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## PROBLEMS OF ELDERLY WOMEN IN GULBARGA CITY

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**Abstract:-**Old age is full of problems and in case of elderly women there are manifold problems as they have secondary status in society. Hence to study the problems of elderly women, a survey of 200 elderly women was made in Gulbarga city. It was explored that elderly women are suffering from many problems especially due to lack of respect from younger generation.

**Keywords:**Elderly Women , problems ,global society.

### INTRODUCTION:-

Women in general are attributed as second sex even in global society. Raja (1996) emphasized that old age is a shift in an individual's position from active social participation to significant decline in role performance and from economic self-sufficiency to economic dependence. To most of the people, ageing implies physiological and psychological changes. Aging has become a social problem because socio-economic shifts were affecting the ability of the family to continue with traditional care-giving role towards elders. The statistical information on elderly population in Karnataka is shown as under.

**Population of Elderly by Age Groups by Residence and Sex 2001 in Karnataka**

Age Group	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
60-64	1498909	728997	769912	1059747	510997	548750	439162	218000	221162
65-69	953187	441373	511814	669806	307599	362207	283381	133774	149607
70-74	799497	382616	416881	579970	276687	303283	219527	105929	113598
75-79	353230	168279	184951	247996	117686	130310	105234	50593	54641
80+	457199	202465	254734	332075	147877	184198	125124	54588	70536

Older people and in particular, older women are an extremely marginalized groups of people, who hardly merit the attention of state protection. As women, they occupy a position which is more disadvantaged than older men, and as older people the additional vulnerability of dependency and support from others. In both instances, their contribution both economically and socially to the household and community is hardly recognized. Demographically, populations are displaying an aged complexion across the world. In terms of aggregate population in India, the proportion of elderly, those above 60 years of age, was 5.4 percent of the total population of this age group has also been higher than that of other contributing to its increasing proportion in the overall population. Further the proportion of women in the 60+ age group is higher than the male population (Bose, 2000). Women have subjugated status in society and ageing is also curse for elderly women. Hence, to explore the problems of elderly women, the present study was made in Gulbarga city. The Gulbarga city is located in North part of Karnataka state.

**OBJECTIVES:**

**The present study is made:**

- 1.To know the problems faced by elderly women.
- 2.To study whether elderly women are satisfied in their social life and respected in their families.
- 3.To study whether the elderly women are satisfied with the social welfare schemes formulated for the elderly.

**METHODOLOGY:**

As discussed above, present study is made in Gulbarga city and totally 200 elderly women with more than 60 years were interviewed to collect primary data on their problems. The collected primary data is analyzed and discussed as under.

**ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:**

**1. Age of the Respondents:**

Age is an important factor while studying the problems of the elderly population. Of course, all the respondents covered under the study are old aged, which denotes that they are of above 60 years. The increase in age refers increased socio-economic and health problems. Hence, the age-group of the respondents is shown in the following table.

**Table No. 1. Age of the Retired Women**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
61-70 Years	192	96
71-80 Years	8	4
Total	200	100

It is noted that none of the respondents of above 80 years. As a result, majority of the respondents are between 61 and 70 years.

**2. Decision Making Aspects of the Elderly Women:**

Generally in many of the families, aged people are making the decisions, but females have lower decision making authority. Hence, it was asked to the respondents to furnish information on which aspects they are making decisions and the collected information is presented in the following table.

**Table No. 2. Independent Decision Making Aspects of Retired Women**

Aspects	Frequency	Percentage
Purchase & Sale of Property	28	14.0
Matrimonial Aspects	72	36.0
Family Aspects	43	21.5
Religious Aspects	31	15.5
Financial Aspects	14	7.0
Social Aspects	22	11.0
Education	07	3.5
In all Matters	43	21.5
Not Making Decisions	75	37.5
Total	200	100

It is emphasized that more than one third of the respondents are not making decisions, even though they are elders. Hence, it can be said that still only the elder male members in their families have decision making authority.

### 3. Feeling Insecure:

Many of the studies already revealed that the old aged people are feeling insecure, lonely and depressed. Hence, the information was collected from the respondents that whether they are feeling insecure and the same is presented in the following table.

**Table No. 3. Feeling Insecure**

Feel Insecure	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	143	71.5
No	56	28.0
Not Expressed	01	0.50
Total	200	100

Majority of the respondents are not feeling confident as they are financially weaker and also depended on others in their old age.

### 4. Health Problems:

Due to ageing, there is an increase in the health problems of the elderly. The health problems of the elderly women covered under the study are stated as under.

**Table No. 4. Health Problems**

Health Problems	Frequency	Percentage
Cardio-vascular Problems	04	2.0
Diabetes	28	14.0
Asthma & Bronchitis	08	4.0
Hypertension	28	14.0
Cancer	04	2.0
Dental Problems	31	15.5
Arthritis	31	15.5
Gynecological Problems	17	8.5
Others	09	4.5
None of the Above	40	20.0
Total	200	100

It is noted that an overwhelming majority of the elderly women covered under the study have different health problems. Dental problems, Hypertension, Arthritis, Diabetes, etc are the leading health problems of elderly women covered under the study.

### 5. Have Worries:

During the old age, there are many worries for the elderly people and aged women are also not exception to the same. As such, it was asked to the respondents that whether they have any worries and the collected information is tabulated as under.

**Table No. 5. Have Worries**

Have Worries	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	91	45.5
No	109	54.5
Total	200	100

It is noted that nearly half of the elderly women have worries and the types of worries are as under.

### 6. Type of Worries:

As discussed above, there are worries for 91 of the respondents and information was collected on the worries of these respondents and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 6. Type of Worries**

Type of Worries	Frequency	Percentage
Daughters' Marriage	44	22.0
Loan Repayment	37	18.5
House Construction	29	14.5
Sons' Employment	21	10.5
Adjustment in Family	18	9.0
Insecurity	17	8.5
Children's Education	06	3.0
Not Applicable	109	54.5
Total	200	100

It is observed from the above table that few of the respondents have more than one type of worries. Daughters' marriage, loan repayment, house construction, son's employment, etc are major worries of the elderly women.

### 7. Neglected by Younger due to Aging:

It is noted that due to aging, in many families, both the elderly men and women are neglected by younger and the elders receive lack of respect from younger family members. Information was collected from the respondents that whether they are neglected by the younger in their families as shown in the following table.

**Table No. 7. Neglected by Younger due to Aging**

Neglected	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	149	74.5
No	051	25.5
Total	200	100

It is a common aspect that due to generation gap, the elders blame the younger on their negligence towards the old aged people.

### 8. Aspects of Negligence:

As discussed above, 149 of the respondents covered under the present study are neglected by younger due to aging, it was asked to the respondents about the aspects of negligence by the younger in their families. The collected information is presented in the following table.

**Table No. 8. Aspects of Negligence**

Aspects	Frequency	Percentage
Social Aspects	24	12.0
Religious Aspects	55	27.5
Economic Aspects	31	15.5
All Aspects	40	20.0
Not Applicable	51	25.5
Total	200	100

The aspects of negligence of the respondents by the younger are mixed and varied. Majority of the respondents are neglected in religious aspects, as the younger have lesser faith in religion, caste, God and such other conventional culture.

### **9. Differences of Opinions with Daughters-in-Laws:**

It is noted that due to the differences of ideas and generation gap, in many families, there shall be differences of opinions of the elderly women with their daughters-in-law. Many times, it causes worries for elderly women. The information was collected from the respondents on whether they have differences of opinions with their daughters-in-laws are presented in the following table.

**Table No. 9. Differences of Opinions with Daughters-in-Laws**

Differences	Frequency	Percentage
Regular	23	11.5
Occasional	67	33.5
Never	68	34.0
Not Applicable	42	21.0
Total	200	100

It is noted that nearly half of the elderly women are facing differences of opinions with their daughters-in-law regularly or occasionally.

### **10. Exploitation and Harassment in Family:**

Aging is a state of challenges in every one's life. As such, due to which elderly women are exploited and harassed. Hence, information was collected from the respondents on whether the retired women covered under the present study are exploited and harassed by their family members as tabulated under.

**Table No. 10. Exploitation and Harassment in Family**

Exploitation & Harassment	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	034	17.0
No	166	83.0
Total	200	100

It is observed from the above table that few of the respondents are facing exploitation and harassment in their own families and from their own family members.

### **11. Need to Care and Respect the Older People by Younger:**

As discussed earlier, it is emphasized that now-a-days, the younger have neglected the elders in their respective families. As such, it was asked to the respondents that whether there is need to care and respect the older people by younger. The collected information was tabulated as under.

**Table No. 11. Need Care and Respect the Older People by Younger**

Need Care & Respect	Frequency	Percentage
Fully Agree	146	73.0
Agree to a Greater extent	028	14.0
Do Not Agree	026	13.0
Total	200	100

It is highlighted that majority of the elderly women have fully agreed that the elderly people need care and respect by their younger.

### **12. Level of Satisfaction on Government Policies and Programmes for Welfare of Elderly People:**

Information was collected from the respondents on whether the government policies and welfare programmes are

adequate and satisfactory for the elderly and the collected responses are tabulated as under.

**Table No. 12. Level of Satisfaction on Government Policies and Programmes for Welfare of Elderly People**

Level of Satisfaction	Frequency	Percentage
Fully Adequate & Satisfied	36	18.0
Satisfied to a Greater Extent	28	14.0
To Some Extent	103	51.5
Not at All	33	16.5
Total	200	100

Only to some extent, the social welfare schemes of the government are satisfactory. Further, only few respondents have agreed that these welfare schemes from the government are fully adequate and satisfactory.

**CONCLUSION:**

It is observed from the study that majority of the elderly women are not getting fair treatment from their own family members. Further, they felt insecure as they do not have separate independence status, be it is social or economical. Even in the old age they have many problems and worries apart from health problems. Hence, there is need to solve the problems of elderly women by counseling and guidance by NGOs and voluntary organizations.

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