A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND HEALTH STATUS OF THE ELDERLY IN KRISHNA DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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As per the National Sample Survey about 4-5 percent of the elderly live alone and nearly 8% of urban aged live with their spouse while only 33-35 percent of elderly live with their children and about 5 percent live with other relatives. More than 80% of the elderly are living in rural areas. In rural areas about 6 percent of the women are elderly while in urban areas it is 5.1 percent. More importantly, about 64.3 percent of the elderly women were widowed and most of them were dependent on others. Similarly, about 70% of the rural elderly men were engaged in economic activities while it was 48 percent in the urban areas. NSS shows a sharp divide between rural and urban elderly in terms of income, economic activities and access to health care and social security cover and welfare assistance (Rao, 2010). It is also interesting to note that less than 1% avail institutional care or institutionalized in India. Against this background, it is presented the study with the objective of find out the Socio-demographic and health conditions of the elderly in the study area along with following null hypothesis there is no statistically significance difference of health status among the male and female.

UNIVERSE AND SAMPLING

However, the present study has been adopted descriptive cum explorative research design to explore the different forms of socio economic and health conditions of elderly. For select the subject's multi stage cum random sample was used. The Sample 'Elderly' for the purpose of the study was defined as a person aged 60 years and above, living in a family context. Both men and women were considered for the study.

In Krishna district two mandals and a total of 12 villages randomly were selected. For selecting the elderly, the voters list was gathered from mandal office. The elderly from 12 villages is a total of 1705 persons. From the list 30 elderly from each village above 60 years were selected by using lottery method. Therefore, 180 from Bantumilli mandal and 180 from Nandivada mandal like wise 360 elderly both men and women were finalized the purpose of the study.

Table - 1: Age of the Respondents

Place of Residence	Age			Total
	60 - 69	70 - 79	80 - >	
Bantumilli	79	57	44	180
	43.9%	31.7%	24.4%	100.0%
Nandivada	81	54	45	180
	45.0%	30.0%	25.0%	100.0%
Total	**160**	**111**	**89**	**360**
	44.4%	**30.8%**	**24.7%**	**100.0%**

As can be seen from table 1, out of 360 respondents, the majority (44.4 per cent) of the respondents are in the age group of 60-69 years. However, the study reveals that a considerable percentage (30.8 per cent) is in the age group of 70-79 years. About 24.7 per cent are in the age group of 80 plus. The mean age of the total study sample came to 72.7361 years. Yet, a difference in the mean ages of the men (70.8706) and women (74.4053) of the sample was observed.

In the Bantumilli mandal, out of 180 respondents 43.9 per cent of the respondents are in the age group of 60-69 years. However, the study reveals that 31.7 per cent is in the age group of 70-79 years. About 24.4 per cent are in the age group of 80 plus.

In the Nandivada mandal, out of 180 respondents 45.0 per cent of the respondents are in the age group of 60-69 years. However, the study reveals that 30.0 per cent is in the age group of 70-79 years. About 25.0 per cent are in the age group of 80 plus.

Table - 2: Gender of the Respondents

Age	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
60 - 69	91	69	160
	56.9%	43.1%	100.0%
70 - 79	50	61	111
	45.0%	55.0%	100.0%
80 - >	29	60	89
	32.6%	67.4%	100.0%
Total	**170**	**190**	**360**
	47.2%	**52.8%**	**100.0%**

Of the total sample size of 360 respondents, 170 are males (47.2 per cent), and 190 (52.8 per cent) are females. The relatively higher percentage of female is an evidence that longevity of female rather than male.

In the age group of 60-69 years, out of 160 respondents 56.9 per cent are male and 43.1 per cent are female.

In the age group of 70-79 years, out of 111 respondents 45.0 per cent are male and 55.0 per cent are female.

In the age group of 80 and above years, out of 89 respondents 32.6 per cent are male and 67.4 per cent are female.

Table - 3: Education of the Respondents

Gender	Level of Education				Total
	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Degree and above	
Male	102	43	19	6	170
	60.0%	25.3%	11.2%	3.5%	100.0%
Female	113	37	24	16	190
	59.5%	19.5%	12.6%	8.4%	100.0%
Total	215	80	43	22	360
	59.7%	22.2%	11.9%	6.1%	100.0%

Education improves mental ability and also elicits respect from family members as well as in society. Data of the present study reveals that a majority of the respondents i.e.,59.7 per cent are illiterate. About 22.2 per cent of respondents were primary education and 11.9 per cent of the respondents had secondary education. However, only 6.1 per cent had degree and above education.

In male, out of 170 respondents 60.0 per cent are illiterates, 25.3 per cent are studied upto primary, 11.2 per cent studied upto secondary education and 3.5 per cent are studied degree and above.

In female, out of 190 respondents 59.5 per cent are illiterates, 19.5 per cent are studied upto primary, 12.6 per cent studied upto secondary education and 8.4 per cent are studied degree and above.

Table - 4: Number of Children of the Respondents

Type of Family	No of children						Total
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	No Children	
Nuclear family	22	87	73	62	20	5	269
	8.2%	32.3%	27.1%	23.0%	7.4%	1.9%	100.0%
Joint family	2	27	16	23	6	2	76
	2.6%	35.5%	21.1%	30.3%	7.9%	2.6%	100.0%
Extended family	1	6	4	4	0	0	15
	6.7%	40.0%	26.7%	26.7%	.0%	.0%	100.0%
Total	25	120	93	89	26	7	360
	6.9%	33.3%	25.8%	24.7%	7.2%	1.9%	100.0%

It can be observed from the table that number of children have the respondents. About 6.9 per cent of the respondents have the one child, 33.3 per cent have the two children, 25.8 per cent have the three children, 24.7 per cent have the four children, 7.2 per cent have the five children and 1.9 per cent of the respondents have no children.

In nuclear family out of 269 respondents 8.2 per cent of the respondents have the one child, 32.3 per cent have the two children, 27.1 per cent have the three children, 23.0 per cent have the four children, 7.4 per cent have the five children and 1.9 per cent of the respondents have no children.

In joint family out of 76 respondents 2.6 per cent of the respondents have the one child, 35.5 per cent have the two children, 21.1 per cent have the three children, 30.3 per cent have the four children, 7.9 per cent have the five children and 2.6 per cent of the respondents have no children.

Table - 5: Previous Occupation of the Respondents

Place of Residence	Previous occupation					Total
	Agriculture	Agriculture Labour	Private sector	Govt. sector	Self employed	
Bantumilli	47	81	27	5	20	180
	26.1%	45.0%	15.0%	2.8%	11.1%	100.0%
Nandivada	47	80	27	5	21	180
	26.1%	44.4%	15.0%	2.8%	11.7%	100.0%
Total	94	161	54	10	41	360
	26.1%	44.7%	15.0%	2.8%	11.4%	100.0%

In rural areas it is quite common for both men and women to work in either agricultural or allied works in addition to their own work. In the present study an attempt is made to find out the previous occupation of respondents. The data reveal that 44.7 per cent of the respondents worked as agriculture labour whereas 26.1 per cent respondents previous occupation is agriculture, 15.0 per cent are worked in private sector, 2.8 per cent worked as government sector and remaining 11.4 per cent of respondents are self employed.

In Bantumilli mandal, 45.0 per cent of the respondents worked as agriculture labour whereas 26.1 per cent respondents previous occupation is agriculture, 15.0 per cent are worked in private sector, 2.8 per cent worked as government sector and remaining 11.1 per cent of respondents are self employed.

In Nandivada mandal, 44.4 per cent of the respondents worked as agriculture labour whereas 26.1 per cent respondents previous occupation is agriculture, 15.0 per cent are worked in private sector, 2.8 per cent worked as government sector and remaining 11.7 per cent of respondents are self employed.

Table - 6: Present Occupation of the Respondents

Age	Current occupation status		Total
	Employed	Un Employed	
60 - 69	35	125	160
	21.9%	78.1%	100.0%
70 - 79	19	92	111
	17.1%	82.9%	100.0%
80 - >	17	72	89
	19.1%	80.9%	100.0%
Total	71	289	360
	19.7%	80.3%	100.0%

It can be seen from the table 6 that the present occupation status of the respondents. Only 19.7 per cent are working and the large majority (80.3 per cent) are un employed and they are dependents.

In 60-69 age group, out of 160 respondents only 21.9 per cent are working and the large majority (78.1 per cent) are un employed and they are dependents.

In 70-79 age group, out of 111 respondents only 17.1 per cent are working and the large majority (82.9 per cent) are un employed and they are dependents.

In 80 plus age group, out of 89 respondents only 19.1 per cent are working and the large majority (80.9 per cent) are un employed and they are dependents.

Table – 7: Source of Income of the Respondents

Place of Residence	Source of income				Total
	Returns from property	Employee Pension	Pension Scheme	Financial assistance from children	
Bantumilli	49	2	47	82	180
	27.2%	1.1%	26.1%	45.6%	100.0%
Nandivada	54	3	43	80	180
	30.0%	1.7%	23.9%	44.4%	100.0%
Total	103	5	90	162	360
	28.6%	1.4%	25.0%	45.0%	100.0%

The table 7 portrays that source of income for elderly in the study area. The majority of the respondents are not working and they are poor in terms of economic status. Under the study the majority 45.0 per cent are getting financial assistance from children followed by 28.6 per cent are getting income from property whereas, 25.0 per cent are received pension scheme from government and only 1.4 per cent are getting pension from their employer.

Bantumilli mandal, out of 180 respondents 45.6 per cent are getting financial assistance from children followed by 27.2 per cent are getting income from property whereas, 26.1 per cent are received pension scheme from government and only 1.1 per cent are getting pension from their employer.

Nandivada mandal, out of 180 respondents 44.4 per cent are getting financial assistance from children followed by 30.0 per cent are getting income from property whereas, 23.9 per cent are received pension scheme from government and only 1.7 per cent are getting pension from their employer.

Table - 8: Living Arrangement of the Respondents

Gender	Living Arrangement				
	With spouse only	Children	Alone	Relatives	Total
Male	30	126	4	10	170
	17.6%	74.1%	2.4%	5.9%	100.0%
Female	29	149	3	9	190
	15.3%	78.4%	1.6%	4.7%	100.0%
Total	59	275	7	19	360
	16.4%	76.4%	1.9%	5.3%	100.0%

The table 8 shows that living arrangement of the respondents. About the majority (76.4 per cent) are living with their children followed by 16.4 per cent living with their spouse. Whereas, 5.3 per cent are living with their relatives and remaining 1.9 per cent are living alone due to no children or divorcee.

In male, out of 170 respondents 74.1 per cent are living with their children followed by 17.6 per cent living with their spouse. Whereas, 5.9 per cent are living with their relatives and remaining 2.4 per cent are living alone due to no children or divorcee.

In female, out of 190 respondents 78.4 per cent are living with their children followed by 15.3 per cent living with their spouse. Whereas, 4.7 per cent are living with their relatives and remaining 1.6 per cent are living alone due to no children or divorcee.

Table - 9: Economic Dependency of the Respondents

Education	Economic dependency			Total
	Fully dependent	Partially dependent	Not dependent	
Illiterate	169	33	13	215
	78.6%	15.3%	6.0%	100.0%
Primary	58	16	6	80
	72.5%	20.0%	7.5%	100.0%
Secondary	32	6	5	43
	74.4%	14.0%	11.6%	100.0%
Degree and above	16	4	2	22
	72.7%	18.2%	9.1%	100.0%
Total	275	59	26	360
	76.4%	16.4%	7.2%	100.0%

The table 9 depicts that economic dependency of the elderly in the study area. In the rural areas majority depends on agriculture, so it is seasonal employment due to that they couldn't get regular employment and they are unable to get the required amount for their expenditure. In this connection the elderly are dependent on their kith and kin. In the study 76.4 per cent are fully dependent followed by 16.4 per cent are partially dependent and 7.2 per cent not dependent.

In illiteracy, out of 215 respondents 78.6 per cent are fully dependent followed by 15.3 per cent are partially dependent and 6.0 per cent not dependent.

In primary education, out of 80 respondents 72.5 per cent are fully dependent followed by 20.0 per cent are partially dependent and 7.5 per cent not dependent.

In secondary education, out of 43 respondents 74.4 per cent are fully dependent followed by 14.0 per cent are partially dependent and 11.6 per cent not dependent.

In degree and above, out of 22 respondents 72.7 per cent are fully dependent followed by 18.2 per cent are partially dependent and 9.1 per cent not dependent.

Table - 10: Health Problems of the Respondents

Sl.No	Health Status	Yes	No	Total N=360
1	Diabetes	22.2	77.8	100.0
2	Blood Pressure	24.4	75.6	100.0
3	Arthritis	25.8	74.2	100.0
4	Cataract	26.9	73.1	100.0
5	Heart problem	3.3	96.7	100.0
6	Respiratory problem	38.1	61.9	100.0
7	Dental problem	39.4	60.6	100.0
8	Dementia/Alzheimer's	26.7	73.3	100.0
9	Paralysis	15.6	84.4	100.0
	Total Percentage	**24.7**	**75.3**	**100.0**

The common phenomena in the elderly that they more prone to diseases due to old age, low diet food and poverty. Other features of these people suffer from multiple diseases. Hence, they are not in the position to say precisely from which disease they are suffering. The disease most frequently observed among elderly tends to be chronic and are often degenerative, rather than acute. The table indicates that among the elderly, Diabetes 22.2 per cent prevalent, Blood Pressure 24.6 per cent, Arthritis 25.8 per cent, Cataract 26.9 per cent, Heart problem 3.3 per cent, Respiratory problem 38.1 per cent, Dental problem 39.4 per cent, Dementia/Alzheimer's 26.7 per cent and Paralysis 15.6 per cent are prevalent.

On the whole, 24.7 per cent of the respondents suffers from the diseases due to unhygienic conations and poor nutrition. 75.3 per cent tribal communities are not prevalent these chronic diseases.

Table - 11: Health Status of the Respondents
Ho: There is no statistically significance difference of health status among the male and female.

Gender	Perceived health status			
	Good	Fair	poor	Total
Male	51	59	60	170
	30.0%	34.7%	35.3%	100.0%
Female	49	66	75	190
	25.8%	34.7%	39.5%	100.0%
Total	100	125	135	360
	27.8%	34.7%	37.5%	100.0%

χ^2=0.991, df= 2, P < 0.60, Not Significant at 0.05 level

The attitude towards health seeking behaviour of the elderly and economic status has a major role to play in getting treatment. While in rural areas the situation regarding health care facilities was more or less similar, the facilities in urban areas were very different. On the other hand, the aged were as much a part of society needing specialized care. Further, the majority opined that the services of government are not accessible and satisfactory.

The table 11 indicates that only 27.8 per cent are expressed the health status are good, whereas 34.7 per cent reveled that it is fair and followed by 37.5 per cent elderly expressed that the health status is poor.

In male, out of 170 respondents 30.0 per cent are expressed the health status are good, whereas 34.7 per cent reveled that it is fair and followed by 35.3 per cent elderly expressed that the health status is poor.

In female, out of 190 respondents 25.8 per cent are expressed the health status are good, whereas 34.7 per cent reveled that it is fair and followed by 39.5 per cent elderly expressed that the health status is poor.
The chi-square table indicates that the association between gender and perceived health status. There is no difference of perceptions among male and female on perceived health status (P= 0.991) at 0.01 levels. Hence, the null hypothesis has been accepted and the research hypothesis has been rejected.

Conclusion

The present study examined socio-demographic and health of the elderly of the Krishna District. The profile of respondents deliberated on various subjective characteristics like age, gender, the number of children of the beneficiaries, monthly income, and education. The article also dealt with the living adjustment conditions of the elderly and economic dependency of the respondents.

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