

RC-19, SOCIOLOGY OF AGING, INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: Revisiting Classical and Postmodern theories in Social Gerontology

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Theoretical set up is a crucial element of any theoretical discourse. Social Gerontology is a relatively new discipline. In the field of gerontological investigations so far; theoretical discussion has not played a pivotal role. Most of the research ventures have been descriptive and empirical.

My paper is an attempt to trace the evolution of the theoretical paradigms in Social Gerontology. To check the efficacy of the classical theories to understand gerontological realities and to comment on the relevance and applicability of post modern theories to newly emerging socio- cultural realities. The research design is a blend of literature search method coupled with FGD (Focus Group Discussion). Classical theories like Disengagement Theory and Activity Theory are taken as representative sample of the first group as against Modernization Theory and Political Economy of Ageing as representative sample for the latter group. FGDS were conducted in the backdrop of Senior Citizens Associations. Urban elderly men as well women were included in the group. Six representative Senior Citizens Associations were focused upon.

Responses were interpreted with reference to the theories mentioned above to arrive at reliable and valid results. The paper uses a qualitative paradigm to arrive at a meaningful interpretation of the perception of elderly about their own existence and their surroundings.

LMI-2105

RC – 19: SOCIOLOGY OF AGEING

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST ELDERLY: CHALLENGES TO SOCIAL TRADITIONS

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence refers to the violence which elderly at home are subjected to by their children and family members. The main causes of violence against elderly are – children being hesitant in bearing the expenses of the old parents, emotionally victimising the olds and beating them to death to get rid of them. One of the very common reasons includes torture for property grabbing. The main objective of this study is to know the way of inflicting injury and reason behind the violence against elderly. For this study, reported cases were taken from print media. The cases were taken from 2005 to 2014 and contents were analysed through quantitative content method. It was found that highest number of perpetrators were son (40%) and others were grandson, daughter-in-law etc. In more than half the cases (58.37%) blow and hand was used for the violence. The other weapons that were used by the family members included firearms, axe, knife and iron rod. In India, domestic violence against elderly largely goes unreported. It is because of the dependency of olds on their children and having a fear of not being looked after or even ousted if the violence is revealed outside the home.

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A Sociological study of Connections between Gender & Aging in India

Abstract:

Women are the largest vulnerable groups who are in disadvantageous positions all over the globe. Biologically women live longer than men. In most of the developed nation, women live longer than men by four to eight years. But situation in India is not satisfactory. According to Family welfare statistics in India, 2011, life expectancy at birth for female is only 64.4 years compared to 62.6 years for their male counterparts. There may be many reasons, but one of the important reasons is rooted in its Social structure.

The objective of the paper is to explore the linkages between Gender and Aging with particular reference to Indian Society. The study is based on the secondary sources.

Findings of the study reveal that the patriarchal social structure, the Values of Indian society, relatively poor education among aged women, shortage of welfare facilities for aged people etc. are the major factors which worsen the condition of aged women in India. Comparison to Urban sectors, the situations in rural regions are more alarming. The Indian aged women bear double burden, first, of being old and second, of being women.

Key Words: Gender, Aging, Life-expectancy at birth, Women

Population Ageing and Health Related Issues in Uttar Pradesh: Evidences from SAGE

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Present Abstract to be submitted to RC-19, Sociology of Ageing in 42nd AISC to be held at Tezpur University, Assam.

Population ageing is a process by which older individuals become a proportionally larger share of the total population. It has emerged as a major issue in both the developed and developing countries. According to experts, the most acute problems faced by elderly in developing countries like India are a shortage of specific medical care and prevalence of income insecurity. This paper sketches the profile of aged persons in rural northern India and study the prevalence of diseases during ageing in different socio-economic and demographic groups of society.

The study is based on secondary data obtained from a survey entitled *Studies on Global AGEing and Adult Health (SAGE) wave 1 conducted in 2007 by International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS, Mumbai)*. SAGE is part of a Longitudinal Survey Programme in WHO's Multi-Country Studies unit. This survey was conducted in six states in India. Present paper incorporates data collected in Uttar Pradesh.

It was found that the gender differential was most striking in Uttar Pradesh, where 72% of older women said their health was moderate or bad, compared with 56% of men. The prevalence of chronic lung disease was found highest in Uttar Pradesh.

Aging: From Natural to Social

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RC No. - RC19: Sociology of Ageing (Dr. Udai Bhan Singh)

ISS Membership No. - Applied and Under application Processing.

Abstract:

Aging is a natural and biological phenomenon, but more times it's a social concern. India is a second country having the largest number of elderly people aged 60 plus and because of modern medical care average life expectancy is gradually increasing in India. Changing family structure and modernisation are some basic factors in back to that. Elderly population is facing inevitable challenges to live their life respectfully. Loneliness, negligence and less importance, illness due to ageing and against lack of treatment are the most of the treacherous conditions which elderly are facing. This biological change comes with a social problem also that is mentioned as Sociology of Aging. This article is based on an empirical study conducted as a case studies based upon old ages homes in UP.

Aging: A Sociological Interpretation

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RC No. - RC19: Sociology of Ageing (Dr. Udai Bhan Singh)

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Abstract:

This paper shows a special emphasis on Sociology of Aging with central ideology of old Age and Its Social Consequences. Old age is not only a social but also a psychological phenomenon. It is also known as second childhood. Older people suffer social losses greatly with age. Their social life is narrowed down by loss of work associated, death of relatives, friends and spouse and weak health which restricts their participation in social activities. The home becomes the centre of their social life which gets confined to the interpersonal relationship with the family members. Due to loss of most of the social roles they once performed, they are likely to be lonely and isolated severe chronic health problem enable them to become socially isolated which results in loneliness and depression. A man's life is normally divided into five stages namely: infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age. In each of these stages an individual's finds himself in different situations and faces different problems. Old age is viewed as an unavoidable, undesirable and problem ridden phase of life. Problems of aging usually appear after the age of sixty five years.

Perceptions on Human Rights among Elderly People

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Abstract:

With the rapid decline of fertility, mortality and morbidity rates, older population all over the world as well as in India is increasing at an alarming rate. Social marginalization, loneliness, isolation and even negligence in old age lead violation of Human Rights of Older Persons. The study aimed to find out the nature of human rights of elderly people in Kolkata; to explore the perceptions about human rights of elderly in Kolkata; to identify responsible factors for violation of human rights of elderly. Accordingly data were collected by purposive sampling among 100 (50 male and 50 female) elderly people in Kolkata. The responses were treated for qualitative and quantitative analysis. The findings highlighted that various constitutional and legal provision of human rights for elderly do exist in India. The rights of elderly chiefly divided into three main categories- protection, participation and image; but level of awareness about human rights of elderly people in Indian society, particularly among older persons is very low and the responsible factors for violation of human rights of elderly were mainly coercive inter-generational interface, changing roles and expectation of women, urban space crunch and privacy, degradation of morality of young people towards elderly, increasing rate of age discrimination, elder abuse & mistreatment , cosmetic form of policies etc.

Key words: Elderly, Human rights, Perception about human rights and violation of human rights of elderly.

Changing Life of the Aged in Metropolitan Kolkata
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Abstract

The paper is based on a study of the middleclass aged in two different locales in metropolitan Kolkata; one, the elderly in a neighbourhood (Salt Lake) and two, the elderly who live in old-age homes. Data have been collected following the anthropological method of intensive fieldwork, documenting the respondents' version of their life history.

The most important findings are: (1) the urban middleclass couples largely stick to one-child, who in course of time disperses because of marriage or career compulsion, thus leaving the aged lonely; (2) the decision to remain single, death of spouse, ailments and insecurity together work behind the movement of the aged to old-age homes; (3) the existence or non-existence of the family support system largely decides whether the aged would move to Home and what would be the quality and nature of life they are likely to have; (4) the urban middleclass perception about the old-age homes is changing and the "stigma" that was attached to home-living is eroding; (5) finally, the paper argues that while in certain areas the elements of Western modernity could be found the family (and kinship) values and care system work in the life of the elderly in both situations.

LMI: 2062

RC 19 Sociology of AGEING

"AGEING WELL: A CLOSER LOOK AT SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE"

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As the number of elderly increases, the process of ageing well becomes a priority [WHO, 2002]. All countries and developing countries in particular, need to reconsider measures to help older people remain healthy and active are —a necessity, not a luxury [WHO, 2002]. Ageing well emphasizes the link between activity, participation, healthy life expectancy and quality of life [Foster & Walker, 2015] a holistic approach that includes physical and mental well-being [Foster & Walker, 2015, Foster & Walker, 2013]. Today ageing well, according to the World Health Organisation, reflects the importance of psychological, psychosocial and social factors which are anchored in its social utility, and has gradually become compulsory.

People believe that lifestyle has a major impact on healthy ageing, and it is needless to say that it strongly correlates with physically active lifestyle but mechanism of social roles gives a better insight about the impact of social participation on the state of well-being in elderly persons (Amos, 2014). When the elderly participate in social roles and leisure activities, their well-being improves [Adams, et al., 2011], as participation in social activities can reduce the risk of disability and depression [Gilmour, 2012].

Social activities and social roles are discussed here based on the role theory [Biddle, 1986] that considers most of the everyday activities to be as the acting out of socially-defined categories (e.g., worker, employer, mother, teacher, and housewife). The study used a mixed-method design; phenomenological qualitative research procedures to examine the participants lived experience of social participation and its meaning in the context of successful aging and quality of life. To conclude the ideology of people's obligation and implicit responsibility makes active ageing compulsory and an inclusion practice to which only a few have access.

A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON GERIATRIC CONCERNS IN INDIA

by

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Abstract:

The number of elderly in India is rising rapidly. India's elderly population is estimated at 10 crores in 2011 and is projected to reach 20 crores by 2030. The population of elderly persons in the total population is expected to increase from 8.3% in 2011 to 12.4 % in 2026. The traditional norms and values of Indian society laid stress on showing respect and providing care for the elderly. Consequently, the older members of the family were normally taken care of in the family itself. The family, commonly the joint and extended family type, and social networks provided an appropriate environment in which the elderly spent their lives. The advent of modernization, industrialization, urbanization, occupational differentiation, education and growth of individual philosophy has eroded the traditional values that vested authority with elderly. These have led to defiance and decline of respect for elders among members of younger generation.

For a developing country like India, the rapid growth in the number of older population presents issues, barely perceived as yet, that must be addressed if social and cultural image of the country is to be maintained. Therefore, I want to address those issues through my Research paper which tries to focus on the objectives like:

1. Challenges faced by Geriatric in India
2. National Policies for elderly
3. Suggestions to improve overall standard of life of Geriatric.

Key words:

Elderly, traditional norms, occupational differentiation, challenges, national policy

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Changing Social Values Wrenching Elderly Dignity

Abstract

Elderly are an important part of a population of any country who are due respect and attention equally like any other section. Traditionally, respect for elderly was an integral part of the Indian value system. However, such values are disappearing due to changing family structure, urbanization and modernization. As a result, elderly population is facing inevitable challenges to live their life respectfully. Lack of emotional support, neglect by the family members, loss of dignity, maltreatment, disrespect, illness due to ageing are the most of the traitorous conditions which elderly are facing. The harsh truth is that the abusers are the family members or caregivers, on whom they depend upon the maximum. Such behaviour is alarmingly on the rise in the country. Therefore under these circumstances, there is growing need for care of the older persons in terms of social, emotional, economic, health and shelter giving the elderly more quality of life.