

# To Study the Socio-Economic Status of the Elderly Before Shifting to Old Age Homes in Chhattisgarh State

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## Abstract

Globalization calls for more elderly people and according to statistics, the majority of them are in developing countries such as India. Senior financial situations have a major effect on the quality of life for them, as well as on other aspects of their housing. This study aimed to analyze the economic and housing conditions of the elderly before shifting to old age homes in Chhattisgarh, India. The primary data collection was used by random sampling methods with a pretested interview schedule. The data were collected from 100 samples gathered from four old-age homes in the Chhattisgarh state. It was found that most of the people living in the older age homes used to work as daily wage laborers before coming to the home. The average annual income of the respondents was very low and it is clear that their annual income was sufficient only for fulfilling their basic needs and for the maintenance of the family and this annual income is not sufficient to secure their old age. The study findings highlight the urgent need for targeted financial assistance and housing support to enhance the quality of life for elderly individuals in these communities.

**Keywords:** Elderly, old age home, housing conditions, economic conditions.

## Introduction

Globalization calls for more elderly people and according to statistics, the majority of them are in developing countries such as India. According to the current census, the population of old people of 60+ years in India will be around 10% in 2021, and it will increase dramatically in the future years (United Nations, 2021). With such demographic changes, there is therefore a general information gap on the current and previous housing status of members in elderly homes, types of structures, the number of rooms they occupied previously, and their previous working statuses. In this case, they have a significant responsibility of defining their standards of living, health, and living status. Before entering old age homes, elderly people regularly deal with hazardous residential situations. The analysis from HelpAge India in 2016 shows that a considerable fraction of the elderly live in inadequate housing conditions, and a large part of them can't afford to own their homes. Having good quality housing stability is important for making progress in health—dwelling in unhygienic conditions can intensify both mental and physical health issues (Basu & Mitra, 2019). So, the National Sample Survey Office (2019) notes that many older adults in India reside in *kachcha* houses, which can best be described as unstable and usually lack the fundamentals.

There appears to be a major variance in the types of housing occupied by older adults, based on housing typologies. Even though some can dwell in *pakka* houses made with durable building materials, a lot still exists in *kachcha* homes famous for their weak architecture (Kumar et al., 2020). Differences in housing quality could result in serious health differences within the senior community. According to Patel and Chatterjee (2021), higher-quality housing for the elderly is linked to both improved mental health and heightened overall life satisfaction, in contrast with those in lower-quality housing. How many rooms there are in a house critically influences the accommodations intended for senior citizens. The analysis indicates that those in spacious homes generally report superior social interaction and superior access to networks of support (Srivastava & Kumar, 2020).

Senior financial situations have a major effect on the quality of life for them, as well as on other aspects of their housing. The data points out that a large fraction of older individuals surveyed said they engage in daily wage labor, and several mentioned they were jobless (Bhatia et al., 2021). In India, insufficient social security schemes contribute to worsening economic instability, which typically cannot furnish enough help for the elderly (Rao & Sharma, 2022). The previous employment of older adults prior to entering assisted living communities has an important effect on both their financial status and their total health. Findings show that a large fraction of senior individuals is working in entry-level capacities including daily wage labor, incapable of providing a stable income (Kumar & Gupta, 2020). Abnormally, this ambiguous working status can allow people to adequately support themselves in their retirement, which makes entering a home for the elderly a need instead of an option. The issues at hand are that the lack of job security combined with limited opportunities for growth constitute a cycle of poverty that a lot of older individuals have difficulty in getting away from (Sharma & Singh, 2018). For us to create valuable policies that promote lifetime quality, we need comprehensive insights into the housing scenarios and work situations of our older population. The Indian government has prepared policies that promote responsible fulfillment of the needs of the elderly through a plethora of programs including pension and health care schemes. Despite that, a considerable difference remains between the policy implementation and the actual needs of seniors (Bhatia et al., 2021). The present study was formulated with the following research objectives:

1. To analyze the economic conditions of the elderly before shifting to the old age home, and
2. To study the housing conditions of the elderly before shifting to the old age home.

## Methodology

The study took place in old age homes of Bilaspur, Durg, Korba, and Mahasamund districts in Chhattisgarh. 100 samples were gathered from four old age homes namely Kalyan Kunj Vriddhaashram, Bilaspur, Aasiyana Vriddhaashram, Daldali Road, Mahasamund, Vriddhaashram, Pulgaon, Durg, and Prashanti Vriddhaashram, Korba. The primary data collection was used by random sampling methods with a pre-tested interview schedule. The obtained data have been analyzed by using appropriate statistical tools and categorized in the table for interpretation.

## Results and discussion

As society ages, it becomes important to understand the circumstances of the elderly. Their occupation and homes determine the quality of life of the elderly. The better the occupation, the better the income and home. The data given in the tables describes the occupation, annual income, and household structure of the elderly before shifting to the old age home.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on their occupation before living in the old age home**

S. No.	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No occupation (household work)	25	25.00
2.	Agriculture	6	6.00
3.	Agriculture labor	7	7.00
4.	Daily wage labor	30	30.00
5.	Business	19	19.00
6.	Private job	19	19.00
7.	Government job	1	1.00
<i>*Frequency is based on multiple responses</i>			

To live a respectable life and fulfill the basic family needs of daily life, it is necessary to have some source of income. The financial condition of a person can improve only when he has a good source of income. Having a good financial condition not only helps in fulfilling the daily needs of the family but also provides security for the future. The information was collected from the respondents living in the old age home about the sources of income available to them before coming to the old age home, which is depicted in Table 1. The data shows that before coming to the old age home, the majority of the respondents (30.00%) were engaged in daily wage work, followed by engaged in household work or no occupation especially women (25.00%), business (19.00%), private job (19.00%), agricultural labour (7.00%), and agriculture (6.00%). While only 1.00 per cent of the respondents were engaged in a government job.

Based on the data obtained, it can be concluded that most of the elderly living in old age homes used to work as daily wage laborers before coming to the old age home. Also, 25.00 per cent of the respondents did not have any work, most of whom were women. It is clear from these figures that most of the elderly living in old age homes did not have good sources of income, due to which their financial condition was poor.

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on their annual income before living in the old age home**

S. No.	Income (in Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
1.	< 50,000/-	35	46.05
2.	50,000/- to 1,00,000/-	34	44.74
3.	1,00,001/- to 1,50,000/-	5	6.58
4.	1,50,001/- to 2,00,000/-	1	1.32
5.	> 2,00,000/-	1	1.32
<b>Total</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

Annual income is very important to secure the future. When the income is sufficient, it can be used to fulfill daily needs as well as to maintain the family and to create movable and immovable assets for future needs, which can be used in old age. Therefore, the respondents living in old age homes were asked about their annual income before coming to the old age home and the data obtained is shown in Table 2. The data express that the majority of the respondents (46.05%) had annual income less than 50,000/-, followed by 44.74 per cent of the respondents whose annual income was less than 50,000/- to 1,00,000/-. Whereas, the annual income of 6.58, 1.32, and 1.32 of the respondents were between 1,00,001/- to 1,50,000/-, between 1,50,001/- to 2,00,000/-, and more than 2,00,000/- respectively.

From the above data, it can be concluded that the annual income of most of the people living in old age homes was very low and it is clear that before coming to the old age home, their annual income was sufficient only for fulfilling their basic needs and for the maintenance of the family and this annual income was not sufficient to secure their old age. On this basis, it can be said that before coming to the old age home, the financial condition of about 46.00 per cent of the elderly was very bad.

**Table 3: Distribution of respondents by home ownership**

S. No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage
<b>A.</b>	<b>Do you have your own house?</b>		
1.	Yes	22	22.00
2.	No	78	78.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Type of house</b>		
1.	<i>Kachcha</i>	3	13.64
2.	<i>Pakka</i>	16	72.73
3.	<i>Kachcha-Pakka</i> Mix	3	13.64
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Number of rooms</b>		
1.	One	1	4.55
2.	Two	6	27.27
3.	Three	2	9.09
4.	More than three	13	59.09
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Shelter is a basic necessity for living a normal life and in its absence, it becomes very difficult for a person to live a normal life, especially in old age. Therefore, information was collected from the elderly living in the old age home about the condition of the house owned by them before coming to the old age home, and at present, the data of which is shown in Table 3. The data shows that the majority of the respondents (78.00%) did not own a house, while 22.00 per cent of the respondents owned a house before coming to the old age home. The data also shows that out of the total 22 respondents who had their own house, when asked about the type of their house, it was found that 72.73 per cent of the respondents had a *pakka* house. While an equal percentage (13.64%) of the respondents had a *kachcha* and *kachcha-pakka* mixed-type house before going to the old age home. It was also found that 59.09 per cent of the respondents had more than room in their house, 27.27 per cent of the respondents had two rooms in their house, 9.09 per cent of the respondents had three rooms in their house and 4.55 per cent of the respondents had only one room in their house.

It can be concluded, from the finding that the majority of the respondents did not have a house before coming to the old age home. Among those who had their own house, most of the respondents had *pakka* houses with more than three rooms.

### Conclusion

The study findings reveal that the elderly residing in old age homes in Chhattisgarh face significant financial and housing challenges. Most respondents had low annual incomes, with 46 per cent earning less than 50,000/-, primarily relying on unstable daily wage work. Additionally, 78 per cent did not own

a house before shifting to old age homes, highlighting their vulnerability. These findings underscore the urgent need for targeted financial assistance and housing support to enhance the quality of life for elderly individuals in these communities.

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