-retirement workshops for facilitating a smooth transition to a retired life in areas of economic security, investment opportunities, will preparation, health priorities, family interaction, utilization of spare time and community participation.
- (d) Family closeness should be cultivated over the lifetime and men in particular, need to prepare for help their family in old age by ways such as inculcating a culture of common leisure activities within the family, help all over the

house, be a advisor and so on. Do some programmes to promote intergenerational interaction between the young and the elderly.

- (e) To motivate the young generation to live in joint families and more interact with elder.

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