



VIOLENCE AGAINST ELDERLY PEOPLE- A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

DR. P. SETHURAJAKUMAR ¹

¹ ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, PERIYAR UNIVERSITY, SALEM-11.

ABSTRACT:

Back ground of study: India is the country of diversity includes different kinds of culture as well as unique social practices. Since the inception of the human culture, the status of the elderly people used to be highly revered one in any of the societies. The wisdom, experience and long years of social travel makes them very strong in the social arena in the past days. The penetration of the western ideology gradually creates the unprecedented condition among the status of elderly people in our society. Disappearance of traditional family system in the modern days is creating more chaos in the life of the elderly people during their ageing. The less level of emotional, financial and personal care makes elderly as a vulnerable one as well as condition of dependent. Gradual decrease of social value of the elderly naturally increases the life risk towards them. In the recent days remarkable unlawful activities against the elderly has been increased. It has many forms i.e., domestic violence in home, social threats in public places and being considered as an easy targets by social evils. To some extent, the elderly people they are facing lot of social risks in their recent day life. Irrespective of economic and geographical status, the elderly men and women they are facing the risk of physical, economic abuse as well as death risks too. Ageing is an inevitable one, but in the recent days the ageing is being considered as a curse one because of its reversal social effects. With this view the researcher has chosen this topic to discuss the recent negative condition against the elderly in our society.

Objectives:

- To study the condition of the elderly people in our society
- To analyze the violence activities against the elderly people
- To elucidate the impact of violence activities against the elderly
- To suggest the strategies and barricades to curbing the violence action against elderly.

Materials and Methods: To study the violence incidents against elderly, the content analysis method has been chosen by the researcher. Some of the digital as well as media studies related with elderly violence have been selected through the content analysis to reveal the pathetic condition. Descriptive method also used by the researcher to describe the sociological scenario in this research study.

Results: The disconnection of emotion and economic support of elderly makes them vulnerable as well as careless position. The migration of youngsters, poverty and family dispute are the main reason which makes the elderly as a pathetic one. They are facing more violence in domestic as well as social settings.

Conclusion: Laxity of elderly care should be avoided. The vigilance or supervision of local governance towards the family settings especially analyzing the condition of elderly may have the chance to enhancesocial protection of the elderly. The role of stakeholders, judiciary, social unity and youngster are much needed to protect the elderly from the violence activities.

KEYWORDS:

VIOLENCE, ELDERLY, SOCIETY, YOUNGSTER, JUDICIARY.

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INTRODUCTION

According to India's Ageing report, the Population of elderly in India will be in the total of 347 million, roughly 20 per cent of the national population in the year of 2050 (UNFPA,2011). The advancement of medical and science technology has reduced more epidemics in India. Through that the life expectancy of individual has been increased ever before. Though the eradication of epidemics has given the quality of healthy life to our people, in other side it gradually increased the demand of resources to the millions of healthy people in our country. This condition naturally creates diverse groups on the basis of economic status. Especially the marginalized, unemployed and aged naturally they are coming under the below poverty line groups in our society. The above said groups they used to be in the position of the dependent as well as having more social and economic issues than any other in the society.

GREYING INDIA

Population growth naturally indicates the strength of the human power in the particular country. The labour force, working sector, agriculture sector and economic growth are very strong in the highly populated countries. The youth power and their contribution towards the national economic growth is immeasurable one. There is high level of productivity in the populated societies and also it gives lot of employment opportunities to its environment. Lot of resources can be found through the population growth.

Youngster population gives the progress to the nation building, but increase of the older population creates more burdens to the existing social care system. Lot of changes in the socio-economic reforms in our country has created unprecedented social impacts. The breakdown of the orthodox family system directly affects the physical, mental and social well being of the elderly our society. During ageing there is less level of family as well as social support faced by the elderly in our society in the contemporary days. Feminization of the elderly is also creating a different kind of issues in our country. Disintegration of the joint family system pushes to the elderly in the condition of neglected or loneliness.

Ideologically Greying India is one among the boons to our country development which is having lot of experienced and eminent people. But in economic aspect, it consist lot of health and medical expenditure. Millions of elderly in our society are having the rights to get proper and dignified treatment from our government as well as family. The failure of financial allocations towards greying community creates lot of social chaos in our country.

IMPACT OF INCREASE OF ELDERLY POPULATION IN INDIA

- When the population is getting grey, it includes lot of complications especially social and economic issues. It is estimated that nearly 40 per cent of the elderly people in India are in the poverty condition. Most of the elderly people in India they

are in the position of unemployed as well as dependent during their ageing.

- Due to the modernization the traditional family setup becoming disappeared, it directly creates the condition of homeless elderly or the abandoned elderly. The changes in the family system directly affected the elderly people. The aspects of familial care, support and revered status towards elderly are totally missing because of disappearing of joint family system as well as emerging of nuclearization of families.
- Migration of the children, ideological conflict between youngsters and the elderly, the changes in the traditional family structure have created more problems to the elderly (Prakash,2005)
- Increase of more elderly population consists of more health expenditure in the purview of the governments. The proper health care support system, budget allocation, hospitals and medical personnel should be properly given by the administrator. If not there shall be more health as well as psychological sick issues may arise. Violence also connected with the distress and chance of mortality among older persons in India (Lachs M.S.Williams et.al,1998).
- Less level of elderly geriatric care clinics and the lack of medical personnel to elderly are leading very poor life among the elderly in their ageing period. Physical, economic, social and psychological complications make them very vulnerable. Forcefully they are neglected by the family, society and government

VIOLENCE AGAINST ELDERLY IN INDIA

Feminization of ageing has led to more violence against the women than the men in our society. Due to that they are facing the condition of isolated and neglected and also it leads to their deterioration of physical condition too (Dhar,2012). The socio-economic condition, economic status, attainment of education, type of residence and physical condition are the main factors that determining the level of the violence against the elderly during their ageing period (Hardin & Khan 2005). Various factors, such as gender, education, financial status, living arrangement, residence, and cognitive and physical impairment, are associated with abusive behavior both from family members and from those outside the family (Hardin & Khan-Hudson, 2005).

Unlawful activities against elderly is also getting increased in our country, crime against elderly persons is getting increased by 16.9 per cent in 2024 compare with the past year. According to recent submit of National Crime Records Bureau, it is noted that 31,067 crime activities were reported, compared to 27,886 in 2023. It indicates that the risk towards elderly in our society is getting developed. They are being considered as the easy target by

the culprits. Their physical and psychological reversal during ageing made them as a target to the social evil personalities. Financial dacoity, jewel attainment, money seeking and being an easy target are the leading factors which throws lot of violence actions against the elderly. In domestic setup, due to the changes of values against elderly leads to more number of ill-treatment and also having physical, emotional and psychological violence actions.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE AMONG THE ELDERLY

India is ageing, but the support system to the elderly is still lacking. Though we are having many policies and legal provisions which support the elderly, there are not properly initiating. They are just in the documents level only. The Parents maintenance bill act was passed in the year of 2007. The improper implementation of It is estimated that India will be reached the position of the first country which is having more number of elderly in the year of 2050. The future plan to overcome the geriatrics issues is very much important. It is also having lot of financial plans. Continuous violence against elderly makes them vulnerable into physical as well as psychological aspects. Ignoring one group of people on the basis of their ageing or ability may lead to produce social imbalance and social backwardness condition.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Eashwar et.al (2026) conducted a research study "Vulnerability in Elder abuse and Geriatric depression in rural Tamilnadu", the study conducted in Kanchipuram district with 250 elderly adults by using mixed methods explanatory sequential study. Geriatric scale was used along with abuse screening scale. The findings of the study revealed that 13.2 per cent of the respondents were in high vulnerability to abuse where as 22.8 per cent have had the geriatric depressions. Illiteracy, unemployment and widowhood are the main social factors that lead the vulnerability and chances of getting violence during ageing period. Social support system and family integrity may have the chance to reduce this kind of vulnerability against elderly in our society suggested by researcher.

The Hindu (2025) revealed a shocking data which contains the violence against the elderly people in the state of Karnataka. It is shown that around 70 per cent of complaints received from the elderly persons about abuse against their own family members. Majority of the call received from toll free number of 1090. The data reveals that even in their own family, they are having more chance of getting life risks by their own sons, daughter-in-laws and close relatives. The penetration of modern ideologies made remarkable changes in the family system and the values. It directly affects the elderly people and there is no place to hide from their own family members physical, emotional violence.

Anitha Yadav (2024) in her study "Elderly abuse; A Silent

epidemic in India", it reveals the pathetic position of elderly in our society. The researcher found that the elder physical, emotional and mental wellbeing conditions are directly connected with the abuse actions. Their physical and economic and life styles are having correlation with the abuse things. There is no difference between the educated or uneducated families when it is coming to the elder abuse. The cultural changes and the socio-structural changes made lot of unprecedented negative impacts among the day to day life of elderly. The proper enactments of legal provisions and supporting mechanisms may reduce these kind of abuse and violence actions. But the level of violence and abuse activities is getting increased as equal with the greying population.

Mishra and Patel (2013) have done a study against the crime against elderly in India, it employs content analysis method involving two Hindi news papers. Six months published matters regarding elderly crimes was noted and taken to the analysis. The findings of the study mentioned that there was lot of violence actions against the elderly. Murder, attempt to murder, hurting, dacoity, cheating, chain snatching and robbery were some of the violence practices against the elderly. In this study it is noted that most of the activities done by the strangers followed by family members. Hence, it is proved that the social laxity enhances the evil actions against the elderly. Interestingly, most of the crime time was done at early morning, the culprits they had chosen the walking time of elderly and they achieved material possession from the elderly.

METHODOLOGY

To find the violence against elderly people the content analysis method has been adopted. In this structure, the violence news against the elderly in the regional digital media have been collected and analyzed. The important and remarkable violence incidents have been used for this study. Descriptive method is being used to explain this research study.

STUDIES RELATED WITH VIOLENCE AGAINST ELDERLY

- a) In robbery attempt, a 70 year of elderly women from Ambattur, Surapet, Chennai murdered by two unidentified persons. The incident took place in the date of May 14th 2026. After police enquiry two persons were arrested for the incident of murder. The stolen ornaments were recovered from the culprits. The victim was murdered in her own home premises.
- b) An elderly couple aged 75 and 65 were brutally murdered in their own house, near Erode district, May 2025. They were lived alone in their agriculture form land. They were doing their agriculture business in their land. Couples were murdered for the sake of attaining jewels worth of 12 sovereigns. Their bodies were in the decomposed state. This incident also promoting law and order issues in the particular area. The incident created more fearness among the others

those who were living in the farm land alone.

- c) A 74 year of elderly women was sexually assaulted and got attempted to murder in her own house by youths. It is reported that in Erode district at June 2026, there were two culprits broke the old women home and involved sexual assault and tried to robbery the jewels and utensils. Because of the advanced age she could not recall the faces of the criminals. But using the CCTV footage the police personnels arrested two culprits those who are in the age of nearly 21. They tried to kill the older women, but fortunately she escaped
- d) A robbery attempt took place in the older women resident near Palani, Dindigul district. On June,2026. According to police reports it is stated that two intruders entered the victim home and they were very aware about her lonely staying. They just broke the door and tied the older women. They took sum of rupees along with TV sets.
- e) In Coimbatore a laundry supervisor arrested on the chare of murdered an elder women. The elder women who was living in the gated community setup in Coimbatore urban premises. The age of victim was 69 and she was living alone, the age of the murderer was 24. The victim husband was passed away and her son and daughters are living in abroad.

FINDINGS

- The intruders they were aware about the day to day activities of the elderly. By that they came to know their loneliness and least level of social support in their environment. The elders less social contact and poor physiological condition made the criminals do to the wrong things.
- The ornaments and the jewels of the elderly were attracting the youngsters. All the belongings of the elderly are the effort of their hard work. Most of the culprits were youngsters and they were having many drug and other practices. For getting easy money they fixed the elderly person as their prime target.
- Both the rural as well as urban settings are not safe for elderly couples or those who are living alone. The murder took place within the gated community of urban as well as protected rural environment too.
- Except few cases, the criminals are very known to the victims. They used to have some social connection with elderly by offering some kinds of help. After observing their routine work, they did the wrong things to the elderly.
- The disappearance of joint family system and orthodox values naturally reducing the presence and value of the elderly among the youngsters.

Hence more number of youngsters, they do not value the worth of the elders.

- Usage of drugs by the youngsters also leads to create harmful environment to the elderly people.

CONCLUSION

Ageing is a golden era, it shall be felicitated by the society. But in modern days ageing is being considered as an tough one. Illiteracy, education, employment of children, condition of dependency, role of care takers during ageing are the main factors that determining the peaceful life during ageing. Diverse social changes and values are the main reasons that gradually reduce the presence of the elderly as well as their participation in the social environment. Social isolation, ignorance and avoidance naturally create the position of alienation among the elder people. This kind of deviation purposefully used by the social evils against the elderly. Social disorganization leads to the new negative era to the elder people. The community participation, inculcation of knowledge to the youngsters, strengthening the family system and the role of policies and judiciary may have the chance to reduce the violence against the elderly in our society.

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