



A Study on Eldery Women with Family Members At Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh

* D. Kodanda Rami Reddy

* Research Scholar, Dept. of Population Studies and Social Work, S. V. University, Tirupati-517501.

ABSTRACT

Family is the first social construction where every individual learn and acquire values, customs and traditions. The relationship of the each member in family and their support, cooperation and care will reflects on the wellbeing of any individual in society. In our family system elderly people have more value and respect. But in present situations our family constructions are in danger zone and the changes in relationships having negative impact on the individuals and also this situation seriously affecting the elderly people life where they required special care and support.

Eldery 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.

In these situations it is highly required to implement special constitutional remedies and policies for elderly women since the elderly women population increasing very high. It is also required studies which bring the facts on elderly women situation to justify their life with implementing many programmes, family counselling centers ect.. The present study is to understand the elderly women interrelationship with family members at Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.

Keywords : Elderly Women, Interrelationship, Family Members

Introduction:

The family is as important in later life as during childhood. It is an important support group that creates joy and sense of belonging through shared time together and expressions of love and affection. The family also provide assistance, such as financial support or help with chores, through all life’s changes. The quality of family relationship is established in the early years of marriage and parenthood end carries over into the later years. Older people with healthy marriages and positive relationship with their children enjoy their family life in the later years. The elderly who have strong family relationship often feel they can turn to family members for assistance when needed. The nature of interrelationship among family members determine the peaceful living of elderly.

Cordial interrelation ship with family members for elderly is essential to lead peaceful life. In early societies, the elderly were respected and revered. Many preindustrial societies observed **gerontocracy**, a type of social structure where in the power is held by a society’s oldest members in some countries today, the elderly still have influence and power and their vast knowledge is respected.

Changes happened not only in the workplace but also at home. In agrarian societies, a married couple cared for their aging parents. The oldest members of the family contributed to the household by doing chores, cooking, and helping with child care. As economies shifted from agrarian to industrial, younger generations moved to cities to work in factories. The elderly began to be seen as an expensive burden. They did not have the strength and stamina to work outside the home.

What began during industrialization, a trend toward older people living apart from their grown children, has become common place. It is highly required to protect the interrelationships which decreasing in human society.

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 discussions

Table .1

INTERRELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY MEMBERS								
Sl. No.	Statement		Not happy	Some Extent happy	Happy	Total	Chi-square	sig
1	Happiness with family members	N	27	242	31	300	303.27	**
		%	9.00	80.70	10.30	100.00		
2	Relationship with husband	N	101	56	143	300	199.88	**
		%	33.70	18.70	47.70	100.00		
3	Relationship with your married sons	N	44	157	99	300	221.65	**
		%	14.70	52.30	33.00	100.00		

4	Relationship with daughters-in-law	N	197	92	11	300	157.43	**
		%	65.70	30.700	3.70	100.00		
5	Relationship with your grandsons	N	21	32	247	300	452.90	**
		%	7.00	10.70	82.30	100.00		
6	Relationship with grand-daughters	N	21	16	263	300	490.93	**
		%	7.00	5.30	87.70	100.00		
			Always	Occasionally	Never	Total		
7	Disputes with husband	N	43	111	146	300	254.43	**
		%	14.30	37.00	48.70	100.00		
8	Disputes with married sons	N	31	130	139	300	265.55	**
		%	10.30	43.30	46.30	100.00		
9	Disputes with daughters-in-laws	N	162	114	24	300	120.55	**
		%	54.00	38.00	8.00	100.00		
10	Disputes with married daughters	N	1	20	279	300	545.34	**
		%	0.30	6.70	93.00	100.00		
11	Daughters-in-law carry tales against married sons	N	35	66	199	300	341.42	**
		%	11.70	22.00	66.30	100.00		

Happiness with family members

The table shows that 242 respondents (80.70 %) are some extent happy with family members, 31 respondents (10.30 %) are happy with family members and 27 respondents (9 %) are not happy with family members. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that majority of respondents are the to some extent happy with the family members.

Relationship with husband

The table shows that 143 respondents (47.7 %) have happy relationship with their husband, 101 respondents (33.7 %) have un happy relationship with their husbands and 56 respondents (18.7 %) have moderately happy relationship with their husband. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that the majority of the elderly had happy relationship with their husbands.

Relationship with married sons

The table shows that 157 respondents (52.30 %) have some extent happy relationship with their married sons, 99 respondents (33 %) have happy relationship with their married sons and 44 respondents (14.70 %) have un happy relationship with their sons. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that more than half of the elderly had to some extent happy relationship with their married sons.

Relationship with daughters-in-law

The table shows that 197 respondents (65.7 %) had un happy relationship with their daughters-in-law, 92 respondents (30.7 %) have to some extent happy relationship with their daughters-in-law and mere 11 respondents (3.7 %) have happy relationship with their daughters-in-law. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that most of the elderly had un happy relationship with their daughters-in-law.

Relationship with grand-sons

The table shows that 247 respondents (82.30 %) had happy relationship with their grandsons, 32 respondents (10.70 %) have to some extent happy relationship with their grandsons and 21 respondents (7 %) have un happy relationship with their grandsons. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that most of the elderly had happy relationship with their grandsons.

Relationship with grand-daughters

The table shows that 263 respondents (87.70 %) had happy relationship with their grand-daughters, 21 respondents (7 %) have un happy relationship with their grand-daughters and 16 respondents (5.30 %) have to some extent happy relationship with their grand-daughters. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that most of the elderly had happy relationship to with their grand-daughters.

Disputes with husband

The elderly may have dispute with their husbands. The table shows that 146 respondents (48.7) never had disputes with their husband, 111 respondents (37%) occasionally and 43 respondents (14.30 %) had always disputes with their husband. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows most of that the elderly never had disputers with their husband and others have occasionally or always disputes with their husbands.

Disputes with married sons

The table shows that 139 respondents (46.30 %) never had disputes with married sons, 130 respondents (43.30 %) had occasionally disputes with their married sons and 31 respondents (10.30 %) had always disputes with their married sons. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that more than on the female elderly had occasionally or always disputes with their married sons which imparts considerable influence on inter-relationship at family level.

Disputes with daughters-in-laws

The table shows that 162 respondents (54 %) have always disputes with their daughters-in-law, 114 respondents (38 %) had occasionally and 24 respondents (8 %) never had disputes with their daughters-in-law. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that more than half of the elderly never had disputes with their daughter-in-laws. However, nearly 38% had occasional disputes which lead to strained relationship with daughters-in-law.

Disputes with married daughters

The table shows that 279 respondents (93 %) had never disputes with their married daughters, 20 respondents (6.70 %) had occasionally and mere 1 respondent (0.30 %) have always disputes with their daughters. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that most of the elderly never had disputes with their married daughters.

Daughters-in-law carry tales against elderly to married sons

Some of the elderly have trust that the daughters-in-law carry tales against them to married sons. The table shows that 199 respondents (66.3 %) opined that their daughters-in-law never carried tales against to married sons, 66 respondents (22 %) opined occasionally and 35 respondents (11.7 %) opined that their daughters-in-law always carried tales against to married sons. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that most of the elderly had the opinion that their daughters-in-law never carried tales against to married sons. Even though small in numbers, some elderly had feeling of carrying tales by daughters-in-law have influence on inter-relationship.

INTER-RELATIONSHIP INDEX

Cordial inter-relationship with family members is crucial for elderly to have comfortable stay at home the level/nature of inter-relationship depends on different aspects as shown in table .2

The level of inter-relationship can only be understood when an index was developed including the 11 aspects discussed in the above table. Accordingly the index was developed and score range lies between 11 to 33. The respondents lying within score range of 11 to 18 were clarified as having established poor inter-relationship family members, those who got score within 19-24 were grouped as having moderate inter-relationship and often with score of above 27 are treated

as having good relationship with other family members.

GROUP INDEX

INDEX							
			POOR	AVERAGE	GOOD	TOTAL	Chi-square
1	INTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS	N	9	217	74	300	302.5 **
		%	3.00	72.30	24.70	100.00	

The care of elderly has been presented under group index. The group index shows that 217 respondents (72.3 %) have average interrelationship with their family members, 74 respondents (24.7 %) have good interrelationship with their family members and mere 9 respondents(3 %) have poor interrelationship with their family members. By and large, it is concluded that more than 72 per cent of the respondents have average interrelationship with their family members. The Chi-square value is significant at 1 per cent level and shows that the interrelationship of elderly with their family members is significant.

REFERENCES

• Braja Mohan Ota (1989), "Agrarian Class Position and Old Age Problems", in Aged in India, by R. N. Ota and B. Jena, Arish Publishing House, New Delhi, 1989, pp. 151 to 166. | • Dak T.M. & M.L. Sharma (1987), Changing Status of the Aged in North Indian Villages. In M.L.Sharma & T.M.Dak (Eds.) Ageing in India: Challenge for the Society Ajanta Publications, Delhi | • D'Souza, Alfred, (1982), "Ageing in South Asia," Arma Printers, New Delhi. | • India-Research and Development Journal, Vol. 6, No. 2, Feb. 2000 to May 2000. | • Jamuna, D. (1998), "Challenges of Changing Socio-economic and Psychological Status of the Aged", Research and Development Journal, Vol. 5, No.1, 5-13. | • Nayar, P.K.B. (2000), "The Aging Scenario in Kerala: A Holistic Perspective", Help Age India-Research and Development Journal, Vol. 6, No. 2, Feb. 2000 to May 2000. | • P.A. Bourne (2008) Medical Sociology: Modelling well-being for elderly people in Jamaica, West Indian Med.j. Vol. 57. No.6 | • Ranjan, R. 1986. Ageing Issues in India (With Special Reference to Bihar), Sociological Abstract. August 18-22. New Delhi. 9. 123. | • Susan De Vos (1984) THE OLD AGE ECONOMIC SECURITY VALUE OF CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES AND TAIWAN, The East-West Population Institute paper No. 60-G (Honolulu, East-West Centre, March 1984).