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CHAPTER - II.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH.

The present chapter deals with the review of Literature on aged persons in India.

As far as interest in the problem of old age in India is concerned in last few years it has attracted the attention of social reformers, social scientists, the state, and the central Government. The studies on old age in India are still in their infancy and most of the studies have been continued to the exploration of the problems of old people.

The first academic recognition to gerontology was accorded in the date 1960 when the Indian Gerontological Association was established by a group of young and enthusiastic scientist from different branches of knowledge. The Association started publication of a journal in 1969 i.e. "Indian Journal of Gerontology". After sometime the publication of this journal was stopped due to inadequate finance and lethargic academic attitude to the field of gerontology.

SOCIAL SURVEYS :

Social surveys on the problems of aged and retired persons in India have been conducted by few students on aging. The main objectives of

the surveys were the income, living patterns and other problems that old persons are facing.

1) " A STUDY OF AGED 60 YEARS AND ABOVE IN SOCIAL PROFILE "

Purohit, C.K. and Sharma R. 1972. Indian Journal of Gerontology, 1972, 4, 3-4, 71-83.¹

This is study of old persons in a group of villages in Rajasthan, the investigators found that nearly 66 percent aged were dependents, Rate of dependency has higher in higher age groups. Incapacitation and disabilities were the main causes of dependency. Nearly half of the aged were happy with their life. The proportion of unhappy aged was more among the female. The study reveals that unhappiness increased with the increase in age. Most of the respondents stated that family members were paying their attention to them, during their illness. They were consulted for advice in family matters. Men were getting more advantages compare to women ageds.

2) OLD PEOPLE OF MAKUNTI. Dharwar, Karnataka University H.M. Marulastiddiah,²

The aged population of a small village in south India was covered under this study.



OBJECTIVES :

To find out the place of aged in the Community and family within the changing agricultural environment.

FINDINGS :

(a) The aged are not treated as an isolated unit of society. (b) They continue to remain an indispensable part of family. (c) They are handling important issues in family and carry traditional modes of the caste. (d) There is a change in the attitudes of younger generation because of education economic mobility and contact with the nearby towns.

3) BHARAT PENSIONERS SAMAJ JABALPUR BRANCH.³
(Year not available)

170 cases of retired persons were covered for the study.

FINDINGS :

22% of them were suffering from chronic diseases and infirmity. 25 had children who were college students. Majority of the respondents were not able to keep them alert from family responsibilities specially relating to child.

4) PROBLEMS OF RETIRED PEOPLE IN GREATER BOMBAY.⁴

Mr. Desai K.G. and Mr. R.D. Naik (1969)

The study was sponsored by the Research Programme committee of the Planning Commission.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

- a) To study the financial, health and Psycho-social problems faced by retired people.
- b) To study the attitudes of younger generation about retired people.
- c) To know the knowledge of young people about the problems of retired.
- d) Whether the Old people who are about to retire make any preparation to face the problems of retirement.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY :

- a) Respondents have given first rank to the economic problem.
- b) Second preference is given to health problems.
- c) Social & family problems have ranked in third category.
- d) One third respondents had no savings.
- e) Two third were unable to support them sufficiently.
- f) Indebtedness was reported by 10 per cent retirees.
- g) Two third of them had one social liability or the others.
- h) As far as health problems are concerned, it was found that nearly 65 per cent of them had one ailment or the other.
- i) Majority of the respondents were free from socio-psychological problems generally associated with old age and Retirement.
- j) Respondents were having good relationship with other members before and after retirement.
- k) Majority of respondents preferred to live with their children and one sixth were ready to stay in colonies.
- l) Loss of status in the family was not an important problems for retirees.
- m) Many young people aware of the problems of retired persons. They were

having positive approach to them. n) Quite a few persons who were on the verge of retirement were apprehensive of their future. Most of them were conscious of financial problems and family and social obligations which would remain with them after retirement. o) Two thirds of the respondents felt that they would be able to support their family members after retirement.

5. RETIRED PEOPLE :

The Life Style and Problems⁵

Sati P.N. 1972 Unpublished Ph.D.Thesis,
University of Agra.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

1) Economic Aspect of aged. 2) Mental and Physical health. 3) Family life and relationship. 4) Leisure time etc. 5) Self concept & life Satisfaction and expectations and aspirations of the retired people.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY :

a) Majority of the respondents were socially not isolated, and were adjusted in society. b) Status of the majority of the respondent remain unchanged even after retirement. c) Degree of socio-economic liability had no implication for perception of the respondents about their status in the family and the respect enjoyed by them in the family.

6. AGED IN COMPARATIVE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE :Indu Grover & D.K. Grover⁶

(Research paper presented in National Seminar
on "Aging in India" challenges for society"
from April, 22-24-1986.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

In specific terms paper has four main objectives.

(1) To compare the population of old age in develop-
ing vis-a-vis developed countries. (2) To analyse
sexdistribution amongst the aged. (3) To ascertain
economically achive sex wise. (4) To analyse the
demographic pattern and comparionship among the
aged with particular reference to India.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:Population of the Aged:

i) Life span of people in developed countries has
increased more as compared to developing countries.
In the age group of 60-70 years U.S.A. and India have
33.9 million people each. (ii) The category of 70-80
and 80 + in U.S.A. than in India.

In the age group of 80 + there are 2.0 and 4.4
million aged in India and U.S.A. out of population of
684.5 and 223.2 million respectively.

I) AGED MALES AND FEMALES:

All the groups of aged i.e. 60 to 69, 70 to
79 and 80 + females are surving more in comparison
to males except in case of India the group of 60
to 69 and 70 to 79.

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II) ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE AGED :

An individual can contribute in many ways his services for the family or state. It does not mean that he is worthless after retirement. He can be active socially economically and politically. There are many aged who are active economically and they bring home some income by way of some services after their retirement.

III) DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN IN INDIA :

In India most of the younger members still love respect and take advice from elders while general Sociological changes and mass media have started the damage at a low ebb.

IV) COMPANIONSHIP AND THE AGED IN INDIA :

The worst part of aged is lack of companionship. Mostly this is either provided by the spouse or by the siblings. Lack of companionship results in psychological strains and other physiological disorders among the aged, since that time the children are usually settle it is only the spouse provides company.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE AGED BY SEX IN INDIA.

The percentage of married women is less in urban area compared to rural women in all age groups.

7) PROBLEMS OF THE AGED IN INDIA :

Some reflections - Rajeshwar Prasad.

(Paper submitted by Respectage International-India for 11th ISCA congress at Hong-Kong, March, 20-24 1984).

Paper covers following points.

The Problem :

Aging is no doubt physiological phenomenon. However, the problems, of the aged are sociological. The genesis of most of the problems of the elderly people being socio-cultural the solutions too have to be sought in the wider social milieu.

The problem of the senior citizens in India are for that matter in most societies of the Third World are bound to differ from the problem of old persons in the West and other developed societies for, the social institutions, cultural milieu, customs and traditions, religions and community controls as also the individual and group psychology, of the worlds differ substantially.

CONCLUSION :

It may be concluded that the while considering the problems of the old men the differences in the cultural, social, economic and political milieu of not only the different societies should be taken

into account for recommending policy framework but also the differences existing in the same society on the basis of class orientation and accessibility to the existing benefits by different groups should be minutely considered for planning programmes and schedules of the welfare of the aged.

The less articulate downtrodden poorer sections of the society need entirely different priorities, for example, many a problems of the aged would be automatically solved if frontal attack is made on the problems of poverty.

The aged people need care, protection, love, affection, regard and respect which cannot certainly be given in the Homes for the old persons. The family is the only place for them. There is thus a need to consolidate the family bonds in societies where have been shapped and where the process of lossening of these bonds in societies where these have been shapped and where the process of lossening of these bonds has started there is a need of proper social intervention so that these bonds get consolidated and strengthened. The Homes should be opened for the destitutes for the dying old man only.

The senior citizens should start movements in their respective societies so that the process of peace may be rallied together to frustrate war efforts. In peaceful circumstances more and more funds, can be diverted to social security measures including ameliorative measure for the elderly people.

There is an urgent need to restructure in such a manner so as to make social security in-built rather than depending on the whims of politician for the allocation of funds for welfare measures.

8) CHANGING STATUS OF THE AGED IN NORTH INDIAN VILLAGES.⁸

T.M. DAK & M.L. SHARMA

Paper presented in National Seminar in "Aging in India Challenge for society" from April 22-24, 1986.

I) MATERIAL AND METHOD :

The study pertains to two north Indian states of the Punjab and Haryana. Data for the study are drawn from four unreported studies of the aged males and females in four villages, two Punjab (Singh 1962) Indra 1963 and two from Haryana (Singh 1981, Dahiya 1984). Data obtained from Punjab for the years 1962 and 1963 are compared with those of Haryana for 1981 and 1984.

II) RESULTS :

a) The status of the Aged in Punjab :

In most cases, caste, status continues to determine occupation and economic conditions and social relationships. Both are primarily agricultural communities and provide little evidence of urban influence. About three fourth of the people were engaged in agriculture.

b) Socio-economics Status :

More males than females were leading widowed life, the cases of remaining unmarried were also confined to the men only.

Economically, more women than men belonged to lower income groups.

c) Family Structure :

The normative framework provides that the eldest male acts as head of the jointly family who enjoys the authority in matters of property, marriage, work etc. and respect and obedience.

d) Family head :

It appears with the growing age and deteriorating health, next eldest male, frequently the son gradually assumes authority of the head.

e) Marital Status and family head :

The authority of the eldest male finds enforcement till this wife survives who often acts as an important link between her husband and other members of the household especially daughters in law and grand children. With her death the eldest male is no longer able to keep himself in touch with the day to day affairs of the family.

f) Physical care and security :

The aged both males and females were in the grip of in security is more so among the males than among female.

g) Leadership role :

The status and authority of the aged are related to their prominence in village organisations and consultation sought by others, for people returned to them for guidance and direction owing to their experience and maturing of judgement. This was not supported by data. Evidently chronological age did not influence memberships.

II) COMPARISON WITH HARYANA VILLAGES :

All the villagers are multi caste and dominated by Jats, an agricultural caste.

a) Marital Status :

As regards marital status while almost all the aging males were married only about a less than two third of the aging female were having similar status. This means that more females than the male suffer from widowhood. This is in contract to the Punjab where more aging males were didowed than the aging women.

b) Economic Status :

The aged seem to be quite heterogeneous. The aged in Haryana are economically better placed in their counterparts in Punjab and that in Haryana aging women are enjoying better economic status than the aged males.

c) Family structure and Family head :

The derivation from the ideal norm in respect of the family structure was evident in Haryana also, but it was not so pronounced as in the case of Punjab.

The aged male had accepted subordinate position owing mainly to physical incapacity due to growing age, loss or absence of spouse, usurpation of position by the next eldest male or his wife.

d) Age and headship :

With the increasing age, more and more old men assumed subordinate positions in their families, thus giving way to next eldest male.

Workers in Solapur. The present study shall enable the researchers in future to grasp the existing situations of workers.

e) Physical care and security :

Feeling of insecurity and anxiety were in existence among aged. Aged women were also suffering from one or the other major problem viz. physical, psychological economic and social.

f) Leadership role:

Aged men performs leadership functions in affairs beyond those of family, they did so because of attributes other than chronological age. Those who were never consulted belonged to lower castes and poor economic status.

9) AGING PROBLEMS: A STUDY OF RURAL|URBAN DIFFERENTIALS⁹.

R.K.Punia, R.S. Malik, & Deep Punia.

(Research paper presented in National Seminar on "Aging in India:Challenge for Society from April 22-24,1986).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study was conducted with a broder objective to elucidate and compare with 1)Familial life, 2)role participation, 3) economic status,and related problems, 4) health status and stabilities, 5) participation in decision making process,6)opinion about old age, of the aged males living in rural and urban communities.

10) SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE OF RURAL AGED:¹⁰

Malkit Kaur, R.P.Grover &Kusum Aggarwal.

(Research paper presented in Seminar on "Aging in India:Challenge for Society" from April 22-24,1986).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

A multiplicity of factors contribute to the

changing status of the aged in the society, Breakdown of the joint family system has been a very important factor responsible for the changing position of the aged in family. With the high cost of living and increasing materialism, acquisitiveness and individual orientation are on the increase. In competitive society where usefulness is measured by economic yardstick the aged are considered useless. The rapidly technological advancement and its accompanying social change bewilders the aged persons attempts to grabble it. As a result old people are today faced with a number of social economic and psychological problems which need to be understand in order to devise any comprehensive programme of the welfare of the aged.

The present study step in this direction and aims at understanding the socio-economic studies of the aged in the rural family and problems expressed by them.

11) PSYCHOSOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE AGED¹¹

Satnam Kaur & Malkit Kaur.

(Research paper presented in National Seminar on Aging in India : Challenge for Society from April 22-24, 1986).

AIMS OF STUDY :

The present study aim at understanding the conditions of the aged and the psychosocial problems being faced by them.

FINDINGS :

This study shows that inspite of their advancing age about half of the aged were still earning for the whole family and were engaged in agriculture.

They spent their free time in gossiping, playing cards, reading books and religious activities and one third of them experienced difficulty in spending their line.

Lonliness is one of the problems faced by the aged as mentioned by about two third of the respondent.

The shift of decision making from the aged to others was observed only in a few case.

In spite of the problems faced by the aged, majority were satisfied with their life and the main reason mentioned by those who were dissatisfied was that their children did not come upto their expectations. Thus, childrens were the centre of their worries and to see their children well settled was their main ambition.

12) WORK AND LEISURE AMONG THE AGED MALES¹²

A.K.P.T. Singh, T.M. Dak and M.L. Sharma.
(Research paper presented in National Seminar on Aging in India : Challenges for the society from April, 22-24, 1986).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Present study framed with two fold objectives.

- 1) To asses the ability of the aged for work.
- 2) To find out the degree of involvement of the old people in occupational pursuits as also in leisure time activities.

The study was conducted in Hissar district of Haryana state in 1981-82.

FINDINGS:

Contarary to the common notion about poor physical state low work participation and religiosity as the main leisure activity among aged, the present study revealed that most of them feel physically fit to undertake work, claim good health and remain out of bed and keep themselves busy in occupational engagements, for the major part thiiir working time. The leisure hours, which vary from a few hours to full day depending upon engagements are used mainly inplaying cards and discussing and talking covering variety of subjects.

The religiosity which is commonly associated with old age did not find s much support. However, situation in respect of old men in their physical abilities are concerned these needs more attention in any programme of rehabilitation.

13) AGING PROBLEMS IN THE STRUCTURAL CONTEXT¹³

D.S. Nandlal, R.S. Khatri and R.S. Kadian.

(Research paper presented in National Seminar on "Aging in India: Challenges for the Society" from April 22-24, 1986)

OBJECTIVES :

- a) To identify the Socio-cultural psychological and health problems of rural old people.
- b) To study the effects of structural factors on aging problems.

FINDINGS :

The old need to discard the stereotyped attitude of helplessness.

They complain that they are denied the human existence by the children/relatives and they have become head wood and wish early death for themselves.

14) YOUNGER PEOPLES PERCEPTION OF THE AGED¹⁴

Savita Vermani and M.L. Sharma.

(Research paper presented in National Seminar on "Aging in India : Challenges for Society" from 22-24, 1986).

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY :

Findings of the study were as follows :

- a) There is need to educate children about the

need to care for the aged in the community and to see aged as valuable resource. b) The negative attitude of younger generation towards the elders need to be changed by increasing their level of consciousness of the aged in the family and community and their potential development. Majority of the respondents had feelings of discomfort and tension in the presence of the old people. Majority of the respondent from younger generation expressed problems with aged but such feeling tended to decrease with the increase in educational level. Regarding qualities of old people about their behaviour, habits nature way of living, physical outlook etc. majority of the respondent had negative feelings.

15) SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT AMONG RETIRED PERSONS¹⁵;

G.S. Bhatnagar and Mohinder Randhwa.

(Research paper presented in National Seminar on "Aging in India : Challenges for the Society" from April 22-24, 1986).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The present research work was carried out to find out the problems of the retired people in Patiala City of Punjab. One of the important aspects of these problems is the one related to their adjustment in society.

OBJECTIVES:

- a) To find out the level of social adjustment of the retired persons. (b) To find out the socio-economic correlates of social adjustment.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- a) Better educated, economically well-off and persons with an urban background have secured higher scores of social adjustment. (b) An educated persons has a better understanding of life and its problems in a rational manner. (c) One of the major problem faced by most of the older persons is that economic hardship.

The proportion of respondents in the category of higher social adjustment keeps on increasing with increase in income.

The older persons living in urban areas have better facilities to spend their leisure time as compared to the rural residents and they may explain higher level of social adjustment among urban respondent.

- 16) RETIREMENT PROBLEMS OF ARMY PERSONNEL : 16

K.S. Sangwan.

(Research paper presented in Seminar on
"Aging in India: Challenges for Society"
from April 22-24, 1986.

OBJECTIVES :

a) To know the problems of retired army persons. b) To know the Socio-economic background. c) Problems in Civilian life after relivement.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY :

a) The officers were more educated and economically better off than their counterparts in other ranks. b) The persons of other ranks after their retirement participate in domestic and other economic activities to sustain their families where as the officers because of their better economic conditions due to income, land support from children, pension etc. normally do not allow themselves to participate in domestic or economic activities. c) Authoritarian attitude of the officers and their desire to previous identity also do not allow themselves to participate in domestic activites. d) Retired army persons, irrespective of their ranks compalined about the corruption indiscipline and lack of punctuality in civil administration. In addition to this loss of previous status, desire for previous identity and better experience from civil administration and lack of adjustment with their children and neighbours, all this combined together have added in developing their negative attitude towards civil life and hence problem of adjustment for them in civil life. This leads to emotional disturbances for them in civil life. All these problems were very less

among the people of other rank categories because of their participation in domestic activities, adjustment with family members, neighbours.

17) SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT IN OLD AGE¹⁷ :

Saraswati Mishra (1987)

Ph.D.Thesis submitted to Punjab University,
Chandigarh.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The present study is aimed at knowing the correlates of "good adjustment in old age". Therefore, adjustment is the main variable of this investigation.

The term 'Adjustment' in the study refers to the state of harmonious living and it has been defined operationally as the state of respondents personal happiness and satisfaction with the present life.

FINDINGS :

Researcher has elaborated following points in her findings.

- 1) Situational factors.
- 2) Educational Qualifications and preretirement,
- 3) Financial condition,
- 4) Health condition,
- 5) Attitudinal factors,
- 6) Attitude towards social change,
- 7) Attitude towards Non-Interference in the personal affairs of grown-up children,
- 8) Religious beliefs,
- 9) Behavioural features,
- 10) Interaction with family member,
- 11) Interaction with Friends, Neighbours, Relatives and members of voluntry organisation.
- 12) Occupational activity,
- 14) Hobbies,
- 14) Religious activities,
- 15) Overall activities and social interaction.

Aged living in rural, urban and tribal areas need to be studied in deep way. Moreover, studies on the old people and retired people in India have been limited to level of sophistication where sociological theory and generalisation were of no vital concern to the researchers in the field.

The researcher has decided to study on the retired textile mill workers in Solapur because so far no researcher has touched this section of the society. Hence it was necessary to reveal the condition of retired textile workers in Solapur.

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