

Study to Explore the Factors Compelling Elderly to Reside in an Old Age Home

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Abstract

In India, children are always taught to respect and adore their parents. Parents are considered as God in human forms. However today we are beholding a massive increase in the number of old age homes because of many factors. Present study was conducted on 75 elderly people at different old age homes in Ranchi, Jharkhand. Self made questionnaire was used for data collection. The interview based survey method was used for surveying the issue. The percentages of elderly people associated with different problems were taken out with the help of the table and the data collected, and the graph was made for easy study. Major findings of the study were that there is significant co-relation between the economic status and elderly people settling in an old age home, health condition and elderly people settling in an old age home and the bond between the parents and children and elderly people settling in an old age home.

I. INTRODUCTION

A beginning always has to have a finish and surely does life. We all know that age considers and youth ventures. There's always a constant battle between the elderly and the youth. It's like never ending battle with similarities, yet have difference of their own as well. Since the day we are born brought upon this world, changes start to happen. In between birth and death the body is the most noticeable change we see.

According to Gloria Pitzee "about the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age". As sunrise gives way to sunset, so as youth gives way to old age. We have seen and heard about the poignant and heartbreaking sight of the old folks who has been neglected by their children. Million of older parents are homeless even in so-called advanced countries. It's like an epidemic of "no time for looking parent session has almost plagued the whole world." With the increasing influence of 'modernization' and new life styles resulting in transitional change in value system in recent times, the 'joint family' is breaking down into several scattered nuclear families (Shah, 1998). Alternation in the family make-up and contemporary

changes in psycho-social matrix and moral code often impel the elderly to live alone or to shift from their own homes to some institution or old age homes.

Old age homes are coming in existence as a newer occupancy for elderly and becoming the need of present Indian society. There are two types of old age homes; one is the 'free' type which cares for the destitute old people who have no one else to care for them. They are provided shelter with food, clothing and medical care. The second type is the 'paid' home where care is provided for a fee.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find the impact of economic status on elderly people.
2. To find out the effect of modernization on the elderly people.
3. To find out the impact of relationship between the elderly parents and their children and relatives.
4. To find the other reasons compelling the old age people to make a shift to old age homes

III. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant co-relation between economic status and elderly people staying at old age home.
2. There is no significant co-relation between the type of bonding and relationship with children and elderly people staying at old age home.
3. There is no significant co-relation between having or not having a son and elderly people staying at old age home.

IV. DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study will be delimited to only Ranchi district, Jharkhand. The study will also be delimited to only the factors that compel the elderly people to shift and reside in old age home.

V. SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

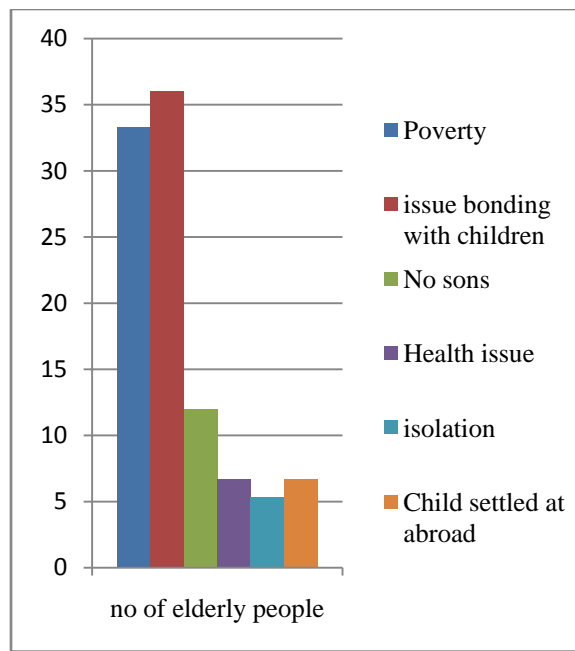
The old age home centers are sprouting tremendously in India and other part of the world. Apart from knowing the causes of growing old age home in this modern era, the survey could be made on the basic housing facilities that must be provided by the old age home centers to the residents. Further studies can be done on the psycho-economic problem faced by the care givers of the old age home.

VI. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Initially a self made questionnaire comprising of 15 questions were formulated. This questionnaire compassed the basic question to be asked from the elderly people at the old age home with a motive to analyze the actual reason and circumstances compelling them to shift to an old age home. In order to standardize the questionnaire, it was authenticated by ten experts. Their opinion to either add or cut off a question was highly taken into consideration and finally, a draft was prepared with 18 questions. The interview based survey method was used for data collection. The 75 elderly people were approached at different old age homes in Ranchi like senior citizen home, St. Anne’s old age home and Geetanjali foundation old age home. The old aged residents were humbly interviewed and all the answers to the questions were drawn out voluntary from them.

VII. RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY

Factors	Number of elderly people (out of 75 people)	Percentage (%)
Poverty (Economic status)	25	33.33%
Issue in bonding with children	27	36%
Having no sons	9	12%
Health issue	5	6.66%
Isolation	4	5.3%
Settlement of child at abroad	5	6.66%



VIII. DISCUSSION

Maximum numbers of the old age home residents were aged between 60 -79years which is similar to the study done by Hedge et al (2012). A number of studies have discussed various deductions for the elderly to be in old age home also known as retirement home. As per the study carried by Bansod et al (2006) and Mishra et al economic hardship, lack of care in the family, insufficient housing is some highlighting reasons.

The table as well as the graph illustrates the following. Poverty (33.33%) as the reason for residing in an old age home which is supported by many of the studies carried by Gupta et al and Sidhu et al. Thus the hypothesis that there is no significant co-relation between economic status and elderly people staying at old age home is rejected. And therefore it is proved that economic status plays a significant role in driving the elderly people to the old age home.

Bonding with the children (36%) as the most common factor for residing in old age home is supported by Gupta et al.

Thus the hypothesis that, there is no significant co-relation between the type of bonding and relationship with children and elderly people staying at old age home is rejected and is proved that bond with children plays an essential role in impelling the elderly parents to reside in old age home. Misbehavior of children threads the parents and compels them to make a shift in order to ponder shift.

Having no sons (12%) was found to be a factor responsible for residents coming to old age homes. Few people have only daughters. The parents explained that they don't want to stay with their married daughters because of multiple reasons; some of them like improper behavior of son-in law, adjustment factor and few still believed that a parents who dwells with married daughter will not get freedom ('moksha') after death. Similar finding were obtained by Sidhu (2010) and Lalan (2014). Thus the hypothesis that there is no significant co-relation between having or not having a son and elderly people staying at old age home is rejected. And hence it is proved that not having a son is one of the important reasons that make elderly people stay in old age home.

Few other aspects were also discovered like such as 6.66% people had health issue due to which their children showed them the door to old age home 5.33% people suffered from isolation and loneliness where as 6.66% parents have their children settled in abroad.

IX. CONCLUSIONS

No doubt the government of India and the NGO's have really worked hard to set-up old age home centers for providing the rest care to the elderly, still there is demanding need of the old age homes as there is advancement in modernization. People must realize the responsibilities towards the parents who need physical and emotional support in the late years of their life. In schools and colleges moral classes should be given for the intention to establish a good and strong sense of bond between the children and parents. The children should be reminded of their duties and responsibilities towards their parents.

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