



**ISSN : 0973-7057**

## **A case study on identification of problems of elder women abuse and finding solution for them**

**Archana Kumari<sup>a\*</sup>**

KVK, Bihar Agricultural University, Manjhi, Gopalganj, Bihar

*Received , 21th December, 2014; Revised: 27th January, 2015*

**Abstract :**India is growing old! The stark reality of the ageing scenario in India is that there are 77 million older persons in India today, and the number is growing to grow to 177 million in another 25 years. With life expectancy having increased from 40 years in 1951 to 64 years today, a person today has 20 years more to live than he would have 50 years back.

However, this is not without problems. With this kind of an ageing scenario, there is pressure on all aspects of care for the older persons – be it financial, health or shelter. As the twenty first century arrives, the growing security of older persons in India is very visible. With older people living longer, the households are getting smaller and congested, causing stress in joint and extended families. Even where they are co residing marginalization, isolation and insecurity is felt among the older persons due to the generation gap and change in lifestyles.

In this context a study was conducted to understand the feeling of elderly residing in the family setup in the Chapra district. The sample of elderly women was selected using the purposively” sampling” technique to select 100 elderly women from the family setup. Among the 100 women, 50elderly were widows of farmer and 50 elderly were widow of serviceman. The data was collected using a specially designed interview schedule and observation technique through a door to door survey for these residing in the families. Non working status of these women and above 60 years of age was criteria for sample selection. Results of the study revealed that most of the elderly felt the attitude of the younger generation unsatisfactory. In terms of getting respect, love and affection from the family members instead they were considered as burden for other. Women living in the families had negative attitude towards old age because they were neglected by off spring.

**.Keywords: problem, elder women, solution.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Elder abuse and neglect, despite denials from certain sources, are not new phenomenon in India. But, as a subject worthy of serious academic inquiry and concerted action, it has begun to receive attention only at the turn to the 21<sup>st</sup> century when the rapidly growing numbers and proportions of older persons in the population is gradually being acknowledged as a significant group having rights, requiring care, services and programs for living a life of dignity and respect Shankardass, 2003. Responsibility of taking care of older persons and protecting them

traditionally has fallen on individuals in the family and the community. Yet, family and community are now recognized as being responsible for elder abuse and neglect, though defining it is still controversial Shankardass, 2004 The issue of abuse and neglect in India, as elsewhere in many other countries too, has been associated more with children and women. For older people, it is still under recognized and insufficiently acknowledged. This is mainly due to absence of valid statistics and systematic collection of facts related to the problem, limited studies, inadequate documentation notwithstanding under reporting as well as lack of conceptual and definitional clarity, a taboo on discussing the subject and the consistent denial by family members that abuse takes place in their homes (Shankardass, 2003 it In fact in 1990 a national survey conducted on prevalence of elder abuse indicated that 1 in

---

\*Corresponding author :

Phone: 0

E-mail :

25 people over the age of 65 and living in the community suffered some form of abuse (Podnieks, et al, 1990). In the developing countries of Asia, which are only recently recognized as ageing societies, concern with elder abuse and neglect has emerged only from the late 1990s or from the beginning of this century. Quite clearly, as demographic transitions are taking place in most countries and there are increases in the number of older people, greater emphasis is being brought to the concepts of successful ageing and this is inducing attention in the respective nations and in the world to the incidence, risk and vulnerabilities of older people for abuse and neglect. . Declaration were adopted, which states that “*Governments are also being encouraged to develop and fund a National comprehensive strategy and Agenda to prevent, detect and intervene in elder abuse*” (Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 2002), the concern for elder abuse and neglect requires immediate attention, policy response and societal interventions to reduce abusive environments and adopt combating strategies from the perspective of older people and those involved with the care of them. It is important that there be more studies of elder abuse and neglect, though these are difficult to conduct and attempts made to assess systematically the extent and nature

In India, with increases in the older population, defined as 60 years and above, currently almost 8% of the total population, projected to be 142 million by 2020 from the 77 million as per the 2001 census, the issue of elder abuse and neglect can no longer be ignored and go unrecognized. Also, with the National Policy on Older Persons in place since 1999 and National Council for Older Persons established in the country, elder abuse and neglect as a concern requires action for combating it from the government and society. Further, with India participating in the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in 2002 where the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Political of it in different parts of the country and also at the national level.

There are no reliable national level data in India on the prevalence and incidence of elder abuse and neglect. In fact to a large extent it is hidden by older people, their

families and communities, as people and government do not want to acknowledge, see hear or talk about this sort of behavior, which is absolutely contradictory to the value system of compassion and support prevalent in Indian society. It is true that elder abuse and neglect are difficult to quantify as these occur in the privacy of the home, institutions and reporting systems for elder abuse are almost absent in the country. There is no mandatory mechanism to report mistreatment, neglect or abuse of older people in Indian society unlike in some western countries. Nonetheless, there are extrapolations that elder abuse in India, in all communities and across all sections of the society, is on the rise Directed towards addressing the multitude of issues related to the abuse makes it clear that abuse and neglect of older people is emerging as a widespread serious problem. Evidence of growing incidence and prevalence is also being estimated by increases of old age homes and demand for institutional care.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The study was conducted to understand the feeling of elderly residing in the family setup in the four different villages of Chapra district like Chainpur, Maripur, Harinarayan chapra and Gurdaha The sample of elderly women was selected using the” purposively sampling” technique to select 100 elderly women from the family setup. Among the 100 women, twenty five elderly from each village were selected, 50 elderly were widow of farmer and other 50 were widows of serviceman. The data was collected using a specially designed interview schedule and observation technique through a door to door survey for these residing in the families. Non working status of these women and above 60 years of age was criteria for sample selection.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

One of the parts of the present study as to assess the socio-economic characteristics of both elderly respondents. Through the socioeconomic condition we could analyze the condition of elderly.

**Archana Kumari :A case study on identification of problems of elder women abuse and finding solution for them**

**Table-1: Profile of the Elderly women**

	Literacy		Family type		Family size		Size of the holding		Income group		
	Literate	illiterate	Nuclear	joint	Medium	Large	Marginal	Small	L	M	H
No. of respondents	29	71	17	83	28	72	67	33	19	54	27

By seeing this table-1, it may be observed that 29 percent elderly women were literate and 71 percent were illiterate, 17percent respondents were residing in nuclear family and83percent were in joint family. Out of 100 respondents, 72 respondents constituted large family and28 constituted medium families. Regarding size of

holding it may be observed that67percent families were from marginal size of holdings and33% were small size of holdings. Among the 100 women, 27 were from high, 54 were from medium and19 were from low in income group. So here the aim is to cover various categories of elderly women.

**Table-2: Off spring spend money on elderly**

SN	No. of participants	Don't want to spend	percent	Less spend	percent	Moderate spend	percent
1	Elderly widow of farmer 50	19	19	18	18	13	13
2	Elderly widow of service man 50	2	2	31	31	17	17
Total	100	21	21	49	49	30	30

It may be observed from the Table -2 that out of 100 elderly women 21 percent told that their offspring don't want to spend money on them, 49 percent agreed with the fact their offspring spend less money and 30 percent

agreed that money was spend moderately.

So we can conclude that most of the family spends less on the elderly people existing in their family.

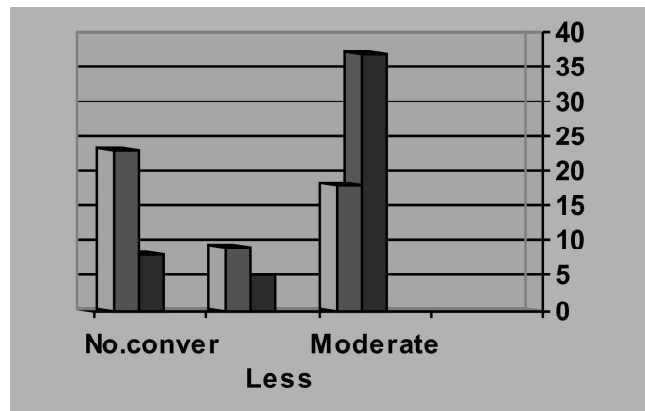
**Table-3: Barred conversation with neighbours**

No. of participants	No conversation	Less conversation	Free for conversation
Elderly widow of farmer50	31	12	7
Elderly widow of service man50	17	15	18
	48	27	25

We can say by seeing above Table No. 3 that about 50 percent elderly women has been barred to communicate with neighbors, 25 percent elderly were allowed for less conversation and 25 percent were allowed for free

conversation with neighbors.

So as a matter of fact it can be concluded that most of elderly were restricted to share their feeling.



**Graph 1: Barred conversation with stranger**

After observing the bar diagram above, we can conclude that about 31 percent elderly women were not allowed for conversation with stranger, 14 percent were allowed to talk to some extent and about 54percent

respondents were allow to talk moderately. So we can conclude that majority of elderly were allowed to talk moderately with stranger.

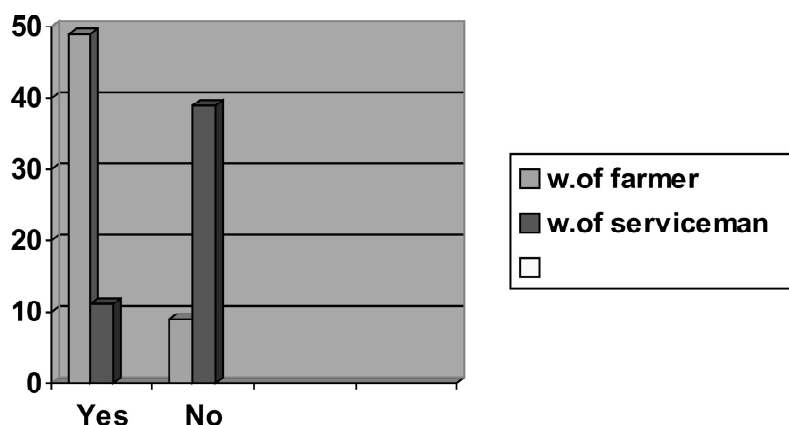
**Table4: No consultation in family decisions**

SN	No. of participants	No consultation	If necessary	Always
1	Elderly widow of farmer 50	28	18	4
2	Elderly widow of service man 50	12	21	17
	100	40	39	21

From the above table no.4 we can conclude that 40 percent family member did not consult their elders in family decision, 39 percent of them consulted elderly if necessary

and 21percent always consulted their elderly.

It concludes that maximum number of family members neglect their elderly.



**Graph 2: Disrespect by family member**

From the bar diagram above, we can conclude that out of 100 elderly about 60percent elderly agreed that they are not getting proper respect and 40 of them told that

they were getting proper respect. So majority did not get their share of respect.

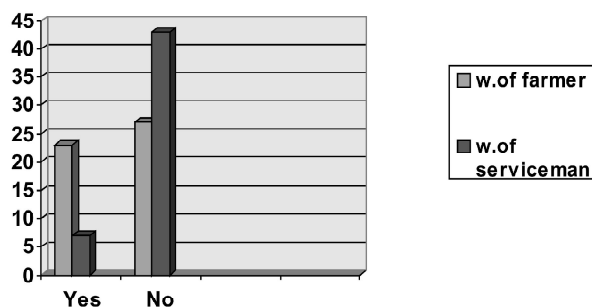
**Archana Kumari :A case study on identification of problems of elder women abuse and finding solution for them**

**Table- 5: Emotional and psychological torment**

SN	No. Of participants	Yes	%	No	%
1	Elderly widow of farmer50	37	37	13	13
2	Elderly couple of serviceman50	44	44	6	6
	100	81	81	19	19

From table No. 5 above, we can conclude that most of the elderly were emotionally exploited. We can see that out of 100 respondents about 80percent elderly agreed

that they were exploited by the family member and 20percentwere told that they were not.



**Graph 3: Physical torment done by family members**

We can see in the above bar diagram that out of 100 respondents less than 30percent were physically tormented

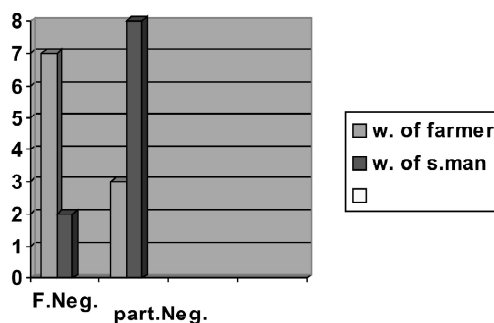
by family members and more than 70percent not facing this type of problem.

**Table-6: Meal quality and time maintained by family member**

SN	No of respondents	Maintaining quality		Maintaining time	
		Yes	No	Yes	NO
1	Elderly Widow of farmer50	19	31	37	13
2	Elderly widow of serviceman50	29	21	35	15
Total	100	48	52	72	28

After observing above Table 6, we can conclude that out of 100respondents meal quality were maintained by family members for 50 percent respondents and other

side72percent family member maintained the meal time for elderly.



**Graph 4: Health problems neglected by family members**

Above bar diagram indicates that out of 100 respondents about 50 percent respondents were fully neglected by family members and remaining were partially neglected by them.

**Table-7: Property grabbing by off spring.**

S.N.	No. of respondents	Yes	No
1	Elderly widow of farmer50	32	19
2	Elderly of widow of serviceman50	44	5
Total	100	76	24

The Table-7 shows that out of 100 respondents, about 75percent respondents were suffering by property grabbing problem and 25percent disagreed with this statement. So most of the elderly widows were facing property grabbing problem.

**Table-8: Elderly feeling lonely.**

S.N.	No. of respondents	Yes	No
1	Elderly widow of farmer50	41	9
2	Elderly widow of serviceman50	43	7
Total	100	84	16

In the table 8 above indicates that out of 100 respondents, 84percent elderly were feeling lonely within the family and 16 percent respondents were satisfied with their family members.

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the condition of elderly women we can draw the conclusion that most of the elderly were feeling lonely. They were treated as material. Family member did not like the interference of elderly. Mostly elderly widow were suffering alot in the family. Elderly couples were in better position because they were retired from government job, so they were getting pension and in a position to take decision. Elderly were facing property grabbing, physical and mental torment etc.

### REFERENCE

1. **Kaur, M, Grover, R.P., and Aggarwal, K. 1987.** Socio economic profile of the rural aged in M.L.Sharma & T.M.Dak (Eds.) Ageing India, Ajantha Publication, Delhi
2. **Nair, P.S. 1989.** The aged in rural India; A study of the socio economic and health profile in S.N. Singh, M.K.Premi, P.S.Bhatia and Ashish Bose, Population transition in India, Vol.2, B.R.Publishing, Delhi
3. **Singh, C.P.2005.** Socio economic status and health condition of landless Rural Aged in Haryana in Help Age India- Research and Development Journal, Vol. II, No. 1

\*\*\*

