
ROLE OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR THE WELFARE OF ELDERLY POPULATION IN INDIA

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Introduction: The term ageing denotes the increasing number of 60+ populations to total population. In both macro and household level, this demographic ageing has immense implications. With an alarming rate of around 961 million of 60+ population worldwide (2015) and about 21.5% of projected aged by 2050, the world would be in the processing of ageing world in near future. Every born child start to grow and grow and unknowingly one day they will be the part of this ageing world also. It is an irreversible segment of everyone's life cycle starting from birth to death. Such world may be developing due to positive trend in life expectancy which increases the wishes to live a long life and also by the improvement in medical facilities helps to reduce the rate of death. Therefore, the no of aged person goes on increasing at a faster rate all over the world. Being a developing country, India has also started witnessing a developing trend of life expectancy from 49 years in 1971 to about 60 years in 2016. As a matter of fact, ageing is happened with the rate of 5.9% and 8.6% during 1971, 2011 respectively. Likewise, the dependency ratio and ageing index also reflect a positive result for clarifying this trend. The dependency ratio measures the ratio between the 60+ populations and 15-59 years age group population which is popularly categorized in working class. This determinates particularly the economic consequences of population ageing over the society. In India, It accounts 16.52% currently (2011) which was 12.19%, 13.08% during 1991 and 2001.

OLD-AGE HOME: In recent time, the concept of OLD-AGE HOME receives more popularity as like as a celebrity. This kind of home is made basically to provide the social support and securities to our respected older population. With the changing social set up of society, the idea of the "OLD CAN SPEND THEIR LAST DAYS IN OLD AGE HOME" becomes familiar as it receives a widespread acceptability in today than the early days. This kind of social organization is actually running to give fundamental needs of those neglected aged refuges whom are being isolated from their family though they have their own family. The OLD-AGE HOME is a kind of formal arrangement of living of the elderly. In the materialistic society, the social values are hidden and gradually it breaks the traditional systems and perceptions leads to social exclusion of the aged persons. And by so some answered that old age home would be the right choice for smoothly running one's old age satisfactorily.

Causes of Increasing Rate of Institutional Support System: The society becomes modern and with modernity, the familial values start to change from togetherness to the individualism. Due to this shifting, the social structure and ethics are known by giving importance to the dignity of individual and privacy. And finally, the prevailing kin-oriented family systems are broken day by day and favours the emergence of single generation &/or individualistic nature-oriented family from there. It leads to exclude the aged one from this modern family norm. The elderly care is gradually seeing as a burden for the families and thereby insecurities of living arrangement for the elderly person are a major concern for each modern family.

Traditionally, the society is giving main role, value and also the respect to the elderly persons as they deserve. Even at home, they play the central figure of the family in respect of giving suggestions and taking decisions in all home allied activities. The parents were always

expecting that their at least one child continue to stay with them while the parents were ageing or over the parents' entire life period. But, due to advance stage of modernization in recent time, the whole family structure, familial values, residential pattern and the role of family members have changed. It seems difficult for the younger to distribute evenly the resources and time in respect of deserving care and support of the elderly persons. The old people within their family feel totally neglected and sometimes they have to take refuge in homes as they are not capable physically to decrease the demand of works which are arisen in the homes. Therefore, it is needed of some institutional support systems for the elderly to minimize the unfavorable living arrangement pattern in their later part of life. As a result, various numbers of OLD-AGE Homes are developed by different NGO's, by individual etc. The rising need for institutional support system for elderly is now felt due to some reasons as pointed below...

- Feeling lonely because of loss of joint family,
- They do not have family or friends,
- Unable to care properly themselves,
- Sense of inability to adjust,
- Ill health,
- Early death of spouse...etc.

State wise no. of OLD-AGE HOME Assisted by Different Agencies:

	Name of the Sates	No. of Old Age Homes Assisted			
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	Andhra Pradesh	76	56	47	13
2	Bihar	4	1	1	0
3	Chhattisgarh	3	1	0	0
4	Goa	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	0	0	0	0
6	Haryana	5	8	1	2
7	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	1	0
8	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
9	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	39	15	17	6
11	Kerala	0	3	0	1
12	Madhya Pradesh	3	1	3	1
13	Maharashtra	14	17	4	2
14	Odhisia	27	38	23	4
15	Punjab	1	2	1	0
16	Rajasthan	1	4	2	1
17	Tamil Nadu	45	7	32	7
18	Telangana	0	0	7	0
19	Uttar Pradesh	15	6	5	1
20	Uttarakhand	3	4	3	0
21	West Bengal	7	25	15	3
UTs					
22	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0
23	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0

24	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
25	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
26	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
27	Delhi	2	2	1	1
28	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
NE Region States					
29	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0
30	Assam	12	6	12	4
31	Manipur	7	11	9	3
32	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
33	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
34	Nagaland	0	0	1	0
35	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
36	Tripura	2	0	2	0
Total		269	207	187	49

Source: Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment,

Role of Government Policies in India: For giving social and financial support to the elderly people, the Govt. of India has also taken some welfare measurements. In 1956, the 1st Personal Law Statue namely Human Adoption and Maintenance Act was launched in India under the Hindu Personal Law for the welfare of Indian aged. This act imposes an obligation on the children of both son and daughter to maintain the proper care and support to their parents. Here, it is important to note that only those who are not financially strong to maintain themselves are entitled to seek maintenance under this act. Besides this, various Governmental programmes were gradually initiated to sort out the miserable conditions of the aged population by providing affordable networks of homes, day care centers nursing homes and also by the old age pensions. After participating in the World Assembly Conference in Viena in 1981, the Government of India took initiation of adopting such welfare programmes for the Indian aged. Accordingly, the Govt. of India adopted the United Nation's International Plan of Action of Ageing in 1982. In 1999, the National Policy on Older Person was implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The aim of this pension scheme is to provide concession, monetary support, insurance schemes etc. Another important programme introduced by the Ministry of Rural Development in 1995 was The National Social Assistance Programme which benefits the aged by securing their social status especially those who are living in BPL. Some important steps were taken under these programmes which are still not known by most of the aged persons even in this time...

- In 1995, Indira Gandhi National Old-Age Pension Scheme was launched with the provision of a monthly pension scheme upto Rs.500 to the aged under BPL category.
- Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension was also introduced for those widowed aged who are living under BPL. The scheme provides a monthly remuneration of Rs. 200 to them.
- Construction of OLD-AGE HOME s and Day Care Centers for the neglected aged for every 3-4 districts.
- Establishment of Resource Centre and Re-Employment Scheme for the aged.
- Upto 50% discount in train and air lines for travel within and between cities.
- Enacting legislation for ensuring compulsory Geriatric Care in all public hospital.

- In 1999, the Annapurna Yojana was launched with the aim of providing 10kg food grains per month in free of cost to the senior citizens who are eligible but have remain uncovered under the scheme of National Pension.

Besides these, article 41 of Indian Constitution also reveals the fact of Right to Education, Right to Work of the aged etc. The Life Insurance Corporation has also been providing several schemes in the name of Jeevan Dhan Yojana, senior Citizen Unit Yojana, Medical Insurance etc. for the welfare of aged persons.

Conclusion: Ageing is the most sensible part of our life cycle where everybody wishes to surround by their beloved ones. The old age is a reminder of biological clock. In this stage of life, the physical and mental strength are deteriorated and gradually the dependency is come out. As the parents do all the necessary things for the cheerful life of their children, therefore, it is the duty of their child to do more in favour of their parents and try to keep always happy to them especially in the older stage. If a person is happy by heart, he always feels young even in their old days. The older persons are most respected and wanted persons in society so it should be our duty to make them to feel this special honor in their older days. For blessing and guidance in life, we should keep the elders well and cheerful. It is our duty to make this part of life of the old as comfortable as we can. We should remember the fact that graying is not an individual property, it is a universal episode of everyone's cycle of life.

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