



An Old Age Home: Home Away From Home

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Abstract –

Due to the shift or changing pattern in the family structure or institution, India is lacking in a certain problem that is providing care for the elderly people. With this unique problem, “old age home” has emerged as a new hope for the elderly section of our society. Therefore, the need for studying the old age homes has significantly increased in the research domain. This paper examined the factors that have enforced the elderly section to live in old age homes. This study is carried out in Bareilly district with 74 number of respondents. Purposive sampling along with the case study is used to enhance the quality of the research. A semi-structured interview schedule is followed to collect the data from the respondents. The present paper has covered an old age home from the Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. The study revealed that most of the respondents were widow, illiterate and from rural background. The common factors pushing them to OAHs are abuse from their family, health issues, financial problems, tarnished self-respect and many more.

KEYWORDS: illiterate; old age homes; elderly; institution

INTRODUCTION-

An important component of an individual's life is AGE. Children of 0-14 years and elderly section of above 60 years seems to be dependent on their family. Dependence not only include economic factor but also emotional support, care by their family members. But with the structural changes in the family, ‘aging’ now seems to be a social concern. Major improvements in the healthcare sector has increased the longevity among the elder section of the society. With the increase in the longevity, long-term care and support would be needed to the elderly people. The share of the persons aged 60 years and above in the world is expected to increase by 56 percent between 2015 and 2030.^[1] United Nations Population Division estimates increase in the share of old age population from 5.7 percent in 2019 to 7.6 percent in 2030 in lower middle income countries.^[2]

As per Census 2011, India's older population aged 60 years and above is 103 million.^[3] A report from THE HINDU, states that the older population is expected to increase 319 million by 2050.^[4] With the increasing longevity, long-term care of the elder will be the responsibility of their families. In the traditional family system, especially in the case of joint families, providing care to the elderly people seems to be their responsibility. But with the advancement in the family structure along with the urbanization elder people are treated as burden by their families. In the hierarchy system, elder people were kept at higher position but with declining family structure their position and status is eroding which affects their living arrangements and developed a feeling of tarnished, self respect, loneliness, family detachment and many more. BKPAI report^[5] highlights that marriage of children, death of spouse, family conflicts and migration of children are some of the reasons for elderly to live alone. The concept of urbanization and modernization has set the living standards and offer more job opportunities resulted in the migration of children from their native place leaving their parents behind alone and standing them to OAHs for better care. Hence, the need and significance of OAHs has increased and is a vital research topic.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY-

- 1- To examine the lifestyle of elderly people in OAHs.
- 2- To find out the factors behind their settlement in OAHs.
- 3- To examine the facilities available in the OAHs.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE-

Few studies have been conducted to examine the status if elderly people in OAHs-

S. IRUDAYA RAJAN^[6] (2002) conducted his study in Kerala to study the profile of inmates in all old age homes in Kerala. The data in his study indicates that number of inmates reported in survey 5076 persons among which 60% are females. He concluded that even person having children (male or female) are left alone and moved into old age homes in Kerala.

HOM NATH CHALISE^[8] (2014) talked about the problem of depression among the elder people. The result of his shows that nearly one-third(31%) elderly belongs to the nuclear family, 25% were married and only 18% were literate. The prevalence of depression was 57.8% which included 46.7% had mild depression, 8.9% moderate and 2.2% had severe depression. To support the well being and quality life of elderly people some steps should be taken by the concerned authorities.

ANUPAMA DATTA^[7] (2017) has talked about that demographic traditions and change in family size have started growing challenges for the care of elder people in various parts of the country. Old age homes are seen as bridge between the elderly people and the care center.

RISHI PANDEY, PRADEEP KUMAR^[9] (2017) in their paper studied the quality of life among the elderly people followed by health-related QoL. They suggested that living arrangements, financial position should be changed or improved. Elderly should be given legal security against abuse and harassment. Awareness about aging should be spreaded particularly among the young people so that they can keep elders happy.

S RAI, P KHANAL, HN CHALISE^[10] (2018) indicated that some of the residents of OAHs experienced abuse prior to their residence in OAHs. The result shows that according to sex 55% female ha experienced abuse. With marital status, it was 55% among having surviving partner and 63% among widow.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCE-

This study is conducted in 3 old age homes of Bareilly district. A sample of 74 respondents was selected for the study. Purposive sampling technique was used to carry out the study. Old age home functioning or have completed 2 years was selected for the study. Primary data is collected and case studies are inculcated for the briefed out to each respondent before taking the interview. The confidentiality of respondents is maintained throughout the study.

RESULTS-

Majority of the respondents are females (70.02%) and age wise the majority lies between the age group of 71-80 years (51.35%). The respondents were from both rural and urban areas but rural area contributes the more in the frequency (62.16%). Majority of them are widowed (40.54%) , 51.35% among the respondents are illiterate.

Age(in years)	Frequency	Percentage
60-70	23	31.08
71-80	38	51.35
81-90	8	10.81
Above 90	5	6.75
Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	22	29.72
Female	52	70.02
Educational status	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	38	51.35

Upto 8 th	10	13.51
Upto 10 th	15	20.27
Upto 12 th	9	12.16
graduation	2	2.70
Residence	Frequency	Percentage
Urban	28	37.83
Rural	46	62.16
Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Unmarried	10	13.51
Married	20	27.02
Divorced	14	18.91
Widow	30	40.54
Economic status	Frequency	Percentage
Poor	23	31.08
Middle class	37	50
Rich	14	18.91
Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Home maker	25	33.78
Government employee	12	16.21
Agriculture	15	20.27
Business man	9	12.16
Private job	5	6.75
Other	8	10.81
Type of family	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear	30	40.54
Joint	44	59.45

Table 1:- Distribution of respondents by socio-economic characteristics

Most of the females are involved in the household chores and works as a home maker (33.78%). Although living with their family is the first priority of an old age person, majority of the respondents were from the joint family as illustrated in the table 1.

There are many factors responsible for shifting to an OAH. Some of the factors are briefly given in the table 2. Abuse by their son and daughter in law is the most common factor among the respondents but other factors such as physical

Pushing factors	Frequency	Percentage
Abuse by son	12	16.21
Abuse by daughter in law	9	12.16
Physical abuse	7	9.45
Financial problems	11	14.86
Nobody to look after	20	27.02
Health problem	10	13.51
Other reasons	5	6.75

Table 2:- factors responsible for their shift in OAHs

abuse, financial problems, nobody to look after etc are many more factors. Majority of the respondents answered 'nobody to look after' (27.02%) as a reason behind their shifting to an OAH (table 2).

When it came to the satisfaction level, majority of them were satisfied with basic as well as medical facilities but some of them expressed their denial or dissatisfaction as illustrated in the table 3.

Many of the facilities were provided for them such as proper clothes, food, shelter, weekly hospital visit etc. when they were asked to put forward their suggestion whether they need any improvement or not,

they expressed their view with the highest number to improve medical facilities (37.83%) followed by need for more basic facilities (29.72%) as given in the table 4.

Facilities	Fully satisfied	Partially satisfied	Fully dissatisfied	Partially dissatisfied
Basic facilities	28	18	15	13
Medical facilities	32	19	12	21

Table 3:- distribution of respondents according to their satisfaction regarding the facilities provided in the OAHs

Suggestion	Frequency	Percentage
Need improvement	19	25.67
No need of improvement	5	6.75
Need better medical facilities	28	37.83
Need more basic facilities	22	29.72

Table 4:- suggestions made by respondents

Case study^[1] : A widow of 77 years old from rural area working in the government school as a maid was left out in the OAH by her son. She was matric passed and served in the school for about 32 years. With the growing age, she started facing the health issues such as pain in the knees, high blood pressure, high sugar level. Her son admitted her in an OAH by saying “this is a hospital. We are here for your treatment and they will take care of you and you will get well soon”. Since that day she is living in an OAH with a hope that her son will come soon to take her along with him.

Case study^[2] : Despite of having a joint family, a man of 69 years old was kicked out of his own house by his own son. He was a businessman and belongs to the middle-class family. After the death of his wife, he faced depression for a long time. One day he was brutally beaten by his own son which tarnished his self-respect and he was thrown out of his house. The volunteers of an OAH founded him and admitted his in their OAH.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION-

The study revealed that majority of the elderly in the OAH were from rural area, illiterate and widowed. Female were highest in terms of number of respondents and were economically dependent on others. The result shows that abuse by their son followed by no body to look after are the most common pushing factors for their shift to the OAH. Although majority of the respondents were satisfied with the facilities provided to them, they seek improvement in the medical as well basic facilities.

Living away from the family creates a feeling of loneliness and abandoned. They need more emotional support to cope up with this problem. Some of the suggestions are given as-

- ✚ OAHs and orphanage homes should be merged together, so that, elderly people gets the affection from kids and kids will receive more love and care from elder people.
- ✚ Youth must visit an OAH on weekly basis or as per their convenience, so that the elderly living in an OAH will not have a feeling of abandoned .
- ✚ OAH should organize an event or program to make their residents engaged in respective activities.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY-

The study is conducted on the limited population of Bareilly district, hence, the data cannot be generalized for the larger population.

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