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Disability among Senior Citizens in India

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Abstract

In this paper, an attempt is made to understand the disability condition of senior citizens in India using the Census of India 2011. The levels and patterns of disability rate, and the distribution of disabled population by the type of disability were examined across states as well as gender. Results indicate that irrespective of the age, a considerable proportion of senior citizens have multiple disability, and the levels significantly varies across states. Even though females live longer, males reported relatively higher levels of disability rate.

Keywords: Disability Rate; Senior Citizens; India.

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Introduction

In India, disability among senior citizen is a significant problem both in terms of its larger magnitude and complexity. As per the Census of India 2011, the disabled population aged 60+ years in India is around 53 million. Of this disabled, 27 million are males and the remaining 26 million are females (Census of India 2011).

Even though several studies are available on disability, none of them exclusively devoted to the conditions of senior citizens using the data of latest Census of India (Nidhiya Menon, Parish, and Rose 2011; Agrawal, Keshri, and Gaur 2009; Addlakha and Mandal 2009; Gupta 2018; Singh 2008; Mishra and Mohanty 2018; Reddy and PavaniSree 2015; Mitra and Sambamoorthi 2008; Pandey 2012; Sengupta and Emily 2002). Again, the spatial and gender dimension of disability conditions among senior citizens were scientifically unexplored in the previous studies.

Senior citizens in the country are vulnerable to multiple risks (Chermak 1990; Addlakha and Mandal 2009; Mehrotra 2011; Hiranandani and Sonpal 2010; Barnes and Sheldon 2010; Patel, Rodrigues, and DeSouza 2002; Pandey 2012; Patel et. al. 1998; N Menon, Parish, and Rose 2014). Their well-beings are an outcome of the absence of disability, and proper health care. Since the country has insufficient social security measures, due care must be given to reduce their risk of disabilities as much as possible. Proper planning of social and health interventions for them requires a vivid understanding of the levels and patterns of disability both at macro and micro level.

The main objectives of this paper is to examine the levels and patterns of disability rates among senior citizens in India, and its variation across states and gender. Also, to understand the distribution of disabled population by type of disability, gender and place of residence.

Materials and Methods

The data used for the analysis is taken from Census of India 2011 (Census of India 2011). Census is the most reliable data source on disability. The members of the household were asked whether they suffered from physical or mental disability. If suffered, the type of disability was enquired. These two information was used to analyze conditions of disability of senior citizens.

In this paper, the term 'disability' means a person with restrictions or lack of abilities to perform an activity in the manner or with a range considered normal for a human being. Disability rate is defined

as the number of disabled population per every 100 old aged persons.

Results

Before understanding the levels of disability rates, it is necessary to understand the absolute magnitude of disabled senior citizens across states and its fractions in relation to the total disabled population in India. Table 1 shows number of senior citizens with disability and its share to disabled population in India and major states by sex. Around 20 percent of the disabled persons are senior citizen. In other words, one in every five disabled persons is a senior citizen.

Table 1: Number of senior persons with disability and its share to disabled population in the major states of India by Sex, 2011.

Major states	Senior Persons with Disability*			Share to disabled population		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Andhra Pradesh	491816	247027	244789	21.7	20.2	23.5
Assam	107682	51868	55814	22.4	20.2	25.1
Bihar	327172	187924	139248	14.0	14.0	14.1
Chhattisgarh	174926	79991	94935	28.0	23.9	32.6
Gujarat	191513	91616	99897	17.5	15.0	20.8
Haryana	124185	62735	61450	22.7	19.9	26.6
Himachal Pradesh	48776	24148	24628	31.4	28.0	35.7
Jharkhand	147684	75865	71819	19.2	17.8	20.9
Karnataka	219668	111087	108581	16.6	15.3	18.2
Kerala	224855	101198	123657	29.5	25.6	33.7
Madhya Pradesh	333712	165753	167959	21.5	18.7	25.3
Maharashtra	513756	271468	242288	17.3	16.0	19.1
Punjab	121552	66229	55323	18.6	17.4	20.2
Rajasthan	558192	244632	313560	35.7	28.8	43.8
Sikkim	4527	2475	2052	24.9	25.3	24.4
Tamil Nadu	190254	103840	86414	16.1	15.8	16.5
Uttar Pradesh	660245	351486	308759	15.9	14.9	17.2
Uttarakhand	44373	21409	22964	24.0	20.8	27.8
West Bengal	365892	187136	178756	18.1	16.6	20.1
India	5376205	2713757	2662448	20.1	18.1	22.5

*Note: *senior persons aged 60+ years*

Source of Data: Census of India 2011

The share of disabled senior citizens in disability population varies across states. The lowest share was found in Bihar with 14 percent, and the highest share in Rajasthan with 35.7 percent. Compared to the national level, around 10 states have a higher share. After the Rajasthan, the highest disability

shares are found in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Chhattisgarh.

In comparison to men, the proportion of aged disabled women is relatively high in Gujarat, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan.

The male-female differentials are relatively less in Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Sikkim.

Table 2 gives the disability rates among senior citizens in terms of place of residence, gender and

state. Here, the disability rate is the number of disabled elderly persons per 100 elderly persons. The disability rate of the elderly in India is 5.18. it means, for every 100 old persons, five are disabled.

Table 2.: Disability rate among aged (60+ years) in India, 2011 (%).

Union Territory	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5.82	6.23	5.30	7.11	7.57	6.52	2.74	3.01	2.39
Andhra Pradesh	5.94	6.32	5.60	6.38	6.75	6.05	4.72	5.15	4.32
Arunachal Pradesh	7.61	7.26	8.01	8.10	7.74	8.48	3.89	3.71	4.10
Assam	5.18	4.92	5.45	5.47	5.20	5.74	3.67	3.43	3.93
Bihar	4.25	4.58	3.87	4.27	4.60	3.89	4.03	4.35	3.66
Chandigarh	3.58	3.63	3.54	3.46	3.93	2.87	3.58	3.62	3.55
Chhattisgarh	8.73	8.62	8.83	9.35	9.21	9.47	6.29	6.37	6.21
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.10	3.24	2.97	3.64	3.68	3.60	2.21	2.61	1.81
Daman & Diu	3.52	3.51	3.53	3.91	4.51	3.49	3.34	3.08	3.55
Goa	5.65	5.56	5.72	6.68	6.72	6.65	4.95	4.81	5.07
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Jammu & Kashmir	9.09	9.13	9.05	10.07	10.20	9.93	6.73	6.52	6.96
Jharkhand	6.27	6.42	6.11	6.75	6.94	6.57	4.57	4.74	4.38
Karnataka	3.79	4.04	3.57	3.97	4.23	3.74	3.42	3.66	3.19
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Rajasthan	10.92	10.06	11.70	12.25	11.26	13.14	6.53	6.23	6.81
Sikkim	11.11	11.01	11.23	12.42	12.21	12.67	5.36	5.48	5.23
Tamil Nadu	2.53	2.84	2.25	2.71	3.01	2.42	2.33	2.63	2.05
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Uttar Pradesh	4.28	4.37	4.17	4.29	4.38	4.19	4.22	4.33	4.10
Uttarakhand	4.93	4.84	5.00	5.42	5.32	5.52	3.43	3.52	3.32
West Bengal	4.73	4.86	4.59	5.18	5.39	4.98	3.94	3.99	3.89
India	5.18	5.31	5.04	5.59	5.71	5.48	4.18	4.36	4.01

Source of Data: Census of India 2011

Around 14 states in India show a disability rate that is higher than that of the country. The highest disability rates were reported in Sikkim (11.1%), followed by Rajasthan (10.9%), Jammu and Kashmir (9.1%), Chhattisgarh (8.7%), Odisha (8.24%), and Arunachal Pradesh (7.6%). Among the states, the lowest disability rate was reported in Tamil Nadu (2.5%), followed by Karnataka (3.8%), Meghalaya (3.9%), Gujarat (4%), Mizoram (4.2%), Punjab (4.24%), Bihar (4.25%) and Uttar Pradesh (4.3%).

The disability rates of aged males and females in the country are 5.31 and 5.04, respectively.

Irrespective of rural or urban areas, the disability rates have been higher among men than women.

Table 3 gives the distribution of disabled population by type of disability, gender and place of residence in India. It is clear from the table that issues related to sight, hearing, and movement were found to be relatively predominant among old people. The levels of these problems increases as the age progress in individuals. A considerable proportion of old aged persons have multiple disability. This is found true irrespective of the gender, age and place of residence.

Table 3: Distribution of disabled population by type of disability, gender and place of residence, India 2011.

Age Group	Type of disability							
	SE	HE	SP	MOV	MR	MI	AO	MD
India								
60-69	25.2	18.5	4.7	25.6	2.2	2.1	13.6	8.1
70-79	26.3	19.4	3.2	25.6	1.3	1.4	9.9	13.0
80-89	24.5	20.0	2.3	24.5	1.0	1.1	7.9	18.8
90+	21.1	19.2	2.6	21.5	1.3	1.0	8.7	24.6
Males								
60-69	22.9	17.6	5.0	28.6	2.2	2.0	14.1	7.6
70-79	24.7	19.4	3.5	27.5	1.3	1.3	10.6	11.8
80-89	23.6	20.8	2.5	25.3	1.0	1.0	8.5	17.2
90+	20.8	20.4	3.1	21.7	1.5	1.0	9.7	21.7
Females								
60-69	27.7	19.5	4.4	22.4	2.1	2.2	13.0	8.6
70-79	28.0	19.4	2.8	23.7	1.3	1.5	9.3	14.2
80-89	25.2	19.2	2.0	23.7	1.0	1.2	7.4	20.3
90+	21.3	18.2	2.2	21.4	1.1	1.0	8.0	26.8
Rural India								
60-69	26.1	18.4	4.1	26.0	2.0	2.0	12.8	8.6
70-79	27.3	18.9	2.7	25.6	1.2	1.3	9.2	13.8
80-89	25.4	19.1	1.9	24.5	0.8	0.9	7.3	20.0
90+	21.6	18.2	2.1	21.9	1.1	0.9	7.8	26.3
Urban India								
60-69	22.4	18.9	6.5	24.6	2.5	2.6	15.8	6.6
70-79	22.8	20.9	4.8	25.4	1.7	2.0	12.4	10.1
80-89	21.2	22.8	3.5	24.2	1.4	1.6	10.1	15.0
90+	19.4	22.4	4.3	20.1	1.9	1.3	11.9	18.7

Note: SE = in seeing, HE = Hearing, SP = in Speech, MOV = movement, MR = Mental Retardation, MI = Mental Illness, AO = Any Other, MD = Multiple Disability

Source of Data: Census of India 2011

Discussion

In this paper, we examined the proportion of senior citizens in the disabled population in India and states. It has been found that the share of disabled senior citizens is considerable and the levels significantly varies across states. It implies considerable disability cases are taking place in old ages. It is a well establish fact that disability is associated with economic dependency and most of the old aged persons are highly dependent on their family members(Jain et al. 2015; Agrawal, Keshri, and Gaur 2009; Chermak 1990; Prakash 2003; Singh 2008; Mitra and Sambamoorthi 2008; Barnes and Sheldon 2010; Patel, Rodrigues, and DeSouza 2002; Das et al. 2007; Pandey 2012; Mishra and Mohanty 2018). The social security in the country is poor and the most of the poor find difficult to both ends meet. Consequently, poor people are less likely to seek health care on time(Narayanan, Ramachandran, and Krishnakumar 2019). This increases the vulnerability of disability among them.

It is worth to mention here that the states like Rajasthan, Orissa, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir, that showed higher levels of disability rates, also have higher levels of economic dependency. This does not mean that disability rate and economic dependency are positively related in all states of India. For instance, the southern states, particularly in Kerala, have a low level of disability rate and high level of economic dependency among the senior citizens. Perhaps, nutritional food and proper exercise be a good predictor of disability than the economic dependency.

Another notable aspect would be that the share of the disabled being greater than their population share indicates the extent of vulnerability to disability in old age. This phenomenon is consistently higher for elderly males when compared with their female counterparts. The substantial share of the disability among the elderly population raises multiple concerns regarding its burden and implications.

However, the disability conditions of the elderly discussed in this paper are completely based on the information available in the Census of India 2011. Census data does not account for the temporary disability conditions of senior persons. Therefore, the disability estimates may be interpreted with due consideration for this aspect.

Conclusion

The social welfare programs must consider the state-level conditions of the disabled since the disability rates, and the distribution of disabled senior citizens by the type of disability significantly varies across states, and gender. Again, all such programs must be both disabled-friendly and old-age friendly. It is advisable to form state level policy for the disabled persons. Chhattisgarh already formulated a well disability policy. The disability policy must consider the aspects of social and technological interventions, disabled friendly sanitations and transport, subsidized medical drugs, use of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, and proper evaluations.

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Living Arrangements and Family Support of Elderly in the Contemporary Society – A Review

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Abstract

India has been experiencing changes in its family system. A system that had provided not only support and care to the elderly for their wellbeing but also had acknowledged their status of authority and decision making is virtually unable to extend the same support and respect to them today because of various reasons. Thus, for voluntary or involuntary reasons, many a time elderly may either left alone or maybe alienated from their children and family despite living with them. This may have a direct bearing on their decision making role, adjustment, and/or life satisfaction. With the declining capacities, increasing age-related debility, anxiety about economic and physical support, fear of death, and bereavement they may pose a challenge to the society which is practically growing apathetic to the elderly. The present paper has attempted to review the available research studies on this aspect of the living arrangements and family support of the elderly. The author has tried to highlight the reasons for their living with or without their children/relatives or the near and dear ones and the consequences there off. Further, it is also attempted to examine the gaps in this area of research and suggest the likely issues which need to be focused on in future research.

Keywords: Living Arrangement, Housing, Nuclear, Modernisation, Industrialisation, Mobility, Family Support, Elderly.

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Introduction

The problem of ageing among the senior citizens has a special significance in contemporary societies. In the traditional society of the past in India, old age was no problem at all. The place of honour traditionally assigned to the elderly in India has been spelt out by religion, social values, norms and socio-economic organizations of the society. However, the Indian family system has been considered as a chief source of support and sustenance for the

elderly. But it is seen to be changing in structure and functions because of industrialisation, urbanisation and occupational mobility. In the new scenario have risen many forms of institutional support but too inadequate to meet the demand. So the basic hurdles and problems of the elderly are various. Although the elderly have traditionally respected, however, in the Indian social structure and value system undergoing changes, social institutions like joint family, caste and village community shedding some roles, economic pressure and high

cost of living confronting the traditional caregivers and weak physical condition of the aged are adversely affecting the aged, ageing possess serious challenges.

Moreover, it is predicted that in the future era the elderly population will subsequently increase. But the bad news is that they are likely to be more vulnerable due to socio-cultural reasons. Therefore, without the safety, security and dignity of status in the family, the elderly are finding themselves vulnerable. Welfare of the elderly has been a low priority with the state. Most hospitals do not have a special geriatric facility. At present most elderly patients are still being treated in general medical wards.

It is of concern that the weakening of traditional informal support systems, both communities and families and the marginalization and elimination of the elderly' social roles is dangerous (Eldermine, 1997). Some researchers have proposed 'Filial Piety' and 'Cultural Script' as appropriate cultural phenomena influencing the support extended to the old parents (Gene-Woong, 2001). Cumming and Henry (1961) in the 'disengagement theory' have held decline in commitment to norms and values as one of the three components accounting for decline in support. Such kind of holistic study about elderly will definitely encourage policy makers to make special support policies to tackle the elderly problems.

The Meaning of Home

Home has been characterized as an essentially private place, which is the centre of domesticity, a place of intimacy and sometimes a place of solitude. Sixsmith and Sixsmith (1991) identifies three themes, which underlie the meanings that older people generally associate with home and which are central to an understanding of home and residential experience in later life.

The first theme is one of homes providing the major focus in life. As people age they become more oriented towards home; it is seen as a refuge and becomes increasingly important as other social roles in later life are relinquished. The second theme highlights the need of elderly people to remain independent of other; they appear more concerned with the instrumental aspects of home. The third theme reflects the attachment that older people have for their homes. The importance of 'memories' is significant, with past associations affective the present experience of home.

Of course, how older individuals perceive home will be influenced by their life careers and how others in society have allowed men and women, and people from different social minorities to relate it to 'home'. There will exist a diversity of such experiences and, therefore, a diversity of perceptions of home.

Change in living arrangements are likely to be associated with changes in the level of care and assistance received by the elderly. Living together with other family members' eases situations of illness while alone makes coping with illness harder. In addition, feeling isolated or left alone may induce illnesses (Borsch-Supan, 1995).

The multifarious dimensions of ageing in India can sociologically be thought to be series of transition from one set of social roles to another and such roles are structured by the social system. Changes in life during old age, which is considered to be sanyas ashram of the Hindu ashram theory, are influenced by the biological as well as the social and cultural systems. However, in recent times, the status and role of the elderly population have been diminished due to the technological development that have colonized the outlook of the youth.

Indian Family System

The Indian family system is thus supportive of age, provides a formal location, a role and a status for the aged in which they are respected, are expected to guide and counsel the young. While no elder individual can escape the physical consequences of ageing in terms of failing health and decreasing physical capacities, he/she is well supported in his/her social, familial status, his/her sense of worth and the sense of being wanted. The status of the elderly within the family seems to be affected by gender differences, rural-urban location and by the degree of economic self-sufficiency of the elder.

Nayar (1996) says that the old are besotted with an important set of problems-fight of young able bodied to distant places for jobs and establishment of household there. Sometimes they take the elderly along with them, but in most cases, the aged are left behind and sometimes they are even forced to destitution. In some states like Kerala, the migration of young is very high, resulting in a crisis of caring for older people. According to Rao (2012), in rural India people are losing their control and authority and are forced to depend on their kin due to migration of sons. There is evidence to suggest that migration of the young is leading to

nucleation of the family and thereby, adversely affecting intergenerational support. The greatest complication for the parents arises when an only child chooses to migrate; even if there are other children, the loss of support can be substantial because it is generally the most dynamic and the most educated of adults who want to migrate.

Caring by the emigrated family is from a distance. Distance, time and expense separate children and parents. This is especially the case, if they have no other children. The parents do not have close interaction with the grandchildren. Visits may be short, infrequent and only when they are able to travel. The elderly may feel insecure that the children may not be able to return in time of emergency. The emotional vacuum the parents face reduces the quality of their life considerably.

Living Arrangement

It is seen that family plays a much lesser role in the country today on account of the structural changes taking place in Indian society and the concomitant disintegration of joint family leading to rejection of the aged (Planning Commission, 1963). Younger couples due to industrialization are displaced and live in nuclear household affecting the daily living of the elderly (Sudha, et.al., 2004). Hence, living arrangement of the elderly originates from the assumption of declining joint family in the Indian society (Rajan, et.al., 1995). There arises the elderly support differentials based on the family constitutional members and their living arrangements. The different living situation causes elderly to be valued most comprehensively (Burch and Mathews, 1987). What consists of the differential treatment of the elderly in variety of living arrangement depends upon the "component" of household goods including physical shelter, personal care, companionship, independency, power and authority (Martin and Perston, 1994). Living arrangements are influenced by variety of factors including marital status, family size, and cultural tradition. The changing household structure translates into a decline in support for the elderly (Muthukrishnaveni, 2010).

With regard to declining support of elderly in transition in living arrangements, studies show that in the living arrangement of houses in relation to elderly problem majority of elderly in rural areas expect to rely on children when they become old (Arnold, 1975), specially mothers are likely to depend on their sons for old age support (Sharma, 2002). Elderly living with family

and living with spouse are the most popular destinations of transition. It also suggests that attitudes toward living arrangements may also be an important factor for other developing countries in analysis of transition in living arrangements. It could be especially true for those countries which traditionally have a favourable attitude toward living with children and recently have experienced a rapid increase in the proportion of living either alone or with spouse only due to structural change (Balamurugan, 2013).

Chakravarty (1998) feels that the family still plays a major role in elderly care, but the sign of change are now becoming more visible. Mohanty (1997) from a study observed that care of the elderly, considered as a sacred duty in the past is breaking down in nuclear families. Due to socio-economic, political, psychological and physical changes coupled with changes in the family system and life style, the aged need specify Medicare besides other support. Case studies from rural areas reflect that, though the joint family system does look after the elderly there are, however, some emerging stresses and strains which in varying degrees, tend to increase the vulnerability of the aged (Upadhyay, 1992). Lakshminarayanan (1993) found that rural aged male are better adjusted and better education is associated with a greater ability to adjust. Female elderly who live in rural areas perhaps lack of social interaction and hence would have poor adjustment in their life widowhood could also be a factor in which social isolation plays a vital role. In addition, there is a negative stereotyped attitude towards older persons.

Kulkarni et. al., (2009) studies the adjustment problems of elderly using the technique of well adjustment inventory. It was found that older people have significantly more adjustment problems in the emotional, social, wealth and home areas than young people. It was also found that among old individuals, the non-working persons had more adjustment problems in the home area than the working persons. On the whole, the findings indicate that engagement in some purposeful and productive takes contributed significantly to old age adjustment.

Family support

The strength of family support cannot always be measured by the frequency of co-residence or of contact within the family. Rather, the strength lies in the ties of obligation and affection, bound in custom and social processes. For instance,

frequent contact between the generations in the same household can co-exist with a lower level of satisfaction for the elderly, most likely as a result of the lower socio-economic status associated with the multigenerational household. Emotional support, requiring longstanding trust and involvement between intimate persons, may be most universal kind of support rendered among family members regardless of living arrangement.

The kind of support that is affected most by residential separation in most countries is instrumental support. Modest assistance with the tasks of daily living potentially can be provided through private purchase, non-resident family support, or community services. However, when needs are intense and continuous care is required, there is little alternative to co-resident support, either in the home or in an institutional setting.

The underlying importance of family support for the elderly remains true across the countries though manifested and extended differently. Wherever the family persists, family support persists even if it is not always fully adequate and available for all older people. Families play important roles in providing financial, practical and emotional support.

Changes in the family support are more often predicted in the third world. Rapid changes in the structure of the economy, occupation, and education are inducing change in family size, location and geographical proximity. While changes in the family structure also mould changes in family support, the much-lamented "disintegration of the family" is neither a necessity nor a re-determined outcome, if adaptations to change are made appropriately and successfully.

In the recent past there have been marked changes in the living arrangements of elderly people, which have been associated with economic and behavioural changes. It is important to remember that there are also age-related changes in the circumstances of individual elderly people over time; longitudinal studies have shown that later life is often marked by changes in both household circumstances and location. Greater residential independence, especially in the context of an ageing elderly population, implies a greater demand for formal health and welfare services; greater pressure on the housing market and a greater incentive for the providers of public and private goods and services to take account of the needs of single persons and other small households. However, the age-specific prevalence of widowhood and childlessness is currently failing slightly and there are some suggestions that the pace of change in

living arrangements may also be showing in the longer term, changing patterns of family formation, fission and reconstitution.

A changing household structure is a most prominent socio-economic change with important implications for the elderly. The extended or joint family system has been the traditional basis of support for the elderly in most societies. Under the impact of modernization and increasing independence from the traditional family occupation, more and more siblings are moving away from the base family to distant places of work. Consequently, the nuclear family has become the norm in the present day context. Decline in family size has also contributed to this phenomenon.

These changes have also affected the living arrangements of the elderly. It is obvious that under the impact of increasing "nuclearization" of the families brought about by a reducing family size and the migration of siblings to distant places of work, the immediate family support for the elderly may further weaken.

Dependency among the Elderly

To maintain self-respect and status, one should not be economically dependent on others, and should have some personal income. Income flows from assets, past savings, pensions and gainful work. Some activities such as household work though may be supportive and hence very necessary, do not yield independent income. In India, assets, past savings and pensions account for income only in respect of a few. It is the gainful work, which is a source of income for a vast majority.

Discussion

The force of modernisation, technological change, mobility and the explosion in the later transmission of knowledge are making changes in the life style and values to adjust to the changing circumstances. Individuals and modernity, which sometimes lead to ambivalence in attitude towards the use of the knowledge and experience of the past in solving problems of the present, tend to make old people feel less valued.

The shortage of housing accommodation in the cities and high rentals act as a severe constraint in common residence of the aged with their sons, particularly for migrant families. The migration of younger people increases the vulnerability of the old who stay behind, particularly for families,

which do not have independent production assets such as land, livestock or household industry and are dependent primarily on their labour. Increasing employment of women outside the home in offices and in factories implies that they can spend less time for taking care of the older members, especially those who required constant care. Further, the relatively independent status acquired by a white-collar women worker, who has her own career and aspirations, sometimes leads to demand on the husband for setting up a separate nuclear family.

There is now a great investment by the family on education and upbringing of children, which affects the intra-family distribution of income in favour of the younger generation. The joint family system, an important sustaining factor of which is the common ownership of the means of production, is gradually breaking down. This has increased the vulnerability of the old, particularly those with no children or immediate kin, as there is lesser readiness in discharging long-term social obligations towards such members.

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Geriatric Abuse – Reason Behind Cruel Act

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Abstract

Elder abuse is usually by a relative or other caregiver. At greatest risk are the frail and/or isolated. What is the right response depends on the circumstances. But usually they will want to talk to the older person to find out what is going on, if the person would like assistance, and what kind of support or assistance they would like. In some provinces, certain people will have a legal duty to respond to abuse and neglect that occurs in specific circumstances by reporting abuse to a government or other agency. In comparison, in some provinces and territories there is no duty to report abuse and no agency designated to receive reports and respond to abuse. But education about the law, an awareness of ethical considerations, and knowledge of key resources and services can make it easier to decide what to do, to identify who they can seek guidance from in their agency or to whom they should refer an issue, as well as make they feel more confident that they did the best they could under the circumstances.

Keywords: Geriatric Abuse, Cruel Act.

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Introduction

Elder abuse is usually by a relative or other caregiver. At greatest risk are the frail and/or isolated. Elder abuse may include physical violence, threats of assault, verbal abuse, financial exploitation, physical or emotional neglect, or sexual abuse according to WHO elderly abuse is a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person. Many people believe that elder abuse happens in nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities. While some abuse does exist in these

facilities, the majority of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, occurs in the home. Elder abuse comes in all shapes and sizes. Although older adults are mistreated by strangers and con artists, older adults are often abused by people they care about or rely on for assistance, services or companionship.

- Family
- Friend
- Spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend
- Neighbour
- Volunteer caregiver
- Legal guardian

- Care facility staff
- Professionals - doctor, lawyer, nurse

Abuse is on the rise in this society. Nearly 5.3 million intimate partner victimization occur each year among older. Certain symptoms can appear, such as changes in depth perception, confusion over when an event occurred, loss of control over bodily functions, and hearing loss. Although there is no crime called "elder abuse", sometimes acts of elder abuse can be crimes listed in the Criminal Code, which is the federal law that lists most crimes in Canada and applies across the country.

Some examples:

- Assault
- Sexual Assault
- Uttering Threats
- Unlawful Confinement
- Theft
- Fraud
- Failing to provide the necessities of life (criminal neglect)
- Theft by a person holding a power of attorney

Psychological abuse: Threatening to put an older person in a retirement home or to not let the older person see the grandchildren or other family unless he or she does what they want can be psychological abuse. Some kinds of mistreatment can fall into more than one category: for example, a caregiver who is unnecessarily rough when lifting a patient in and out of bed and belittles the patient by talking down to him like he is a child is being physically and psychologically abusive.

Financial abuse: Older adults who are socially isolated and have acquired assets or property through lifelong saving for retirement are often targeted for theft or scams. Abusers also sometimes see older people as easy targets because of a perception that older people are more trusting. An attorney is someone legally appointed (through a document called a power of attorney) to make financial transactions or decisions for another person. But the attorney must still make financial decisions consistent with the older person's wishes. Identity theft is when a crook uses personal or confidential information to access someone else's accounts and credits cards without permission. Another common form of financial abuse is when an older adult opens a joint account with a person they trust on the understanding that this person will only access those funds to help the older

adult pay bills and run errands. Then this trusted person spends some or all of the money on herself. That is financial abuse. Financial abuse is a very complex topic that we can't cover in detail today. Financial abuse is one of the most common forms of mistreatment of older people.

Chemical abuse is medication abuse. Too much or not enough medication can cause harm. When medication decisions are motivated by things other than the older person's well being or when medication decisions are made without the agreement of the person who needs the medicine or the legal substitute-decision-maker, that's abuse. Medications abuse is most common when older adults have health problems that make it impossible or difficult for them to take care of themselves, fill prescriptions, or understand medical information. For example, denying their mum expensive medication to save money for their inheritance could be mistreatment. On the flip side, giving their mum a higher dose of her medicine so she is more docile and makes fewer demands on they is also abuse.

Spiritual abuse is mentioned in very few laws, but it can go hand-in-hand with psychological abuse, and can have a devastating effect on an older person. Our faith is an important part of who we are as people. Preventing a person from practicing her or his faith or Forcing a person to participate in a spiritual ritual or to practice a religion is spiritual abuse. When someone prevents an older person from practicing his or her faith and seeing people in a chosen faith community, this is mistreatment. Consider actions that stop a person from going to church, mosque, or any other place of worship, or from being involved in spiritual or religious practices of choice. Forcing a person to practice a different religion or forcing a non-believer to attend a faith institution can also be abusive. Forcing a person to participate in any religious or spiritual ceremony, event or ritual could be elder abuse. Requiring a person to receive any form of spiritual-based healing would be abuse.

An increase in the incidence of child abuse and related fatalities has also been documented.

Predisposing factors:

A. Biological theories

1. Neuro-physiological influences

Various components of the neurological system in both humans and animals have

been implicated in both the facilitation and inhibition of aggressive impulses.

Areas of the brain mainly involved

- Temporal lobe
- Limbic system
- Amygdaloid nucleus

2. Biochemical influences

Nor-epinephrine, dopamine and serotonin – may play a role in the facilitation and inhibition of aggressive impulses.

3. Genetic influences

Various genetic components related to aggressive behavior have been investigated. Some studies have linked increased aggressiveness with selective inbreeding in mice, suggesting the possibility of a direct genetic link. Another genetic characteristic that was once thought to have some implication for aggressive behavior was the genetic karyotype XYY. The XYY syndrome has been found to contribute to aggressive behavior in a small percentage of cases.

4. Disorders of the brain

- (a) Brain tumors (particularly in the area of temporal lobe and limbic system)
- (b) Trauma to the brain (resulting in cerebral changes)
- (c) Diseases (encephalitis)
- (d) Epilepsy (temporal lobe epilepsy)

5. Psychological theories

(a) Psychodynamic theory

The psychodynamic theorist implies that unmet needs for satisfaction and security result in an underdeveloped ego and a weak superego. It is thought that when frustration occurs, aggression and violence supply this individual with a dose of power and prestige that boosts the self image and validates a significance to his or her life that is lacking.

(b) Learning theory

Children learn to behave by imitating their role models, which are usually their parents. Models are more likely to be imitated when they are perceived as prestigious or influential, or when the behavior is followed by positive reinforcement. Children may have an

idealistic perception of their parents during the very early developmental stages but, as they mature, may begin to imitate the behavior pattern of their teachers, friends, and others.

6. Socio-cultural theories

Social scientist believes that aggressive behavior is primarily a product of one's culture and social structure. Studies have shown that poverty and income are powerful predictors of homicide and violent crime.

Battering

A pattern of coercive control founded on and supported by physical and/or sexual violence or threat of violence of an intimate partner.

Profile of the victim

- Represent in all age, racial, religious, cultural, educational and socio-economic groups.
- May be married or single, housewives or business executives
- Low self esteem
- Often accepts the blame
- Feelings of guilt, anger, fear and shame

Profile of the victimizer

- Low self esteem
- Pathologically jealous
- Dual personality (one to partner and one to rest of the world)
- Often under a great deal of stress
- Limited ability to cope with the stress
- Becomes threatened when she shows any sign of independence or attempts to share herself or her time with others
- Always insults and humiliates her
- He demands to know where she is at every moment
- Always challenges her honesty.

Responding to Abuse

What is the right response depends on the circumstances. But usually they will want to talk

to the older person to find out what is going on, if the person would like assistance, and what kind of support or assistance they would like. In some provinces, certain people will have a legal duty to respond to abuse and neglect that occurs in specific circumstances by reporting abuse to a government or other agency. In comparison, in some provinces and territories there is no duty to report abuse and no agency designated to receive reports and respond to abuse. Reporting abuse and neglect is only one possible way to respond to abuse concerns, and it is often not the most helpful response. However, it is important to be aware of their legal obligations. This section highlights any legal duty to respond to abuse or neglect in their province or territory. In every instance it is ideal to talk to the older person about his or her own experience and then help connect the person with resources and services. The Resources Handout contains a lengthy list of agencies in each province and territory.

It is not always appropriate to call the police, especially if the older person is not able to access other support and assistance. In some instances a report to the police can increase the likelihood of further abuse.

Care of elderly with abuse:

The overarching goal is always to find the right balance between

1. Protection, and
2. Independence.

How can they support an older person to get the support or assistance they need and live free from abuse (protection), while at the same respecting a person's inherent right to freedom, independence, and privacy (independence)?

In other words, how do they assist a vulnerable or mistreated person without undermining their autonomy or increasing their risk of harm?

Respect Personal Values

Respect the personal values, priorities, goals and lifestyle choices of an older adult. Identify support networks and solutions that suit the older adult's individuality

Recognize the Right to make Decisions

Mentally capable older adults have the right to make decisions, including choices others might

consider risky or unwise. Mental capability refers to an adult's ability to make a reasoned decision. In general, a mentally capable adult is able to understand information and appreciate the consequences of a decision. Some adults will be capable of making some decisions and not others. The issue is not whether the decision the adult makes is reasonable to THEY, but rather whether the adult went through his or her own reasoning process, weighed the options, and came to his or her own reasoned conclusion. Mental capacity is a legal concept that is generally decision-specific and a different standard or test applies depending on the nature of the decision at issue.

Respect Confidentiality and Privacy Rights

Get consent before sharing another person's private information, including confidential personal or health information. In general it is against the law to disclose a person's personal or health information without first getting consent from the person. Violating privacy rights may also be against their professional code of conduct or their organization's internal policies. Sharing confidential information can also harm an older adult's sense of dignity, stop an older adult from trusting them to help them, and do damage to other efforts to get assistance and support to a person who is vulnerable to abuse and neglect. In some exceptional situations it is legal and appropriate to disclose information without prior consent. Organization's policies may also permit volunteers to share private information in order to consult with staff and supervisors. Some organizations require volunteers and staff to explain confidentiality policies to all clients. Privacy law is complex. If they are a volunteer, they should always consult a supervisor before disclosing someone's personal information to an outside agency. Organizations should have policies in place to help staff and volunteers to know when and to whom to disclose personal information without consent.

Even with education and awareness, responding to elder abuse is complex and challenging. But education about the law, an awareness of ethical considerations, and knowledge of key resources and services can make it easier to decide what to do, to identify who they can seek guidance from in their agency or to whom they should refer an issue, as well as make them feel more confident that they did the best they could under the circumstances.

Conclusion:

The care of elderly people has emerged an important issue around the globe. Elder people who experience abuse is subjected to an increased risk of health complications while financial exploitation is by close family members; who are the only care takers. Elders who are helpless may not readily reveal the actual situation. It's important to identify such elders and giving appropriate care is necessary of every health care team members.

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Hypertension in the Elderly

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Abstract

Hypertension is a global public health problem, and it is estimated that by 2025 more than 1.5 billion individuals worldwide will have hypertension, accounting for up to 50% of heart disease risk and 75% of stroke risk. Hypertension is an important risk factor for cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, particularly in the elderly. It is a significant and often asymptomatic chronic disease, which requires optimal control and persistent adherence to prescribed medication to reduce the risks of cardiovascular, cerebrovascular and renal disease. The aim of this review article was to highlight the importance of aged related factors, complications, assessment, nursing management and prevention.

Keywords: Hypertension; Elderly; Complications; Nursing Care.

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Introduction

Hypertension is a global public health problem, and it is estimated that by 2025 more than 1.5 billion individuals worldwide will have hypertension, accounting for up to 50% of heart disease risk and 75% of stroke risk.¹ Three out of 4 adults older than the age of 65 have 3 or more chronic conditions such as diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation, stroke, cognitive impairment, renal insufficiency, and not the last of which, hypertension.²

Hypertension in the geriatric population is typically characterized by a high systolic BP (SBP) in the setting of a normal or even decreased

diastolic BP. Both elevated SBP and elevated pulse pressure (the difference between SBP and diastolic BP) are related to an age related increase in arterial stiffness. The incidence of hypertension overall rises with age, reaching a prevalence of 60-80% beyond 65.³

Hypertension is an independent risk factor stroke, IHD, peripheral vascular disease, congestive heart failure, renal failure, and dementia in all age groups, but in older patients it is SBP and widened pulse pressure that are the strongest predictors of adverse cardiovascular outcome.⁴

Factors in the Age Related Increase in Blood Pressure⁵

- Arterial stiffness: Hypertrophy and loss of contractility of vascular smooth muscle cells, fibrosis, collagen deposition, fragmentation of elastic lamina, calcification.
- Decreased baroreceptor sensitivity
- Increased sympathetic nervous system activity
- Increased α -adrenergic receptor responsiveness
- Endothelial dysfunction: decreased nitric oxide production
- Sodium sensitivity: decreased ability to excrete a sodium load
- Low plasma renin activity
- Insulin resistance
- Central adiposity

Clinical Manifestations

- Fatigue
- Dizziness
- Palpitations
- Angina
- Dyspnea
- Headache and nosebleeds.

Complications

- Hypertensive heart disease
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Nephrosclerosis
- Retinal damage

Assessment

- Complete history- to assess the signs and symptoms that indicate target organ damage.
- Measure with a well maintained, calibrated device, with an appropriate sized cuff:
 - Check supine and standing BP (orthostatic hypotension can cause symptoms when treatment initiated).
 - Take at least two measurements in a single consultation
 - Never initiate treatment based on single reading

- Consider ambulatory measurements if drug resistance, variable BP, white coat hypertension, or postural symptoms.
- Examine for evidence of target organ damage (stroke, dementia, carotid bruits, cardiac enlargement, IHD, peripheral vascular disease, renal disease, retinal changes).
- Consider secondary hypertension rare in older patients, but consider if drug resistant, severe hypertension or with suggestive examination of laboratory findings.

Diagnostic Considerations

- All new patients should have measurements of complete blood counts, serum sodium, potassium, bicarbonate, chloride, fasting glucose, blood urea, nitrogen, creatinine, uric acid, and calcium cholesterol screening should be performed should be performed.
- ECG
- Urinalysis
- lipid profile
- Echocardiography

Nursing Management

The overall goals for the patient with hypertension are that the patient will

1. Achieve and maintain the goal BP
2. Understand and follow the therapeutic plan
3. Experience minimal or no unpleasant side effects of therapy
4. Be confident of the ability to manage and cope with this condition.

Prevention Care

- Life style modifications as a important and effective in reducing BP in older patients as in the Young.
- Salt restriction
- Weight reduction
- Regular exercise are particularly effective
- Avoid alcohol intake
- Smoking cessation and decreasing saturated fat

intake helps with overall risk reduction.

- Proper diet care

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Standard journal article

[1] Flink H, Tegelberg Å, Thörn M, Lagerlöf F. Effect of oral iron supplementation on unstimulated salivary flow rate: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *J Oral Pathol Med* 2006; 35: 540-7.

[2] Twetman S, Axelsson S, Dahlgren H, Holm AK, Källestål C, Lagerlöf F, et al. Caries-preventive effect of fluoride toothpaste: A systematic review. *Acta Odontol Scand* 2003; 61: 347-55.

Article in supplement or special issue

[3] Fleischer W, Reimer K. Povidone-iodine antisepsis. State of the art. *Dermatology* 1997; 195 Suppl 2: 3-9.

Corporate (collective) author

[4] American Academy of Periodontology. Sonic and ultrasonic scalers in periodontics. *J Periodontol* 2000; 71: 1792-801.

Unpublished article

[5] Garoushi S, Lassila LV, Tezvergil A, Vallittu PK. Static and fatigue compression test for particulate filler composite resin with fiber-reinforced composite substructure. *Dent Mater* 2006.

Personal author(s)

[6] Hosmer D, Lemeshow S. *Applied logistic regression*, 2nd edn. New York: Wiley-Interscience; 2000.

Chapter in book

[7] Nauntofte B, Tenovuo J, Lagerlöf F. Secretion and composition of saliva. In: Fejerskov O,

Kidd EAM, editors. *Dental caries: The disease and its clinical management*. Oxford: Blackwell Munksgaard; 2003. pp 7-27.

No author given

[8] World Health Organization. *Oral health surveys - basic methods*, 4th edn. Geneva: World Health Organization; 1997.

Reference from electronic media

[9] National Statistics Online – Trends in suicide by method in England and Wales, 1979–2001. www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ20.pdf (accessed Jan 24, 2005): 7-18. Only verified references against the original documents should be cited. Authors are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their references and for correct text citation. The number of reference should be kept limited to 20 in case of major communications and 10 for short communications.

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