

Journal Club

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Dr Motalebi

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Topic :Health and Social Problems of the Elderly: A Cross-Sectional Study in Udupi Taluk, Karnataka

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Scope

Indian Journal of Community Medicine (IJCM) is an open access, peer reviewed journal which is published quarterly by the Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM) - a body of 4500 plus public health professionals & academicians. The Journal is indexed with internationally reputed indexing agencies and publishes Editorial commentaries, CMEs, Viewpoints, Original articles, Review articles, Case studies, Book reviews, "Letters to editor" etc., dealing with priority public health issues. It invites quality research articles covering areas such as epidemiology, public health (administration, policy, planning & implementation), medical educational technology, nutrition, maternal & child health, communicable/ non communicable diseases, environmental / occupational health, health equity and equality, etc. with special emphasis on original research findings that are relevant for developing country perspectives including India. The journal has a very transparent and robust system for reviewing articles with the help of editorial board / reviewers which include eminent scholars from India & abroad. It also publishes articles from other developing and developed nations, with an ultimate aim to contribute to the knowledge & practice of Public Health.

5/14/2022



Original Article

Health and Social Problems of the Elderly: A Cross-Sectional Study in Udupi Taluk, Karnataka

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عنوان: مشکلات بهداشتی و اجتماعی سالمندان یک مطالعه مقطعی در اودوپی تالوک، کارناتاکا

بررسی نقاط قوت و نقاط ضعف :

- منعکس کننده ممتوی ومتغیرها
 - جامع، گویاست
- جذابیت نسبی دارد استفاده خاص تر از مشکلات اجتماعی جـذابیت را
 بیشتر می کرد
 - در ذهن قابلیت ماندگاری دارد
 - از به کار بردن کلمات اضافه در عنوان پرهیز شده است

5/14/2022

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Authors

Original Article

Health and Social Problems of the Elderly: A Cross-Sectional Study in Udupi Taluk, Karnataka

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ممكن است مشخصات نویسندگان و نویسنده مسئول در پانویس آورده شود و بر طبق قوانین نگارش مقاله فصلنامه مزبور، اشكالی نداشته باشد

نقاط قوت:

√نام نویسندگان بعد از عنوان آمده است.

√آدرس و مشخصات نویسنده مسئول جهت پاسخگویی ذکر شده است اما در انتهای مقاله ذکر شده است.

نقاط ضعف:

- مرتبه علمی هریک از نویسندگان قید نشده است
- مشخصات نویسندگان در پاورقی و بعد از کلید واژه ها ذکر شده است.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT

Background: Change in socio-economic status and various health problems adversely affect an individual's way of life during old age. **Objectives:** To study the health and social problems of the elderly and their attitude towards life. **Materials and Methods**: Descriptive study carried out in the Field practice area of the Department of Community Medicine in South India. A total of 213 elderly patients (60 years old and above) who attended the outreach clinics were interviewed using a pre-tested schedule. Findings were described in terms of proportions and percentages to study the socio-economic status of the samples and its correlation to social problems. **Results:** Around 73% of the patients belonged to the age group of 60-69 years old. Nearly half of the respondents were illiterate. Around 48% felt they were not happy in life. A majority of them had health problems such as hypertension followed by arthritis, diabetes, asthma, cataract, and anemia. About 68% of the patients said that the attitude of people towards the elderly was that of neglect. **Conclusions:** The results of the study showed that there is a need for geriatric counseling centers that can take care of their physical and psychological needs. The stringent rules for eligibility to social security schemes should be made more flexible to cover a larger population.

Keywords: Attitude, elderly, morbidity, social and health problems

نقد چکیده

نقاط قوت:

- چکیده تصویرروشنی از محتوای مقاله را ترسیم می کند.
 - هدف و اهمیت کلی تحقیق مشخص شده است.
 - روش گردآوری داده ها مشخص شده است.
- چکیده بصورت خلاصه است و خواننده را ترغیب به خواندن مقاله می
 کند.
 - فرمول و علایم ویژه نوشته نشده است.
 - پژوهشگرقضاوت شخصی نکرده است.
 - طول چکیده از لحاظ تعداد کلمات به کاربرده شده مناسب می باشد.

نقاط ضعف:

- وش نمونه گیری مشخص نیست.
- وش تحقیق و تجزیه و تحلیل نتایج مشخص نمی باشد.
- ابزارها و مدل های به کاربرده شده در مطالعه به طور واضح بیان نشده است.

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KEYWORDS

ABSTRACT

Background: Change in socio-economic status and various health problems adversely affect an individual's way of life during of age. Objectives: To study the health and social problems of the elderly and their attitude towards life. Materials and Metho is Descriptive study carried out in the Field practice area of the Department of Community Medicine in South India. A total elderly patients (60 years old and above) who attended the outreach clinics were interviewed using a pre-tested school dings were described in terms of proportions and percentages to study the socio-economic status of the samples and its constation to

Keywords: Attitude, elderly, morbidity, social and health problems

more flexible to cover a larger population.

Keywords: Attitude, elderly, morbidity, social and health problems

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Introduction

There is no United Nations standard numerical criterion, but the UN agreed cutoff is 60+ years when referring to the elderly population. In India, the elderly account for 7% of the total population, of which two-thirds live in villages and nearly half of them in poor conditions. Urbanisation, nuclearisation of family, migration, and dual career families are making care of the elderly more and more of a personal and social problem in India.

With the decline in fertility and mortality rates accompanied by an improvement in child survival and increased life expectancy, a significant feature of demographic change is the progressive increase in the number of elderly persons. Increasing life span and poor health care add to the degree of disability among the elderly and compound the problems of care giving. In India, the life expectancy has steadily gone up from 32 years at the time of independence to over 63 in 2001. The elderly experience changes in different aspects of their lives.

The physiological decline in ageing refers to the

physical changes an individual experiences because of the decline in the normal functioning of the body resulting in poor mobility, vision, hearing, inability to eat and digest food properly, a decline in memory, the inability to control certain physiological functions, and various chronic conditions. Change in socio-economic status adversely affects the individual's way of life after retirement. The economic loss is due to a change from salary to pension or unemployment leading to economic dependency on children or relatives. A feeling of low self-worth may be felt due to the loss of earning power and social recognition. This state of mind is harmful. With the prospect of this situation worsening in the coming decades, ways and means of managing the stress effectively needs to be examined.(4)

This study was thus conducted with the following objectives:

- 1. To study the background and socio-economic status of the elderly
- 2. To study the social and health problems faced by the elderly and their attitude towards life

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بررسی اهداف

This study was thus conducted with the following objectives:

- To study the background and socio-economic status of the elderly
- To study the social and health problems faced by the elderly and their attitude towards life

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Materials and Methods

This study was carried out over a period of 1 year from January to December 2003. The study subjects included elderly men and women aged 60 years and above^(1,5,6) who belonged to the rural field practice area of the Department of Community Medicine, a Medical College located in South India.

The field practice area has six rural maternity and child welfare centers covering 50,000 people. Clinics for the general population and women and children are regularly held in these centers by the department.

The subjects for this study were the elderly patients attending these clinics regularly for various health problems. The questionnaire was developed by reviewing related Indian studies. This questionnaire was then pilot tested on ten elderly individuals and the necessary changes were made.

جمع آوری داده ها: از طریق مصاحبه و پرسشنامه جامعه: ۲۱۳ نفر از مردان و زنان بالای ۶۰ سال

A total of 213 subjects were interviewed using this pretested questionnaire by a trained health educator who was one of the investigators in this study. The interview was carried out in the local language. The purpose of the study was explained to them and oral informed consent was obtained. Care was also taken to ensure privacy and confidentiality of the interview as part of the study. In order to avoid the interference and influence of other family members and neighbors, each respondent was called and interviewed privately where he/she could feel comfortable. The data collected was tabulated and analysed using the statistical package SPSS, Version 11.5 for Windows[™]. Findings were described using proportions and percentages.

امتیان ۰-۰	ویژگی های مورد ارزیابی	عنظر
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Results

Socio-demographic characteristics

Table 1 shows that a major fraction of the population was in the age group of 60-69 years old, while a small fraction (2.8%) were 80 years old or older. Males and females formed an almost equal proportion of the study sample. A majority (89%) of the respondents were Hindus. This reflects the true picture of the population based on religion at the local and national level. A joint family system was seen to be the most common (56.8%) among the population interviewed followed by the nuclear family. Only 12.1% of the elderly men were widowed while 67.7% of the women were widows. The unmarried group of 2.3% was comprised of only men. Literacy was found to be low in the study population.

Health problems of the elderly

Table 2 shows that all the respondents had health problems, the most common being hypertension,

۱.ویژگی های اجتماعی-جمعیتی

٢.مشكلات سلامتي سالمند

۳.نگرش به سالمندی

Table 1: Demographic distribution of the respondents

	Males	Females	Total (n=213)
Age (years)			
60 - 69	57 (61.9)	97 (80.1)	154 (72.3)
70 - 79	31 (33.7)	22 (18.2)	53 (24.8)
>80	4 (4.3)	2 (1.7)	6 (2.8)
Marital status			
Married	70 (76.1)	31 (25.6)	101 (47.4)
Single	5 (5.4)	0 (0)	5 (2.3)
Separated	6 (6.5)	8 (6.6)	14 (6.6)
Widow/Widower	11 (12.1)	82 (67.7)	93 (79.8)
Education			. ,
Illiterate	21 (22.8)	75 (62)	96 (45.1)
Just literate	1 (1.1)	1 (0.8)	2 (0.9)
Primary	40 (43.5)	38 (31.4)	78 (36.6)
Secondary	14 (15.2)	5 (4.1)	19 (8.9)
High school	13 (14.1)	2 (1.7)	15 (7.0)
Intermediate	2 (2.2)	0 (0)	2 (0.9)
Graduate	1 (1.1)	0 (0)	1 (0.5)

Table 2: Morbidity pattern of the respondents

Diseases	Males	Females	Total
Hypertension	53 (57.6)	73 (60.3)	126 (59.1)
Diabetes	11 (11.9)	11 (9.0)	22 (10.3)
Osteoarthritis	19 (20.6)	69 (57.0)	88 (41.3)
Bronchial asthma	13 (14.1)	10 (8.2)	23 (10.7)
Others	17 (18.4)	19 (15.7)	36 (16.9)

Attitudes towards old age

Table 3 shows that almost 98% of the respondents felt that old age had affected their day-to-day life. Among these, 86.4% felt that age had partially affected their daily activities. Half of the people interviewed felt neglected by their family members, while 47% felt unhappy in life and 36.2% felt they were a burden to the family. An unfavorable attitude was observed to be more among females than males.

Table 3: Attitude towards old age

	_		
	Males	Females	Total (n=213)
Old age has affected day-to-day life	88 (42.3)	120 (57.7)	208 (97.7)
Partially	76 (41.3)	108 (58.7)	184 (86.4)
Completely	12 (50.0)	12 (50.0)	24 (11.4)
Feel neglected by family members			
Always	4 (40.0)	6 (60.0)	10 (4.7)
Sometimes	46 (37.7)	76 (62.3)	122 (57.3)
Feel a burden to family	34 (44.2)	43 (55.8)	77 (36.2)
Not happy in life	46 (45.0)	56 (55.0)	102 (47.9)
Feel they are not loved by family members	28 (35.9)	50 (64.1)	78 (36.6)
	·	·	·

Table 4: Perceptions of elderly regarding economic and social security

Perceptions regarding security	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Deprived of finances Deprived of companions Troubled with feelings of insecurity	47 (39.2)	73 (60.8)	120 (56.3)
	4 (28.6)	10 (71.4)	14 (6.6)
	35 (41.1)	50 (58.9)	85 (39.9)

Table 5: Reasons for feeling sad

Reasons	No. (n=213)
Poverty	102 (47.9)
Illness	88 (41.3)
Neglected	28 (13.1)
Loss of spouse	22 (10.3)
Loneliness	11 (5.2)
Others	54 (25.4)
Daughters not married	14 (6.6)
Alcoholic son/son-in-law	11 (5.2)
No issues or no male issues	4 (1.9)
Illness of the spouse/children	8 (3.8)
Children staying away	8 (3.8)
Financial loss	3 (1.4)
Death of children	3 (1.4)
Not owning a house	3 (1.4)

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۵	۱. آیا نتایج و یافته های پژوهش به روشنی توصیف و تبیین شده اند؟	
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4	۵. آیا پس از توصیف نتایج سهم کافی به تحلیل آنها اختصاص داده شده است؟	
29/30	جمع امتيازات حاصل از نقد	

Discussion

Almost more than half of the respondents who were interviewed were from joint families (56.8%), while 33% were from a nuclear family. Various studies by Padda, et al., (6) Singh, et al., (7) and Sivamurthy, et al. (8) have brought out similar findings. The higher prevalence of joint families could be because of the rural study area and social migration of the youngsters being less when compared with cities.

It is indeed true that it is the marital status that determines ones position within the family as well as the status in society. The proportion of elderly married, widowed, or unmarried were found to be similar to the study conducted by Singh, *et al.*⁽⁷⁾ Shah⁽⁹⁾ reports that 64.3% of elderly women were widows and most of them were dependent.

In our study, approximately 18.7% were still working as unskilled workers against those who were at home (78%). Similar results were seen in a study by Elango, while Singh, et al. (7) in his study, reported that 55.8% were occupied in productive work, 28% in agriculture, 15.1% in labor, and 44.2% were dependent on others.

Half of the interviewed subjects felt neglected by their family members unlike in the study conducted by Singh, *et al.*,⁽⁷⁾ which reported that 26.1% felt neglected by family members, while Prakash, *et al.*⁽¹²⁾ reported 17.3% having feelings of neglect.

In this study, 47.9% of the respondents said that they were not happy in life as compared with 53.2% reported by Singh, *et al.*⁽⁷⁾ A total of 68.5% of the respondents said they had friends and that they participated in social

Conclusions

The results of this study showed that a major proportion of the elderly were out of the work force, partially or totally dependent on others, and suffering from health problems with a sense of neglect by their family members. There is a growing need for interventions to ensure the health of this vulnerable group and to create a policy to meet the care and needs of the disabled elderly. Further research, especially qualitative research, is needed to explore the depth of the problems of the elderly.

The authors do accept some of the <u>limitations</u> of this study. A scoring system for attitude was not used because the objective of the study was not to quantify

the attitudes and grade the subjects but just to assess the load of existence of such problems among the subjects. Since the subjects included in the study were patients attending the clinics with various health problems, the study findings cannot be generalized to the community at large.

نقد بحث

نكات قوت:

- توضیح مختصری در رابطه با عنوان در ابتدای بحث آورده شده است.
 - تشابهات و تفاوت با مطالعات دیگر مطرح شده است.
 - ذکر محدودیت ها
 - توصیه جهت مطالعات بعدی به طور کیفی و کمی

نكات ضعف:



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ونكوور استايل

DOI ذکر شده

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