PROBLEMS OF ELDERLY TRIBAL WOMEN IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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When a situation or issue cannot be tackled by the human mind and it is beyond one's skill it is called a problem. An issue may be a problem for one individual or group, but the same issue will not be the problem for the other. Some problems which are related to our basic needs may be common. But certain problems are specific to ageing. But while ageing has a charming beginning in the form of development (i.e. growth and differentiation), it has a dismal end marked by senescence, loss of adaptability of the organism to its extrinsic and intrinsic environments, decrepitude and ultimately the macabre death. Thus, the problems of elderly differ from the problems of the youth. Joshi (1971) has observed that ageing in human beings creates a number of bodily dysfunctions as well as psychological disorder. Seal (1979) has divided the problems of the aged into national special (community and family) and personal (physical, psychological and socio economic).

The sample selected the elderly tribal women in household setting 25 respondents from each village like 12 villages of three mandal were selected randomly for in-depth study. So, the total sample constitutes 300 respondents.

Problems in Social Interactions

There are variety of problems common for the aged people throughout the world, but certain problems are typically related to Indian socio-cultural background. Burgers (1951) observes, old age emerges as a social problem where economic competition works at every level thereby creating a decline role and status of the old and non-earning members. Due to low status of the aged, the family members neglect in different ways and means such are presented in social problems.

Table–1:

Percentage Distribution of Respondents Who will Listen you most when you need to talk Vs. Age

Age	Listening						Total
	Spouse	Children	In-laws	Grand Children	Relatives	neighbours	
60 - 70	15	48	41	15	5	4	128
	5.0%	16.0%	13.7%	5.0%	1.7%	1.3%	42.7%
71 - 80	6	36	27	11	2	2	84
	2.0%	12.0%	9.0%	3.7%	.7%	.7%	28.0%
81 - >	2	33	36	8	4	5	88
	.7%	11.0%	12.0%	2.7%	1.3%	1.7%	29.3%
Total	23	117	104	34	11	11	300
	7.7%	39.0%	34.7%	11.3%	3.7%	3.7%	100.0%

χ^2=10.633, df=10, P < 0.387,   Not Significant at 0.05 level

The table 1 shows that 39.0 percent of the surveyed elderly tribal women said that they wish to ask anything to their children; followed by 34.7 percent their In-laws and remaining 11.3 percent grandchildren and 7.7 percent spouses respectively listen to carry out their wishes. For most of the elderly, they are annoyed and irritated to depend on others even for most basic personal needs.

The chi-square table revealed the relationship between age and who will listen you. There is no relationship in between age wise categories of listening and there is no statistically significant at 0.01 level

Table–2:

Percentage Distribution of Respondents Help in crisis situation Vs. Education

Education	Helping in crisis						Total
	Spouse	Children	In-laws	Grand Children	Relatives	neighbours	
Illiterate	16	91	83	19	8	8	225
	5.3%	30.3%	27.7%	6.3%	2.7%	2.7%	75.0%
Primary	4	15	19	8	0	0	46
	1.3%	5.0%	6.3%	2.7%	.0%	.0%	15.3%
Secondary	0	9	3	1	2	0	15
	.0%	3.0%	1.0%	.3%	.7%	.0%	5.0%
Inter	1	3	2	2	0	0	8
	.3%	1.0%	.7%	.7%	.0%	.0%	2.7%
Graduate & above	0	4	2	0	0	0	6
	.0%	1.3%	.7%	.0%	.0%	.0%	2.0%
Total	21	122	109	30	10	8	300
	7.0%	40.7%	36.3%	10.0%	3.3%	2.7%	100.0%

χ^2=21.697, df=20, P < 0.357,   Not Significant at 0.05 level

As seen from table 2, majority of the women had family support during crisis situation from spouse, children, in-laws, relatives, friends and neighbours. Out of those who had support, 40.7 were given by children. About 36.3 per cent were given In-laws and 10.0 per cent and 7.0 per cent were given grand children and spouses respectively. Hardly 6.0 percent were having support from relatives and neighbours. However, difference is noticed in the level of support during crisis between children and in-laws.

The chi-square table revealed the relationship between education and help in crisis situation. There is no relationship in between education and help in crisis situation and there is no statistically significant at 0.01 level.

Table-3 :

Percentage distribution of RespondentsWho will listen, help in crisis and spend time

Sl. No	Statement	Spouse	Children	In-Laws	Grand children	Relatives	Neighbours	Total N=300
1	Who will Listen you	7.7	39.0	34.7	11.3	3.7	3.7	100.0
2	Help in crisis situation	7.0	40.7	36.3	10.0	3.3	2.7	100.0
3	Who will spend more time	7.0	40.0	36.3	10.3	3.3	3.0	100.0
An average total percentage		**7.2**	**39.9**	**35.8**	**10.5**	**3.4**	**3.1**	**100.0**

Figure-1:Who will listen, help in crisis and spend time
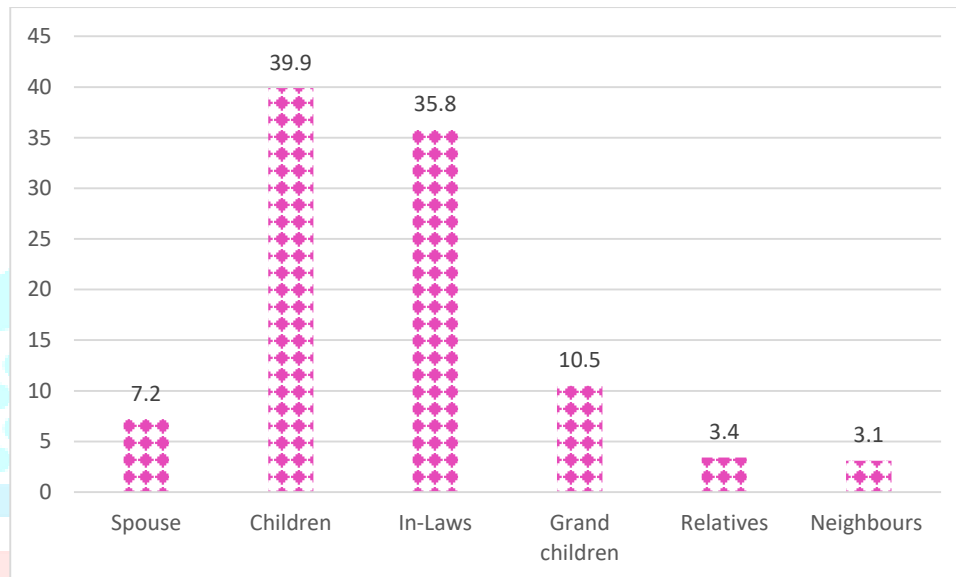
Researchers have proposed a way to reverse this condition by creating a "social reconstruction syndrome." The key to this form of therapy lies in providing environmental supports, which increases the individual's sense of competence.

The table 4 and figure 1 depicts that the social interactions with the family members about who will listen you in the family revealed 39.0 per cent children followed by 34.7 per cent in laws. Who will help in crisis situation the majority (40.7 per cent) are helped their children and 36.3 per cent are helped by their in-laws. Who will spend more time, the majority (40.0 per cent) spend more time with children followed by 36.3 per cent by their in laws followed by 10.3 per cent grand children.

On the whole, 39.9 per cent having interactions with children followed by 35.8 per cent in laws and 10.5 per cent grand children. About 7.2 per cent interact by their spouses and 3.4 per cent relatives and 3.1 per cent neighbours respectively interact with the respondents.

ANOVA's Descriptive Table-4:
Who will listen, help in crisis and spend time Vs. Age

Statement	Age	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	F Value	P Value
Who will Listen you	60 - 70	128	2.6797	1.14282	1.619	.200
	71 - 80	84	2.6786	1.03156		
	81 - >	88	2.9318	1.12235		
	Total	300	2.7533	1.10902		
Who help during crisis situation	60 - 70	128	2.6094	.98998	.856	.426
	71 - 80	84	2.7738	1.12315		
	81 - >	88	2.7614	1.01703		
	Total	300	2.7000	1.03614		
Who will spend more time	60 - 70	128	2.7578	1.10650	.143	.867
	71 - 80	84	2.6905	.96912		
	81 - >	88	2.6932	1.06521		
	Total	300	2.7200	1.05450		

The descriptive table 4 portrays age vs opinion of the elderly women on social interactions with the family as well as near and dear. The ANOVAs table shows the summary on who will listen you, who will help during crisis situations and who will spend more time. The values of mean and standard deviation are same and very similar and the factor values of who will listen you (1.619), who will help during crisis situations (0.856) and who will spend more time (0.143) opined that they are very similar of the elderly tribal women by their age are not significant at 0.05 level. Hence, there is no difference opinion on their age wise by involving in social interactions.

Table–5: Depend on Physical support Vs. Sub Caste

Sub Caste	Physical support						Total
	Spouse	Children	In-laws	Grand Children	Relatives	neighbours	
Chenchu	30	65	28	4	5	2	134
	10.0%	21.7%	9.3%	1.3%	1.7%	.7%	44.7%
Sugali/Lambada	23	51	17	1	3	2	97
	7.7%	17.0%	5.7%	.3%	1.0%	.7%	32.3%
Yerukala	11	20	9	4	5	4	53
	3.7%	6.7%	3.0%	1.3%	1.7%	1.3%	17.7%
Yanadi	3	5	5	0	3	0	16
	1.0%	1.7%	1.7%	.0%	1.0%	.0%	5.3%
Total	67	141	59	9	16	8	300
	22.3%	47.0%	19.7%	3.0%	5.3%	2.7%	100.0%

χ^2=24.370, df=15, P < 0.055,   **Significant at 0.05 level**

Physical support is one of the important limitations that elderly tribal women face in their life. This is imposed upon many of them by their physical impairments. Disability at the old age forces them to depend on others even for their daily activities like washing, giving medicine and physical necessities. Social obligations, cultural and religious bindings have imposed the duty of caring for the elderly on their children and grand children. But drastic changes are taking place in the society, especially within a society where migration of the younger generation to abroad in search of better employability and living conditions and later settling there, the problem of the elderly women have become acute. Caring centers and home nurses are assigned to take care of the elderly.

Though the sample shows that 47.0 percent of the elderly tribal women depend upon children to do their personal needs and physical necessities, it is rising. 22.3 per cent depend on spouse, 19.7 percent on In-laws, and 3.0 percent on their grand children for physical movements and for satisfy physical needs.

The study shows the results of the Chi-square test that there is statistically significant difference between sub caste and depend on physical support (P= 0.055) at 0.05 levels. The results show that there is a impact of sub caste on depend on physical support.

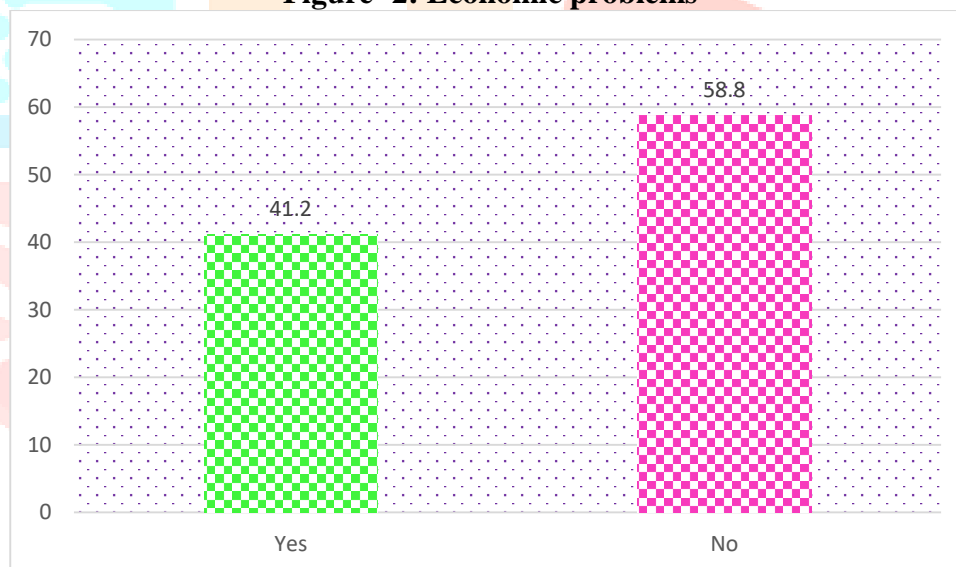**Economic problems**

There is a wide range of variations is the nature of treatment received by the aged. Some of them receive positive while others negative treatment in different spheres of life. The nature of treatment of the aged depends upon many factors. But the economic condition of the family is the most crucial one. The women those who fail to receive adequate care and facilities from the family members. These people are economic non productive because of their physical disabilities and so many other reasons. The family members consider them as social burden and thereby, do not provide them adequate attention.

Table-6: Percentage Distribution of Respondents Economic problems

Sl.No	Statement	Yes	No	Total
1	Regular expenditure	36.7	63.3	100.0
2	Food / Refreshment	45.7	54.3	100.0
3	Regular habits (drinking, Smoking etc.)	35.7	64.3	100.0
4	Pocket money (offering to grandchildren etc.)	46.3	53.7	100.0
5	Medical expenditure	36.0	64.0	100.0
6	Travel expenditure	46.7	53.3	100.0
An average total percentage		**41.2**	**58.8**	**100.0**

Figure -2: Economic problems

The table 6 and figure 2 portrays the economic problems faced by the women tribal elderly respondents. The problems of the women elderly tribal's are as classified as crisis for regular expenditure, shortage of money for regular habits (drinking, smoking), crisis for pocket money, instant expenditure, medical expenditure and crisis for travel expenditure.

It is clear from the table that 36.7 per cent of the respondents report that they have no money for even regular expenditure, nearly half (45.7 per cent) of the respondents having economic problems even for their regular food and refreshments. In the study area 46.3 per cent of the respondents do not have money for their pocket expenditure like instant needs and give to their grand children. It is a very pathetic scene are finds among the elderly tribals that 36.0 per cent of the respondents were not able to meet out the medical expenditures even though they are practicing sidha medicine only nearly half of the respondents suffered for travel.

It is clear from the analysis that more than 41.2per cent of the respondents were in economical crisis for their regular food, pocket money and medical expenditures.

ANOVA's Descriptive Table-7:
Ho: There is no significant difference of economic problem among elderly tribal women by their marital status.

Percentage Distribution of Respondents Economic problems Vs. Marital status

Statement		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	F Value	P Value
Regular expenditure	Married	171	1.5848	.49420	1.497	.216
	Unmarried	5	1.6000	.54772		
	Widow	110	1.7091	.45626		
	Divorced	14	1.6429	.49725		
	Total	300	1.6333	.48270		
Food / Refreshment	Married	171	1.5205	.50105	.763	.516
	Unmarried	5	1.8000	.44721		
	Widow	110	1.5545	.49929		
	Divorced	14	1.6429	.49725		
	Total	300	1.5433	.49895		
Regular habits (drinking, Smoking etc.)	Married	171	1.6433	.48044	1.087	.355
	Unmarried	5	1.6000	.54772		
	Widow	110	1.6727	.47137		
	Divorced	14	1.4286	.51355		
	Total	300	1.6433	.47982		
Pocket money (offering to grandchildren etc.)	Married	171	1.5263	.50077	.279	.840
	Unmarried	5	1.4000	.54772		
	Widow	110	1.5636	.49820		
	Divorced	14	1.5000	.51887		
	Total	300	1.5367	.49949		
Medical expenditure	Married	171	1.6667	.47279	1.154	.328
	Unmarried	5	1.6000	.54772		
	Widow	110	1.5818	.49552		
	Divorced	14	1.7857	.42582		
	Total	300	1.6400	.48080		
Travel expenditure	Married	171	1.5380	.50002	.634	.594
	Unmarried	5	1.6000	.54772		
	Widow	110	1.5455	.50021		
	Divorced	14	1.3571	.49725		
	Total	300	1.5333	.49972		

The descriptive table 7 portrays that economic problems are Regular expenditure, Food / Refreshment, Regular habits (drinking, Smoking etc.), Pocket money (offering to grandchildren etc.), Medical expenditure, Travel expenditure by their marital status. The analysis of variance in between the economic problems and marital status. The ANOVAs table shows the summary on F value and P value as regards to Regular expenditure F=1.497 and P=0.216, Food / Refreshment F=0.763 and P=0.516, Regular habits (drinking, Smoking etc.) F=1.087 and P=0.516, Pocket money (offering to grandchildren etc.) F=0.279 and P=0.840, Medical expenditure F=1.154 and P=0.328, Travel expenditure F=0.634 and P=0.594.

Hence, the values of standard deviation scores are very similar and the scores in between marital and economic problems are not different and it is revealed that there are no statistically significant the impact of marital status on economic problems at 0.01 level.

Hence, the null hypothesis has been rejected and research hypothesis has been accepted.

Psychological Problems

Most of the elderly people were affected by psychological problems due to loss of respect, isolation and neglect by their family members.Ageing itself is a typical perception and understanding among old. The old generally are characterized by the stereotypic behavior, like, slovenly, uncouth, unhygienic, conservative, etc. In fact, these factors generally promote ageism. They have their own self concept and self regard. Adoption of new ideas is either difficult or not acceptable to the old. Loss of personal authority is basic concern for the aged, which usually disturbs them physically and psychologically. This problem is more in case of elderly women who feel that her daughters-in-law will replace them. This makes them uncomfortable and sometimes results in quarrels (Bajpai, 1998). In many cases, the young abuse the aged verbally and make them unhappy. Such condition causes stress, depression and dissatisfaction with the life amongst the aged.

Table–8:Feeling Frustration Vs. Income

Income	Do you feel Frustration		Total
	Yes	No	
< - 2500	35	51	86
	11.7%	17.0%	28.7%
2501 - 5000	25	29	54
	8.3%	9.7%	18.0%
5001 - 7500	10	20	30
	3.3%	6.7%	10.0%
7501 ->	4	12	16
	1.3%	4.0%	5.3%
Not applicable	53	61	114
	17.7%	20.3%	38.0%
Total	127	173	300
	42.3%	57.7%	100.0%

χ^2=4.214, df=4, P < 0.378,   Not Significant at 0.05 level

Frustration has been taken as a motivational determinant. However, frustration once aroused gets expressed in various modes, such as aggression, fixation, regression and resignation. As the table 8 shows that majority (57.7 percent) of the elderly tribal women are not facing any frustration, whereas 42.3 percent of the elderly tribal women facing frustration. Women in general experience a lower level of frustration, make less use of resignation and aggression as modes of coping with frustration, are better socially adjusted, more social mature with greater need for affiliation and nurturance than men.

The chi-square table indicates that the relationship between income and feel frustration. There is no difference of perceptions on feel frustration by their income (P= 0.378) at 0.01 levels. The results show that there is no statistically significant difference of perceptions of respondents by income.

Table–9:Feeling lonely Vs. Type of house

Type of house	Do you feel lonely		Total
	Yes	No	
Pucca	59	68	127
	19.7%	22.7%	42.3%
Semi-Pucca	53	65	118
	17.7%	21.7%	39.3%
Kutcha	28	27	55
	9.3%	9.0%	18.3%
Total	140	160	300
	46.7%	53.3%	100.0%

χ^2=0.545, df=2, P < 0.761, Not Significant at 0.05 level

Loneliness occurs when there is a discrepancy between one's desired and one's perceived or actual relationships and loneliness results from deficiencies in the person's social relations. Because of these changes it is very difficult to adapt changes of the conditions of life during the old age which will lead to the occurrence of Loneliness among them. On an assessment of this factor with respect to the sample it was found that 53.3 percent of elderly tribal women did not feel the loneliness. About 46.7 percent elderly tribal women are facing loneliness.

There is difference of perception on feel lonelyby their type of house wise categories (P= 0.761) at 0.01 levels. The results show that there is no statistically significant impact of type of house on feel lonely.

Table–10: Abused Vs. Type of family

Type of family	Do you abused		Total
	Yes	No	
Nuclear	157	50	207
	52.3%	16.7%	69.0%
Joint	41	14	55
	13.7%	4.7%	18.3%
Extended	29	9	38
	9.7%	3.0%	12.7%
Total	227	73	300
	75.7%	24.3%	100.0%

χ^2=0.050, df=2, P < 0.975, Not Significant at 0.05 level

Elderly abuse in the family is harassment or injustice, which is committed or which occurs in the domestic situation or perceived to be committed by their own family members (Kapur, 1996). Since it takes place within the four walls of the house it is very difficult to tackle. The abuse can be verbal, physical, psychological or emotional. It may include depriving the elderly of love, care, understanding and concern or neglecting their basic needs like Food, Clothing and Medicare. In few cases, the elderly may be thrown out of the house.

The table 10 shows that one third of elderly tribal women were abused by different causes in different forms. About only 24.3 percent were not abused.

The chi-square table indicates that the relationship between type of family and do you abused. There is no difference of perception on do you abusedtheir type of family wise categories (P= 0.975) at 0.01 levels. The results show that there is no statistically significant impact of type of family on abused.

Table–11: Types of abused Vs. Age

Age	Type of Abused				Total
	Verbal	Physical	Emotioal	Not Abused	
60 - 70	59	25	11	33	128
	19.7%	8.3%	3.7%	11.0%	42.7%
71 - 80	37	19	8	20	84
	12.3%	6.3%	2.7%	6.7%	28.0%
81 - >	35	23	10	20	88
	11.7%	7.7%	3.3%	6.7%	29.3%
Total	131	67	29	73	300
	43.7%	22.3%	9.7%	24.3%	100.0%

χ^2=2.133, df=6, P < 0.907, Not Significant at 0.05 level

The table 11 reveals that among the elderly women respondents facing abuse, majority (43.7 percent) have experiencing verbal abuse. While physical abuse had been reported nearly 22.3 percent and followed by 9.7 percent have undergone emotional abuse that is being ignored and neglected. Further, data show a significant proportion of elderly women being abused verbally, physically and emotionally.

The study shows the results of the Chi-square test that there is no significant difference between age and type of abused (P= 0.907) at 0.01 levels. The results show that there is statistically significant difference in type of abused by their age.

Conclusion:

The core area of this paper focuses on the problems and its extent of the elders. Mainly the paper covers the various problems of social, Physical, Economic and psychological factors contributing for to suffering of elderly tribal women. It also deals with health issues of chronic and acute diseases which are suffering by the elderly women. The survey results have confirmed the fact that the aged suffer from a high morbidity burden as well as physical impairment in functioning of organs due to the degenerative process of ageing.

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