

# Social Features of Senior Citizens in Old Age Homes of Punjab

## Abstract

The study of social features of senior citizens in old age homes of Punjab is very important for society. In every aspect of life old people has very important place. If we talk about ancient time, the place of old people in joint families was very high, not because of their old age but also because they had lifelong experiences. Their orders were followed without any objection. But as the society is progressing, the structure of families is changing. The joint families are replaced by the nuclear families. These changes have a major impact on the condition of old people. Old people are suffering from ignorance from their children, due to loneliness and lack of healthy environment they are moving to old age homes. Researcher in her present study described social features of old people like age, gender, caste, religion, education and type families etc. every person has his own different thinking and behavior. All these have a deep impact on the results. So it is important for social researcher to learn the social features of respondents. The study will indicate the fact that the changing family structure has adversely affected the aged people.

**Keywords:** Family, Old Age, Old Age Home, Modernization.

## Introduction

Aging is a biological process through which every human being passes. This process starts at birth and ends with death. Aging is life spanning from infancy process of growth and development running from infancy to old age through childhood, adulthood and at last gets an end with the death of individuals. Aging is usually concerned with fatigue and declining functional capacity of different organs of the body due to physiological transformation. As results the majority of them are unable or not allowed do work. For practical purpose who defines people above the age of 60 years as elderly. The beginning of old age in an individual is associated with different conditions or changes. Occurring in one's life for example, the onset of graying hair. The advent of bifocals, serious impairment of vital physical components, failure of individuals to function independently, ceasing to be a part of production and imposition of an arbitrary retirement age by the society old age means physical disability, declining mental ability, the gradual giving up of roles played in social activities and a shift in economic independence to economic dependence on others for support (soodan: 1975). Edward defines ageing as the element of time in living. According to him ageing is a part of living. Aging begins with conception and terminates with death. It cannot be arrested unless we arrest life. We many restart aging our accelerate it, but we cannot arrest it white life goes on, because it is essentially an element in living. The study will create awareness among the people to amend their behavior towards their children also. Many trusts and NGO opened much old age home. In this study I will try to observe the social impact of these institutions whether they are of any use or just a business.

The traditional India family structure was different from present scenario. That time old people had respected positions in their families. But now western culture, industrialization, etc. has turned down their position in their families. Youngsters believe in nuclear family structure and they don't like old people. They let to live them in old age homes. In some families old people with their own wish start to live in old age homes due to annoying behavior of their children.

## Aim of the Study

The aim of the study is to understand the concept of social features of senior citizens in old age homes in Punjab.



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**Review of Literature**

Isha in her article (2016) "Quality of life in old age home in Punjab" tried to find out reasons why old persons live in old age home. The old aged persons were poorly behaved by their sons and daughters-in-laws, that's why old persons feel sad and uncomfortable in their homes. On other hand, moving of the families to the foreign countries is also one of reason of the old aged persons to live in old age home because there is no one left in their families to serve them.

In Ajit newspaper, talwani in his article (2017) "Nari sansar kalam" tried to describe that in present time the new technologies has demolished the relationship of the families. In past time the decisions were taken by the aged persons were given great importance because decisions by them were the result of their life experience. On the other hand no one in the family dare to speak against their decisions. But in the modern era the values of aged persons were totally demolished. They themselves left their self-made homes and started living in old age homes.

Chaudhary (1992), in his study "Ageing and the Aged" found that the elderly people were not looked upon carefully and due respect was not given to them by their children, which they used to get earlier. They start feeling neglected, therefore they start shunning the company of others and stay lonely and loneliness in turn may give rise to stress and depression and eventually they fall sick.

Soneja and Tyagi (1999), in their study "family and aging: A study to access the kind of support required by the aged living in families" found that a change in the attitudes of the younger generation is observed. Elderly felt that they are being respected only if they interfere less in the life of younger generations.

It is important to have some knowledge about the respondent who are living in old age home. The main features like Age, Gender, Caste, Religion, Education. Family type, Marital status and Native place have been found in this paper. Because these characteristic have a very important so, in this paper the profile of the respond will be explained.

Age:- Age is a universal phenomenon of the population of the aged has been rapidly increasing at a staggering rate all over the world and this trend is all the more evident in India.

**Table.No.1.1**

**Distribution of the Respondents as Age**

Sr.No	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1.	61-70 year	97	32.33
2.	71-80 year	171	57.00
3.	81-90 year	32	10.7
	Total	300	100

The table shows that 57.00 percent of respondent were from 71-80 years and 32.33 percentof the respondent were from category of 61-70 years. Only 10.7 percent of the respondents who were living in the old age home were from the category of 81-90 years.

**Gender**

Gender is the range of physical, biological, mental and behavior characteristic pertaining to difference between insecurity and feminist. Deeping on the context the term may refer to biological, sex. Sex based social structure or gender identity. It was very important variable for the present study.

**Table.No.1.2**

**Distribution of respondents according to their Gender**

Sr.No	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Male	150	50.00
2.	Female	150	50.00
	Total	300	100

The Above table shows that ratio of male and female is equal that is 50-50 per cent.

**Caste**

Caste is a form of social stratification characterized by endogamy her educatory transmission of a life style which after includes an occupation rituals status in a hierarchy and customary. Social interaction and exclusion based on cultural nation of purity and pollution. The caste group is divided into six groups.

**Table.1**

**Distribution of respondent to their caste category**

Sr.No	Caste	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Khatri	133	44.33
2.	Ravidas	51	17.00
3.	Jatt	39	13.00
4.	Suniar	33	11.00
5.	Brahaman	25	8.33
6.	Tarkhan	19	6.4
	Total	300	100

The above table shows that 44.33 percentof the respondents were from the caste of Khatri followed by 17.00 percentof the respondents who were the caste of Ravidas, 13.00 per cent, Jatt; 11.00 percentrespondent caste of Suniar and 6.4 percentrespondent who were the caste of Tarkhan. The data show that most of the respondent who lived in old age home were from Khatri caste.

**Religion**

Religion's beautiful they are the reasons why we know right from wrong Tylor who argued that early religion arose from people belief in spirit of god like being the first is called intellectualist. Because religion is seen as a system of explanation people, it was claimed invoked belief in spirits or goals in order to explain nature events and religion is very important variable for the present study.

**Table.No.1.4**

**Distribution of respondents according to their religion affiliation**

Sr.No	Religion	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Hindu	204	68.00
2.	Sikhs	87	29.00
3.	Muslim	9	3.00
	Total	300	100

The data show that the majority of the respondent 68.00 percentbelong to the Hindu religion; 29.00 percentbelong to the Sikh religion only 3.00 percentrespondent belong to the Muslim religion.

**Education**

Education consider as a very important factor in present day society. Education induces not simile change rather brings absolute transformation in attitude of the individuals and help in modernizing value. Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills and habits of a group of people are transferred. From one generation to the next through teaching training or research. The education level of respondents has been classified into five categories illiterate; middle, higher secondary, graduates and post graduates. The distribution of the respondent has been shown in the table given below.

**Table.No.1.5**  
**Distribution of the respondent to according to their education**

Sr.No	Education	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	151	50.33
2.	Middle	48	16.00
3.	Higher Secondary	41	13.7
4.	Graduates	36	12.00
5.	Post Graduates	24	8.00
	Total	300	100

The Distribution of the respondents in the table given above indicates that 50.33 percentrespondent were illiterate, 16.00 percentwere middle, 13.7 percenthigher secondary, 12.00 percentgraduates and 8.00 percentwere post graduates. It was shown from table is that most of respondent were it illiterate.

**Marital Status**

Marriage is one of the oldest institution; it has remain throughout most universal and most distinctive of human institutions. There is no record of any society, however simple its economic and political systems that does not have marriage as one of the key elements of its social structure.

According to Lundberg marriage consists of the rules and regulations which define the duties and privileges of husband and wife with respect to each other. The following table presents the distributes of the respondents on the basis of their marital status.

**Table.No.1.6**  
**Distribution of Respondents according to Their Marital Status**

S.No	Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Widow/Widower	167	55.66
2.	Married	84	28.00
3.	Unmarried	33	11.00
4.	Divorce	16	5.4
	Total	300	100

The above table show that a higher number of the respondent 55.66 persen twere either widows/widowers. This may be the fact of old age. There were 28.00 percentof the respondent were married; 11.00 percentof the respondent unmarried and 5.4 percentof the respondent divorce.

**Type of family**

Family is the basic institution in the socialization process of an individual. Moreover, the family ascribes an initial status to the Individual prior to his achieving status on his own. The type of the family in which an individual lives has significant influence on his personal and social life. According to MacIver family is a group defined by sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and up bringing of children. Type of family divided into four groups.

**Table.No.1.7**  
**Distribution of the respondents to type of family**

Sr.No	Family Type	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Quasi Joint Family	176	58.66
2.	Joint Family	69	23.00
3.	Extended Family	30	10.00
4.	Nuclear Family	25	8.4
	Total	300	100

The above table show that the large number 58.66 percentof the respondent living were quasi joint family; 23.00 percentwere joint family; 10.00 percentof the respondent living were extended family and 8.4 percent respondent belong to the nuclear family.

**Native Place**

The respondent were asked to mention their native place. The responses are presented in the following table

**Table.No.1.8**  
**Distribution of the respondent according to their native place**

Sr.No	Native Place	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Urban	155	51.66
2.	Town	85	28.4
3.	Rural	60	20.00
	Total	300	100

As the above table show that a large majority 51.66 percent of the respondents stated that they belong to urban areas; 28.4 percentrespondent stated town and 20.00 percentrespondent in old age home whose native place was rural. There forces a vast majority of the respondent were from urban areas.

**Conclusion**

It is concluded from the above discussion that 57.00 percentof respondent were from 71-80 years and 32.33 percentof the respondent were from category of 61-70 years. Only 10.7 percent of the respondents who were living in the old age home were from the category of 81-90 years. The ratio of male and female is equal that is 50-50 percent. The caste ratio is 44.33 percentof the respondents were from the caste of Khatri followed by 17.00 percentof the respondents who were the caste of Ravidas, 13.00 percentJatt; 11.00 percent respondent caste of Suniar and 6.4 percentrespondent who were the caste of Tarkhan. The data show that most of the respondent who lived in old age home were from Khatri caste. The majority of the respondent 68.00

percent belongs to the Hindu religion; 29.00 percent belong to the Sikh religion only 3.00 percent respondent belongs to the Muslim religion. The 50.33 percent respondent were illiterate, 16.00 percent were middle, 13.7 percent higher secondary, 12.00 percent graduates and 8.00 percent were post graduates. It was shown from table is that most of respondent were it illiterate. A higher number of the respondent 55.66 percent were either widows/widowers. This may be the fact of old age. There were 28.00 percent of the respondent were married; 11.00 percent of the respondent unmarried and 5.4 percent of the respondent divorce. the large number 58.66 percent of the respondent living were quasi joint family; 23.00 percent were joint family; 10.00 percent of the respondent living were extended family and 8.4 percent respondent belong to the nuclear family. A large majority 51.66 percent of the respondents stated that they belong to urban areas; 28.4 percent respondent stated town and 20.00 percent respondent in old age home whose native place was rural. There forces a vast majority of the respondent were from urban areas.

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