

ISSUES OF INDIAN DALIT WOMEN ELDERLY REQUIRE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE FOR STUDY

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Abstract: Population ageing is the most significant emerging demographic phenomenon in the world today. In 1950, the world population aged 60 years and above was 205 million (8.2 per cent of the population) which increased to 606 million (10 per cent of the population) in 2000. By 2050, the proportion of older persons 60 years and above is projected to rise to 21.1 per cent, which will be two billion in number. Old age presents its special and unique problems but these have been aggravated due to the unprecedented speed of socioeconomic transformation leading to a number of changes in different aspects of living conditions. The needs and problems of the elderly vary significantly according to their age, socioeconomic status, health, living status and other such background characteristics. The most of the study is only considering all elderly same factors for study of the issues and problems of elderly.

The Indian society structure is form on the basis of the caste of the people. The whole society divided as per their role and function in the society. The allocation of the resources also divided as per the caste, the Dalti in India are the most vulnerable communities in the India due to various reasons. The women condition of the Dalit women elderly are facing multi level exclusion on the basis of the gender, caste, economic, caste atrocities and social exclusion. The paper is demanding that while studying the issues of Dalti elderly need different perspective for studying the issues and problems of the Dalti elderly.

Introduction: Today all countries in the glob experiencing population aging but the issues and challenges are not same within countries and within regions. In African and Gulf counties sixty plus population ranges under five percent but in European and East Asian countries the rate of elderly population is more than 20 percent. The trends of increasing ageing population are higher in all countries in the world. Though there is increasing elderly population but at a same time there is also increasing discussion and dialogues in the society on the issues of elderly. There is concern about the increasing population can be using elderly capacity and knowledge for the economic purpose as per some study suggested this will be helpful to increasing national economy. The national economy working on the progress of individual but after some period economy will be leading for need of elder care and support and it is require to urgent attention when the family-based care is becoming less and less.

The world's is growing older by increasing elderly population this will bring uncharted demographic waters. The population data show that higher number of people having longer healthy life expectancies, and the lesser number of elderly engaging in working groups. It is difficult to predict the effect of increasing elderly population but increasing numbers of elderly people raising various issues with different challenges. There is chance of arising opportunity from the longer and healthier lives the elderly can be an added to the working population with their ability and capacities to work.

Indian ageing population: As per Registrar General of India Census report 2011 counted 1.21 billion inhabitants in India, India is the second most

populous country in the world. As per Census report 2011 60+ population accounts for 8% of India's population, translating into roughly 93 million people. By 2050, the share of the 60+ population is projected to climb to 19%, or approximately 323 million people. The elderly dependency ratio which is calculated by the number of people aged 60 and older per person aged 15 to 59 will be 0.31 in the year 2050. The Indian elderly population is the victim of the non-communicable diseases which has a upward trends. There is projection of increasing the women participation in workforce so ultimately there is less person available at home for the taking care of the elderly. As per various changes in the society the children of aged people having little chance to live with them or live near their parents. The international migration and within state migration will be increasing so there is less people at home to take care of elderly. In India the issues of elderly is not priority issues for government there is lack of policies and institutions to deal elderly issues effectively and effectively. There are lots of forces are driving India's for changing age structure one of this is an upward trend in life expectancy and falling fertility rate of women. As per the data a person born in India in the year 1950 could expect to live for 37 years, whereas today life expectancy at birth in India has risen to 65 years; by 2050 it is projected to increase to 74 years. The Fertility rates per women in India have declined sharply, and in the year it is 2.6 children per women in year 2010 but in the year 2050 the fertility rate of women was nearly 6 children per woman. Due to various reason the India traditional extended family structure is slowly breaking and this affect to the care of elderly.

A few important characteristics of the elderly population in India are noteworthy. Of the 7.5% of the population who are elderly, two-thirds live in villages and nearly half are of poor socioeconomic status (SES) (Lena et al., 2009). Half of the Indian elderly are dependents, often due to widowhood, divorce, or separation, and a majority of the elderly are women (70%) (Rajan, 2001). Of the minority (2.4%) of the elderly living alone, more are women (3.49%) than men (1.42%) (Rajan and Kumar, 2003). Thus, the majority of elderly reside in rural areas, belong to low SES, and are dependent upon their families. While the southern states (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu) may be considered the biggest drivers of aging in India, other Indian states (notably Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Punjab) are also experiencing an elderly population boom, largely in rural areas (Alam and Karan, 2010). Large-scale studies of the health behaviors of this growing elderly Indian population are scarce. However, information gathered from numerous surveys and regional and local studies point to the high prevalence of several risky behaviors, such as tobacco and alcohol use (Goswami et al., 2005; Gupta et al., 2005; Mutharayappa and Bhat, 2008), and physical inactivity (Rastogi et al. 2004; Vaz and Bharathi, 2004). With these stressors, predictably, aggregate data comparing the 52nd (1995-1996) and 60th Rounds (2004) of the National Sample Survey (NSS) suggest a general increase in the reports of ailments and utilization of healthcare services among the elderly (Alam and Karan, 2010; Rao, 2006). Access to services, however, is uneven across the country.

Profile of Dalits (Schedule Castes) in India: Schedule Castes (SC) constitute 201,378,372 which are 16.6 per cent of India's total population. As per the Censuses 2011 76 per cent of them live in rural areas the female percent of population among SC is 49 percent and sex ratio is 945. The literacy rate among SC is 66.1 but India literacy rate is 73 it means as compare to the general categories the SC community are backward in the education in India. The SC female literacy rate is 56.5 lower than the Indian female literacy rate which is 64.6. The work participation rate of SC in India is 40.9 but only 28.9 work as a main worker and remaining work as a marginal worker which constitutes 12 percent and in India total population the marginal worker percent is only 9.9 it means more SC population engage with marginal work as compare to the other categories of community. In marginal workforce of SC the 23.6 percent of SC workforce engaged in employment for more than 3 months but less than 6 months it means quarter of workforce of SC don't have livelihood option for more than 6 months in a year. The female population of SC in the marginal worker is 33.3 it

means female who can earn their livelihood are unemployed for a six months in a year. Out of total Dalit women working population only 9 percent Dalit women able to earn livelihood for at least 3 month in a year it means 9 percent of the total Dalit women worker are unemployed for more than 9 months in a year.

In India 24 percent population are under the categories of cultivator but in the SC population only 14 per cent of the population are cultivators and 46 per cent of the SC are working as a agricultural labourers. As per the Census 2011, 55.7 percent of Dalit women are agricultural labour and 26 per cent Dalit women of total working population are engaged in unorganized sector in India, it means 26 percent of women workforce of SC are not getting assured wages.

Economic condition of Dalit: As per the Census of India, 2011 the total percentage of the SC population is 16.2 of total population of India. Out of 16.2 percent of total population of SC in India more than 74 per cent live in rural areas and remaining in urban areas of country. Across the nation percent of Schedule Casts population is same but in the state of Gujarat and Maharashtra the percentage of SC population is different. Gujarat is the odd man out among all States, with more S.C. households in urban areas (5.04 lakh) than in rural areas (4.91 lakh). In Maharashtra, which has a total of 33.11 lakh households, 17.77 lakh are located in rural areas and 15.34 lakh in urban areas. A look at the distribution of Dalits across States shows that 60 per cent of the entire S.C population is concentrated in six States: Uttar Pradesh (76.49 lakh households), West Bengal (51.40 lakh), Tamil Nadu (37.59 lakh), (undivided) Andhra Pradesh (36.71 lakh), Maharashtra (33.11 lakh) and Bihar (32.30 lakh).

According to the findings, more than 91 per cent of all the households live in good or livable residences, and this is one can say that an encouraging sign of the progress. It is also encouraging to note that 3,98,20,398 households, over 90 per cent, live in own residences but out of which 2,06,16,913 households live in houses with just one dwelling room and 1,39,24,073 get by with just two rooms, and their share into total population is account for 78 per cent. As per the data only 30 lakh households have at least four rooms at home. Only 60 per cent of household belong to SC have an electricity connection and only 34 per cent SC population having their own toilets. As per the estimated by the planning commission in the year 1994 the Dalti people living below poverty line is 32 crores and this population are from state like U.P. accounts for more than 6 crores, followed by Bihar (4.93 crores), Maharashtra (3 crores), Madhya Pradesh (2.9 crores) and West Bengal (2.5 crores). Bihar has the largest percentage of Scheduled Castes

(70.66%) living below poverty line, followed by U.P. (58.99%) and Maharashtra (51.64%).

Issues of Dalit women: Schedule Castes (SC) constitute 201,378,372 which are 16.6 per cent of India's total population. As per the Censuses 2011 76 per cent of them live in rural areas the female percent of population among SC is 49 percent and sex ratio is 945. The literacy rate among SC is 66.1 but India literacy rate is 73 it means as compare to the general categories the SC community are backward in the education in India. The SC female literacy rate is 56.5 lower than the Indian female literacy rate which is 64.6. The female population of SC in the marginal worker is 33.3 it means female who can earn their livelihood are unemployed for a six months in a year. Out of total Dalit women working population only 9 percent Dalit women able to earn livelihood for at least 3 month in a year it means 9 percent of the total Dalit women worker are unemployed for more than 9 months in a year. As per the Census 2011, 55.7 percent of Dalit women are agricultural labour and 26 per cent Dalit women of total working population are engaged in unorganized sector in India, it means 26 percent of women workforce of SC are not getting assured wages.

In India history says that Dalit women sharing in this common livelihood venture, irrespective of gender and age difference, brings a measure of equality to Dalit women in their relationship with men. Likewise, evidence of Dalit women's experience of equality in combination with freedom of speech is to be found in their freely spoken exchanges with their husbands and other family members on such vital issues as economic resources, labour, wages, household expenditure and family welfare. Moreover, many instances point to the women's assertiveness vis-à-vis their dominant caste employers or contractors, often with even greater vehemence than their male counterparts on such matters as wages or assaults on them. Though there is equality in the Dalit community but due to brahmanical patriarchy forces the women into submission and subservience to dominant caste male authority. The Dalit women have weak bargaining position on economic, political and social front which makes them more vulnerable. The Dalit women are also conditioned by patriarchal ideology so there is no opposition to the patriarchal societal function.

Need of special attention for doing studies on issues of Dalit women elderly: India lacks an evidence base on the health, economic status, quality of life and wellbeing of older adults. Health research in India has historically been heavily focused on the younger population, particularly children and women of reproductive age. There are studies on the Schedule Casts women status but more focus on the reproduction and middle age women and no study on

the health status of the elderly women in India. There are limited research studies on the issues of elderly but no specific study on the status Schedule caste elderly, in various studies of the elderly in India one of the sample size of the SC elderly. The need and issues of SC elderly are different and within the Indian context the issues and problems of SC population is different and within the SC population the elderly people issues and problems is different. The issues of Dalit elderly should be look with different perspective in Indian context. The social exclusion process started by the denial and discrimination by the hierarchy of the society and this outcome of this discrimination are future deepen and embed the poverty, exploitation and very low social power. The exclusion from one services or public goods also affect on exclusion of other services or public goods. For example exclusion from economic activities reduces chances of securing good health and good living condition and this is also decent housing and education. Exclusion from education and the unending 'cycles of eviction and relocation—make the possibilities of finding better economic activities and decent work much harder. In the case of the Dalit elderly when a person facing social exclusion than it means the person was denial of resources and the employment this denial push the person in poverty and due to poverty the person is not able to access services and social security and this make them vulnerable for the exploitation.

Within the Dalit community, Dalit women face more burdens due to caste and gender discrimination. Dalit women are subjected to systematic oppression and structural violence both from the general community and from within their own community and their families. Atrocities and violence against Dalit women are used as means to reinforce this systemic caste and gender discrimination as well as to punish them when they challenge caste and gender norms. As per the research finding of National Family Health Survey (NFHS- III) 2005-06 reported that one-third of women aged 15 to 49 had experienced physical violence, and approximately one in 10 had been a victim of sexual violence and it is possible that most of victim of violence are from Dalit communities.

Conclusion: In India the research studies on issues of the elderly are in infant stage and there is now increasing trend of the doing research on the issues and problems of elderly. The Government also not active in taking care and protecting elderly in India as compare to the other social issues. There are special ministries or department to addressing issues of women, child and other minority population but in the case of issues of the elderly government not doing efforts as require. The issues of elderly are not in the priority list of academic and research institution in India. There are some people are doing the research

and writing on the issues but they are considering elderly population as whole. The Indian caste and society structure it is very difficult to measuring all elderly in same scale. The issues of elderly are different as per their caste, education background, living condition and social and economic status. The issues and problems of health among elderly are not

similar the health status of elderly are largely depend upon their social and economic condition. The Dalit elderly are the suffering community in India and while study the issues of Dalit elderly and especially Dalit women needs different approach within the elderly population.

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