

**PROBLEMS OF ELDER POPULATION AMONG KURUBA COMMUNITY: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF  
KAPPAGAL VILLAGE OF BALLARI DISTRICT**

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**Abstract**

Ageing is unavoidable and inevitable stage of human being where everyone come across this stage but the problems faced by them are different in nature and their impact on their personal life at different periods of time, some problems effect physically and psychologically, but the impact of psychological problems are more when compared to physical problems. .The population of elderly in India is estimated to be 7.6 crore projected studies have indicated that the number of those aged sixty plus in India will increase to 100million in 2015 and 198 million 2030. 80percent of the elderly population living in rural area and 30percent of them are in below poverty line. By the year 2016 51percent of the elderly population would be woman.In Kuruba community there are 1,096 elderly people in Kappagal village of Bellary district find physical and psychological problems, because of their occupation, lack of medical facility, domestic violence and migration. As they spend their life with sheep which are affected by diseases and people use to adjust their life style according to the place they migrate but however they are also affected by psychological problem as well. Elder people in Kuruba community are neglected because younger generation think that elder people are of no use as they are weak to carry out their occupation and they feel they are burden for family rather than a asserts for them. So elder people are isolated and find problem in their family

## Introduction

A man's life is normally divided into five main stages namely. Infancy, childhood adolescence adulthood and old age. In each of these stages an Individual has to find himself in different situation and face different problems. Where at infancy and in childhood are periods of dependence one is normally at the mercy of parents and in childhood and adolescence circumstance mould their life major problem is with the adulthood which is regarded as main burnt of life and in old age is free from problems as their physical strength is deteriorates, mental, stability diminishes, money power, becomes, bleak and eye satisfaction. Ageism is an ideology that asserts the superiority of young over the older the term used to describe the elderly such as old aged over the hill, senior moment and older timer betray a sense of prejudice against them several stereotype about the elderly refers to their physical infirmities, senility, passivity, and lack of alertness Where Betty Friedan says the aging mystique is that we define old age as a problem, as little more than declaim and deterioration hence the study of age old people is important.

## Objectives of the study

- 1) To know the socio –psychological problem among old aged people.
- 2) To know the Back Ground of the aged people
- 3) To through a light on their Isolation aspect of elderly people.

## Hypothesis

- 1) Psychological problems found among elder people belongs to the higher class than a lower class elders
- 2) Elder people face more problem in urban area than a rural area
- 3) Elder people face domestic problems rather than a social problems in society

## Review of Literature

**Streib G F ( 1956)** Defines old ages as “ Covering the later part of the life of an individual when physical deterioration begins to appear is generally marked by a shift in individuals position from active social participation to significant decline in role performance and economic self sufficiency to economic dependence. The role deficit and consequent lowering moral is primarily considered a problem of adjustment arising out of withdrawal from work poor health and low socio economic status”

**Leonard Z Breen (1963)** brings out ageing in three dimensions “Firstly ageing as a natural process a change characterized by reaction and adjustment to the physically and social stress to which all people are subject to. Secondly ageing is seen as a pathological condition with a poor prognosis is for the individual in finally ageing is seen in its normative aspects, where one is expected to perform in prescribed ways and in response to them. One completes a tautological argument

**Opler (1963)** in his study of illness in a village India examined that the role of idea of harmony and balance in Hindu view of health and diseases and concluded that there is a direct relation between the

two. In India religion is important in guiding the individual behaviour and according to Hindu theory of karma. Disease is often regarded as a punishment for ones deeds in pervious birth

**Hartford Thomas** (1971:12) who stress the poverty may be understood basically on the deprivation of service which is necessary for the survival of man. Hence Thomas opines that poverty brings along with a host of lack of enjoyment of basic amenities such as lack of sanitation, illiteracy, unemployment , lack of safe drinking water and un hygienic conditions etc these basic necessities when they are not available makes the life of the poor distressing and they with lack of dignity

### **Methodology**

Researcher has adopted primary and secondary data for his research and adopted empirical method in his research

### **Sampling and area of Research**

Researcher adopted hundred respondents out of thousand respondents which constitute 10percent of the universe and researcher choose Kappagal villageof Bellarydistrict as a area of research

### **Theories on Ageing**

#### **Disengagement Theory:**

This theory view ageing as gradual and beneficial disengagement of older person from social responsibilities this theory argues that the disengagement of the elderly from paid occupational roles is a process that is functional for both the society and the elderly. The process of ageing, with its corresponding physical decline and death, threatens the society with disruption. The society has to pave the way for the orderly transfer of statuses and roles to younger members so that societal needs will continue to be met. Moreover, the younger generation are more energetic and up to date with knowledge and skills. Society benefits from this orderly transfer as positions are filled with new blood. The young people get to perform new and productive roles. The aged are relived of stressful jobs and have more time to engage in activities that are more satisfying to them. Thus disengagement is functional for everyone and the problem is elderly people may still in a position to perform for years in their productive roles and may not want disengage voluntarily.

**Activity theory:** This theory suggests that high level of activity enhances personal satisfaction in old age, it argue that successful ageing depends not on disengagement but more on active engagement. People build their social identities based on lifelong statuses and roles. They establish their social network and interesting group in the work place. Therefore, disengagement not only means loss of roles and steady income but also loss of meaning and fulfilment in their lives. This theory is based on the assumption that successful ageing is linked to substantial levels of mental, physical, and inter personal activity many elderly persons find satisfaction and fulfilment in reading, writing travelling and club activities some of them take up new jobs where their past experience are helpful.

### Factors influence elder people to face problems

#### 1) Job :

As in other community Kuruba community people also secured a job in urban area where both husband and wife is employee so they will be busy in their work and neglect the elder people and they face the psychological problems

#### 2) Family disturbances :

This problem arise among joint family where all the family members reside under one roof , the nature of jealous and greedy nature and older people are harassed , troughed with hard words and disrespected

#### 3) Income :

As the older people are lack of earnings they are neglected by their son and they find burden for their family rather than a director of the family

#### 4) Care taking:

As the people become old they has to be nourished and hospitalised at a regular intervals of time but because of work load and lack of income younger generation people will neglect the older one

#### 5) Migration:

As Kuruba community people based on agriculture related occupation they do not found regular and sufficient income for their livelihood so they migrate from the village to city in search of jobs so they never take elder people with them as they are weak, they (elder people) will be a burden rather than a asserts to their income

**Table1**  
**Distribution of respondents according to sex**

Sl. No	Sex	Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	35	35%
2	Female	65	65%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

The above table explains that 65percent of female face the psychological problems as they are emotionally attached to their siblings and 35percent of male old people face the economic problems as they are not psychologically weak than female elders

**Table2**

**Place of residence of respondents**

Sl. No	Place of Residence	Respondents	Percentage
1	Rural	20	20%
2	Urban	80	80%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table 2 explains that 80percent of elderly people face problems who belongs to urban are because of materialistic life in urban area and due to the work pressure on the younger generation who lives in urban area so the elder people face problems, while 20 percent elder people face problem in rural area because of family quarrel and for property issues

**Table3**  
**Distribution of respondents on family background**

Sl. No	Family	Respondents	Percentage
1	Joint family	10	10%
2	Nuclear family	90	90%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

As the above table explains that 90percent of elderly people face problems who belongs to nuclear family as their Son / Daughter are busy with their work they cannot able to concentrate on elder people and in joint family only 10 percent of elder people are neglected as because of difference of opinion

**Table4**  
**Distribution of respondents on occupational basis**

Sl. No	Occupation of respondents	No Respondents	Percentage
1	Agriculture	25	25%
2	Employee	65	65%
3	Labours	10	10%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

The above table explains that 65percent of elderly people face problem whose son is employee as because of work pressure old people are neglected while 25percent of elder people face problems whose son is agriculturist as because of family misunderstanding and 10percent of old people face problem among labours as old people can't do the heavy work so they think they are of no use and they will be neglected

**Table5**  
**Nature of Problems faced by elder people**

Sln0	Nature of problem	No Respondents	Percentage
1	Psychological	40	40%
2	Physical	35	35%
3	Economical	20	20%
4	Social	05	05%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table describes that 40 percent of elder people face psychological problems as in Kuruba community people are emotionally attached to the people than other community and 35percent of people face

physical problems as their(elder) occupation was agriculture and 20percent of people face economic people as don't find any sort of savings from their occupation for future use and 5 percent of elder people face social problem as they are illiterate so they are not introduced to the society by their siblings

### **Impact of problems on elder population**

#### **1) Isolation:**

This is the one of the greatest problem faced by elder people as they will be thrown out of home by their son/daughter in law. They will be neglected by their relations as well, as they are no longer a source of income so they feel lonely and the life ends in suicide

#### **2) Medical Problems:**

For every person medical care is necessary for his better life as in this present situation medical care is very expensive as the people of Kuruba community depends on agriculture they don't get sufficient income for their care so they suffer a lot in their old days

#### **3) Disrespectful situation:**

As the people are weak they found difficult to do work like agriculture, labour and blue collar work and since they are uneducated they cannot get a white collar jobs so once they lose a power to work they are disrespected by family members and by society as well

### **Findings**

- 1) Majority of female elderly people face problem
- 2) Urban residence of elder people face more problem than rural residence elder people
- 3) 90 percent of elder people in nuclear family face more problem
- 4) 65 percent of elderly people face problem from their siblings who are employees
- 5) Psychological problems are more among elder people

### **Conclusion**

Social isolation is one of the major problems facing the elderly; retirement has served their connections to the work group and physical problems limits their mobility the death of spouse or a loved one aggravates social tensions, resulting in anxiety, loneliness, and alienation although no reliable data have been compiled, abuse of the elderly seems to be on the increase. The abuse need not necessarily by physical, it can be verbal, emotional, and financial. Very often such abuses result from the financial and emotional stress of long term carrying. There is no doubt that so called "Sandwich Generation" under stress; they have to take care of their growing children and ageing parents at the same time.

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