



## **SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE IN MODERN SOCIETY: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY**

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### **1.0 Introduction**

Among the many social problems that India is facing today, the problem of the elderly is very important. This problem is experienced at the collective level but also at the individual level. With the advancement of medical science, the life expectancy of a person has increased to a great extent. Naturally, we see a large class of elderly people in Indian society today. If we consider this number of elderly people from an economic point of view, such a large population shows the degree of dependence on the economy. According to Demography, the number of elderly people in a society is the number of dependents of the working class in the society. Of course, these classes must have done hard work and yoga for the society during their working days, especially for those who are considered as "doers" today. Society has to take note of this. The problems of the elderly in the society have not only economic aspects but also social aspects. Therefore, the social problem of the elderly was studied in the present research.

With a view to studying the problem of the elderly in India, the researchers directly discussed the elderly women and men from different walks of life during the trial study. One thing that came out strongly in this discussion is that in rural areas of India where agriculture is the dominant economy and the joint family is still the traditional value system, the problem of the elderly is somewhat less. However, it was felt that the nature of the problem of the elderly in urban and urban areas is more severe. Where western and civilized culture has spread, the nature of the problem of the elderly is somewhat different. It is felt that the nature of the problems of the elderly who have retired from work and the problems of the elderly who are in business are different.

While thinking about the problems of men and women in this age group, one thing was mainly realized that with increasing age, a person has to accept some new roles in the society and get some new status. These new roles are different from their previous status and roles.

These changing roles require the individual to overcome certain problems. These changes in status and roles are associated with declining physical and mental capacities with increasing age. This change can be felt quickly in the civil sector. The elderly find it difficult to adjust to these changes. A person enjoys respect and authority during his working life and after reaching old age that authority is transferred to the new generation as a natural matter. Many older persons find it difficult to adjust to this situation of loss of rights. Due to this, family stress and old age become troublesome. The severity of the problem faced by the elderly in urban areas is clearly felt. Due to the change of new social conditions and new values in the city, some tension seems to have arisen in the old age. A discrepancy arises between the expectations and roles of other members of the elderly. Considering all the above aspects, the present research has studied the social problems of elderly people above 60 years of age in Nagpur city of Maharashtra.

## 2.0 Research Methodology

Nagpur city of Maharashtra has been selected as the research area in the present study. In the present research work, survey and analysis method was used to collect primary data. All the elderly people living in of Nagpur city were considered as the population of this study. Non-Probability Sample Selection Method 'Purposive Sampling' was used. A total of 300 elderly people from Nagpur city were selected for the purpose of data collection. Descriptive research design was used in the present research work. The required information was collected from the elderly people of Nagpur city using a standardized method and with the use of a structured questionnaire. After the collection of primary data, it was analyzed using various statistical tests and the conclusions were drawn based on those results. Chi-Square test was used as an inferential statistical test. The alpha level was set at 0.05. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS 18.0 software.

## 3.0 Data Collection and Analysis

### 3.1 Educational Qualification

**Table No. 1: Educational Qualification of the Respondents**

<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Uneducated	13	4.3
Primary	16	5.3
Secondary	23	7.7
Higher Secondary	167	55.7
Graduate	69	23.0
Post Graduate	12	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

$\chi^2 = 374.96$ ; **df**: 5;  $\chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 11.07$ ;  $p < 0.05$

Above Table No. 1 shows educational qualification of the respondents (Elderly) of Nagpur city. It is observed that 4.3% respondents are illiterate while 5.3% respondents have completed education up to primary level. In addition to this 7.7% and 55.7% respondents have completed education up to secondary and higher secondary level. Furthermore 23.0% and 4.0% respondents have done graduation and post-graduation respectively.

### 3.2 Problems faced due to reduction in no. of household members

**Table 2: Problems faced by the respondents due to reduction in no. of household members**

Problems	Yes		No		Don't want to say		Total	
	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per
feel lonely	239	79.7	41	13.7	20	6.7	300	100.0
You have to take care of yourself at home	261	87.0	23	7.7	16	5.3	300	100.0
Problems are felt when the health is not good	247	82.3	33	11.0	20	6.7	300	100.0

Above Table No. 2 presents information about the problems faced by the respondents (Elderly) of Nagpur city due to reduction in no. of household members.

- **Feeling lonely:** 79.7% respondents feel lonely due to reduction in no. of household members while 6.7 % respondents do not want to discuss about it. Similarly, 13.7% respondents do not feel lonely.
- **Have to take care on own at home:** 87.0% respondents have to take care of themselves by their own at home while 5.3% respondents do not want to discuss about it. Similarly, 7.7% respondents do not have to take care of themselves by their own at home.
- **Problems faced when health is not well (carrying to doctor, buying medicines etc.):** 82.3% respondents face problems when the health is not well 6.7% respondents do not want to discuss about it. Similarly, 11.0% respondents do not face problems when the health is not well.

### 3.3 Response of the Respondents about Aging

**Table 3: Response of the Respondents about Aging**

Statement	Totally agree		Agreed		Totally Disagree		Disagree		Total	
	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per
Family status deteriorates after reaching old age	177	59.0	41	13.7	59	19.7	23	7.7	300	100.0
Family responsibilities diminish in old age and feel neglected	186	62.0	69	23.0	40	13.3	5	1.7	300	100.0
In old age, control over the family diminishes	151	50.3	53	17.7	29	9.7	67	22.3	300	100.0
One has to depend on others	190	63.3	42	14.0	61	20.3	7	2.3	300	100.0

Above Table No. 3 presents response of the respondents (Elderly) of Nagpur city about Aging.

- **Family status deteriorates after reaching old age:** 59.0% and 13.7% respondents totally agreed and agreed that family status deteriorates after reaching old age. Further 19.7% and 7.7% respondents totally disagreed and disagreed respectively about family status deteriorates after reaching old age.
- **Family responsibilities diminish in old age and feel neglected:** 62.0% and 23.0% respondents totally agreed and agreed that family responsibilities diminish in old age and feel neglected. Further 13.3% and 1.7% respondents totally disagreed and disagreed about Family responsibilities diminish in old age and feel neglected.
- **In old age, control over the family diminishes:** 50.3% and 17.7% respondents totally agreed and agreed that control over the family diminishes in old age. Further 9.7% and 22.3% respondents totally disagreed and disagreed respectively, about control over the family diminishes in old age.
- **Have to depend on others:** 63.3% and 14.0% respondents totally agreed and agreed that they have to depend on others. Further 20.3% and 2.3% respondents totally disagreed and disagreed about depending on others.

### 3.4 The State Government is Successful in Providing Social Security

**Table 4: Response of the study participants about State Government role in Providing Social Security**

Response	No	Percent
Yes	36	12.0
No	243	81.0
Can't tell	21	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

$$\chi^2 = 307.86; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 5.99; p < 0.05$$

Above Table No. 4 shows response of the respondents (Elderly) of Nagpur city about success of the state government in providing social security. According to 12.0% respondents, the state government is successful in providing them social security while 7.0% respondents are not sure about it. Furthermore 81.0% respondents feel that the state government is not successful in providing them social security.

## 4.0 Conclusions

### 4.1 Educational Qualification

- On the basis of the study results it is evident that most ( $<0.05$ ) of the elderly people of study area have completed education up to higher secondary level.

### 4.2 Problems faced due to reduction in no. of household members

- On the basis of the study results it is evident that most ( $<0.05$ ) of the elderly people of study area have to take care of themselves by their own at home due to reduction in no. of household members.

### 4.3 Response of the Respondents about Aging

- On the basis of the study results it is evident that most ( $<0.05$ ) of the respondents (Elderly) of Nagpur city have to depend on others due to aging.

### 4.4 The State Government is successful in providing social security

- On the basis of the study results it is evident that most ( $<0.05$ ) of the respondents (Elderly) of Nagpur city feel that the state government is not successful in providing them social security.

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