

INCOME INSECURITY AMONG FEMALE ELDERLY

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ABSTRACT

Ageing is an irreparable biological process. Ageing is stated as the inevitable consequence of decline in productiveness with the advent of technology, advancement in health care facilities there is decrease in mortality rate the main purpose of this research manuscript is to acquire understanding of the problems of aged people in the general and especially the economic situation of female elderly, as elderly problems are future big challenge.

KEY WORDS= Ageing, Economic, Alienated, Jeopardy, Liability.

Population ageing is a global issue. the proportion of children in the population is going down as compared to the aged population. There is no single widely accepted definition of the aged. Differ societies differ on the definition. In developed countries may due to higher expectation of life and better nutritional status ensuring better health, physical and mental conditions persons are considered aged at the chronological age of 65 years and above. This increasing number of elderly population is known as the ageing of population.

To understand and deal with the difficulties of the aged, a new branch as has been evolved and that is called 'Gerontology'. According to Nathan W. Shock (1957), gerontology is a scientific study of the phenomenon of aging. By ageing we mean the progressive changes which takes place all tissues and organ systems, a total organism or a group of organisms the passage of time. All living things change with time in both structures and function and the changes which follow the general trend constitute ageing.

Globally it is estimated that there 605 million people aged above 65 years. WHO has predicted that ageing population will present new challenges to the health care (WHO 2008).

The number of people 60 years and over in the globe is 673 million in 2005 and is expected to increase a 2 billion by 2050, almost a triple increase and the first quarter 21st century is going to be called as "The age of ageing" (Shunkuntala Dr. 2013).

According to the National Commission on Population, the share of the elderly in India's population close to 9% in 2011, is growing fast and may reach 18% by 2036 (The Hindu: 2022).

Though the aging population both Sexes are increasing Gerontologists are waking up to the fact that ageing is becoming increasingly a gender issue. The number of older people all over the world increased phenomenally resulting in increase in the graying world and the populations of older women is significantly higher leading to feminization of ageing (Parkash. 2001). Among these elderly the number of widow elderly has also relatively been increasing. As the proportion of ageing population is increasing globally. Societal mind-sets, limited to resources, lack of awareness of their rights and entitlements all play a major role in challenging the economic security of the elderly and their independence.

Globally tremendous changes are going on that have fully impact on the aged people. Intergenerational ties were very strong in traditional society. Due to industrialization intended, joint family units have been replaced by nuclear or even single family bonds. Due to wider economic opportunities the young ones migrate from rural to urban areas

particularly in Indian context. As advanced industrialized societies growing, aged ones are losing a sense of purpose, feel alienated and financially insecure.

Sociologically, ageing marks a form of transition from one set of social roles to another. Status according to Linton (1936) refers to the position that an individual attains in a Society. It is collection of rights and duties. In the pre- industrialized society older persons had central position in the family, neighborhood and community. But in the present Scenario the old are often neglected and deprived of their rights, not only neglected but have to suffer from worthlessness and loneliness. Neither they have authority in the family, they feel depressed. They not only socially, psychologically isolated but economically also their plight is pathetic

In this transformative age both the sexes face multiple problems. In most of the developing Countries women are worse off than men with regard to a number of important dimensions of human existence. If men who once active in the labour force and had made substantial tangible contribution to national income are considered as 'burden' then how will women, who always had been invisible contributors be treated when they are old and no longer useful? It is not ageing women who are a liability, on the contrary age become a liability for women.

Poverty among women is worldwide phenomenon. Even in Canada with one of best social security programmers for elderly, the older women are living in 'genteel poverty' compared to "object poverty" many older women in the United States of America (Laban 1992).

If the plight of women in these prosperous countries is merciful then how do we describe the poverty of elderly women in countries like India? Here the situation is quite different and old women need more help from the society. Women are physically and emotionally are better built they live longer than men.

The percentage of widow's among older women is much higher than the percentage of widowers because of high longevity of women at older ages and husbands being generally older than wives. Moreover, if we compare the widow men with the widow woman then we find that men who lose their partners sometimes remarry.

Generally, women always face triple jeopardy throughout her age According to Hindu mythology women is always dependent upon father in childhood, and after marriage. upon her husband and upon sons in old age. Women are considered feeble, vulnerable and so in a position to be exploited in different parts of society. Women are the victims of circumstances which have been created due to gender construction. Approximately 99 per cent of India's population lives below the poverty line 50 per cent of them are widows. They are especially vulnerable to poverty, inadequate care and neglected in old age (Shakuntala,)

Recommendations: The world is going silver. A Demographic restructuring of the world population is underway. United Nations estimates the number of those aged 60 plus years at 600 million; ie. 10 percent of the world population. The number is expected to approximate two billion by 2056 (Aditt 2004).

The World Health Organization's document; 'Active Ageing A Policy Framework (IPAA 2002). Emphasizes that equal access of older persons to health care and services are the Cornerstone of healthy ageing.

Mobile Medicare Services need to be maintained for the consultation and treatment etc. for the health care of the aged persons. Geriatric disabilities are more acute amongst the poverty stricken elderly population of our Country. The female elderly need medical facilities but they are unable to attain medical services particularly in slum areas. Taking into consideration

these vulnerable elderly especially widows, the frail and the destitute elderly must be provided with care. In the hospitals there must be special subsidized concessions to female elderly for medicines as they are unable to pay for their treatment.

Early legal justice in property matters must be given to elderly women through Protection Cells. After the death of their husbands they forcefully have to transfer all their property in name of their children, After this they are completely neglected by their own children. So, in order to protect the females there is severe need of such cells.

The Government always make efforts and prepares certain programmes to alleviate poverty and provide social security to the aged. But these policies need to be implemented, so the programmes reach the target groups.

Lastly constitute an important human resource and this resource needs to be managed Quality of life of elderly has be improved.

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