

Grand Parents Against Grand Children – A Tribal Scenario**Dr.V.Subathra****The Principal, Aiman College Of Arts and Science for Women,
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The aged is a protected community every where in the world. Style and quantity of care giving to elders is differing to different nations. As a developing nation, in most of all communities the aged is a liability in India. Particularly it is found in financially vulnerable groups. Several issues are faced by the aged and they generate struggles and overload to their family and at last they became abandoned. Elders of tribal community come first in this issue. In this paper we wish to highlight a particular issue found in Trivandrum district of Kerala state especially in tribal community that the aged blocks the better future and development of tribal children. It is due to their dependence to the tribal youth economically. And to their effective daily orientation on mobility. Tribal parents are forced to give more financial assistance to tribal elders and they are withdrawing their children from school due to this financial overload and let the children to be in house to take care of their grandparents when parents are out for earning activities. In this paper we wish to highlight issues face by the aged in tribal community and how it affects the schooling of their grand children. Interview method was adopted to collect data in this study.

Key Words: Drop Out,Health,Orientation on Mobility, Tribe, Elder.

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The aged are equal to God is the traditional value practices in Indian Society. Great Indian cultural heritage gives very much importance and care to elders in all situations of human life. Eventhough in modern world this cultural practice faces severe challenges. Poor financial status plays key role in this issue. Poor economic status of families creates severe struggles to keep elders with them. Especially marginalized communities like Sheduled Tribes experience severe struggle to protect its elders. Tribal children especially girls become the victims of this problem. Due to the financial crisis tribal youth can't pay the expense of their elders. While they are going out for their earning activities children are ordered to be with their grandparents to take care of them. Girl children are withdrawn from school first for this purpose. If girl child is not available or not fit to perform boys are withdrawn. It results in schiool drop out of tribal children and it affects their schooling and development of the community. Huger expense for treating the aged forces poor tribal youth to with draw their children from school and sometimes they forces their children to go child labor. Amboori village was the study area and it is situated in Neyatinkara Tehsil of Trivandrum District. Puravimala, Thenmala, Kannamoodu, Kombai, Kunnathumala, Kallukadu, Sankinkonam, Karikuzhi, Ayyavilakom, Chackappara and Kaipavila are tribal settlements in the study area. Contribution of tribal community to the total population of Amboori village is 1491 of 723 males and 768 females. Among the total elders and children 50 elders and 50 out of school children were selected respectively for the study. Problems and struggles of selected 50 tribal elders was the first studied matter.

Table No.1

Problems of Elders

Sl No.	Problems of the Respondents	Number	Percentage[%]
1	Health Problem	40	80%
2	Financial Problem	45	90%
3	Lack Of Orientation on Mobility	15	30%
4	Mental Issues	3	6%
5	Bed Rest	2	4%

Discussion

As the above table results 80% of tribal elders suffer with health problems, 90% of them have financial problems, 30% of them have problem in Orientation on mobility, 6% of the respondents have mental illness and 4% are taking bed rest. Here let us share some information we got from the 50 dropped out and out of school children who were participated in the survey. That is, among them 61 of out of school children says they stopped their schooling to support their grand parents. 39 of dropped out children says they stopped or irregular in school is due to financial problem of their family. Let us correlate the informations. A total of 59 elders have problems like health issues, lack of orientation on mobility, mental illness and bed rest. Only 2 is the difference between this figure to the 61 out of school children due to support grand parents. Around 45 of tribal elders having financial problem and 39 dropped out children responded they dropped out from school due to financial crisis of the family.

Conclusion.

Let us conclude, tribal elders faces severe challenges to live their remaining life. The critical analysis to find its relation with another social issues like school drop out and development of tribal community shows it is correlated with it. Financial empowerment and support of health workers from Government and Non-Government side is a solution for the problems of tribal elders. The same time tribal parents should be counseled about the relevance of education and they should be motivated to stop withdrawing their children from school to care the grand parents. The correlation between school drop out and problems of tribal elders shows immediate attention is needed regarding the challenges faced by the aged to defend its affection to the future of tribal children and along with it the overall upliftment of tribal community.

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