



A study on the absolute number of elderly Gender by Place of Residence

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Abstract: India is rightly termed as the epitome of diversified culture. The traditional values are deep rooted. In fact, the Indian tradition follows the ideology that each and every Indian takes birth with certain inherent values known as Sanskars. These 'sanskars' are further nurtured through the process of socialization. Adhering to the age-old tradition is one of the most important attribute taught in the process of socialization. One such tradition in Indian society is the moral obligation of taking care of the elderly parents. Indian society lays utmost emphasis on the well-being of elderly. They enjoy the highest position and are considered as equivalent to God. Thus, old age in Indian scenario was a part of sacred cosmos which in turn strengthened the intergenerational contact.

We were different countries, in fact divided into worlds, and therefore could never manage to deal with natural holocausts and deadly epidemics, which time and again challenged us. Globalization has strengthened the nexus and has helped us to know each other's need in a better way. It has helped to demolish those walls that separated us and curbed our natural identity of being fellow human beings.

Introduction:

People around the globe today are more connected to each other than ever before in the history of mankind. Goods and services produced in one part of the world are increasingly available in all other parts of the world. International travel is more frequent. International communication is commonplace. No doubt, after globalization the standard of life has improved a lot. The entry of foreign trade and foreign direct investment made life easier for the industries in India to expand their business in the global corporations as well. The industrial sector in India started opening more and more factories, which led to a huge effect of globalization on the Indian poverty level. More and more companies cropping up in

India entailed a steady decline in unemployment rates.

However, if everything is going so nicely then where is the problem?

It is true that the impact of globalization is visible and affects largely the politics and the economy of the country but its effect on the mind-set and the culture is noticeable gradually in the way people think and react. It's like the Iceberg theory wherein what we do and say are at the tip and what we think and believe is at the base. The base is not visible but manifestations at the top are conspicuous. It applies here as well where people do not change abruptly but may be after a decade the change starts showing and seems radical.

There has been both positive and negative impact of globalization on social and cultural values in India. There is no denying the fact that globalization has brought cheers to people's life by opening new vistas of employment. It has also made inroads in the cultural heritage of this country. We face today a world of almost infinite promise, which is also a world of terminal danger. More inflow of money has aggravated deep-rooted problem of corruption, spread of MNC's has taken a toll on family structure. As a result more and more elderly are falling out of the safety net of the family. Erosion of traditional socio-cultural values has led to the springing up of Old Age Homes.

Literature Review:

200H.B. Chanana and P.P. Talwar (2018) say that, In India, most of the populace, including the elderly, is poor. In any case, one positive component concerning the elderly populace is that the majority of those at least 60 years of age are financially active, probably in light of the fact that they are occupied with areas for which there is no particular time of retirement.

The Planning Commission of India evaluated that around 92 percent of working Indians do not have any formal seniority income. Therefore, the Project Old Age Social and Income Security (OASIS) 1997 Committee anticipated that these individuals might sink underneath the destitution line because of the non-accessibility of satisfactory post-retirement income.

Prakash Bhattacharya (2019) says more seasoned Indians are staying in the workforce after their official retirement because of their physical quality. The private area organizations are progressively commanding organizations in India. Along these lines, the present inconsistencies in the work market might be redressed over the long haul, while the expanding supply of more seasoned and experienced individuals in the work constrain may diminish the wages.

Irudaya Rajan (2019) on the basis of NSSO 52nd round says that around 60 per cent of rural and urban females and around 30 percent of rural and urban males in India had no valuable assets in their names.

Leela Gulati and Irudaya Rajan (2020) in his study of Kerala elderly observe that elder women, as well as the men, continue to work much beyond what is considered working life. As long as their physical condition allows them they would look for employment or other possibilities to earn money even if it is collecting firewood, herbs or another chore. The main job opportunity for elderly women was that of domestic work, a job considered by all sections in Kerala as demeaning.

Pravin Visaria (2020) in his study found that rural male elderly are involved in economic activities more than urban elderly, this is the same in the case of female elderly, a greater share of the elderly laborers were independently employed. The second most essential class of work was casual work and the third most vital classification is the regular worker. He additionally says that given the moderate development of employment in public and formal sector, there is the little prospect in the years in front of an expansion in the offer of formal regular employment.

Aparajita Chattopadhyay (2020) suggests that formation of special firms and sheltered workplaces specializing in lighter works and welfare activities where the elderly who are physically fit and/or in need can be employed on a part-time basis or can be given an employment fellowship for their service. Non-governmental organizations and private agencies should be encouraged to join the initiative.

Gail Wilson (2019) in his book says that, In developing countries and where pension coverage is inadequate, older people must still do paid work or grow food whenever they can. The term economic activity excludes a wide range of activities that are essential to free other family members to take paid work- water collection, cooking, cleaning, child care and subsistence cultivation or gardening. All these activities need to be added to get the real activity rates of older men and women in developing countries.

Selvaraj, et al. (2019) have also analysed the WFP trend in India on the basis of the usual activity status (usual

principal status¹ and usual subsidiary status²) using NSSO data from 1983 to 2004-05. The total number of elderly workers in India was approximately 7 per cent of the total workforce. They have also shown that the WFP rate for the elderly decreased marginally from 42 per cent in 1983 to 39 per cent in 2004-05, mainly due to the growing number of elderly in the higher age group who are less than 24 the Indian Journal of labour economics likely to participate in the workforce.

Selvaraj, et al. (2019) also report that the educational attainments of elderly workers are low—more than 70 per cent of the elderly are illiterate or have not acquired any primary education. This implies that it is economic vulnerabilities which 'force' the aged to work in India. Most of the elderly workers are self-employed, with the proportion of self-employed elderly workers further increasing with age. The incidence of casual employment is higher among the elderly females. In urban areas, significant proportions of the elderly female workers are engaged in regular employment.

Singh and Das (2018) have analysed the determinants of old age wage labour participation and supply in India from 1993-94 to 2009-10 on the basis of the current weekly status data generated by the NSSO. The descriptive analysis shows that the wage labour participation of Econometric analysis undertaken by using the probit regression model indicates that in urban areas, there is a negative relationship between the probability of wage labour participation and the age of the elderly.

In rural areas, they showed the same result only for the year 1993-94, but for the year 2009-10, they exhibited an insignificant relation. In rural areas, the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), and in urban areas, the SCs were observed to be participating more than the others in 2019-20.

Rajan, et al. (2020) have analysed the elderly WFP only during the pre-globalisation period. Although have studied the WFP trend from 1983 to 2004-05, their study is limited to the description of trends and does not involve any analytical work.

Singh and Das (2020) have considered only wage labour. However, unpaid family labour is also important for aged workers. For instance, in the context of rural China, Pang, et al. (2020) report that the elderly tend to participate in the informal sector after withdrawing from the formal labour market. They report that about 62 per cent of the elderly and near-elderly people in rural China are participating in the informal sector, by undertaking activities like household chores and taking care of the grandchildren.

Rajagopal Dhar Chakroborty (2020) in his book says that home ownership for aged is more common in the rural area than the urban area. Fifty per cent (more or less) of the Asian elderly do not own any house and are dependent on the houses owned or rented by their children and relatives. Due to overcrowding and lack of resources with urban administrators, houses in urban areas hardly large enough to accommodate more than one nuclear family.

Gail Wilson (2020) in his book says that there is a strong and almost certainly growing demand for residential care that is not going to go away. While it is untrue that all frail elders were cared for by their families in the past (many died and some were abandoned in more or less subtle ways), the modern ability to buy care, rather than deliver it hands on, is a welcome choice for many women.

Methodology:

DEMOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

As the demographic assessments have been prominent among the studies on aging fresh projections have been made based on 2014 census

SITUATION OF ELDERLY IN INDIA

Proportion of elderly persons (60+)

According to the Indian census figures, proportion of elderly persons in India has risen from 5.63 percent in 2014 to around 6.00 percent in 2016, 6.58 in 2018, and 7.08 in 2020 respectively. It is expected to rise to 9.87 in 2022.

Table 1.1

Proportion elderly (60+) in India 1961-2022

Year	Percent
1962	5.63
1972	6.00
1992	6.58
2002	7.08

2022	9.87
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Year	Percent
2014	5.63
2016	6.00
2018	6.58
2020	7.08
2022	9.87

Table 1.2

Trends in the proportion (%) aged 60+ in India and Rajasthan

	1992	2002	2012
INDIA	6.58	7.08	8.18
RAJASTHAN	6.06	6.28	6.69

	2018	2020	2022
INDIA	6.58	7.08	8.18
RAJASTHAN	6.06	6.28	6.69

According to the Indian census Fig. 3.2 the proportion of elderly person 60 years in India has risen from 6.58% in 1992 to 7.08% in 2002 and 8.18% in 2012. With regards to Rajasthan state the population of 60+ in 1992 was 6.06%, in 2001 it increased to 6.28% and in 2011 it increased to 6.69%.

Table 1.3

Trends in the absolute number of elderly (60+) in India and Rajasthan

	1991	2001	2011	2021
RAJASTHAN	2666348	3480171	4651525	6488022
INDIA	55605594	71697645	97869618	136458836

	1914	2016	2018	2021
RAJASTHAN	2666348	3480171	4651525	6488022
INDIA	55605594	71697645	97869618	136458836

Looking at the absolute no. for the Rajasthan state the proportion of 60+ population is expected to rise from 27 lakhs in 1991 to 64 lakhs in 2021. The total no. of elderly person in India is projected to be around 13 million by 2021 from 55605594 in 1991. Thus elderly are emerging as considerable vote bank in the future.

As discussed above it is vital to delineate the socio-economic characteristics of the aged living in old age homes. Man is a social animal and he does not grow old in vacuum. From this point of view we have tried to analyse different socio-economic traits of the respondents which will be fruitful in drawing out relevant conclusions.

Place of Old Age Homes:

The following table shows the distribution of inmates on the basis of place of old age homes. There are certain peculiar characteristics pertaining to a particular place. Thus, this distribution will be helpful to analyse the effect of those traits on the inmates residing there.

The most affected are urban elderly because as such infrastructure does not meet their needs and demands (S. Siva Raju 2004). The elderly who are aware about the social support network like old age homes and day care centres try to experiment by staying in such homes. To probe further in this issue we have analysed the socio-economic characteristics of the inmates of old age homes in Rajasthan.

The above table indicates that out of total 283 respondents 81 (about 28%) belonged to Ajmer - out of which 52 respondents were female and 29 were male. Nearly 50% of the total respondents in Ajmer fall in the age-group of 60-65 years. The least number of inmates belonged to the category of 75 years and above.

In Bharatpur there were 39 (about 13%) respondents out of 283. This number was further divided into 18 males and 21 females. Majority of males (about 61) and females (about 71%) were of 60-65 years of age. About 27% males and 23% females respectively belonged to the category of 65-75 years and the rest about 16% were of 75 years and above with 11.1% males and 4.8% females respectively.

About 19% inmates resided in the old age homes of Jaipur. Of these about 55% were males and about 44% were females. Nearly 68% males and females were of 60-65 years. About 25% and 6% males were from the age group of 65-75 years and 75 years and above respectively. About 20% and 12% females belonged to the category of 65-75 years and 75 years and above respectively.

Out of 283 inmates 40 (14%) respondents resided in the old age homes of Kota. There were 18 males distributed as 10, 5 and 3 in the category of 60-65 years, 65-75 years and 75 years and above respectively. There were 22 females in Kota. The category of 60-65 years had 16 females, 5 in the age group of 65-75 years and only 1 female was of 75 years and above.

About 23% of the total inmates inhabited the old age home of Pali with 39 males and 28 females. Maximum number of respondents i.e.

about 61% males and about 53% females belonged to the age-group of 60-65 years. There was almost an equal percent of males and females

i.e. about 25% in the category of 65-75 years. About 12% and about 21% males and females respectively belonged to the age group of 75 years and above.

CONCLUSION:

An overwhelming percentage of the inmates were found in the age-group of 60-65 years. This, on one hand indicates the graying of population due to demographic transition, on the other shows a shift in the mental attitude of society. Earlier residing in old age homes was considered as social stigma.

People wanted to hide as it would show their inability to adjust in the family. But now old age homes are emerging as a healthy support structure for the elderly who either want to leave their homes on their will or are abandoned, whatever may be the reason.

The number of respondents in the age-group of 75 years and above further corroborates our view that OAH are a recent phenomenon in Indian society. Also, the average age (life expectancy) of people in India is about 64 years and not many survive up to 75 years and above.

More number of females in old age homes as compared to males indicates low status of women in the Indian society. They have defacto only duties and no rights. Most of the women are dependent either on their husbands or on their sons. As soon as their husbands die they become vulnerable as the sons don't want to keep them and daughter in laws perceive them as a burden. Indian social norms do not approve of the elderly parents living with married daughters. The condition of the poor elderly women in the backward cities is comparatively more pathetic than economically well of (independent) women living in developed cities.

It is noteworthy that a less no. of inmates in Bharatpur and Kota old age homes as compared to others point out a dominance of agrarian society in these cities. Agriculture is one of the main occupations here and thus a low presence of elderly in old age homes. One of the main reasons of a great no. of elderly in OAH in Pali is the observance of religious faith. Many residents were Jains and abandoned the homes following the religious tradition.

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