



## Living arrangement patterns of the elderly in West Tiruchirappalli, Tamilnadu, India

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### Abstract

*The patterns of living arrangement planned for the elderly a lot exposed as the elementary help of the carefulness and upkeep occupied by the family. Existing preparation of the rising ageing populations are most vital issues in the entirely countries. Whereas the collective environment and prospect of culture may be encouraging to co - dwelling of the ageing and those of a younger generation, in diverse societies explain the elderly accommodations are controlled by existing of demographic and financial resources. To make out the accommodation of senior population has reflect their quality of life and well-being. In this paper an effort has been made to look into the Living Arrangement Patterns of the Elderly in West Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. The main objective of the descriptive nature of this study was Socio economic condition and Living arrangement of elders. Result shows that both male and female elderly are given positive opinion on their living arrangement. Half of the elderly live with their spouse and enjoy good infrastructure and physical facilities of their house like electricity, water, toilet, ventilation and lighting facilities. The majority of (86.31%) of them have separate living space; the elderly in the age group of 60-69 years have better living arrangement than rest of the elders. The elderly belongs to nuclear family are well located themselves with regard to the living arrangement.*

**Keywords:** Living arrangements, Elderly, House hold, Infrastructure, Family system.

### Introduction

The growing of People of senior citizen is strong global problem and many research as well as social responsible institutions has taking place much consideration on this issue. Though the 21st era is approximately presence think about the span of aging persons, the 22nd epoch is projected to observe the happening of the 'ageing of the aged'. The proliferation in life expectation has brought about in a major transferable in the age group of 80 years and over, known as the 'oldest old'. This budding trends call for unbelievable struggles to cope with new difficulties and economic, emotional and health related challenges<sup>1</sup>. Prompt aging in developing nations are complemented by forceful ups and downs in family constructions and roles, other than in labour arrangements and relocation. Migration of young person's to towns in exploration of occupations, reduced families and further ladies toward the inside the recognized labor force lacking scarcer people to up keep on behalf of elder persons when they requirement helper<sup>2</sup>. Fast getting old population in addition age structural transformation has a diverse impact on different regions of the country.

The phenomenon of demographic dividend and its implication for economic growth and development may disappear away in an ageing context<sup>3</sup>. Various studies have highlighted impacts the elderly due to decay as of the customary arrangement of co-residence with wedded youngsters to nuclear family<sup>4</sup>.

Living arrangement of the elderly resides an important place as, where verpersons living in their late years will create a substantial variance to the greatness of their living. The term living arrangements or co-residential arrangements refers to the household structure of elderly<sup>5</sup>. Pattern of living arrangement varies among elderly in different countries<sup>6</sup>. Living alone or living with husband or wife is the highest communal form of living planning found in developing countries and residing with children is the most commonly found one among the developing countries<sup>3</sup>. This pattern of living arrangement is mutually beneficial to both children and elderly<sup>7</sup>. India, similar several further Asian citizens, encourages resilient ordinary household obligation inserted in intergenerational co-dwelling<sup>8</sup>. Explicitly, the notion of "joint" or "undivided" family structure in India has its intangible backgrounds in the original inevitability of Dharma where elder parents are predicted to be kept by means of esteem for their age and wisdom<sup>9</sup>.

**Review of relevant literature:** A study by Srivastava and Nihar<sup>10</sup> among 20,995 elders in Orissa, West-Bengal and Bihar, The findings of the study on living arrangement among the elderly revealed that the greater part of the elderly were set up 'living with their spouse' and other members. The living arrangement among the elderly was 'with children' but 'without spouse'. Interestingly it was observed that the elderly, who were alone preferred to 'stay independently' in their respective houses such percentage, varies from around 2 (for Bihar) to around 4 (for Orissa) instead of staying in the old age homes.

A study was conducted by Singh G.P. et.al<sup>11</sup> in eastern Uttar Pradesh, India, Among 800 sample survey of 800 elderly people taken from two different setups of society that was from rural and urban of research area. Results shown that factors gender, age, caste and wealth index were significantly related with living arrangement in urban area while in rural area only variable caste and wealth index were significantly related with living arrangement. Additionally, gender, age and caste were significantly related with economic dependence in cooperation urban and rural areas. Study also showed that proportion of those elderly who were economically dependent on self or spouse is higher in living alone or with spouse only in comparison to those who are economically dependent on son/others.

A study by Dubey Aruna et.al<sup>12</sup> up in Jammu surrounded by elderly living in old age home and within family set-up of 30 elderly women was selected by way of purposive sampling technique. Interview schedule and observation technique were used for collection of data. Outcomes of the study revealed that most of the elderly felt that the attitude of the younger generation was unsatisfactory towards them especially those who were in old age homes in terms of getting respect love and affection from the family members instead they were considered as burden for others. Women living in the families had a optimistic attitude towards old age. The social relationship of the elderly women living in families and those living in old age home also differed. Conspicuously; there was a fall in the complete competence, pleasantness, gradation of participation in work and relaxations. Contrariwise, better social relations were continued by the family dwellers because they had regular interaction, expressions of feelings and support from the family.

A study conducted by Swaha B. and Monimala<sup>13</sup> in Kolkata city on adjustment pattern of elderly people belonging to nuclear families among 200 elderly people. The tools of data collection were common information schedule, adjustment pattern questionnaire and priority need questionnaire. The results exposed that adjustment pattern declines with rise in age. As well this, female group are supplementary adjusted than that of the male group. Monthly income of the family has a remarkable part in this regard. Aging persons may live in a worthy psychological state and also able to change with other family members if the significance need is to be deliberated correctly.

A study by Sutapa Agrawal<sup>14</sup> in India's second National Family Health Survey conducted in 1998-1999. Among 39,694 people aged 60 and above included. This study analyzed the consequence of living arrangement on aging healthiness position was evaluated. Outcomes showed that Living alone of aging people is probable to undergo extra from both long-lasting illnesses, such as asthma and tuberculosis, and acute illnesses, such as malaria and jaundice, than those elderly who are living with their family, even after controlling for the effects of a number of demographic, behavioural, environmental, and socio

economic confounders finally result was steady relationship among deficiency in sufficient family maintenance by means of improved mortality and reduced health between the elderly.

A study conducted by Maruthakutti R.<sup>15</sup> a study on housing and social habitation of the elderly among the Kanis, a tribal community in Tamil Nadu, India used the data from an ethnographic study of Kanis in Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve. Focus group, in-depth interviews, and Participant observation discussions were applied for collection of data. House for the elderly in this community is not merely a shelter, but a place for intensive family interaction and extending hospitality, thus sustaining family and community ties. Tribal as they were, the home gets its meaning only in its symbiotic relationship with the environment, especially with certain species of trees. The outstanding finding is that the older people are central in the house both structurally and socially; they view sociability, and not privacy, as an important aspect of living arrangement. Privacy was not regarded as a privilege, but as isolation.

A study by Ahamed J. G.<sup>16</sup> study was an evidence-based interpretation of living arrangements among older persons and perception about future living arrangement and financial assistance among current adult people. This study used India Human Development Survey (IHDS), 2004-2005 data for empirical analyses. Bivariate and multivariate models of numerical analyses were used. Results exposed that the 85 percent elderly were living in co-residence with children, only 2 percent lived singly, and rest of 17 percent of older population lived with their spouse only. A majority of women respondents are expecting their sons to live with them, to take care and provide financial and emotional support in their old age. This indicates that the family will continue to be a significant social institution for the care and support for the older population in India.

A study by Nishimira<sup>17</sup> conducted a study on 35 men elderly and 20 women elderly (55 elders) from the 60-80 years of age group. Purposive sampling and semi structured interview were used for data collected. Beck depression inventory UCLA loneliness scale and sociability scale by Eysanck tools were used. Results was that the effect of loneliness on elderly people lives and explore in what way elderly people experience the effect of isolation on regular happenings and where they stayed or with whom were living.

A study by Munsur A. M. et.al<sup>18</sup> conducted in rural Naogaon district of Bangladesh among elderly women aged 60 years and older. Study was used probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling for collection of data from seven villages and the outcomes shown that an irresistible widely held of the ageing women in the age group 60-69 years who are widowed, illiterate, have no education and income, economically dependent, living with married children, unhealthy, undergo from arthritis connected disease and are taking treatment from

village doctors. Nearly 35 percent elderly women were abused, frequently psychologically abused due to poverty.

**Significance of the study :** In a developing country like India elders has come to be a serious public concern nowadays. The issues of the aged are more noticeable in addressing their lacking, dependence, isolation and neglect. In most Asian societies, fertility and mortality declines have considerably contributes to population aging and decrease family size. Social and economic ups and downs have the possible to transform longstanding patterns of familial relations and old age support. The number of elderly existing unaided is growing with urbanization and migration of youth coupled with decreased cohesiveness of the family bonds. Many old aged persons feel depressed, alienated, and find life meaningless. Another prominent change that has occurred in our society is the speed of old age homes or institutions for the elderly. The condition associated with differences in weather older men and women co- reside with family, or receive other forms of support, are this important to examine. Indian society is no exception to this trend.

A few decades previously living arrangements for the ageing was not a worry in maximum developing countries, as well as India, for the intention that the elderly are anticipated to be concerned for by the household. Nevertheless, problems about household structure and maintenance for elderly persons in developing nations are flattering gradually significant. More than a few other encounters are facing by the old age people in India. For instance deficiency of secure and enough revenue to maintenance themselves, lack of social safety, damage of societal standing and gratitude, non-availability of chances for creative use of their time and persistent ill health. Studies have revealed that a greater percentage of the aging are living depressed lives short of any optimism. The key concentration of the study was to assess the living arrangement patterns of elderly.

## Methodology

The study was undertaken with the objectives of Socio economic condition and Living arrangement of elderly residing in Tiruchirappalli West, Tamil Nadu with the sample of 95 elderly aged 60 and above year of age. An interview schedule and observation was used for collection of data by incorporating items like, socio – economic status of elder, living arrangement and sharing of accommodation.

## Results and discussion

**Socio economics condition of elderly:** The study result revealed that gender that equal representation has given in the sample for both male and female elderly in that nearly half of them (46.31%) fall in 60-64 years of the age group and rest of them belongs to 65-84 years. With concerned to marital status of elderly depicts that almost three-fourth (74.78%) of them are

married and two-fifth (39.99%) of them got education up to graduation level. The Income factors considered as very crucial during old age. The family indicates the overall level of economic status of their family. Here the family income includes elderly and their children's monthly earnings, in addition to income of other members of the family, rent, interest, etc. On the whole, little higher than two-fifth of them gets Rs.6001-11000 per month and 36 percent of them belongs to the income group of Rs.11000 to 16000. Further the study brings out that three –fifth of them are part of nuclear family and rest belongs to joint family, the Ownership of house, male elderly out number female in claiming the ownership of house property. Hence the ownership of the property still remains with male by denying the property rights to the female.

The socio economic status of elderly has a direct impact on living arrangements of the elderly of male and female. The elderly males are having slight edge compared to female, but on the whole both male and female elderly are given positive opinion on their living arrangement and elderly in the age group 60-69 years of elders are enjoying better living arrangement as compared to old-old aged group (70 and above). The respondents belongs to nuclear family are well placed themselves with regard to the living arrangement than that of elders belongs to joint family. The elders enjoy better living arrange irrespective of the size of the family, however middle sized family provides better facilities to the elders than the small size families.

**Living arrangement:** Living arrangements of elderly is important intended for as the safety, well – being and happiness of elderly. In this study living arrangement is constructed based on the information regarding the living at own house or not, living with life partner or not, living with children or not, living space (number of rooms, separate and comfort of living space). Table-1 show in the socio economic status of elderly has a direct influence on living arrangements of the aging of both genders. For the most part both male and female elderly are given positive opinion on their living arrangement. Half of the respondents live with their spouse it means elders live alone. The entire house hold has good infrastructure and physical facilities of their house like electricity, water, toilet, ventilation and lighting facilities. The majority of 86.31% of respondents have separate living space; the elderly in the age group as compared to other aged group 60-69 years of elders have better living arrangement. The respondents belongs to nuclear family are well located themselves with regard to the living arrangement.

The socio economic and demographic status of elderly has a direct influence on elderly for living arrangements of the both genders as well as elderly males are having slight edge compared to female, but on the whole both male and female elderly are given positive opinion on their living arrangement. The age group 60-69 years of elders have better living arrangement as compared to old-old aged group (70 and above).

The respondents belongs to nuclear family are well placed themselves with regard to the living arrangement than that of elders belongs to joint family. The elders enjoy better living arrange irrespective of the size of the family, however middle sized family provides better facilities to the elders than the small size families.

**Table-1(a):** Socioeconomic Status of the Elderly and Living arrangement

Variables		Living With Spouse			
		Living		Not living	
Gender	Male	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
			35	36.84	12
	Female	36	37.89	12	12.63
Age	60 – 64	35	36.84	9	9.47
	65-69	20	21.05	6	6.31
	70-74	9	9.47	4	4.21
	75-79	6	6.31	4	4.21
	80-84	1	1-05	1	1-05
Type of family	Nuclear	52	54.73	4	4.21
	Joint	19	20	20	21.05
No. of family Members	1-3	33	34.73	6	6.31
	4-6	36	37.89	12	12.63
	Above 6	2	2.1	6	6.31

**Table-1(b):** Socioeconomic Status of the Elderly and Living arrangement

Variables		Living With Children				Separate Living Space			
		Living		Not living		Having		Not having	
Gender	Male	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
			31	32.63	16	16.84	40	42.1	7
	Female	22	23.15	26	27.36	42	44.21	6	6.31
Age	60 – 64	25	26.31	16	16.84	41	43.15	3	3.15
	65-69	13	13.68	13	13.68	23	23.21	3	3.15
	70-74	3	3.15	10	10.52	10	10.52	3	3.15
	75-79	7	7.36	3	3.15	7	7.36	3	3.15
	80-84	2	2.1	0	0	1	1.05	1	1.05
Type of family	Nuclear	17	17.89	39	41.05	45	7.36	11	11.57
	Joint	36	37.89	3	3.15	37	38.94	2	2.1
No. of family Members	1-3	10	10.52	29	30.52	34	35.78	5	5.26
	4-6	38	40	10	10.52	40	42.1	8	8.42
	Above 6	5	5.26	3	3.15	8	8.42	0	0

## Conclusion

As period ancient the Joint family structure has been unique of the prominent topographies of the Indian society. However the twentieth era conveyed enormous ups and downs in the family system. The being there of youngsters was an essential element that assured co-residence. Still, so that catch a further broad depiction, characteristics of children, their marital status, location and income would correspondingly be suitable to decide on the living arrangements. In the same way, there are numerous socio-economic features that show an imperative character in the select of residential arrangements in the middle of older people. Upper levels of education and economic possessions are apt to increase the chance of housing freedom among elder persons. Availability of life partner is a key impact on living arrangements of elderly.

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