

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND RECEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF COIMBATORE

K. VENUGOPAL<sup>1</sup>

R.MARUTHAKUTTI<sup>2</sup>

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Professor, KMCH Institute of Health Sciences, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu<sup>1</sup>,  
Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract:

The living arrangements and the support by the elderly family members is the central aspect of joint family system in India. The proximity of children extends all kind of support to the elderly in areas like personal, health, financial, etc., which are upkeep the health and helps in the diminishing of all types of morbidity from the elderly. Dwelling together and sharing the common kitchen, consolation in a reciprocal manner between younger and elderly also provide support to both younger and older generations. The main objective of this paper was to study the living arrangement and received support by the elderly from their children. Nearly 69.8% of the elderly of the respondent have satisfaction of living arrangement to some extent. Nearly half of the respondent (46.6%) prefers to live with their sons. More than half of the elderly (54.4%) are living with their sons. For this study 262 respondents were selected by multistage systematic random sampling method.

**Keywords:** *Elderly people, Living arrangement, Received Support*

### Introduction:

Many research works are going throughout the world regarding elderly people. The multiplication in life expectancy rate increases the elderly population and also elderly among the elders. Increasing morbidity is a major problem among the elderly. Living arrangement in the urban areas among the elderly and the support they receive has become a big problem. Lonely elderly suffer from depression and less happy. Poverty and widowhood are the major factor for the vulnerability of the elderly. The traditional family played in important role in providing support to the elderly. Hence according to Narang.D Korodia et al., the family support should be strengthened. Life satisfaction is determined by the living arrangement especially by the family members and then by the neighbours. Elderly people living with spouse and married children in joint family have shown more life satisfaction (Banjare, Pallavi et. al).

This study was consists of 262 respondents selected by multistage systematic random sampling method in the Northern region of Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu. The respondents were directly interviewed with a structured interview schedule in order to collect the necessary data.

A study was conducted by Pallavi Banjare et al, among 310 respondents in Odisha. The findings reveals that the elderly who are living and having any kind of disability had poor score of activities of daily living (ADL) and lower life satisfaction among both male and female elderly.

A study by Aijaz Ahamd et al, conducted among 100 old age elderly retired persons of Kashmir from different districts of Kashmir found a relationship between depression and loneliness.

Sivamurthy et al conducted a survey about care and support for the elderly population in India among 211 elderly people from rural north Karnataka from villages of Dharwad district 118 males and 93 females were interviewed. This survey reveals that 90% of the respondents expressed health problems as the major one and male respondent expressed economic problem. There fourth of the respondents were of the opinion that the sons of their family should provide the necessary help.

Priyanka et al (2013), conducted a study on differences in life satisfaction of elderly people in urban and sub-urban families of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh among 400 elderly describes that the condition of the elderly was not satisfactory both in village and city elderly people. Financial support and upliftment is highly required by semi-rural elderly people.

Maria Gabriella Mechiorre et al (2013), carried out a study an social support , socio economic status, health and abuse among 4,467 elderly people of seven European countries like Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden reveals that persons living in large households and with spouse or partner or other persons were likely to experience more level of social support.

A study conducted by Khann sezolu and B.T.Langteih on living arrangement among Chakesang elders, among the Chakesang elders a tribal community of Nagaland. From the sample of 912 individuals in the age group of 60-101 by comparing living arrangements with standard of living (SLI) for the purpose of understanding socio economic status and Geriatric Depression scale for assessing the depression among the elderly and found that 17.9% of the elders live alone. Widowhood was (7.5%) among men and (20.7%) among women. 63.3% of the elderly people were living with a child, or with grandchild. They defined support of the elderly providing financial assistance, emotional support by the family members or by those persons with whom the elderly live.

**Methodology:**

The study was conducted to find out the living arrangement and received social support by the elderly people from villages in the Northern region of Coimbatore district from 262 respondents selected through multistage systematic random sampling method. All the respondents were directly interviewed with a structured interview schedule to collect the necessary data.

Data were collected on living arrangement personal support, Material support, Emotional support, social support were analysis with help of descriptive and inferential statistics.

**Discussion:**

More than one third of the elderly belong to the age group of 60-65 years, one fourth of them belong to the age group of 66-70 and very few are above 80 years. Three fifth of the respondents are married and two fifths are widowed. The proportion of being married when the respondents were younger and when they are older the proportion of being widowed is greater. Most of the rural elderly are illiterate. Among the males being married status proportion is greater than the proportion of widowed, which is smaller and it is vice versa among the females. Among the females the proportion of being married is less and that of being widowed is greater. Since the preferred selection of groom is older than the bride at the time of marriage which results in when the male grows older the younger wife takes care of him and when the female grows older, she loses her husband and thus becomes widowed.

About two thirds of the respondents of the elderly population of the rural area are illiterate. One fifth of them had primary education and only 16% have had middle school education or more. Two fifths of the respondents have no occupation. More than one fifth of the respondents are working as agricultural coolies and 13.4% take up seasonal 100 days' work scheme provided by the government.

**Living Arrangement:**

Two fifths of the rural elderly population living in joint family. Less than half of them living in nuclear families and 13% are living alone. Nearly half of the respondents have one son nearly two fifths of them have at least one daughter. The maximum numbers of children for these respondents are 6, the maximum number of sons is 4 and daughter is 6. Proximity is greater for sons. Patriarchal tradition rules that sons continue to live in the same house along with parents even after their marriage but daughters go to the husband's house to live. More than two fifths of the respondents live with son and very few live with daughter. 13.4% of the respondents live alone. Living with sons is more among the male respondents whereas living with spouse is

more for the female elderly. Living with spouse is more among the males and it is less among the females. Living alone is mostly prevailing among the female elders. There are 74 respondents living only with spouse among this most of them (71.6%) are male and (28.4%) are females. Among the elderly respondents living alone majority (88.6%) are female and (11.4%) are males. Nearly half of the respondents would like to live with sons and one out of ten would like to live with daughter. More than one fourth of the respondents would like to live with their spouse rather than with any of the children. It is noticeable that 15.3 % prefer to live alone.

As far as living arrangement is concerned monetary or material support is high for those living with all or few children. Monetary or material support is not affected by health status. Monetary or material support is positively correlated with age family size, family income, proximity of children and proximity of sons. It is not correlated with education, personal income, number of children, number of sons, and number of daughters and proximity of daughters. Income and, monetary or material support are positively correlated. When the respondents are closer to their children they get more monetary or material support. The male respondents get more emotional support than the female respondents. The widowed get less emotional support when compared with married respondents. Emotional support is higher among the respondents belonging to nuclear family and small size families. Family income and emotional support are positively related. Those living with all or few children and those living with spouse are getting a high level of emotional support. Those who are living alone get less emotional support.

With reference to informational support except age and family income no other variable has significant correlation with informational support. When family income of the respondent increases, informational support also increases. Age, education and personal income of the respondents have significant correlation with recreational support. With the increase in age the recreation support diminishes. The more personal income of a respondent gets more recreational support. Education, personal income, family size, family income, proximity of children and son has significant positive correlations with social support. More educated respondents get more social support. When the income is more then also the social support is more. When the family size is larger the social support is higher. Proximity of sons enables the elderly to receive more social support. The correlation coefficient for proximity of sons greater than that for proximity of children. Personal income and family size have independent effect on social support.

### **Conclusion:**

Living arrangement and support received by the elderly people were the main factors studied. It was found that marital status, family size, income, education as the factors influencing the kind of support the elders

receive. Monetary or material support is influenced by family size, family income, and proximity of children. Male respondents get more emotional support than the female. Widowed respondents get less emotional support. The informational support is associated with the income of the respondents. Age, Personal income and education are associated. When age increases the recreational support decreases, when the personal income increases the recreational support also increases. Education of the respondents, family size, family income, proximity of children and sons are the major factors that increase the social support.

### Reference:

- [1] Banjare, Pallavi, Rinshu Dwivedi and Jalandhar Pradhan, 2015, "Factors associated with the life satisfaction amongst the rural elderly in Odisha, India", Health and quality of life outcomes, Vol 13: 2015
- [2] M Sivamurthy and Wadakannavar, 2001, "Care and support for the elderly population in India: Results from a Survey of the aged rural North Karnataka (India)", Paper submitted to the IUSSP General population conference held in Salvador, Brazil, 18<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> August
- [3] Maria Gabriell Melchiorre, Carlos Chiatti, Giovanni Lamura, Francisco Torres-Gonzales, Mundaugas Strankunas, Jutta Lindert, Elisabeth Loannidi- Kapolou, Henrique Barros, Gloria Mascassa and Joaquin F.J. Soares, 2013, Social support socio economic status, Health and abuse among older people in Seven European countries, [https:// doi.org/10.1371/ journal.pone.0054856](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0054856)
- [4] Priyanka and Sunita Mishra, 2013, "Life satisfaction of Elderly people in urban and semi-urban region of Lucknow(UP)", IOSR Journal of Humanities and social sciences (IOSR-JHSS), Vol: 16, Issue (Nov-Dec 2013), PP 28-32
- [5] Aijaz Ahmad, Mohd. Altaf and Kounseer Jan, 2016, "Loneliness, Self-Esteem and depression among elderly people of Kashmir", The International Journal of Indian Psychology, Vol: 3, Issue 4, No.59, ISSN: 2348-5396
- [6] Narang.D, Kordia K, Meena J and Meena K, 2013, "Interpersonal relationship of Elderly with in the family", International Journal of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Research (IJSSR), Vol: 2, Issue: 3, March 2013
- [7] Bhavana Singh and Kiran U.V, 2013, "Loneliness among elderly women", International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, [www.ijhss.org](http://www.ijhss.org), Vol: 2, Issue: 2, February 2013
- [8] Sezolu Khamu and Longstieh, 2015, "Living arrangements among the Chakesang Elders", IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (IOSR-JHSS), Vol: 2, Issue: 4, Version: V1, April 2015, PP 54-60.