

A Study on Status and Problems Elderly Age Women with Special Reference of Manipur

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Abstract

According to the Elderly age women is considered to be the Centre of affection and protection for the aged parents where-in they can be well cared by the members of the family. Most of the elderly in Manipur are looked after by their sons, mostly the youngest son. The unmarried elderly also reside in their own home with their married nephew. Every family even the nuclear family has at least one elderly as member of the household. The elderly living with one person who may be either their spouse or relative. It is also in their tradition to accommodate elderly relatives, uncles and aunts.

Keywords: Elderly, Foundation, Reside, Important, Reviewing

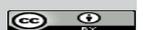
Conceptual analysis forms an important part of this research, as it builds a theoretical foundation upon which the current research in the area of gerontology is based, by reviewing the relevant literatures, relating them and thus fixing the research issues. Also it enables the researcher to carry out the research which is in a way new reality that is being faced by the world and in particular India as a nation. The advancement in the field of medicine, hygiene, diet and comfort facilities have enhanced the life span of individuals. This study is an enquiry into this emerging reality that is confronting the state of Manipur in the ever-changing socio-economic, religious and cultural environment. The researcher attempts both defining as well as explaining the significant concepts and variables with the help of available theoretical schemes and research studies (Verma 2014).

Mark Novak and Lori Campbell (2010) describes activity theory. Havighurst. This theory of ageing

proposes that older adults are happiest when they stay active and maintain social interactions. It assumes a positive relationship between activity and life satisfaction. Activity theory reflects the functionalist perspective that the equilibrium that an individual develops in middle age should be maintained in later years. This theory is applicable in the case of elderly in Manipur. The elderly here like to engage themselves in various activities like selling vegetable, catching fish, shopping, looking after the children, cooking and even engage themselves in small scale cottage industries. By doing so they are happy and forget their physical ailments and satisfied.

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Objectives of the Study

1. To study the socio demographic profile of the elderly age women in Manipur.
2. To analyze the living condition and health status of the elderly age women in Manipur.

Hypothesis

1. There is no correlation between the loneliness of the elderly persons and depression of the elderly persons.
2. The socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the elders are significantly influences on the care given to the elderly persons.

DISCUSSION

A deeper understanding of ageing and care in the present day society needs the review of ageing as a process at the individual level and at the societal level. India is undergoing the process of drastic demographic transition. This is a relative increase in the number of aged persons (60+) and also their proportion in the population. Population ageing has considerable implications for the social security system. According to census figures, the proportion of the aged in the population of India was 5.3 per cent in 1961, and is expected to reach 9.9 per cent in 2021. More than the economic dependency, the old people indirectly contribute to the economic security of the families by informal work, which helps the other members of the family persons (60+) and also their proportion in the population. Population ageing has considerable implications for the social security system.. More than the economic dependency, the old people indirectly contribute to the economic security of the families by informal work, which helps the other members of the family to participate in economic activities (Bali 1999).

Elderly Age in the ultra-modern times of the 20th century became an era of study in its own right for the first time. The two terms Gerontology study of ageing and "Geriatrics" medical care for ageing people were coined in the first decade of the century. Furthermore, governments across the world began instituting social welfare programs which provided income to the elderly who were no longer able to work. Germany was the first country to institute pension for retired workers in 1880s. But the other

countries were slow to follow. It was the Great Depression that provided impetus for the U.S. to finally create its own "old age pension" and in 1935 Social Security was passed under the relationship of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Now, nearly every developed nation provides a pension for retired workers. And just 30 years later in 1965 Medicare and Medicaid were formed, helping to ensure that seniors had access to medical care no matter what their means (Madhav 2013).

It is a normal and inevitable and biological phenomenon to be elderly. Literature on social life among older adults mainly affirms the positive aspects of sociality. Relationship also can impact an individual negatively-as is the case with mistreatment by family or close friends. Late life is a time of greater physical, mental, and financial vulnerability. Heightened health care needs may cause friction with caregivers and other network members. A weakening of short-term memory may enhance vulnerability to financial abuse.

But, where as in old age, families matter, especially when they function as indispensable sources of social and emotional support. Shifts in family patterns over the life course leave older adults in structurally vulnerable positions. With retirement from the job and with children leaving home town for job, often the partner becomes the main source of support. Women become increasingly vulnerable to partner loss as they grow older. Mistreatment strongly impacts well-being in late life, increasing psychological distress as well as mortality rates (Vishwakarma and Chengti 2011).

The harmony between children and the aged parent have been well maintained in the families. Children are of the opinion that their parents have given them everything they required from their hard work and now it is their turn to take care of them and it is done in the best way possible.

The experience of old age differs radically across the country. In the Northern states, the income producing elderly family members receive higher respect because of their economic contributions to the family. In the Western states of the country, for elders, the family remains almost the only source of residential, economic and emotional sustenance. The Southern states have undergone major changes in its society and economy. The migration of young

people to the Gulf countries has resulted in leaving the old in families with no one to look after.

The demographic transition which has happened in a big way in the above mentioned states has left fewer members in families and fewer still to care for the elderly. Perhaps the single most striking dimension of the emergence of new modes of ageing and family in India is the near flood of old age homes that has risen in India's southern states. We cannot forget the fact that it is in the family that an individual fulfills his or her needs and it performs important tasks which the functions of the family are done practically. Family intimacy and love, material simplicity and tradition are sharply juxtaposed against material success, loneliness, alienation between generations, modern food and parties, and a selfish disregard for others, seniors and the past.

As the longevity of life in modern era is increasing day by day, the number of elderly is also increasing. Not only the population of the aged is in rise, but the psychological and sociological problems are on rise. In the past, families provided an important context for ageing. Due to mobility for education and employment, the family is not often able to care adequately for the elderly. Families provide resources like time, money, goods and services to their ageing members and not necessarily their presence. Not only the family provides emotional support and care but also introduce conflict, criticism, demands and occasionally.

CONCLUSION

At this juncture, Manipur one of the Eight Sister state of North East, stands as a model for the country in taking care of the elderly at home without sending them to the old age home. The love and respect the Manipur communities have for their aged parents is an outstanding virtue that they have in their culture. Realizing the great contributions the elderly have made in families and society, they are well cared and supported in the family by their children and grandchildren. The absence of old age home in the state is a proof for this fact. They have realized that the inconveniences and difficulties in taking care of the aged at home is nothing compared to the immense contributions they have made for society.

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