

# A Study of Socio-Demographic Profile of Geriatric Population in Rural Field Practice Area of Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** In India 7.7% of the total population is constituted by 60+ year age group. With the advancement of medical sciences and improvement of social conditions there has been great change in recent times. The purpose of this study is to delineate the socio demographic profile of geriatric population of rural area.

**Methodology:** A cross sectional study was done on 2000 elderly in the rural field practice area of Adichunchangiri Institute of Medical Sciences, B G Nagar, Mandya district using a structured and pretested Performa.

**Results:** The study revealed that 68.5% of the elderly were in the age group of 60-69 years and 96% were Hindus. Majority of the subjects belonged to class IV and V of Modified B G Prasad socio economic classification. 90.6% of the men were dependent on agriculture.

**Conclusion:** The study provides data to plan services and programmes for betterment of aged, hope this study yields valuable information required for the design of the services to be provided for this special group.

**Key words:** old age, rural area, socio- demographic profile

## Introduction

The geriatric population is defined as population aged 60 years and above[1]. Today 60% of those aged 60+years live in the developing countries and their proportion will increase to 80% by 2050. In India 7.7% of total population is constituted by 60+ years age group [2]. With the advancement of medical sciences and improvement of social conditions there has been great change in recent times. Although it is true that India's philosophy and culture prescribe reverence and respect for the aged and recommend the care of the aged parents as a form of worship, these values are facing erosion at present. This has been the result of breakup of joint family system of living, migration of younger members to the urban area for employment and the competitive nature of modern

living. Although 20% of aged are known to enjoy a fairly good level of health and contentment, others present with various problems[3]. The purpose of this study is to delineate the socio-demographic profile of geriatric population of rural area.

## Methodology

A cross sectional study was conducted in rural field practice area of Adichunchangiri Institute of Medical Sciences, B G Nagar, Mandya district which caters a population of 25974. The sample size was 2153 which was estimated by using the proportion of elderly people (7.7%) with an allowable error of 15%. Out of 2153 elderly interviewed, 153 subjects did not participate in the study thus the final subjects consented and participated in the study were 2000. The data was collected by personal interview method between

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October 2006 to April 2008 using a structured pretested performa.

### Results

Among 2000 elderly, 1370 elderly (68.5%) were in the age group of 60-69 years (young old), 367(18.35%) were in the age group of 70-79 years(old old) and 263(13.15%) were in the age group of 80+ years( oldest old). In all the three groups women exceeded men. The mean age was found to be 68.18 years with a standard deviation of 8.25 in case of males and in case of females mean age was 66.26 years with standard deviation of 8.46.

Out of 2000 elderly, 1920(96%) of the study population were Hindus, 62(3.1%) were Muslims, 14(0.7%) were Jains and 4(0.2%) were Christians. The study (Table I) showed 390 (53.13%) and 521(41.15%) of elderly men and women living in nuclear families respectively. In present study(diagram I) majority of the study subjects belonged to class IV (males 252, 34.33% & females 359, 28.36%) and class V (males 248, 33.78% & females 450, 35.55%) according to modified B.G Prasad classification. The study (Table II) revealed that 47.96% and 83.25% men and women were illiterates respectively and majority of men 661(90.06%) involved in agriculture (Table III).

### Discussion

The rapid urbanization and societal modernization has brought in its wake a breakdown in family values and framework of family support, economic insecurity and loneliness which are also true with the present study.

In the present study majority of the subjects were of 60- 69 years age group which was also observed by Natarajan VS and an ICMR study done by Bela Shah et al. It is evident from the above findings that the country is on the verge of facing the burden of elderly citizens which is the picture of developed countries.

The present study revealed that majority of the subjects were Hindus(96%) followed by Muslims(3.1%) which is similar to the census report of 2001 for Mandya district. The findings differed from that of Charan Singh and Mathur JS study, the difference being due to geographical

variation of the religion followed.

As discussed earlier urbanization has an impact on the families of rural area which is reflected in the form increased nuclear families. In this study majority of the elderly belonged to nuclear families and similar findings are reported by Niranjana GV et al and Venkoba Rao in their studies.

The socio-economic insecurity among elderly was observed in the study because majority of the subjects belonged to class IV and V of modified B G Prasad socioeconomic classification. Similar were the findings of Niranjana GV and Natrajan VS . The present study support the report "An adequate financial resource is major economic problem in Indian elderly", by Dak TM et al. Kinsella K in his study on ageing in third world reported that there were more women among illiterate elderly persons, the observations of the present study were in line with the Kinsella K study and also Kishore S et al study.

The study provides data to plan services and programmes for betterment of aged, hope this study yields valuable information required for the design of the services to be provided for this special group.

Table I : Showing distribution of rural elderly according to type of family

Type of family	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Nuclear</b>	390	53.13	521	41.15	911	45.55
<b>Joint</b>	140	19.07	329	26.00	469	23.45
<b>3 generation</b>	204	27.80	416	32.85	620	31.00
<b>Total</b>	734	100	1266	100	2000	100

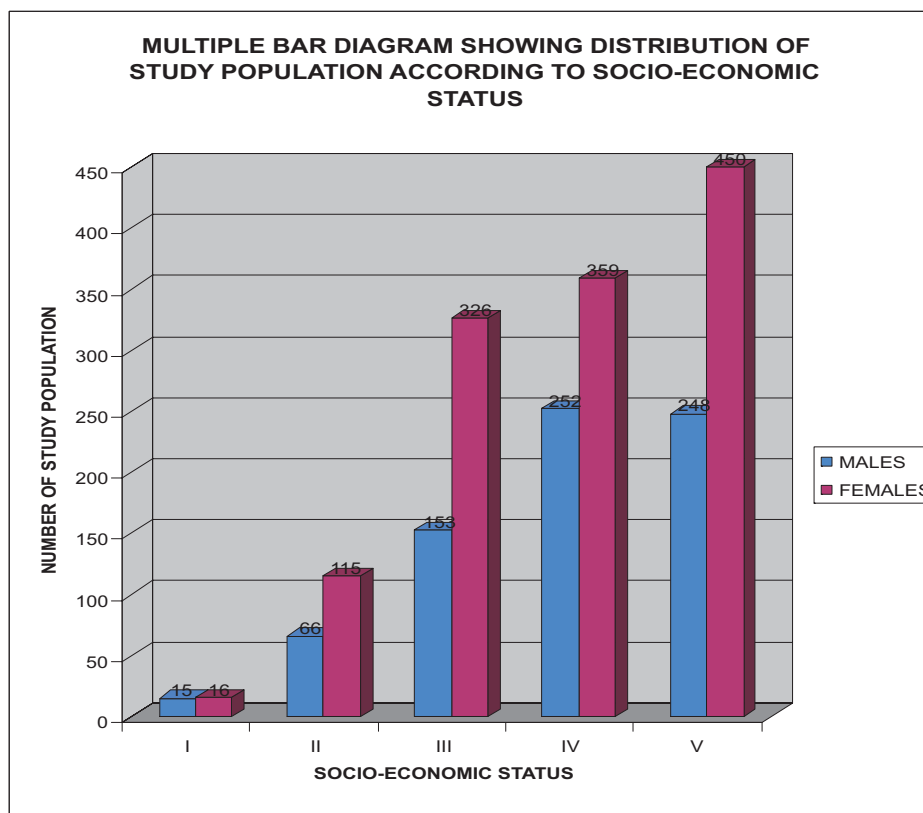
Table II: Showing distribution of rural study population according to literacy status

Literacy status		Males		Females	
		No	%	No	%
<b>Illiterates</b>		352	47.96	1054	83.25
<b>Literates</b>	<b>Primary</b>	117	15.95	85	6.72
	<b>Middle</b>	106	14.44	45	3.55
	<b>High</b>	129	17.57	77	6.08
	<b>PUC</b>	17	2.31	05	0.40
	<b>Degree</b>	13	1.77	00	00
<b>Total</b>		734	100	1266	100

Table III: Showing distribution of elderly according to occupation

Occupation	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture	661	90.06	617	48.75	1278	63.9
Carpenter	12	1.64	00	00	12	0.6
Petty business	04	0.54	16	1.27	20	1.0
Retired	23	3.13	00	00	23	1.15
Laborer	25	3.40	76	6.00	101	5.05
Tailor	07	0.95	04	0.31	11	0.55
Contractor	02	0.28	00	00	2	0.1
Household	--	--	553	43.67	553	27.65
Total	734	100	1266	100	2000	100

Diagram I



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