

Analysis Of Socio-Economic Factors That Force The Senior Citizens To Live
In Old Age Homes Of Lahore

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Abstract

The current research, entitled "Analysis of Socio-Economic Factors That Compel Senior Citizens to Live in Old Age Homes of Lahore", examines the social and economic conditions that push senior citizens to find living accommodation in institutions. The researcher recognized a wide lacuna in the literature that currently exists, especially on the issues of the elderly, specifically on the issue of social isolation — a condition that is often encountered by elderly citizens. This research seeks to investigate the socio-economic demands that force the elderly to abandon their homes and families and, in the process, suffer from emotional trauma and yearning for reunification. A qualitative method was used, entailing intensive case studies of 12 subjects — 6 elderly persons living in old age homes and 6 of their relatives. The study universe consisted of elderly people from the Lahore district. An interview schedule was used to collect data, which was analyzed thematically with the help of balance sheets to structure emerging patterns. Purposive sampling was used to ensure rich and relevant stories. The research shows that economic difficulties, domestic conflict, and emotional abandonment are the factors behind the relocations of the elderly. Though most of the family members testified that their seniors had opted for living in institutions voluntarily, the interviews with the older citizens exposed an undercurrent of emotional depth — the majority still harbored the hope of coming together and returning to their families with honor and respect.

Key words: Psychological impact, Senior citizen, old age homes, Socio-economic factors, Social-isolation

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INTRODUCTION

As an old term, ageing conveys the human being on earth by and large. It is not limited to human beings alone; in the entire life cycle all living organisms undergo ageing. We can relate Ageing as a continuous transformation; but then again, these transformations are not negative neither decrease the ability of the individual (Susan & George, 2011).

This can be the social, psychological, and biological life changes of living beings. The biological changes occur at a more visible level, which, in terms of aggression in the name of age, universally eliminates all constructs of the body. In contrast, psychological changes tend to operate downstream to growing irrational, or vice versa, that is, diminished learning or adoption capacities of the older folk (Scheibe et al., 2007).

What does the word aged mean and hence does old age mean the same thing with the set of terms like senior citizens, mature ones, and old age people of the society? "Senior citizens means on the basis of chronological order, e.g. age 65" like he took the example of a woman that she could not use the swimming costume on the beach at this old age (Susan & George, 2011).

With time in ageing, there is an exponential increase and the ratio of senior citizens raise as in 2013 is 841 million more than 1950 as 2002 and will almost be triple by 2050 (Department of Economic and social Affairs, population division, 2013). On the contrary, Pakistan had 184.5 million in 2013 and stands in the sixth position of the populated countries (NIPS, 2013).

Maintaining and taking care of parents in the Islamic religion is highly stressed, and it is obvious for the young ones that they should be dutiful to their parents. In Pakistan, the institution of family serves as a base for the promotion of social well-being for the family. Culturally, it also affects marriage customs, with joint family systems not being adopted in modernity. Families are more inclined toward a nuclear pattern with lesser responsibilities and light financial burdens. Patriarchal system is common in Pakistan. Most of the decisions of the family are taken by males who are the heads and who have decision-making power. Conversely, due to urbanization and globalization, the societal family patterns have also undergone changes arising from these forces.

In this modern era, where families tend to sink towards a nuclear family because of which the lives of senior citizens become far more disturbed with this expansion. Working children and other family members with packed schedules do not have the time to care for their elderly parents due to which they feel lonely at home. The new generation decides to send their older generation to senior citizen homes or old age homes due to personal issues in their marital life.

Many health and psychological problems get visible with ageing and the mobility of the persons involved toward the old-age homes, incapability of the families to handle with mental and physical problems, and inadequate upkeep of health are some vital factors. Nowadays, the children neither want to own their parents nor do they want to shoulder this responsibility of looking after their older ones in their later life (Iqbal, 2003).

Numerous studies have been laid and directed on senior citizens old age homes, like Aruna Dubey and Seema Bhasin's study, which involved comparing the profiles of their background of the respondents residing in old-age homes versus respondents residing with their loved ones and in their families. The environment contrasted with the old age women residing in senior citizen home would experience against the family setting in terms of their mood and societal relationships and private preferences (Aruna et al. 2011). But their frame of reference for defining the target population is left obscured.

There is another research that is conducted in Punjab (Province of Pakistan), where the researchers tried to discover out the personal support for their elderly and physical health status of old people (Shoaib & Sarfraz, 2011).

On the contrary, in the district of KPK a research was done in which researcher also took part attentively in the socio economic and health problems and issues which the senior citizens face in their life later on. One of the argument is that mostly, almost 13% of their respondents live independently and the reason were their families who force them to live separately from them due to some conflicts (Hamid & Farman, 2013). This is one of the triggering factors for promoting the idea of old age home where senior citizens were forced to live in Pakistan. One of the argument was that many respondents were financially dependent on their kids or on any other members of the family.

Furdos Gulzar and M. Iqbal zafar also found it interesting to study the social economic profile of geriatric people and investigate the economic problems faced by them in old-age life (Furdos & Iqbal-2008).

The period of old age is peculiar, as the child and infant periods, in proper and special care. Not so much in the opposite developing countries where population in this category is rising, is caring for the old amounts to being on the other side of the fence from being helpful, as it were. The combine care of senior citizens is forced in the perspective of our religion and morally. The appreciation for their assistances for the benefit of their homeland when they were young and productive. It is considered as a dignity of their entire life in which they provide many tasks and contribute a lot as a citizen. It is worthy of mention that Allah praised to take good care of our parents and educated us to admire them and carefully handle them at their old age when they mostly need their home and families.

Increased health care and improved living conditions in recent years have resulted in raised average life span, and lowered child mortality rate in many parts of the world. This lowered birth rate due to family planning measures. So, now about 7% of the total population is aged over sixty. Thence arise considerations about the different requirements of the senior citizens as an inhabitants, particularly their demand for mutual attention comprising health and socio-economic facets, and perhaps more relevantly, the problems of their isolation. The gerontological sociological perspective is mainly on transformations in social arrangements that accompany ageing. "The sociologist is concerned to understand that society, cluster of people and all populations progress and altered or continue the exact as it was before, and to examine the societal values of individual age gap and generational series, manifest at individual level and collectively" (Bengtson et al, 1983). Sociologists' study of ageing, in the first instance, distinguishes two levels of societal influence.

MICRO SOCIAL AND MACRO SOCIAL

People know the house as an instant site of social space, entering in household activities with their family, friends, neighbors, and companions. It is ringed by, often invisible or unnoticed, forces of importance in real life activities like politically, economically, religious and cultural coupled with and surrounding by neighbors and homes. Environmental change in time as verified in a person's biography and the ongoing history of societies and groups. Both affected with changing population characteristics of an ageing-in-place society. (Bengtson etall, 1983).

The Quran also mentions parent-child relationships in key places. While it commands kids to be noble and trustworthy to their father and mother, the parents command following to

be exceptionally caring about the upbringing of their offspring. In a way, it requests fathers and mothers to do their part before expecting their just due. At last, the complete unit as a family is the foundation of culture and our societal roles. Joy and development on the Quranic path, which has been no doubt the only successful guidance, can be assured only when parents and children alike perform their duties towards one another in rights and fulfill their duties towards the rest of society.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

To explore how social relationships, family dynamics, and community support systems contribute to senior citizens' relocation to old age homes

To examine the economic conditions and financial factors that influence or compel senior citizens to reside in old age homes.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do social relationships, family dynamics, and community interactions shape the decisions or circumstances leading senior citizens to move into old age homes?
- In what ways do economic challenges or financial circumstances influence the choice or need for senior citizens to reside in old age homes?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A Grounded Theory approach starts out on an inductive route from the data, enacts collegial strategies by going back and forth between these data and their analysis, employs methods of comparison and allows you to stay engaged in your work with the data and its emergent analyses. The Grounded Theory offers systematic but flexible guidelines that render the collection and consideration of qualitative data inclined toward theory generation from the data gathered themselves. (Charamaz, 2014).

Grounded theory methods will bring you to initiate an early analysis of what you find on the way. What do those early stops achieve? Some degree of early analytic work would allow you to move towards your destination, thus maximizing the chances that your excitement for the research process and product arises. (Charamaz, 2014).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH TYPE

The study being considered here is qualitative in nature using interviews and it used the Theoretical sampling technique to gather data. The Analysis of socio-economic factors that lead senior citizens to stay in old-age homes in Lahore is unique. The researcher has tried to scale those aspects responsible for isolation in old age in this study.

Research is concerned with a wide spectrum of human behavior affected by such diverse influences as environmental, biological, psychological, sociological, and so on. This knowledge, in fact, is like a newborn child having all potential for growth and development like a newborn child research gives us joy. It also counts to know those unknowns for satisfaction for scientists to justify that goodness of scientific knowledge whether small or big.

ONTOLOGICAL POSITION

Ontology relates to the nature of reality and how we understand existence. In this research, the ontological position make even with either critical realism or social constructivism, depending on the view of the researcher. It assumes that socio-economic factors disturbing the repositioning decisions of elderly people into old age homes, such as family dynamics, financial dependency, and social policies, objectify existence. It understands that there are tangible things that exist and influence our lives but which differ in the extent to which people interpret or react to them based on individual perceptions and experiences. It is this

awareness that bridges the gap of structural forms of effect (economic distress, changing family structures) and individual agency.

EPISTEMOLOGICAL POSITION

The epistemology quantifies all about how knowledge gets acquired and validated. This study, depending somewhat on its approach, may espouse an interpretivist epistemology. If the research takes the form of interviews, case studies, or ethnographies of lived experiences, it is reliable with an interpretivist view. This perspective values the subjective meanings that senior citizens in old people homes, their families, and caregivers attribute to the decision to move in. The present study would start a qualitative inquiry to access the truth regarding Lahore old-age homes. The population would be senior citizens in old-age homes, with the sample comprising people and family members from the old-age homes. Since I am a resident of Lahore District, I chose Lahore District old-age homes for my research. Since the study will employ qualitative methods, accessing the people there will be easier for me.

For research purposes, it is not desirable or fruitful to contact or access every unit in a universe. An attempt for contact with the whole universe may involve huge investments of time, money, and resources, possible to avoid with some representative sample, provided that it serves the purpose for which the universe has been selected.

The present research was conducted among people residing in old age home centers and relates interviews of their family members to stress isolation as a prime cause. A total of 12 individuals were in-depth interviewed (6 senior citizens and 6 family members of these senior citizens).

Data will be primarily acquired through in-depth interviews. It will basically be collected from senior citizens living in old age homes and their family members who make them apart from them. From these considerations, an interviewing schedule was chosen instead of other forms of data collection. The main reason for fabricating the interviewing schedule was that questions could have triggered irritation among respondents. Another reason that could prove troublesome toward respondents was that the questioner could create problems in understanding the actual spirit of the questions. The present research study is descriptive in nature. It aims to describe the factors responsible for isolation in old age and portray the behavior of family members concerning senior citizens.

An interview allows face-to-face discussion and makes it easy to probe into the views of plaintiffs and seek suggestions. A direct interviewing method was employed because most respondents were illiterate. The configuration of the interviewing schedule that helps establish rapport and wins the confidence of respondents is such that it elicits more appropriate and complete responses in accordance with the format of the questions. With the help of interviewing, it is possible to convey more accurate and better information by explaining the purpose of the study in a more informal way and then verbally in a simpler manner.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The aging of the global population entails many socio-economic consequences. With an increased focus on elderly welfare and accommodation, the population of the elderly has been more visible. All over the world, old-age homes have been a stereotypical response to changing family structures; however, the decision of the elderly to move into such facilities is often a very complex interplay of socio-economic and cultural variables. In Pakistan, the socio-economic forces that compel senior citizens to live in old-age homes are evidently

influenced by culture, poverty, urbanization, and the breaking down of the extended family systems. (Waqas, Danish, & Niaz, 2024).

In the historical context of Pakistan, the society has been collectivist and intergenerational in the sense that older people have been taken care of by their children and extended families. As the trend of urbanization and globalization grows, such family systems are being converted into nuclear families which reduce care for older people at home (Jafree, 2023) According to a study by Asghar (2021) on family dynamics in Lahore, generation crossover conflicts and the increased cost of living are significant ties moving the elderly away from homes to old people's homes.

Many socio-economic factors have been observed to help in making the decision to shift elderly persons into old age homes for the following:

A) FINANCIAL RESTRAINT

Financial independence is one of the most important determinants of the care of old persons. Many times, the old people do not have pensions, savings, or benefits from any social security to be dependent financially on their children (Salim, Farooq, Saleem, & Malik, 2024). Financial insecurity creates cracks between family members from endearment and leading to neglect or abandonment.

B) BURDEN TO THE CAREGIVER

It has been seen that caregiving roles can pose an emotional-physical burden to family members, especially in places like cities where double-income families are, which is why such families could opt for institutionalized elderly care (Ghafoor & Rabie, 2024)

C) HEALTH AND DISABILITY

Chronic illnesses and disabilities in old people, combined with poor health care systems, make it normally hard for their families to manage the elderly at home (Noorullah, Asad, Pirani, Iqbal, & Khan, 2024). Old age homes are meant to be a solution where members can be provided the basic health care services.

According to Talmon (1961), the study of ideological and structural factors must inevitably be tied with the understanding of the ageing process and planning for such problems. He has viewed not only limitations but also some potential for planning. While an individual ages, they tend to become self-sufficient and reliant more on commercial institutions to provide them with more and more services. This observation was supplemented by the remark that the employee was left in retirement with an unexpected and entire damage of his main socio economic purposes, thus permitting him to return to such an exit in stages. Al-Rashid, Campisi, Nadeem, and Saghir (2024) explore older adults' experiences of social exclusion in Pakistan. Social isolation constitutes an important psychological factor. In Lahore, emotional neglect may afflict some elderly people due to family system changes, economic migrations, and social disengagement. A survey by the National Institute of Health Pakistan strongly cited loneliness and depression among the elderly as influential factors in their moving into old age homes. Cultural expectations, especially gendered, shape elderly care experiences. Elders among women are often subjected to more neglect than their male counterparts because of widowhood, lack of financial means, and societal disempowerment 2020). Additionally, in some cases, shame originating from society or family conflicts leads women to seek shelter in geriatric homes. In Pakistan, government initiatives for elderly welfare are quite limited. While many old age homes are operating in Lahore, a majority lack funds and basic infrastructure without a strong social welfare program, many elderly persons have no option but to depend on these

facilities. Policy research reflects an urgent need for implementation of age-sensitive social protection policies to cater to the needs of growing elderly populace.

In our society, due to the small family set-up, a more or less retired old person may have certain activities in his family or community. This, in turn, leads to the conclusion that a complete isolation is not possible, but rather rare in our society. Social collaboration plays an important role in all stages of human development; old age being the most mature phase of human life, irregular types of interaction with other fellow beings are thereby required.

A senior citizen, is not a repulsive-sexual interaction enjoyed by him and sometimes the elder does nothing to alter social values attached to young family members or even by the whole public. Generational gap can be one of the most important gap.

Recent studies have shed light on how social relationships and changing family patterns significantly influence elderly care decisions. A 2024 qualitative study by Chen et al. pointed out that South Asian urbanization and migration trends have eroded conventional family care networks, resulting in more senior citizens being institutionalized. Their study indicates that younger generations tend to migrate for work, leaving elderly parents unattended at home. Parallel to this argument, Ahmed and Farooq (2024) underlined that shifts in cultural attitudes towards filial obligation, particularly among the younger age cohorts who have been subject to globalized norms, have made the option of old age homes mainstream. Such a shift in culture, paired with social isolation and loneliness, has become an influential social determinant driving elderly into institutional care facilities. The research as a whole indicates that aside from explicit family desertion, subtler changes in social relationships — like decreased intergenerational co-residence and diminishing communal bonds — are pivotal in the decision to institutionalize into old age homes.

In an economic sense, recent literature points towards the growing financial vulnerability of older people as a primary force behind institutionalization. Rising healthcare expenses, inflation, and the lack of satisfactory pension schemes in numerous low- and middle-income nations have left senior citizens incapable of sustaining independent living or home care. As per Kumar and Devi (2024), elderly individuals without family or state support are more likely to approach old age homes out of necessity than choice. Similarly, a 2024 study by Smith and Li highlighted the ways in which economic reliance on children, augmented by intergenerational competition over scarce family assets, usually leads to the placing of elders in institutional care. These analyses bring into the fore the fact that economic insecurity, combined with poor social safety nets, not just constrains the autonomy of elderly persons but also crosses over with social factors to influence the multifaceted circumstances surrounding their migration to old age homes. “Senior citizens have generally given the connotation of being useless embarrassment and shunted away to out of sight of retirement”. (Stone & church, 1957). Emerging families are changing dramatically as inheritance rules change; however, social conditions in turn are modifying such intuitions. Increasing nuclearization in relation to decomposed labor divisions, in turn develop negligence for old people. This evidently puts the fact that at that age, people are obligated to stay within their groups as the nature of relationship changes with the changing social situations of the elderly. The underlines are social context always due to instruction. The other people relate from the standpoint of their own position in the groups which they carry forward their behavior. It may conceivably be presumed as an assumption on the part of the elderly in the picture of the social activities they do. They are

isolated after retirement, and this results into power loss and engagement terminally as causes for isolation and reclusions. Summarily put, exclusion of the elderly may pose hurdles to their interaction with others (Theodorson, 1970).

According to the census data from 1998, 6.8 percent of the general population consists of individuals who are aged over 60. Approximately 70 % of the elder people comprise the rural population of about such age. Most of them are primarily engaged in agricultural production and do not belong to a regular labor force. Most of them also are self-employed and gullible, owning any land and continued to be productive even from when they have attained the age of 60, i.e., as long as they can do so physically. There is almost no defined age of retirement of them. Poverty, low health standards, superstition, and the general absence of even the most basic amenities for a decent living still remain serious problems to the population of rural people in general, including the aged. The aged in the urban areas working in government departments, non-government organizations accordingly retire based on the retirement age in the country. The retirement age in our country is 60 years. Simultaneously, the aged population is increasing, while the need for adjustment to a longer life becomes increasingly important. The challenge posed by growing numbers of older people in the long run proves to be a satisfactory solution for problems relating to health, treatment, family relations, housing, income security, employment leisure time, and social isolation. Most of the aged population within the nation belongs to the family, the needs of which are catered to in a similar manner that other family members' needs are. Most families and the society still accord old age a very high position and respect. The elderly, who are said to have much wisdom and experience, serve as consultants in major decisions about family members or those involving life in the community. However, because of urbanization, many communities face a disintegration of their family cohesion and stability. Such societal changes will, in turn, affect the elderly population negatively, in that lifestyle changes within families are rapid and diverse and the roles of the various members constantly undergo modification.

Socio-economic factors that encourage weakening this family form include migration of youth towards cities from rural areas, small house systems in urban areas, increasing tendency of women to work outside home, rising individualism, small number of children, and devaluation factors naturally are the consequences of industrialization, over population, and negative values in the developed world.

FINDINGS

The study identifies various socio-economic factors that have led to the rising number of senior citizens being accommodated in old age homes in Lahore. The findings underscore the intricate interaction between financial issues, family dynamics, changing social attitudes, and the general welfare of the elderly that affect their choice of institutional care.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE MOVING TO THE OLD AGE HOME

Before going to the old aged home, participants had been living in different places like their homes, living with relatives, or under guardianship. Most people experienced family discords, neglect, or poverty, and that forced them to move (Victor et al., 2000; Binstock & George, 2011).

REASONS FOR MOVING TO THE OLD AGE HOME

Prominent factors include mistreatment by family members, financial constraints, and loss of social support. Some verbal abuse was reported by daughters-in-law, while physical abuse was inflicted on some elderly persons by their own children. Some elderly parents were unable to maintain independent living as some were left behind due to financial

afflictions (Chen & Silverstein, 2000; Gaugler et al., 2007). In some cases, justifications centered on caregiving limitations or past behaviors of the elder, revealing that social abandonment of an elder is complex and intertwined with both social and economic factors (Lowenstein & Daatland, 2006).

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AT THE OLD AGE HOME

While some members of the family had whatsoever limited contacts with their children or extended family, many actually underwent social isolation. Visitors among them only came to pick up property; others expressed guilt but cited their inability to look after the aged due to financial or logistical impediments (Philip & Ozanne, 2016; Victor, Scambler, & Bond, 2009). Loss of these social ties points toward the larger societal change in responsibility for elderly care, such that institutionalization becomes an option rather than intergenerational support.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Elderly persons residing in old age homes have an awful lot to cope with concerning access to medical assistance, lifestyle changes, physical activity, social interaction, economic stability, and wellness in full. Medical facilities are very random, and there is an occasional doctor or availability of essential medicine, which correlates with studies that mention healthcare deficiencies in institutional settings (Singh & Misra, 2009).

LIFESTYLES

Many residents are therefore facing emotional distress and loneliness due to the disintegration of social ties with time (Victor et al., 2005). Scarcity of recreational and physical activities is promoting loneliness and dwindling mental well-being (Chakraborty & Sinha, 2019). Most family interactions are strained, and financial constraints and family neglect of the elderly seem to be key factors for the placement of elderly residents in such institutions (Dong, 2015). Economic dependence is majorly an issue since government support is lacking, voiding such residents of financial support except for occasional charity and personal pensions (Barik et al., 2021).

Patterns of low engagement are the most common response in old age homes; the implementation of training programs targeting skills will instill self-worth and independence in the aged (Bennett et al., 2016)." Instability arises from insufficient finances, which are mentioned by these older adults as contributors to their placement, constituting a major argument in the economic vulnerability of care in later life (Giri et al., 2020). The elderly are often socially isolated due to neglect by their closest families, which calls for increased community-based intervention and elderly supportive policies (Wu & Chan, 2012).

DISCUSSION

The main purpose of this discussion is to link the major findings of the study to the literature review and to see whether previous studies or researcher is supported by the present research or not. In the light of literature review and research findings, following discussion is made by the researcher. The findings of the research are conducted on the senior citizens living in old homes of Lahore and on their family members. The basic theme of this research was to conduct a comparative study among the factors that take old people to reside in old age homes and the real reasons behind it that why family members disregards them that senior citizens take such type of decision.

The main objective of this study was to explore the socio economic factor that force senior citizens to reside in old age home. The research was conducted in the District Lahore and data was collected from the senior citizens and their family members. In depth

interviews were conducted among the senior citizens and their loved ones. Old people told the researcher that they did not feel happy living in this old age home and waiting anxiously that when their loved ones will come to take them back to home but with respect, regard and honor where as their family members view are at contradiction that old people live to prefer there even management uses harsh words but at home they did not tolerate a single normal word.

The study that researcher conducted on the Lahore district support the saying of Prophet (PBUH) that now in modern era people have no longer respect for old people even people dis regards their own parents and forget that what our religion has told us to do.

With the passage of time, ageing has a rapid increase and there is also number of older persons increased as the number of older persons in 2013 is 841 million, which is more than 1950 as 2002, and it will almost triple by 2050 (Department of Economic and social Affairs, population division, 2013). On the other hand, the population of Pakistan is 184.5 million in 2013 and Pakistan is the sixth most populous country of the world (NIPS, 2013).

According to these latest reports it is obvious that day by day older person's ratio will be more and more so it is also clearly mentioned in the researcher's study that no proper physical, mental and psychological assistance has been provided to them at micro and macro level. Senior citizens are just taking their lives as time pass and regret those days when they were young but did not make anything for their own selves. And now those family members dis regards them, uses harsh words and do not have time for them.

Almost all the senior citizens who participated in the research told that they are not satisfied from their lives as there is no social interaction with anyone. The institute provides no physical and psychological indoor activities. The only recreational activity for them is Television in Hall which is provided by the management whereas the health facilities which are provided by the institute were also bad as they provide a dispensary but with no proper medical staff so Government should provide them all the basic health facilities at this stage of life. It was depressing for the researcher that institute is providing them very rare facilities of medicine.

A major objective of this study was to find out the economic factor that takes old people to old homes. The researcher in her study revealed that money, property was the major factors that bring them here in old age home. The greed of money among family members which is the most cause of decline of joint family system to nuclear family system in which parents were totally neglected by their loved ones. It is a sad fact of modern life that parents are disregarded by their own children as it is clearly mentioned by the respondents of the research that economical factor is the most important reason to take this decision as they feel themselves totally helpless.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of findings of the study, the following recommendations were given;

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

An introduction of day care centers for senior citizens in major and minor cities throughout Punjab will be ensured. Local zakat committees will work with union councils and town committees to approve monthly zakat assistance and a one-time zakat grant for poor senior citizens.

Further research a comparative study should be undertaken regarding the problems faced by senior citizens who were not living in their homes, no social interaction with the

community. Research studies should also be conducted to find out societal perceptions about the senior citizens.

The studies should be supported out for assessing the economic, social, housing; demands; health requirements of the senior citizen community and for the monitoring and evaluation of the existing programs for older people. Of the aged collectivity, there always exist those that experience the process of aging. These are the very elderly who are physically so weak that maintaining their health and seeking treatment are almost impossible for them in old age homes. Senior citizens should have special units in government facilities so that they are truly catered for and get a fair chance for proper treatment during hospitalization.

There is a need for carrying out awareness campaigns for the rights of senior citizens. Those seniors whose spouses have died should receive family-support services to promote a culture within the family for treating the senior with special care, considering that he/she is now all alone and missing companionship in his/her world. The families need to be sensitized through booklets and mass media to relate better to the aged person who has lost his/her spouse so as to lessen the feeling of abruptness and isolation of such an aged person.

MEDIA

Media should act positively for the well-being of senior citizens. It can highlight the issues facing the elderly population in society. The media can also launch an awareness campaign to enlighten society. The very different classes of senior citizens are those who step out of the circles they know and engage in activities which they find interesting and meaningful. There is a lack of leisure activities for the seniors of poorly maintained old homes within the district of Lahore. There is no one-place senior citizens can properly go to bond or mingle. The Government should open community halls, create clubs, and set up special boxes in cinemas so these seniors have many viable options to present an interest and add some charm to their lives.

In fact, old-age homes shelter quite a number of seniors with good educational backgrounds, but the fact remains that they do not have educational contributions for society. If the Government were to assist those senior citizens by establishing educational institutions to teach adults, then the elite seniors would feel that they are shouldering responsibilities as having made a contribution to society. Financial worries, such as problems during illness for senior males and females, really take center stage when there is no family member available to lend a helping hand. Such programs should, through Zakat and Bait-UL-Mal, help needy old people, deprived and widows in particular.

CONCLUSIONS

SOCIAL STATUS OF SENIOR CITIZENS

According to old people the general behavior of their loved ones was very harsh and rude towards them. After getting married family members especially sons change. They did not respect us as being children. Senior citizens had to suffer harsh words, rude behavior. They were not given respect and dignity by their loved ones. In old homes, senior citizens feel lonely and helpless and waiting desperately for their loved ones to come and take them to their houses with respect and regard. There is no source of income for senior citizens in old homes. They found themselves totally helpless as in their young age they earn a lot for their children but now because of greed of money and property children totally neglect them, take full control on their belongings and do such a harsh behavior with them that senior citizens leave their children home and come to live in old age home. Senior citizens were

found to be very emotional and sensitive on this issue that their own children insulted and beat them also because of money.

LIMITATIONS

This research is concerned with qualitative methodology and therefore cannot apply the results universally as would have been the case for several populations measured as figures and quantitative results. Furthermore, it can also be possible that the results derived from the present sample would not be generalized to other provinces of Pakistan or other cities. Present research would be dealing with the experiences of the people who are living in Lahore old age homes.

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