

**Old Age Home in Tumkur City-A Sociological Study****Dr.Nagaraja S**Assistant Professor  
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Department of Studies & Research in Sociology  
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*Elderly or old age people are important as other section of population of any country. Respecting elderly is an integral part of the Indian value system. But with advent of modernization, urbanization and industrialization, such values are disappearing. As a result of this, there is rapid increase in number of old age homes in the country. The present paper deals with working condition of Sharadamba Trust, Old Age & Orphanage Home situated in Tumkur city.*

**Key words:** *Elderly, Indian Value System, Sharadamba Trust, Old Age & Orphanage Home*

**Introduction**

Family plays an important role in caring, rearing, supporting and protecting its members regardless of colour, gender and age. But it cannot be taken for granted in all times. With changing circumstances the families adopting the new norms of smaller and nuclear structure. This ultimately results in empty nest syndrome or absence of care takers towards old age members of the family. The origin of the concept of care taking of old age people can be illustrated with the history of early Christians to the commandant of mercy and companion. The Christian Church established various institutions such as Gerontochia for the aged, Nosocomia for the sick, ptochia for the helpless poor etc. in the third and fourth centuries. This was gradually motivated others countries namely Italy, France etc. Later houses for the aged, destitute, sick and disabled were established in England. Even in India, old age homes playing crucial role in protecting the interest of old age people. At present there are 728 old age homes in India. October 1<sup>st</sup> was celebrated as International Day for older persons in India. Some of the best old age homes in India are Navachaitanya old age homes - Bangalore, Guru Vishram Vridh Ashram - New Delhi, Anandashram - Kolkata, Anand Dham - Jodhpur Rajasthan, Helpage Elders Village - Chennai, Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan, Samstha old age homes - Pune, Balaji healthcare - New Mumbai etc.

**Objectives of Study**

- 1) To reveals working standard of Sharadamba Trust, Old Age & Orphanage Home
- 2) To understand perception of people living in old age home sociologically.

**Literature Review**

Sreevani R, (2007) conducted the descriptive study with view of analysing the emotional challenges among old age people in selected old age homes at Kolar. 50 elderly people were interviewed with the help of purposive sampling technique. Interview schedule consists of questions related to socio-demographic and general health aspects. The findings of the study revealed that (38%) of the respondents suffering with major health problems, 16% of them were having minor health issues, 46% were suffering from emotional problems.

Dwale AK (2010) revealed about the morbidity pattern in inmates of old age home through a cross sectional study in urban area of Nagpur. The study was conducted out of among all 221 inmates of 3 old age homes. Interview, clinical examination and laboratory investigation were utilized.

Vishal J (2010) organized a cross sectional study in order to assess the depression among elderly people in Surat city. 105 old age people were selected and interviewed using probability sampling method. 35 respondents from each old

age home were interviewed. 43 male respondents and 62 female respondents were interviewed out of 105 samples. The study found out that the prevalence of depression was moderately high (39.04%) among elderly. The study also found that elderly people who are severely depressed and who require treatment are more in old age homes (25.71%).

Dhanya, NJ Megha G, (2011), survey study was conducted at Kerala with the view to assess the stress experienced by old age people in family and in institutional set up. For the study purpose 307 respondents were selected from two old age homes namely Mercy Home and Government Old age home in Ernakulam based on random sampling technique.

Aruna D, (2011), comparative study was conducted to understand the feelings of aged living in old age home and within family set up at Jammu. With the help of purposive sampling method 60 female respondents were selected out of which 30 respondents from old age home and 30 from residing in family set up. Majority (63.3%) of the elderly living in the family set up felt that it is a period of dependency. (16.6%) felt economically insecure, (20%) felt old age as a period of loneliness. In family set up (40%) stated economic insecurity and loneliness. The study found out that feelings of old age women living in family and old age homes are different.

Anita R, (2012), revealed about morbidity profile of elders in old age home at Chennai by using a cross sectional study. Using simple random sample random sampling technique 132 female respondents and 78 male respondents were interviewed out of 210 elderly people residing in old age home. Pre-designed, pre-tested questionnaire and clinical examination methods were utilized. The study found out that overall (96.7%) of old age people had one or more health problems.

Jothimani G, (2013), revealed about prominent role played by elderly people in the development of nations as well as other social institutions. Elderly people worked as pressure group for enhancing their welfare. This paper also deals with

importance of health sector in increasing the longevity of old age people.

Shakuntala P, Sunanda I,(2014) deals with process of ageing. It cause for changes in the psychological, physical, hormonal and social conditions of the person.

Raveendra BN, (2015), conducted the study to reveal about social, psychological, emotional, healthy and economic conditions of the old age people residing in the old age home. Majority of the elderly living in old age homes were not having assets and monetary resources with them.

### **Study Area**

Sharadamba Trust, Old Age & Orphanage Home is a non-governmental, non-profit organization started in Tumkur by Dr. Yashoda RP, a social worker. It is the dream of Dr. Yashoda to set up an orphanage. She initially started thinking to serve the society and founded old age and orphanage home in 2013 with the cooperation of eligible team who are having service motive. The vision of the trust is "To change the perception about the old age and bring about a shift from pity and helpless to self-confidence and dignity for older person and orphanage people, Sharadamba Trust is committed to reassure always in all ways. This is our passion not only the profession". The trust remits basic needs such as food, clothes, medical benefits and other essential things through donors. The trust organized weekly health check-up and yoga classes and exercise on daily basis. The main objectives of the trust are as follows.

- To serve old age and orphanage people dispassionately
- To provide amenities those are essential for better living

### **Methodology**

The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary data was collected through interviews with the staff and the beneficiaries of the home. At the time of survey there are 25 respondents were found out of which 20 were interviewed with the help of an interview schedule.



Socio-Economic Status

This Trust consist only female respondents and all of them belong to Hindu religion only. Almost 12% of the elderly living in home is illiterate. 52% of them are in age group of 71-80 years. 18% of elderly residing in old age home are married. About 60% of the respondents are widows; they are residing in old age home because of death of their respective partners. All most all elderly people living in this home are suffering from one or more health hazardous.

Result Analysis

Table-1 Children of the respondents

Children	Number	Percentage
No child	2	10
Only sons	6	30
Only daughters	4	20
Both sons & daughters	6	30
Not applicable	2	10
Total	20	100

As per source collected from primary data indicates that majority of the elderly people residing in Sharadamba Trust, shows 80% had children, 30% had only sons and 20% had only daughters and 30% had both sons and daughters. However, 10% had no children and 10% were not married.

Table-2 Relations of respondents with their family members

Relations	Number	Percentage
Estranged	12	60
Good	8	40
Total	20	100

Study regarding family relationship of elderly helps in analysing the old home in a better way. The above table-2 shows that majority 60% of the respondents had estranged relationships with their family members. As society is web of social relationships and relationships should be harmonial in nature. The careless behaviour of children and other family caused for elderly to move in old age homes.

Table-3: Duration of stay in an old age home

Period	Number	Percentage
Up to 1 Year	2	10
2-3 years	12	60
4-5 years	4	20

Above 5 years	2	10
Total	20	100

Table- 3 reveals that majority 60% of the respondents have been residing in Sharadamba Trust for 2 to 3 years, while 20% have been residing for 4-5 years and 10% living for 5 years and above.

Table-4 Reasons for shifting to the old age home

Reasons	Number	Percentage
Not interested to live with married daughters because of religious obligations and have no sons	5	25
contradictory relations with sons	8	40
Wanted independent peaceful life	1	5
Nobody to look after	6	30
Total	20	100

Table- 4 deals with reasons for residing in old age home. Majority 40% of respondents stated reason for living in old age home is conflicting relations with sons who don't obey them and unnecessarily insult them. 25% respondents are living in old age home because they had no sons and did not wish to live with married daughters due to religious obligations or restrictions. 5% of them wanted to lead an independent and peaceful life due to irritating living atmosphere in family; hence they selected to live in old age home. 30% of respondents had nobody to look after and have no another way to live.

Conclusion

Lack of social and emotional support, misbehaviour of children and problem of financial assistance to elderly members in family often compel them to select other places for living a tension-free life. Some of the Non-Governmental Organizations are playing a pivotal role in generating emotional support to this vulnerable section of society. There is a need to generate more support facilities by the Government with the means of framing of various welfare policies and programmes and need of societal attention for overall well-being of senior citizens of nation. In this regard Sharadamba Trust, Old Age & Orphanage Home playing a significant role in promoting and protecting the interest of old age and orphanage people in Tumkur city.

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