

Elderly and Changing Role of Families in Punjab: A Gerontological Study of two Cities of Malwa Region

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ABSTRACT

The ageing of the population is an unavoidable and irreversible global phenomenon. Until recently, population ageing was seen as a phenomenon occurring mainly in the developed countries of Europe and North America. It is now recognised that while both developed and developing countries are experiencing growing proportions of elderly, developing countries currently are ageing faster than developed countries. Senior citizens are an integral part of a population of any country who owe respect and attention equally like any other section. However, due to changing family structure and modernization, the elderly population is facing inevitable challenges to live their life respectfully. Elderlies encounter with the problems like loneliness, negligence of them in the family, less or sometimes no importance to them, unhealthiness because of ageing and against no proper treatment. On the other hand, abuses against senior citizens are also common in the Punjabi society. It is very sad that the most of the abusers are members of the family, usually elderly are dependent on these members. The problems of the elderly in modern families and abusive behaviour towards them are serious issues which are to be solved; otherwise, it will harm the physical, mental and emotional condition of elderly in the Indian families inevitably and irreversibly. The paper tries to highlight the correlation between changing roles of families and their negative impacts on the elderly people.

KEYWORDS: Problems of elderly, Family, Abuse, Panjab, Gerontological study.

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