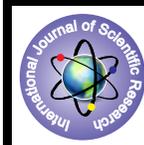


# A Study on the Care of Elderly Women by Their Families in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh



## Sociology

**KEYWORDS :** Care, Elderly women, Families, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh

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### ABSTRACT

*In a human life span elderly is very sensitive life journey like childhood and when the people become more aged then the sensitivity improves where they required so much of special care and support.*

*Generally elderly is an age where there are changes in their physical and psychological health which includes decrease of Memory function and Alzheimer's disease (AD), bones and joints pain, declining visual and auditory function, problems in digestive and metabolic function, Dental problems, Skin diseases and problems in performing regular functions. Apart from the common changes loss of spouse, decreasing social contacts, loss of friends and many socio-economic and psychological factors will affect the wellbeing of old age people. In India due to the so much age gap between married women and men in past decades, old age women losses their spouse early compared to old age men. Many studies highlighted the same that the elderly widow women ratio is very high in India.*

*One side the problems of the old age and another side disappearance of joint family system, moral values, human values many social causes are forcefully sending the old age people in more vulnerable situations.*

*The care provided by the children, grand children, in-laws and other relatives will leads to the happy life of the old age people at their last stage of lives. The present study is to understand the care and support providing to the elderly women by their family members in Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh.*

### Introduction:

In India with majority of its population aged less than 30, the problems and issues of its grey population has not been given serious consideration and only a few studies on them have been attempted in our country. To reap the advantage of demographic dividend, the focus is mainly on the children and the youth and fulfilment of their basic needs for proper development. Also the traditional Indian society and the age-old joint family system have been instrumental in safeguarding the social and economic security of the elderly people in the country. However, with the rapid changes in the social scenario and the emerging prevalence of nuclear family set-ups in India in recent years the elderly people are likely to be exposed to emotional, physical and financial insecurity in the years to come. This has drawn the attention of the policy makers and administrators at central and state governments, voluntary organizations and civil society. In view of the increasing need for intervention in area of old age welfare, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India adopted 'National Policy on Older Persons' in January 1999. The policy provides broad guidelines to State Governments for taking action for welfare of older persons in a proactive manner by devising their own policies and plans of action. The policy defines 'senior citizen' as a person who is 60 years old or above. It strives to ensure well-being of senior citizens and improve quality of their lives through providing specific facilities, con-

cessions, relief, services etc. and helping them cope with problems associated with old age.

### Methodology

Present research study conducted to understand the care of the Elderly women by their family members. The study was carried out in selected Maldals of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh covering 300 elderly women i.e. total 300 aged 60 years and above. For survey both town and villages are covered. The baseline survey was conducted in the villages and sample was collected using simple random sampling method. A modest attempt is made in this part to understand "Nature of care provided to elderly".

### Results and Discussion

The negligence of old age people and abuse on old age people increasing day by day. Even the many research studies revealed the living arrangements of old age people and introduced number of elderly programmes and policies,, with the rapid growth of elderly population and cultural detriment, the elderly are not provided adequate care from their family members.

#### 1.1. CARE OF ELDERLY

Elderly expect care and compassion from younger generation. The information on the nature of care of elderly by their children has been elicited and presented in the Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1**  
**CARE OF ELDERLY**

Sl.No.	Name of the Variable		Not at all	To some extent	Satisfactory	Total	Chi-square	Sig
1	Provision of adequate food	N	11	241	48	300	321.96	**
		%	3.70	80.30	16.00	100.00		
2	Provision of adequate clothes to wear	N	257	41	2	300	333.99	**
		%	85.70	13.70	0.70	100.00		
3	Provision of medicines in case of sickness	N	192	62	46	300	136.98	**
		%	64.00	20.70	15.3	100.00		
4	Expecting good care from family members during bed ridden	N	53	208	39	300	229.66	**
		%	17.70	69.30	13.00	100.00		
			Always	Occasi-onally	Never	Total		
5	Married sons feel elderly care as a burden	N	39	145	116	300	236.54	**
		%	13.00	48.30	38.70	100.0		
6	Daughters-in-laws feel elderly care as a burden	N	188	99	13	300	144.86	**
		%	62.70	33.00	4.30	100.00		

7	Feeling as an unwanted person in the family	N	137	78	85	300	123.61	**
		%	45.70	26.00	28.30	100.00		
8	Feeling of being neglected by family members	N	98	88	114	300	163.78	**
		%	32.70	29.30	38.00	100.00		
9	Scolding by family members	N	16	265	19	300	355.45	**
		%	5.30	88.30	6.40	100.00		
10	Beating by family members	N	1	3	296	300	588.72	**
		%	0.30	1.00	98.70	100.00		

### 1. Provision of adequate food

Food is one of the basic amenities of humans and three time meals for a day is dire essential for hale and healthy life. The elderly depend on younger generation on food. The information on whether the children provide adequate food to the elderly has been elicited and presented in the table 1.1. The table shows that 241 respondents (80.30 %) to some extent receive adequate food, 48 respondents (16 %) receive food satisfactorily and 11 respondents (3.70 %) not at all receive adequate food. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that the provision of adequate food to few elderly and majority of them have got now and then only the satisfactory food.

### 2. Provision of adequate clothes to wear

Food, cloth and shelter are the basic amenities. The table shows that 257 respondents (85.70 %) not at all receive adequate clothes to wear, 41 respondents (13.70 %) to some extent receive adequate clothes to wear and mere 2 respondents (0.70 %) satisfactorily receive clothes to wear. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that the provision of adequate clothes to wear by the elderly was not at all provided by the younger respondents.

### 3. Provision of medicines in case of sickness

The ageing people generally become sick due to one reason or the other. The table portrays that 192 respondents (64 %) not at all receive medicines on time in the case of sickness, 62 respondents (20.70 %) to some extent receive medicines, in the case of sickness and only 46 respondents (15.3 %) satisfactorily receive medicines on time in the case of sickness. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that the provision of medicines to the majority of elderly was not on time and satisfactory.

### 4. Expecting good care from family members during bed ridden

Elderly generally expect good care from family members during bed riddenness. The table portrays that 208 respondents (69.30 %) to some extent receive good care from family members during bed ridden, 53 respondents (17.70 %) to not at all receive good care from family members during bed ridden and only 39 respondents (13 %) satisfactorily receive good care from family members during bed ridden. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that the good care from family member to elderly s during bed ridden is to some extent only.

### 5. Married sons feel elderly care as a burden

Sometimes the elderly are felt as burden by their offspring. The table shows that 145 respondents (48.3 %) felt occasionally that their married sons feel them as a burden, 116 respondents (38.7 %) never felt that their married sons feel them as a burden and 39 respondents (13 %) felt always that their married sons feel them as a burden. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that the elderly feeling that their married sons feel them as a burden is highly significant.

### 6. Daughters-in-laws feel elderly care as a burden

Every now and then the elderly are felt as burden by their daughters-in-laws. The table shows that 188 respondents (62.7 %) felt always that their daughters-in-law feel them as a burden, 99 respondents (33 %) occasionally felt and 13 respondents (4.3 %) never felt that their daughters-in-

law feel them as a burden. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that the elderly feeling that their daughters-in-law feel them as a burden is highly significant.

### 7. Feeling as an unwanted person in the family

Every now and then the elderly feel that they are unwanted person in their family. The table shows that 137 respondents (45.7 %) felt always that they are unwanted person in their family, 85 respondents (28.30 %) never felt and 78 respondents (26 %) occasionally felt that they are unwanted person in their family. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that majority of that felt elderly feeling always that they are unwanted person in their families is highly significant.

### 8. Feeling of being neglected by family members

Every now and then the elderly feel that they are being neglected by the family members. The table shows that 114 respondents (38 %) felt never that they are being neglected by the family members, 98 respondents (32.7 %) always felt and 88 respondents (29.3 %) occasionally felt that they are being neglected by the family members. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that majority of that felt the elderly never that they are being neglected by the family members.

### 9. Scolding by family members

The elderly are scolded by the family members on one pretext or the other. The table shows that 265 respondents (88.30%) felt occasionally that they are being scolded by their family members, 19 respondents (6.4 %) never felt and 16 respondents (5.3 %) always felt that they are being scolder by the family members. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that most of the elderly felt occasionally that they are being scolded by their family members.

### 10. Beating by family members

The elderly are beaten by the family members on one pretext or the other. The table shows that 296 respondents (98.7 %) felt never that they are being beaten by the family members, 3 respondents (1.00%) occasionally felt and mere 1 respondent (0.3 %) always felt that they are being beaten by the family members. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that most of the elderly felt they never being scolded by the family members.

### 1.2. INDEX ON CARE FOR ELDERLY:

Generally there will be difference among family members in the attitude and feeling regarding elderly care. Certain family members feel it as responsibility to take of elderly and others think in different way.

The extent and nature of elderly care in study area was analysed deeply and presented in the table 1.2. since the nature of elderly care is related to many aspects, an index was developed based on the information in the table 1.2 to assess the level of elderly care in general. The index was prepared based on ten factors and score range lies in between 10 to 30. The respondents who scored between 10 to 17 were treated as "not at all" taken care by children, those with score between 18 to 24 were grouped as 'getting to some extent' care and the remaining with score above 25 were classified as those getting satisfactory care.

**GROUP INDEX ON ELDERLY CARE**

INDEX ON NATURE OF ELDERLY CARE								
			POOR	MODERATE	GOOD	TOTAL		
11	CARE OF ELDERLY	N	86	182	32	300	174.26	**
		%	28.70	60.70	10.60	100.00		

The nature of care of elderly has been presented under group index. The group index shows that 182 respondents (60.70 %) are receiving moderate care, 86 respondents (28.70 %) are receiving poor care and only 32 respondents (10.60 %) are receiving good care from their younger generation. By and large,

it is concluded that around 61 per cent of the respondents are receiving moderate care from their younger generations. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that majority of the elderly receiving only moderate care by their family members.

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