

Perception of Elderly People about Their Family Members: A Study of Haryana

Dr. Rakesh Kumar ^a Dr. Sunil Deswal ^b

^a Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration, M.D. University, Rohtak,

^b Academic Counselor (Public Administration), IGNOU

Email id: ^a rakesh.kumar494@gmail.com & ^b sunil.deswal786@gmail.com

Abstract

Ageing is an emerging phenomenon in India. Traditionally, family played very vital role in social, economic, and psychological support to the elderly people. But the speedy socio-economic transformation has led to multiple changes in the living conditions of the elderly. Consequently, elderly people have lost their social life and social security. Such kinds of changes compel elderly to move into old age homes (OAHs). In India, the concept of OAHs was born for the help of non-resident Indian (NRIs) so that they could go out from the country without any tension of their parents' care. The Constitution of India has mentioned the provision of elderly care in its Article 41 & Article 46. There are some laws namely Section 125 of 'Criminal Procedure Code', Section 20 of 'Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956', and 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act 2007' that provide guaranteed protection to the elderly people in India. In spite of that elderly people are facing problems at either they are living with their family members in more difficult condition or compel to move OAHs. By considering these views, researchers have studied elderly people who live within family and live at OAHs. The study has been conducted in Haryana for knowing the perception of elderly people about their family members..

Keywords: Old Age Home, Elderly People and Perception

1. Introduction

Ageing is an emerging phenomenon in the Indian context as India is the most populated country after China in the world along with improved life expectancy. It is important to note that there are more than 100 million older persons in India at present and the number is growing day by day. It will be reached 323 million by 2050 (India Demographic Profile, 2013). Values and culture of Indian society not only support elderly people but also give respect to them in their family as well as in society. In present scenario, number of issues like lack of resources, over-population, absence of moral values, increasing nuclear families pattern, etc. are impacting adversely on the life of elderly people and beginning to be considered them as a problem. In addition to that the unwanted behaviour of children is also encountered by elderly people that increase their discomfort zone (Coleman, J. & R. Gressey, 1986). Traditionally, family played very vital role as it provides social, economic, and psychological support to the individual at every stage of life. Elderly enjoyed undisputed power and authority in family. The socio-psychological adaption, economic or attitudinal adjustment, health and social problems of the aged were so inter-related that it was difficult to separate one from the others. But the speedy socio-economic transformation has led to multiple changes in the living conditions of the elderly. Majority of elderly people are not looked after properly as younger generation is busy due to their tight work schedule. Thus, elderly people have to face many problems like tension, depression, frustration, unnecessary fear, distress, anxiety, etc. (Patil, S.S & S.K. Itagi, 2013). Consequently, elderly people loss their social life, social security and opportunities to do creative things in free time. This situation may also be occurs due to changes in the

behaviour of family members towards their elderly people. Such kinds of changes compel elderly to move into old age homes (Vanitha, D, 2014).

Nowadays, the old age institutions are essential as they are necessary to take care of the lonely in the evening of their lives. Whenever the family member does not support to the aged, the society has to take the burden to look after them. The idea of “institutionalization” of the old age homes (OAHs) has been taken from the western countries (Devi, L. & K.S. Roopa, 2013). In India, the concept of OAHs was born for the help of non-resident Indian (NRIs) so that they could go out from the country without any tension of their parents’ care. Thus, the OAHs were associated with the coming out of nuclear family system (Rajagopal, V., 2017). But, in modern society, the question arises whether OAHs are necessary for all the aged in India. According to P.N Sati (1996), “the Homes for the aged are not necessary for all the aged. Homes for aged are good only for the destitute aged or where the aged people are neglected and rejected by their own family members...”

In reference to the rights of the elderly in India, the Constitution has mentioned the provision of elderly care in its Article 41 & Article 46. Moreover, some laws namely Section 125 of ‘Criminal Procedure Code’, Section 20 of ‘Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956’, and ‘Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act 2007’ provide guaranteed protection to the elderly people in India (<https://districts.ecourts...>). In exercise of the powers conferred by the ‘Senior Citizens Act, 2007’, the Governor of Haryana made the rules for the senior citizen under entitled ‘Haryana Maintenance of Parents and Senior Citizen Rules 2009’. It stated that all OAHs in Haryana which funded by state grant shall be liable to accommodate such senior citizen who seeks help under the Act before the Tribunal if so ordered by the Tribunal. The facilities shall be provided to these senior citizens on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to the other inmates in these homes. All the Tribunal shall have the authority to refer the applicants to these homes keeping in view their economic status (<https://www.latestlaws.com...>). In this context, on December 11, 2019 the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment introduced ‘the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019’ in the Lok Sabha. Later on, the bill was referred to the standing committee for further examination. The committee has submitted its report on 29th January 2021. The bill proposes to expand the scope of the ‘Senior Citizen Act 2007’. It expands the definition of children, relatives and parents, remove the upper limit on the maintenance amount payable to parents by children and relatives, and provide for care-homes and other welfare measures for senior citizens (<https://prsindia.org/...>).

It needs to be mentioned here that presently the Haryana state is shifting from agriculture based economy to industrial based economy. This shift in the economy of the state increase in per capita income and of course improvement in the living standard of the people of the state. This improvement in the form of chain reaction affects on the demographic aspects of the state. Industrial, urbanization and modernization have changed the values of the society of Haryana which resulted into the change of role and status of elderly persons. In past few years elderly population and problems related to elderly have been increasing in Haryana. Family which was considered as an ideal institution for taking care of the elderly, but presently this perception have been changing as many elderly people living with their family members in more difficult condition. (Kumkum, Pareek & Kush Tulika, 2015). By keeping in the mind of this view, the present study has been conducted with the help of following objectives.

2. Objectives of the Study

1. To know the perception of elderly people about their family members.
2. To study the purpose of working of elderly people in old age.

3. Research Methodology

The study has been conducted in Haryana State. Purposively, those districts of the state have been selected in which Old Age Homes are functional. Thus, researchers found seven districts viz. Rohtak, Karnal, Jind, Sonapat, Kaithal, Rewari, and Faridabad. From these districts such Old Age Homes have been studied which are more functional as compare to their counterparts. The population of the respondents was 404 elderly persons who live in these selected Old Age Homes. For the purpose of accuracy in the research, 50 percent (202 elderly persons) respondents of these functional Old Age Homes have been studied. In addition to that to check the responses of the elderly who live within family randomly one nearby village of the selected Old Age Homes is also studied. Equal number (202) of elderly persons has been studied from these villages. Therefore, total 404 elderly persons have been studied with the help of well structured schedule method.

4. Data Analysis

Perception is strong psychological creative force of human organism. It is only through perception that a person creates his unique world and limits his world. A person pays attention or ignores someone through it. In

Perception of Elderly People about Their Family Members: A Study of Haryana

other words, how the world is seen counts much more than any true objective reality. Primarily, perception is a cognitive process. It discusses and explains the environmental situation. It also expresses the individual view about reality. Therefore, researchers made an attempt to know the perception of elderly people about their family members especially about their daughter, daughter-in-law and spouse. Hence, the data have been collected and depicted below in Table 1, 2 and 3. In addition to that, researchers made an effort to study the purpose of working of elderly people in their old age. The related data have been illustrated in Table 4.

1.1 Perception of Elderly People about Daughter

Table 1

Perception of Elderly People about Daughter N=404

Type of Residence	Do you agree that daughters are more responsible than sons in taking care of their parents?		Total
	Yes	No	
Within Family	103 (50.99%)	99 (49.01%)	202 (100%)
Old Age Home	107 (52.97%)	95 (47.03%)	202 (100%)
Total	210 (51.98%)	194 (48.02%)	404 (100%)

Source: Primary Data

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.159 ^a	1	.690		
Continuity Correction ^b	.089	1	.765		
Likelihood Ratio	.159	1	.690		
Fisher's Exact Test				.765	.383
Linear-by-Linear Association	.158	1	.691		
N of Valid Cases	404				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 97.00.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table.

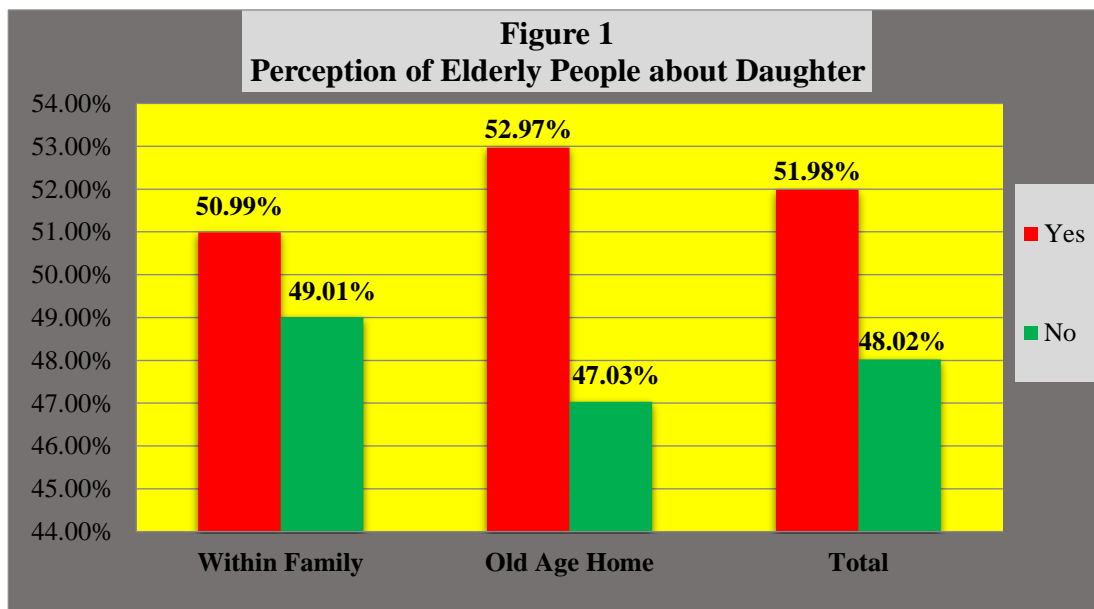


Table and figure 1 expose that more than one-half (51.98 percent) of the total respondents agreed that daughters are more responsible than sons in taking care of their parents. They stated that daughters always stand first to help in domestic work and have more understanding and attachment with their parents as compare to sons. Moreover, daughters try to keep family under one shelter. Whereas, less than one-half (48.02 percent) of the total respondents denied about the daughters are more responsible than sons. They replied that daughters get

praised even for a little thing. In case of respondents belong to within family, slightly more than one-half (50.99 percent) of these respondents agreed that daughters are more responsible than sons. Similarly, more than half (52.97 percent) of the old age home respondents responded same on this aspect.

In addition to that, the chi-square test has been applied for comparing the answer of the respondents who belong to within family and old age home in reference to the daughters are more responsible than sons. The significant value of the test has been calculated as 0.690 which is higher than 0.05. It can be concluded that responses of both (live within family and in old age home) kind of respondents are same. Hence, there is no difference between the respondents belong to live within family and old age home on the aspect of daughters are more responsible than sons. As a result, slightly more than one-half of the total respondents agree that daughters are more responsible than sons in take care of their parents.

1.2 Perception of Elderly People about Daughter-in-Law

Table 2

Perception of Elderly People about Daughter-in-Law N= 404

Types of Residence	Do you think daughter-in-law play important role in your life?			Total
	Yes	No	No Answer	
Within Family	138 (68.32%)	44 (21.78%)	20 (9.90)	202 (100%)
Old Age Home	175 (86.63%)	00	27 (13.37%)	202 (100%)
Total	313 (77.48%)	44 (10.89%)	47 (11.63%)	400 (100%)

Source: Primary data

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	49.416 ^a	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	66.427	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	4.856	1	.028
N of Valid Cases	404		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 22.00.

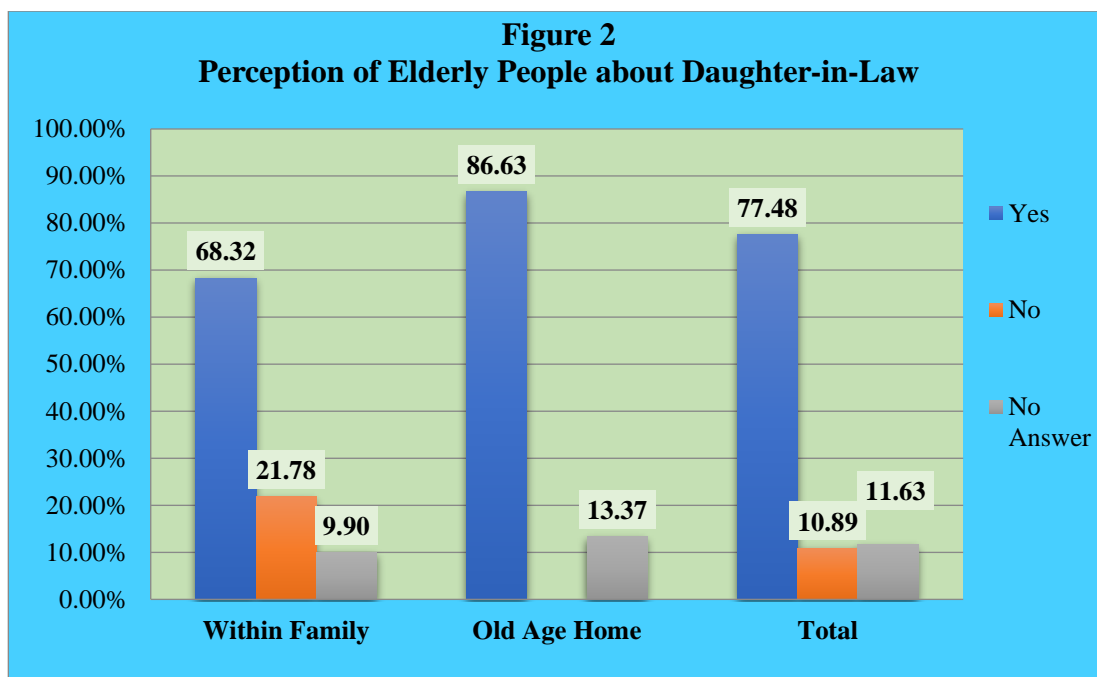


Table & Figure 2 shows the role of daughter-in-law in the life of old age persons. Out of total 404 respondents, three-fourth (77.48%) respondents stated that daughter-in-law play very vital role in their life while 11.63 percent respondents did not give any answer and one-tenth (10.89%) respondents don't think that daughter-in-law play important role in their life. More than two-third (68.32%) respondents of within family said that daughter in law play significant role in their life. As far as respondents of old age homes are concerned, more than four-fifth (86.63%) respondents also stated that daughter in law play significant role in their life.

Moreover, the chi-square test has been applied to know the relation between the respondents who live within family and in old age home in respect to the role of daughter in law in their life. The significant value of the test was calculated as .000 which is less than 0.05. It can be concluded that the role of daughter in law in the life of respondents is different. Thus, there is much difference between the respondents of within family and in old age home related to the role of daughter in law in their life.

1.3 Perception of Elderly People about Spouse

Table 3
Perception of Elderly People about Spouse N=404

Type of Residence	Do you think that spouse is important in old age?		Total
	Yes	No	
Within Family	170 (84.16%)	32 (15.84%)	202 (100%)
Old Age Home	171 (84.65%)	31 (15.35%)	202 (100%)
Total	341 (84.41%)	63 (15.59%)	404 (100%)

Source: Primary Data

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.019 ^a	1	.891		
Continuity Correction ^b	.000	1	1.000		
Likelihood Ratio	.019	1	.891		
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000	.500
Linear-by-Linear Association	.019	1	.891		
N of Valid Cases	404				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 31.50.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table.

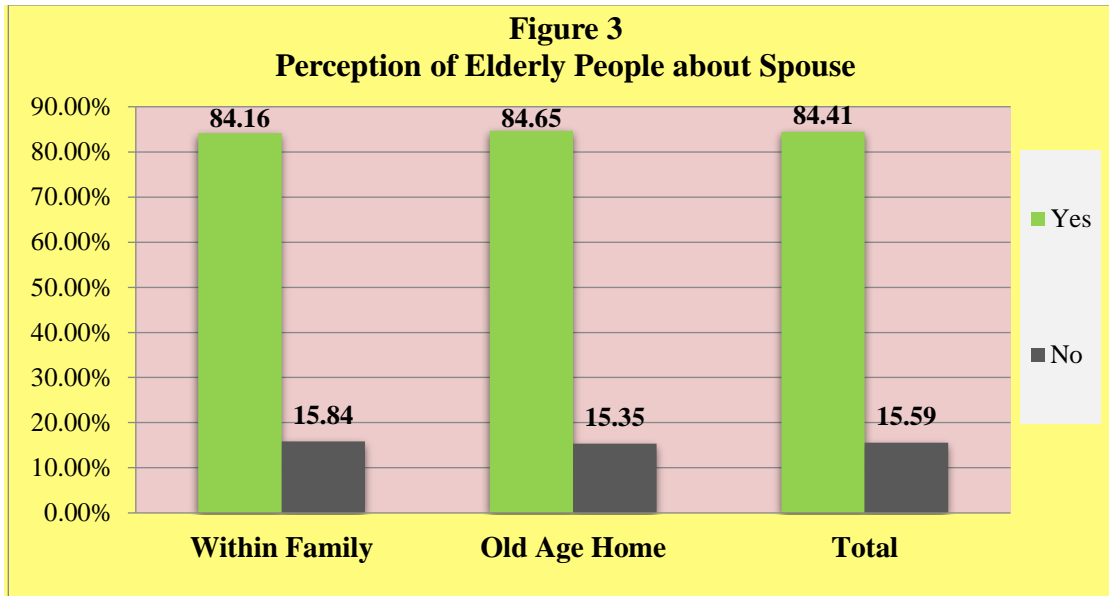


Table and figure 3 depict that a vast majority (84.41 percent) of the total respondents replied positively that they are agreed that spouse is important in old age. They stated that with their spouse they are able to share their ideas and happy moments of their life. In case of respondents who live within family, four-fifth (84.16 percent) of these respondents also replied affirmatively. In respect to the respondents who live in old age home, four-fifth (84.64 percent) of these respondents agreed about that spouse is important in old age.

In addition to that, the chi-square test has been used for knowing the relation between the respondents who belong to old age home and within family in respect of the spouse is important in old age. The significant value of the test is calculated as 0.891 which is higher than 0.05. So, it can be concluded that the responses among the respondents who belong to within family and old age home are same. Hence, there is a no difference between the responses of the old age home respondents and within family respondents. In brief, a vast majority of the total respondents agreed that spouse is important in old age.

2 Purpose of Working at old Age

Table 4

Purpose of Working in Old Age

N=404

Type of Residence	What is your purpose of working at this age?				Total
	Time Spend	Income	Work is Worship	Health	
Within Family	108 (53.47%)	05 (02.47%)	68 (33.66%)	21 (10.40%)	202 (100%)
Old Age Home	12 (05.94%)	18 (08.91%)	29 (14.36%)	143 (70.79%)	202 (100%)
Total	120 (29.70%)	23 (05.69%)	97 (24.01%)	164 (40.60%)	404 (100%)

Source: Primary Data

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	190.584 ^a	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	214.108	3	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	140.612	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	404		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.50.

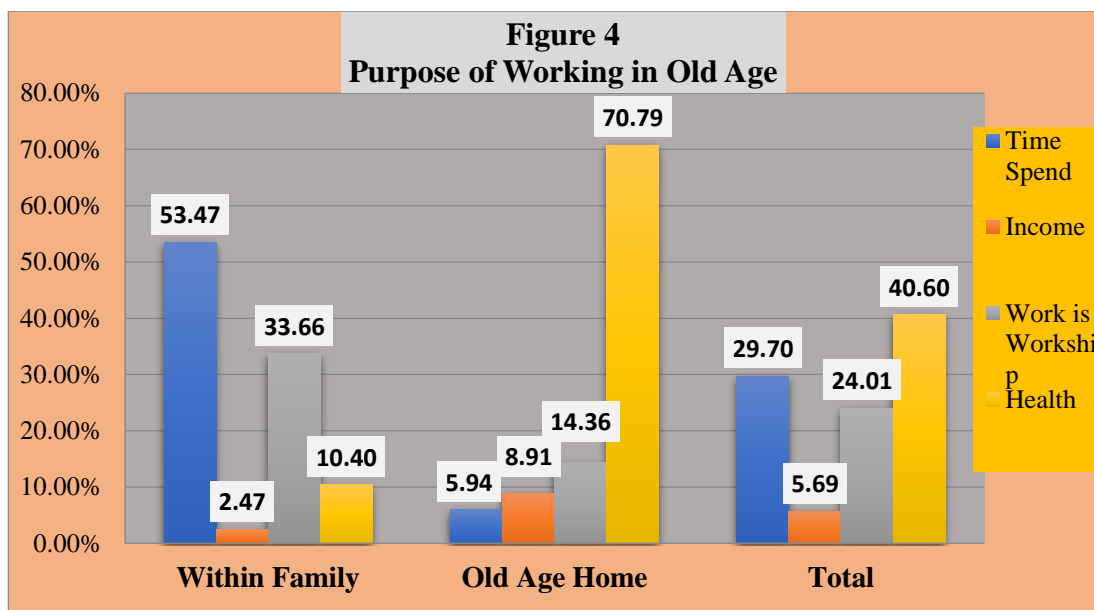


Table and figure 5 highlight that slightly more than two-fifth (40.60 percent) of the total respondents mentioned that to maintain their health is the main reason of their working in old age. They stated that indulge themselves in work keep them fit. Whereas, more than one-fourth (29.70 percent) of the total respondents replied that time spend is the main reason behind working in old age. In context of respondents belong to within family, more than one-half (53.47 percent) of these respondents claimed that time spend is the main purpose of working at old age. In case of old age home respondents, more than two-third (70.79 percent) of these respondents stated that they work at old age home to keep them healthy.

In addition to that the chi-square test has been applied for comparing the result of the respondents who belongs to within family and old age home about the purpose of working in old age. The significant value of the test has been calculated as 0.000 which is less than 0.05. It can be concluded that responses among the respondents who belong to within family and old age home are not same. Hence, there is a difference in the responses of the respondents who belong to within family and old age home. Thus, it is obviously clear that slightly more than two-fifth of the total respondents works in old age to keep them healthy.

5. Findings

- Slightly more than one-half (51.98 percent) of the total respondents agree that daughters are more responsible than sons in take care of their parents. (Table 1)
- Majority (77.48%) of the total respondents stated that daughter-in-law play very vital role in their life. (Table 2)
- A vast majority (84.41 percent) of the total respondents agreed that spouse is important in old age. (Table 3)
- Slightly more than two-fifth (40.60 percent) of the total respondents works in old age to keep them healthy. (Table 4)

6. Suggestions

- Children may focus on understanding the physical, social and emotional requirements of the elderly people so that the elderly can feel that they are cared and loved by their children.
- With the help of education, values for guardians' caring can be inculcated in the children.
- Message regarding importance of elderly people in the family can be given with the help of movies, street play and short stories.
- Workshops and seminars on related to senior citizen may be conducted by experts.
- Cultural and recreational activities may be organized to keep the elderly physically and psychologically fit.

7. Conclusion

Ageing describes the process of growing old. It has become the most significant aspect in the 21st century. It brings opportunities not only for their families but also for their societies. Older people contribute to their families and communities in many ways such as provide social security, share life experiences, pass cultural

values, make aware about custom and traditions, etc. Yet the older person are considered as a burden and neglected by their family members. Therefore, there is a need to inculcate ethical values among the new generation and make aware the society about the importance of older person. It can help to develop a happy and prosperous society in which older person could get respect as well as live happily with their families.

References

- [1] Coleman, J. & R. Gressey, (1986), "Social Problem", Harper and Row, New York, pp. 83-84.
- [2] Devi, Laxmi & K.S. Roopa, (2013): "Quality of Life of Elderly Men and Women in Institutional and Non-Institutional Setting in Urban Bangalore District", Research Journal of Family, Community and Consumer Sciences, volume 1(3), pp. 07-13.
- [3] <https://districts.ecourts.gov.in/sites/default/files/1-Maintenance%20-%20by%20Smt%20YJ%20Padmasree.pdf>, Visited on 14 Feb 2021, Time 06:09 AM.
- [4] <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-maintenance-and-welfare-of-parents-and-senior-citizens-amendment-bill-2019>, Visited on 10/01/2021, Time 05:30 PM.
- [5] <https://www.latestlaws.com/bare-acts/state-acts-rules/haryana-state-laws/haryana-maintenance-of-parents-and-senior-citizen-rules-2009/>, Visited on 9/01/2021, Time 05:55 PM
- [6] India Demographic Profile, (2013), Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner India. Retrieved from http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/SRS_report2013, Visited on 07/02/2021, Time 10:09PM.
- [7] Kumkum, Pareek. & Kush Tulika, (2015), "A Comparative Study of the Relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Life Satisfaction Among Elders of Homes and Institutions", Indian Journal of Health and Wellbeing, vol. 6, Issue 1, pp. 94-95.
- [8] Patil, S.S. & S.K. Itagi, (2013), "Distress Status Among Institutionalized and Non-Institutionalized Senior Citizen", Karnataka Journal of Agriculture Science, Vol. 26 (2), pp.251-257.
- [9] Rajagopal, V., (2017), "Old Age Homes as a Fact of Life", The Hindu, 19 August 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/open-page/old-age-homes-as-a-fact-of-life/article19523768.ece>, Visited on 05/01 2021, Time 06:30 AM.
- [10] Vanitha, D. (2014), "Institutional Care of the Elderly: A Study of Old Age Homes in Hassan City, Karnataka, India", International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies, Volume 1, No. 5, pp. 100-107.