



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE RESPONDENTS IN VIDARHA

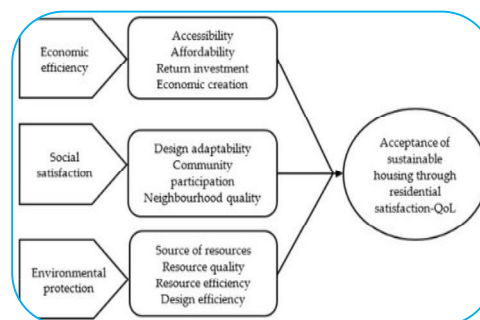
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### ABSTRACT

Population of the aged has been progressively increasing with every c According to the 1981 census; the population of the aged persons above the age of 60 years was only 4.39 crores which constituted only 6.42 per cent of the total population. Whereas the 1991 census showed that it rose to 5.53 crores (6.35 per cent) The future estimates indicate that it will increase 17.7 crores (12.3 per cent) by 2025. In a developing country like India where 30 per cent of the population is still below poverty line, the target group of the poor and needy aged is very large. To ensure better quality of life and dignity to these less privileged aged persons, the resources of the state government and Central Government may not be sufficient, particularly in view of the fact that the welfare of the aged is low priority programmed as compared as other programmers' of welfare.



**KEYWORDS:** Sustainable Development , Environmental, Social Equity ,Climate Change , Resource Efficiency , Circular Economy , Digital Innovations , Inclusive Growth , Global Partnerships .

### INTRODUCTION

Old age is the last phase in the human life. It is a period when people "move away" from previous more desirable periods or times of usefulness" As people move away from the earlier periods of their life's, they often look back on them, usually regretfully, and tend to live in the present, ignoring the future as much as possible Fulfillment of 60 years of age is usually considered the dividing line between middle and old age. However, it is recognized that chronological age is poor criterion to use in marking off the beginning of old age, because there are such marked differences among individuals in the age at which aging actually begins Because of better living conditions and better care, most of men and women today do not show the mental and physical signs of aging until they reach mid sixties or even the early seventies. For that reason, there is gradual trend towards using sixty five as the age of retirement in many businesses to mark the beginning of old age.

The last stage in the life span is frequently subdivided into early old age, which extends from age, sixty to age seventy, and advanced old age which begins at seventy and extends to the end of life. Human beings are constantly changing. In early phase of the life the changes are evolutionary i.e. they lead to the maturity of structure and functioning. In the later part of life the changes are evolutionary i.e. the individual shows decline in the bodily functions. These changes are referred to as aging. In other words, it can be said that aging is a pattern of changes in structure and functions of the body and the adjustment of person to its environment. This makes clear that it is a continuous process of growing old, which heralds at conception and eventually ends with death.

Aging is an inevitable developmental phenomenon bringing a number of changes in the physical, psychological, hormonal and in the social conditions (Neuhaus and Neuhaus, 1982). Birren and Renner (1977) define aging in terms of the biology, referring to "the regular changes that occur in mature genetically representative organisms living under representative environmental conditions as they advance in chronological age", Old age has been viewed, as problematic period of one's life and this is correct to some extent. The aged become increasingly dependent on others. As man reach to the stage of old age, his reduced activities, income and consequent decline in the position of the family and society makes their life more vulnerable. Chaudhary (1992) pointed out that an old person begins to feel that even his children do not look upon him with that degree of respect which he used to get some years earlier and he/she than later feels neglected and humiliated. This may lead to the development of psychology of shunning the company of others. The elderly citizens are in need of urgent attention. They do not need our pity. What they need is that their fellow human beings understand them with love and care. It is our duty to see that they do not spend the more years of their life in isolation, penury and misery. Older people are, therefore, in need of vital support that will keep important aspects of their life-styles intact while improving their overall quality of life (Kivelt and Scott, 1979). With the family increasingly nuclearised and with the progressive lengthening of the average life span, it becomes necessary that special steps be taken for the welfare of retired and needy aged people. Dhillon (1992) stated that sudden retirement does have an adverse impact on healthy persons who have seen working for generations. As it results in loss of role, status, power, opportunities for interactions and loss of an occupational identity and in turn it leads to low morale, decreased level of satisfaction, depression and feeling of loneliness and helplessness Chadha et al (1997) reported that institutionalized elderly exhibit significantly smaller social networks than non-institutionalized elderly The institutionalized aged was found to have greater feeling of loneliness, depression and hopelessness. Thus the problems associated with ageing are numerous. Broadly speaking the main problem of the aged in our country is related to socio psychological economic and health problems etc. Old age homes are a need of today as the life-styles are changing fast and diminishing acceptance of family responsibilities towards one's elders. The above studies demand that we should understand the concept of old age homes thoroughly and evaluating psycho-social status of senior citizen and related factors.

### **ECONOMY OF VIDARBHA**

Excluding a few Tehsils of Buldhana, the whole of Vidarbha is assured of sufficient rainfall. The report of the Fact Finding Committee on Regional Imbalance in Maharashtra (GOM 1984) showed that Vidarbha region were backward compared western Maharashtra-this has been attributed to weak political leadership. The committee found that the major backlog pertained to irrigation and accordingly estimates that Rs. 1, 386 crores would be required to remove the backlog. Even in the area of agricultural infrastructure, there are regional disparities. While Konkan and Western Maharashtra have mostly two or more research centers in each district, specific to different crops and fairly well distributed over in most of the districts of Maharashtra in Vidarbha there is only one research station. The Fact Finding Committee on Regional Imbalance in Maharashtra has pointed out that there are no significant high yielding hybrid/ seeds yet available for non-irrigated cotton and groundnut which are of considerable importance to the agriculture economy of Vidarbha and Marathwada (Dev and Mungekar, 1996 A-30 and A-57). Similarly the productivity of soybean in Vidarbha is lower than in western Maharashtra, where it is 2.5 tones per hector (Patil, 1944, Frontline).

There are significant inter-regional variation in the availability of water. In Western Maharashtra and Eastern regions, the percentage of area irrigated varied from 16 to 23, whereas Konkan. Vidarbha and Marathwada, irrigation is less than 10 per cent in 1988-89 (Dev. 1995:665).

A few lines on the operational geographical jurisdiction of these Elderly Homes under study will give us the background knowledge of region (here Vidharbha region of Maharashtra in particular) which also bears an important aspect of the study

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In India the studies on aged are inadequate and occasional and are still in infancy. Hence, the data available as on today on the social, economical, health and welfare conditions of the aged living in Indian society are very fragmentary and inadequate. The studies which are conducted on aged persons are mainly concentrated in the urban areas. As a result that the aged population faces problems and other aspects of aged, living in institutions have not been comprehensively explored. The initiation of researchers in this field was started in the late sixties by a few psychologists, sociologists, and scientists from physical sciences. It is only from recent past that this problem has attracted the attention of social activists, social workers, social scientists and the government authorities.

A literature survey which was carried out on demographical studies conducted in rural areas indicated that the problems of the elderly are complex in nature. The complexity of the problem depends on the socioeconomic conditions that are prevailing in any given society. It appears that the problems of the elderly from urban areas have different dimension that those exist in rural areas: As the elderly of urban areas come from the organized sector, they enjoy the security of retirement benefits, unlike their rural counterparts. Although different states have old age pension schemes, very few take advantage of it due to a variety of lacunae in the schemes.

Kataria, Jafar R. Aziz, Mughees Bin (2011) in the life expectancy and decrease in the mortality rate the life span is increasing this has affected the population of the aged. Aging is very important issue of every society same as in Pakistan, the institution or family is considered very important in Pakistani Society and aged are major part of it. They are considered as the pioneer and the carrier of the traditions so they have less acceptance and adoption for new modern ideas and values. The researches on Indian context are not sufficient to address the issue as the aged population here in Indian society is facing the cost of modernization and thus this research study will provide us information about this issue and also help in exploring the social status of the aged in modernizing society or in the present day society.

Lena A Ashok K, Padma M. Kamath V. Kamath (2009) conducted study on "Health and social problems of the elderly," this was a cross-sectional study in Udupi Taluk, Karnataka. The objective of his study was to know about health and social problems of the elderly group of people and their attitude towards life. The study was carried out in the Field practice area of the Department of Community Medicine in South India. A total of 213 elderly patients (60 years old and above) who attended the outreach clinics were interviewed using a pre-tested schedule. Findings were described in terms of proportions and percentages to study the socio-economic status of the sample respondent and its correlation so social problems. The result of the study reveals that around 73% of the patient's respondents to the age group of 60-69 years. Nearly half of the respondents were illiterate. Around 48% felt they were not happy in life. A majority of them had health problems such as hypertension followed by arthritis, diabetes, asthma, cataract, and anemia. About 68% of the patients said that the attitude of people towards the elderly was that of neglect. It is concluded from the result of the study that, there is a need for geriatric counseling centers that can take care of their physical and psychological needs. Stringent rules for eligibility to social security schemes should be made now flexible to cover a larger population they also concluded by saying that.

In a different study of 100 elderly people randomly selected above the age group of 60 years. Das and Satsangi (2008) indicated that there was significant positive correlation between social support and life satisfaction among the elderly people who identified members with whom they could share their concerns freely.

Jaipal and Das (2008) have reported that the aged people are not ready to accept that they are physically and mentally weak. The popular government has decided to shift the retirement age from 58 years to 62 years. All India medical association, New Delhi (2006) has reported that on the basis of physical condition of aged people they can work smoothly in their own sectors because they are experienced and competent as to conduct the work in program to others. The study also opined that the age of retirement should be shifted to those who are physically sound. As a result they would be able to work effectively in their work environment. Therefore, it is needful to assess the physical condition of aged people before the retirement.

Saroj, ShakuntlaPunia, Chandra K. Singh et al.(2007) in their study brought out the following result. The attitude towards institutional facilities had highly favorable (36.66%) Regarding leisure time activities schedule 60.0 percent inmates had somewhat busy, followed by 23.17 percent who were less busy in engaging themselves in activities. The data further reveals that, 46.66 percent respondents had moderate level of social status followed by 41.67 percent of the respondents who were in the category of high social status. As far economic status is concerned, majority of the respondents (90%) were in the poor economic status, followed by average status category (10%) Data regarding health status shows 60 percent inmates possessed good health status followed by normal (31.61%)

Therefore, it is needful for the aged people that physical condition and health as well as the mental health should be made criteria for their work continuity in.

Kamla-Raj J. Hum.Ecol (2007) said that aging is a part of life and its degeneration nature exposes the individual several physical, social and psychological problems. Therefore the study was under taken to study the psycho-social status of institutionalized senior citizen. The study was conducted in purposively selected state Haryana. Samples of 60 respondents (30 males and 30 females) from ten old age institutes were selected randomly. Regarding psycho-social and economic status of the respondent, results indicated that maximum percentage of the respondent was in the moderate to several level of depression, had natural attitude towards institution, and had good health status but poor in economic status. Further results revealed that maximum percentage of the respondents were feeling insecure in their own house, neglected by family members and wanted to meet their basic needs by staying away from their own house. Result indicated that overall institutional facilities had positive significant correlation with attitude and health status. Age was negatively correlated with leisure time activities and health status. Overall psychosocial-economic status of the respondents had positive significant correlation with attitude, leisure time schedule, social and health status of the senior citizen.

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE RESPONDENTS

Indian society in the last few decades have become aware not only of the precede way of older people, but of older people as having problems, as persons who need health care, psychological and emotional care, as persons who need financial assistance, as persons who need special housing and as persons many of whom are widowed, unmarried and socially isolated. This changing demographic structure of population in Indian urban society was the common point of departure for those who initially viewed with alarm the social litigations of increasing life expectancy and an increasing number of older persons need social arrangements. The increases in number of aged are the result of the increasing birthrate and decreasing in infant mortality. The life span of old age has caused short and long term effects on the society.

Conflict in the family is a very common issue, because each and every person has different attitudes, thinking, personality and temperament. No one is alike hence, the conflict in family is bound to happen. In the present investigation, an attempt was made to know the cause of conflict, in respect of different activity aspects. The following frequency was observed. From the information collected from respondents. It is presented in the following table.

In every family we expect something from each other. Some expect much more than what he deserves. Many a time's persons, who expect more from other members of the family, may not fulfill the expectation, as a result of which unpleasantness arises in the family. Many times it is seen that, rather it is a fact that, the person who fulfill the expectation of family could get more respect from the family members. In this respect when the responses were taken from the respondents, the following frequencies have been observed. It is plotted in bivariate table, given below.

The impact of economic loss is maximum felt in the social life. The person is no more consulted in the house and becomes an object of not much concern in the society. The major impact of the combined loss of earning power and social recognition is a sense of uselessness felt by the individual. Such a state of mind generally aggravates his emotional and psychic state of mind and it also aggravates the existing health problem of the individual.

In India retirement from active life is equated with old age. It is not the age at which the person has reduced capacities and disabilities as it's understood in the developed countries. Understanding this is a very essential because, a normal able-bodied healthy individual is suddenly thrown into despair and unpreparedness. Dessai (1972) opined that the aged person might be required to make an adjustment to their family members who may increasingly resent their presence. Aged may have to adjust to a life devoid of much activity. This problem is more crucial for persons who are required to retire from their active life. Aged people may be required to face the problem of adjustment to the "loss of spouse" or "loss of friends". They are increasingly made aware of death and may have to adjust to this unpleasant fact. They have a lot of free time and do not know what to do with it and hence utilization of leisure time may be a problem. This in fact is the crux of the problem of ageing and is of concern in this country that need to be addressed. In short, these are the three important problem areas that concern aged people

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8. (Sources: Divisional Social Welfare Office. Nagpur).
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