

Geriatric Care and Indicators of Human Development in India

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Abstract: The increased healthcare interventions and recurring significance given to social welfare programs by Governments, both at the Centre and State for more than 60 years had increased the life expectancy of the people and have given time of leisure to rejoice the precious moments of life. It is noteworthy for a developing country in South Asia where often, human development interventions lack to register such a drastic increase in the indicators of health and life. The world has seen many instances in the past where nations had not lent their active support in geriatric care and left those needy in despair and deprivation. As mentioned above, India, due to its philosophy of *elderly wisdom* and *obedience*, have managed to win their hearts and worked tirelessly for their specific needs.

Keywords: Geriatric Care, Human Development, Prosperity, Growth, Human Resources, Elderly Wisdom

Introduction: No country in the world has seen the maximum development without capitalizing upon their human resources. It is one aspect to say that the country benefits most out of its demographic dividend and another to say that when the same human resource gets old, it adds unique and distinctive features in any nation's story of development. There are different trajectories in the world of nation's support for their old age populations with mixed record of success, however, Indian heritage and values have lent a heavy hand to elders always in the social fabric despite their age or disability.

It goes without saying that any country can be judged upon its treatment meted out to women and elderly. India has always had its vision of *Self-Reliance and Autonomy*; it can be materialized with collective effort and services of people from all sectors of life. Elderly may not contribute in the active workforce of the country but their lifelong experience and wisdom is instrumental for any sector to flourish and plug the loopholes.

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Distinctive Care and its aspects: Governments; Centre and State, both have endeavored their will and side-lined financial resources for medical, social, economic and psychological needs of elderly from time to time. Along with that, several insurance programs have been launched with an aim of financial independence.

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Social setting and hope: The cherished wisdom of elderly can be capitalized in creating social solidarity and keeping the spirits of morality. With effective geriatric care and treatment, India can also reduce the number of untimely deaths from issues such as disability of any kind, cardiovascular diseases and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Our efforts at saving the prestige of Indian life and ensuring the human development to fullest have given us positive externalities to reap in other critical areas and we must be whole heartedly ready to preserve this tradition of elderly wisdom and care.

Only by enabling the maximum potential of human resources and building the conducive environment for their growth to flourish, Indian development trajectory could move forward.

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