

Exploring the Intersection of Demographic Change and Healthcare Utilization: An Examination of Age-Specific Healthcare Needs and Service Provision

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Abstract

Gerontology is the study of aging inclusive of many aspects such as social, cultural, psychological, cognitive, and biological. Gerontology includes government planning; nursing homes and facilitates the homes or places for older people and examining the impacts of a aging population on society. The aging process entails abundant life changes; it can be positive and negative. The elderly develops varied coping skills and adapt successfully to these changes depend on their personal, social support, and environmental factors, accordingly, maintaining life satisfaction and joy in late life. Lately, the capacity of the family as essential parental figure to the aged has encountered change because of primary changes, above all to the nuclearization of the family. Accordingly, the incomplete shift of caring liability of aged people on the public authority/state as different social and economic security programs. Over the past century, life expectancy has increased dramatically, and the world will soon have more old people than children. Individuals continue to face challenges to their wellbeing and social security in the changes like social structure, physical environment, also their age-related decline and changes. In the context of Indian tradition joint family set up and structure, institutionalized living inevitably induces a perception of conformity, loneliness, and isolation. Even though, institutionalization living is fast becoming a rising trend amongst the elderly in India, due to elderly dependency upon many factors such as socioeconomic status, health condition as well as the unavailability of care and support in their own homes. In the present study efforts have been made to understand the psycho-social needs, psychological wellbeing, hope towards their life.

Keywords: Demographic Change; Economic Growth; Aging; Health Care.

I. INTRODUCTION

The interrelationship between demographic change and economic growth has been an area of interest, for both demographers and economists all over the world, for long time. The topic of research invokes a lot of debates in the population and development arena, ever since Malthus proposed the economic theory in 1798. In fact, the role of economic variables, in determining the population size and its growth, was central in the economic theory proposed by the Malthus. But the Malthusian theory did not survive long, for all its disadvantages, and had been eventually overtaken by the demographic transition theory (Hanlon & Halseth, 2005). The significances of demographic transition theory had been underlined by many other social scientists also, while

analyzing the influences of demographic change on economic growth, over the years. Thus, the study on the interrelationships, and moreover the effect of one variable on another, received much attention, under those circumstances. The causes and consequences of those interrelationships or effects were complex and multifaceted in nature, and it varies from one population to another (Mercuri et al., 2013). Anyway, the small family size coupled with increase in per capita output could be looked upon as one of the major positive outcomes of the changes in age distributions. Also, the reductions in dependency ratios coupled with comparatively higher proportion of working age population, allow the population to increase its savings and investments rates. It also allows the country or population to improve their capital formations also. But all these positive effects could not be viewed as natural outcomes of the changes in age distributions only. The policies and programmed of the respective governments, nature of the economy, availability of both human and physical capital and its optimum utilization were some of the other prominent reasons (Marten & Greiner, 2023). But no researcher could rule out the significances of the changes taking place in the age distributions, while analyzing the economic growth. In other words, the changes taking place in the age distributions could be seen as one of the mechanisms through which any type of economic growth possible in a population. The impact of population growth on economic growth invoked several thoughts in the minds of demographers, economists and social scientists, over the past several decades. In fact, the prominent views on the topic had been documented, in large scale, in the second half of the twentieth century itself (Cotlear, 2010).

1.1. Background of the Study

Lately, in numerous nations on the world, individuals are living longer and liking better day to day environments as results expanded future because of headways in medical facilities and better medical issue. One of the obvious components of section progress in the world has been the tremendous development in the inside and out and relative amounts of more aged people (Seberini et al., 2024). Mortality has declining implied further developing futures and a developing extent of more established individuals in the populace (WHO, 1984). There is an expanding concern with respect to the worldwide wonder of maturing. A turn down in birth, just as death rates, has expanded the older populace (Dandekar, 1996; Kaur, 1996). The distending vertex of the populace pyramid of India is displaying a huge expansion in the old populace over years and years. As an issue of concern, the nation is wrestling with the older populace, a non-working and weakness populace is second most elevated on the planet (Ugargol & Nair, 2023). The ability to defer demise through clinical progression and expanding instruction has brought about further developed future bringing about the projecting vertex (Yatish and Bhargava.,2014). The more established presents its exceptional and unprecedented issues anyway these have been completely serious due to the remarkable speed of monetary change provoking many changes in different pieces of ordinary conditions (McColl et al., 2011). The necessities and issues of the old shift commonly as per their age, money related status, success, living status, and other such foundation qualities (Siva Raju, 2002). Aging has affected the social working and prosperity of people in various ways because of many physiological, financial, emotional, and interpersonal problems. Now a day's women are working, and their role also has been changed, its contributed 'crisis in caring' for the elderly due to changing customary qualities, portability of the more youthful age, changes in family structure (Chambers et al., 2014). In the current situation with the

expanding quickly populace of maturing the entire world, just as non-industrial nation like India, there is a need to concentrate developing issues and to take capable steps for improvements in the individual fulfilment for old success. As India second biggest populated country on the planet needs to give consideration and work out a broad vital arrangement for the consideration prosperity of the old as vital as per variety in social and familial frameworks (Mahalle et al., 2024). The age hole likewise assumed an essential part that is prompting clashes, absence of regard and decay of power, disregard, and in some cases older confronted double-dealing or misuse. As India's huge populace living in a country region, who generally work in the casual area face unreliable business, inadequate pay, and chronic frailty condition, because of absence of admittance to any type of government managed retirement and great quality and reasonable medical services (Delany - Moretlwe et al., 2015). Countless old populaces are yet denied of government backed retirement benefits and live with different uncertainties.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to WHO (2016), old age or Senescence is the age near the end of the human life cycle. Worldwide these people are called old people, in America, older people are known as seniors, the British call them senior citizens, older adult's term use in social science as about older people. Most countries agree for retirement age 60-65 years of age eligible for various welfare programmed for seniors (Barry & Patricia, 2016). An individual is more established if he/she is 60 years old or above. Advanced age is a course of progress that begins to happen later actual development has been reached in one's life. This interaction is called Senescence. It means to say that an old one is an individual who finished actual development and began the course of deterioration. "Senescence influences various individuals at various rates. Additionally, the paces of progress in different body processes impacted by maturing fluctuate among individuals" (Charles Zastrow). Old age definition is varying from society to society and also difficult to describe as the perspectives of biology, demography, employability, and sociology are different. It also differs culturally and historically point of view. At what age it starts is yet not clear, as it depends on the background. According to United Nations (2016), old age starts at 60 years of age and above, making the first attempt to start with a worldwide definition of elderly. Similarly, World Health Organization describes advanced age not by years, but rather by the jobs which change with age and the way a person becomes incapable to serve society. Therefore, people have different experiences with aging. The people in developed nations keep fit and are self-dependent (Laura E. Berk, 2010), but after 75 ages, they suffer frailty and severe mental and physical deterioration (Jama network, 2016), Numerous analysts find in their review that advanced age is a characteristic, ordinary general and inescapable, natural peculiarity. It is advancement deliberately work in the existence course which starts at origination and finishes with death. Old age is the last stage in the existence venture and the end time frame in the life expectancy of a man with diminished limit with regards to variation (Neeraja, 2006). Many investigations have shown that casualties of senior maltreatment are at the danger for constant disease just as death (Schofield MJ, et al. 2013). Effects of psychological abuse have been well documented that includes increases rates of hopelessness, nervousness, and another harmful outcome (Dong X, et.al. 2013) and same results found in some other studies also. Rana et.al. (2016) was examined on abuse and violence against the elderly who were residing in Haryana. The result indicated that

elderly abuse, neglect, and violence, have penetrated in Indian families. The study also found result that however, the policy makers and the governments think that strengthening the economic condition can bring the lost dignity of elderly, but results were different, the respondent feel other way. They feel that government cannot understand the position of elderly, but young generation needs to understand the position of elderly. So, elderly believe that they must pass their remaining life without any change in the attitude. In this study researcher reached in conclusion that the society needs to be understand and prepared to accept the responsibility of elderly and take care them. Young generation should realize and recognize the role of their parents and requires a change in attitudes not legislation.

III. METHODOLOGY

Aging research involves multidisciplinary approach with a complementary understating of the physical and social environments in which aging occurs. For empirical research, there must be a certain methodology which will be helpful for an adequate and scientific result. The term 'methodology' refers to systematic methods or procedures which are used in whole research process to solve a particular problem and methods are the part of methodology. Methods are the tools or techniques which reused in performing research operation. The methodology of this study was involving consolidation of the critical psycho-social perspectives faced by institutionalized elderly. Amount of elderly abused was assessed through questionnaire and Ryff's well-being scale was administered to assess psychological wellbeing. Social Support Inventory (Ramamurti and Jamuna 1991) was administrated to assess psycho-social needs and Kartz index of independence in Activities of Daily Living scale was implemented to assess age related changes and health problems. Hope scale was administered to understand level of enthusiasm left with elderly population to live life happily. In the present study efforts have been made to understand the psychosocial needs, psychological wellbeing, health status, elder abuse, and attitude towards the life(hope) among the elderly of different segments (age, gender). The study also explores social support for the elderly received from NGO and government, those elderly people who are institutionalized in urban areas in Uttarakhand. The objectives of this study are;

- To examine the social needs of the elderly.
- To examine the psychological wellbeing and health problems faced by the elderly and their attitude towards life.
- To explore and identify the reasons of elderly abuse.
- To make comparative analysis of institutionalized elderly and non –institutionalized elderly.
- To examine the role of state/NGO's in enhancing the socioeconomic and health status of elderly.

Comparative research design was used, to recognize the phenomenon related to institutionalized elderly needs and problems. This study involved consolidation of the critical psychosocial perspectives faced by institutionalized elderly and aim to improve the psychosocial wellbeing of geriatric population. The information was collected through structured interview questionnaire, to know the amount, reason, types of abuse faced by elderly. Ryff' well-being scale

was administered to assess psychological wellbeing.

IV. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Understanding of aging issue is required holistic and combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches both. Be that as it may, older are heterogeneous gathering necessities appropriate delineation of the gathering and needed to be seen with regards to various variables like sexual orientation, conjugal status, district, and occupational status of the old. In the present study researcher was investigate psychosocial needs, psychological wellbeing and hope among institutionalized and non-institutionalized elderly people in Uttarakhand. The result showed noninstitutionalized male elderly also has higher level of ‘satisfaction with social support’ than female non-institutionalized elderly. Bar diagram19 shows 60 % institutionalized elderly and 55% non-institutionalized elderly accepted that main reason for elder abuse was emotional dependence of the abused and followed by economic dependence on the abused in both groups.

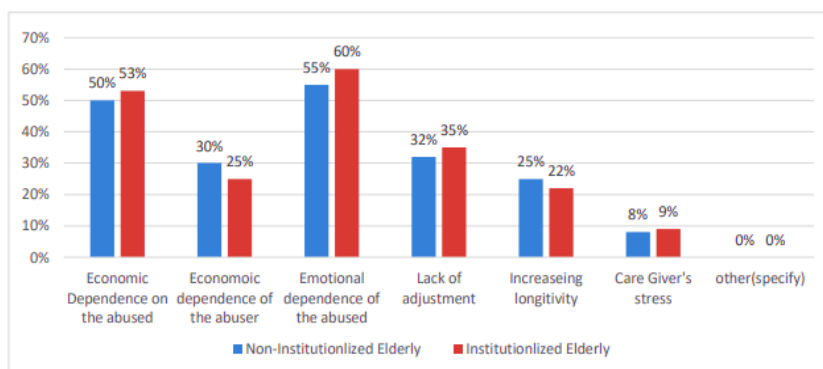


Figure 1: Reasons for Elder Abuse

Bar diagram 1 indicates among non-institutionalized elderly male, they being abused on account of their emotional dependence on the victimizer (65%)and economic dependence on the abuser (52%) followed by lack of adjustment or changing ethos (25%) while as comparison to institutionalized elderly male, institutionalized elderly male accepted that emotional dependence on the victimizer (62%), financial reliance on the victimizer (55%)and lack of adjustment (35%) higher than non-institutionalized male elderly.

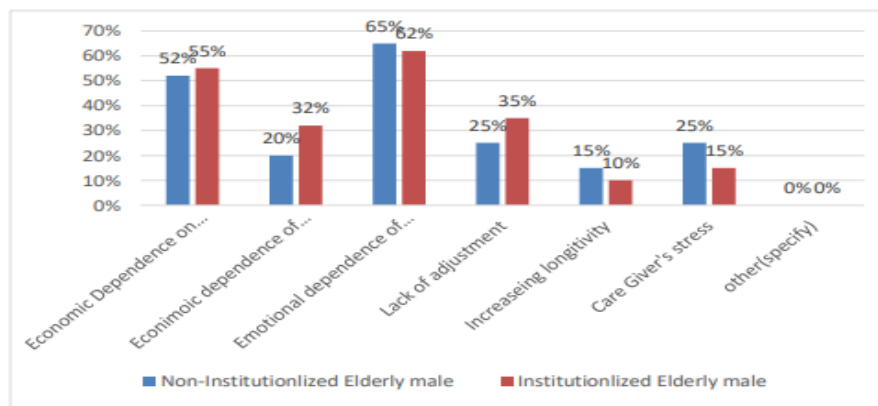


Figure 2: Reasons for Elder Abuse

Bar diagram 2 indicates female elderly in both groups have reported that the main reason of abuse by their children because of economic dependence like as non-institutionalized female elderly (50%) and institutionalized female elderly (58%), Emotional dependence on the abuser also a reason being abused by abusers respectively 56% and (54%) non-institutionalized and institutionalized female elderly. Although lack of adjustment, (43%) reported by institutionalized elderly this was more than non-institutionalized female elderly (25%).

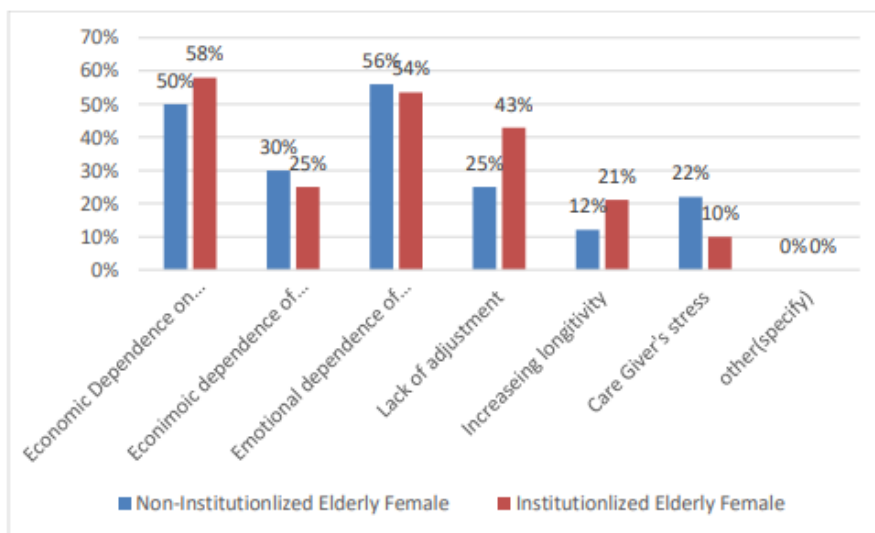


Figure 3: Reasons for Elder Abuse

The result of the study revealed that most of elderly needs social support from society and their family member's, relatives, friends etc. Despite the fact that aging process is truth of life, being aware of the fact, changes and adopting a healthy lifestyle can reduce its impact and their wellbeing. Social support issue is playing major role in physical and psychological health of elderly. These problems may be loneliness (from loss of loving person, spouse, friends etc.), inability to do manage daily activities of living, difficulty coping process and accepting aging process, increasing health problems in a late life, social isolation, after retirement elderly feel boredom and financial stresses from loss of regular income etc.

V. CONCLUSION

Aged people are growing in all countries of the world, as well as India. Individual's life expectancy is longer due to advancement of medical facility and socio-economic development. But elderly population is increasing around the world with distinct. This scenario is challenging needful consideration according to diversity of population. Like other countries, India is additionally confronting challenge intending to the advanced age issues like financial, segment profiles, living game plans, administrations to the older, federal retirement aide, relational connections and so forth. The survey of a few examinations delights that numerous researchers see that old as inactive beneficiary of care. Further, with expanding age, the issues of older like bereaved old, unmarried old, and crippled, delicate old and the individuals who have a place with chaotic area are not covered by many examinations. Aging needs specific attention to every prospect or multidisciplinary and inter-disciplinary prospective. The development of social

gerontology covers so many multidisciplinary areas such as sociology, psychology, anthropology, law, management, economics, and nutrition, and focus on various elderly problems...

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