



Role of Non Government Organization in taking health care of Old people

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ABSTRACT

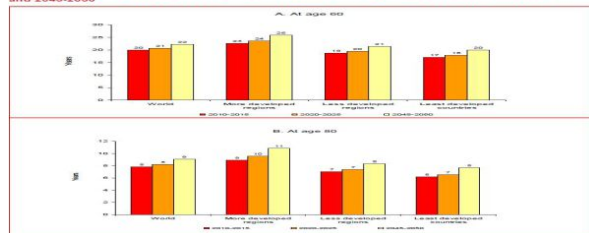
Elderly persons on nuclear family remain mostly isolated. Many elderly are now more prone to and marginalization with little or no financial support and with uncomfortable and strained relations with children and are subjected to mal treatment and abuse. The government efforts are too scarce and limited and it is the necessity of voluntary organizations to take initiative to come out the healthy ageing of older people. There are several organizations working for welfare of children but very few are working for the elderly who are retained physically as well as mentally from the main stream. This paper focuses on the role of NGO's in taking care of the elderly.

KEYWORDS : Older age, Non Government Organization, Mental health, Physical health

Geriatrics:-

Geriatrics, the branch of health care dealing with the problems of ageing and diseases of the AGED; it is related to the science of GERONTOLOGY, which is the study of the ageing process in all its aspects, social as well as biologic. Geriatrics grows increasingly important as modern medicine and a rising standard of living together life expectancy and increase the proportion of aged persons in society.

Life expectancy at age 60 and 80: world and development regions, 2010-2015, 2020-2025 and 2046-2050

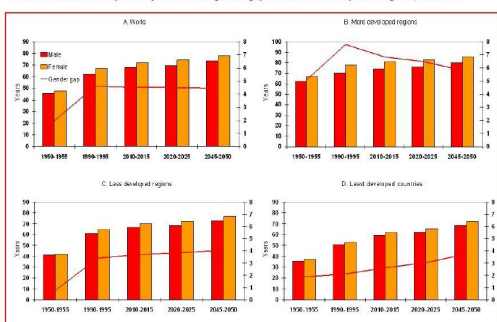


SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS REPORT 2013

An important part of geriatrics is helping older persons live happy and satisfying lives. Geriatric specialists encourage their patients to follow useful and interesting pursuits and to adopt a sound mental attitude toward ageing itself. The prevention of disease is also important in geriatrics and stress is placed on suitable exercise, rest and nutrition and on maintenance of proper body weight. Regular and thorough medical examinations are another essential factor in the control of illness.

In geriatrics, there is also concern for the older person's psychological welfare, such as social contracts, economic security, and interest in living, work opportunities after retirement and continuing sense of belonging to society. Geriatrics recognizes that health of mind is essential to the health of the body.

Male and female life expectancy at birth and gender gap: world and development regions, 1950-2050



NOTE: The vertical axis on the right side of each panel indicates the gender gap in life expectancy at birth (in years, female minus male values).

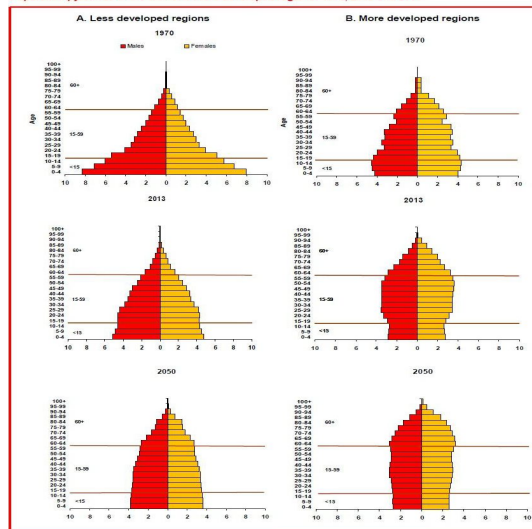
SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS REPORT 2013

The role of voluntary agencies in the case of older persons has

become important because central and state Government activities and funding for the welfare of the elderly are limited. In fact, the government solicits needs of older persons. The role of the voluntary population, including the elderly, has been emphasized in the 8th and 9th plan documents. The National policy on older persons announced in January 1999 by the Government envisages of promoting and assisting voluntary organizations for providing non-institutional services, constitution and maintenance of old age homes, organizing services such as day care, multi – service citizen's centers, reach out services, supply of disability related aids and appliances, short term stay services and friendly home visits by social workers.

It was in 1983-84 that the government for the first time decided to make grants to voluntary organizations for services to the aged. The grants in-aid-provision is for (i) rendering welfare services to the aged, such as health care, income generation, subsistence training; and (ii) for constructing homes for the aged.

Population pyramids of the less and more developed regions: 1970, 2013 and 2050



SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS REPORT 2013

NGO:-

Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) have become quite prominent in the field of international development in recent decades. But the term NGO encompasses a vast category of groups and organizations. The World Bank for example, defines NGOs as "private organizations that pursue activities to retrieve suffering promote the interests of the poor protect the environment provide basic social services or undertake community development.

In wider usage, the term NGO can be applied to any non-profit organization which is independent from government. NGOs are

typically value-based organizations that depend in whole or in part, on charitable donations and voluntary service. Although the NGO Sector has become increasingly professionalized over the last two decades, principles of altruism and voluntarism remain key defining characteristics.

Among the wide variety of roles that NGOs play, the following six can be identified as important, at the risk of

- **Development and operation of Infrastructure:-**

Community based organizations and cooperatives can acquire, subdivide and develop land, construct housing, provide infrastructure and operate and maintain infrastructure such as well or public toilets and solid waste collection services. They can also develop building material supply centers and other community based economic enterprises. In many case they will need technical assistance or advice from government agencies or higher level NGOs.

- **Supporting Innovation, Demonstration and pilot projects:-**

NGO have the advantage of selecting particular places for innovative projects and specify in advance the length of time which they will be supporting the project overcoming some of the short coming that governments face in this respect.

- **Facilitating Communication:-**

NGO can facilitate communication upward from people to the government and downward from the government to the people. Communication upward involves informing government about what local people are thinking, doing and feeling while communication downward involves informing local people about what the government is planning and doing. NGOs are also in a unique position to share information horizontally networking between other organizations doing similar work.

- **Technical Assistance and Training:-**

Training institutions and NGOs can develop a technical assistance and training capacity and use this to assist both CBUs and governments.

- **Research, Monitoring & Evaluation:-**

Innovative activities need to be carefully documented and shared effective participatory monitoring would permit sharing of results with the people themselves as well as with the project staff.

- **Advocacy for and with the poor:-**

In some cases, NGOs become spokes persons or ombudsmen for the poor and attempt to influence government policies and programs on their behalf. This may be done through a variety of means ranging from demonstration and pilot projects to participation in public forums and the formulation of government policy and plans to publicizing research results and case studies of the poor. Thus NGOs play roles from advocates for the poor to implementers of government programs from agitators and critics to parlanes and advisors; from sponsors of pilot projects to mediators.