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ISSN NO: 2454 - 2326

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## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF ELDERLY TRIBALS: A STUDY IN ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

PALTHIA GOPAL NAIK\*

\*Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ananthapuramu (AP).

### *Abstract*

*The living arrangements of older persons are determined by cultural norms regarding co-residence and inter-generational ties and familial support. Living arrangements are also fundamentally affected by demographic change, and, in particular, by population ageing. In an aged population, older persons have relatively fewer children and grandchildren than in a youthful population. Partly because of this situation, older persons in more aged populations are less likely to live in multi-generational households and are more likely to live independently, that is, either alone or with a spouse only. The longer life spans associated with ageing populations open opportunities for more complex intergenerational living arrangements, such as three- or even four-generation households. The present paper discusses briefly the living arrangements, reasons for staying alone, source of income for living and ratings of present living arrangements of tribal elderly in the Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.*

**Key Words:** Senior Citizen, Age Group, Pension, Feelings

### INTRODUCTION

Population ageing, which entails an increasing share of older persons in the population, is a major global demographic trend which will intensify during the twenty-first century. For statistical purposes, and unless otherwise specified, in this report older persons are considered to be those aged 60 years or older. Ageing results from the demographic transition, a process whereby reductions in mortality are followed by reductions in fertility. Together, these reductions eventually lead to smaller proportions of children and larger proportionate shares of older people in the population. Ageing is taking place almost everywhere, but its extent and speed vary. In most developed countries, the population has been ageing for many decades, while in developing countries, population ageing has taken place relatively recently, as their mortality and fertility levels have fallen. Currently, the most aged populations are in the developed countries, but the majority of older persons reside in developing countries.

Given that the rate of growth of the older population in developing countries is significantly higher than in developed countries, the older population of the world will increasingly be concentrated in the less developed regions.

Ageing is a dynamic process, determined by the relative size of the younger and older cohorts in the population at different moments in time. The initial size of each cohort depends on the population in childbearing ages at a given point in time, and the prevalent fertility rates. Mortality rates determine the number of people of each cohort that survives to old-age. Migration may also affect ageing in different ways, although its actual impact at the national level is usually small.

At the world level, 40 per cent of the world’s older population lives independently, with no significant difference by sex. Almost half of women living independently live alone. By contrast, only a minority of older men live alone. The gap in the proportion living independently between the more developed regions and the rest of the world is remarkable. Older persons who live independently represent almost three quarters of all older persons in the more developed regions compared to just over 10 per cent in least developed countries and one quarter in the less developed regions.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To study the ageing trends in India as per 2011 Census.
2. To analyze the living arrangements of sample tribal’s in the study area.

**Old Age Population in India**

Table 1 gives the details of age group wise old age population in India as per 2011 census.

**Table 1  
The Population of Senior Citizens in India-2011 Census**

Age Groups	Total		
	Persons	Males	Females
All ages	1210854977	623270258	587584719
60-64 Years	37663707	18701749	18961958
65-69 Years	26454983	12944326	13510657
70-74 Years	19208842	9651499	9557343
75-79 Years	9232503	4490603	4741900
80 and above Years	11289005	5283695	6005310
<b>Total Senior Citizens</b>	<b>103,849,040</b>	<b>51,071,872</b>	<b>52,777,168</b>

Source: Primary Census Abstracts, office of the Registrar General, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India

It is evident from table 1 that the share of senior citizens in total population of the country stood at 8.58 per cent. The female population is slightly higher than the males. Among the males senior citizens constitute 8.19 per cent and among females the senior citizens constitute 8.98 per cent. Within the senior citizen population more than one-third of population is in the age group of 60 to 64 years. The population in the age group of 65 to 69 years is more than one-fourth of total senior citizen population. Around 18.50 per cent of senior citizens are in the age group of 70 to 74 years. It is pertinent to note that the percentage of population in 80 and above years (10.87 per cent) is more than the age group of 75 to 79 years (8.89 per cent).

### Old Age Population in Andhra Pradesh

Table 2 gives the details of age group wise old age population in Andhra Pradesh as per 2011 census.

**Table 2**  
**The Population of Senior Citizens in Andhra Pradesh\*-2011 Census**

	Total		
	Persons	Males	Females
All ages	84580777	42442146	42138631
60-64 Years	3199837	1485764	1714073
65-69 Years	2167854	1034360	1133494
70-74 Years	1519358	752743	766615
75-79 Years	636989	307474	329515
80 and above Years	754203	325987	428216
<b>Total Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8,278,241</b>	<b>3,906,328</b>	<b>4,371,913</b>

Source: Primary Census Abstracts, office of the Registrar General, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India

\*Undivided State

It is clear from table 2 that the total population of Andhra Pradesh State is 8, 45, 80,777. Among them 4, 24, 42,146 constituting 50.18 per cent are males and the remaining 4, 21, 38,631 constituting 49.82 per cent were females. The senior citizens constitute 9.79 per cent of total population. It means that the percentage of senior citizens in the state is higher than the national figures. The percentage female (10.38 per cent) senior citizens are higher than males ((9.28 per cent). Among the senior citizens, nearly 38.65 per cent are in the age group of 60 to 64 years. Around 26.19 per cent of senior citizens were in the age group of 65.69 per cent). Among the senior citizens 18.35 per cent were in the age group of 70 to 74 years. Like at national level the percentage of senior citizens in 80 years and above age group (9.11 per cent) is higher than the 75 to 79 age group (7.69 per cent).

Except, in the age group of 60 to 64 years and 80 years and above age group the male was dominating the scene in other three age groups.

**Living Arrangements**

The fundamental problem that the old age people faces is where to live and with whom to live. The existing environment in the family they live lonely or in company of their family members or in old age homes. Table 3 gives the details of living arrangements made by sample respondents in the study area.

**Table 3**  
**Living Arrangements of Sample Respondent senior Citizens**

S. No.	Living Arrangements	Female	Male	Total
1	Living alone	37 (29.60)	33 (26.40)	70 (28.00)
2	Living with spouse only	32 (25.60)	38 (30.40)	70 (28.00)
3	Living with Son and other family members	19 (15.20)	13 (10.40)	32 (12.80)
4	Living with Daughter, Spouse and Son-in law	21 (16.80)	20 (16.00)	41 (16.40)
5	Living with Grand Children/spouse and other family members	11 (8.80)	18 (14.40)	29 (11.60)
6	Others	5 (4.00)	3 (2.40)	8 (3.20)
<b>Total</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>250</b>

Source: Field Data

The data in table 3 shows that nearly 28 per cent of sample respondents were leading life individually. In this regard the women are slightly ahead with 29.60 per cent than the males. Another 28 per cent of sample senior citizens were living with their life partner. Around 16.40 per cent of sample women were living at daughter’s residence along with spouse, son-n-law and grand children. The sample senior citizens living with son and other family members like spouse, daughter and grand children constitute 12.80 per cent of total sample. Nearly 11.60 per cent of sample was living with grand children/spouse and other family members. The remaining 3.20 per cent were living in old age homes and relatives.

**Reasons for Staying Alone**

The respondents who are living lonely were further enquired to give reasons for living alone and their responses were presented in table 4.

**Table 4**  
**Reasons Cited by Sample Senior Citizens for Staying Alone**

S. No.	Reasons	Female	Male	Total
1	No children	2 (5.41)	4 (12.12)	6 (8.57)
2	Children away	5 (13.51)	4 (12.12)	9 (12.86)
3	Family conflict	15 (40.54)	13 (39.39)	28 (40.00)
4	Prefer to be independent	3 (8.11)	5 (15.15)	8 (11.43)
5	Still Economically Active	5 (13.51)	2 (6.06)	7 (10.00)
6	Don't want to move from this place	4 (10.81)	2 (6.06)	6 (8.57)
7	Still Physically Active	2 (5.41)	2 (6.06)	4 (5.71)
8	Others	1 (2.70)	1 (3.03)	2 (2.86)
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>33</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>70</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

It can be inferred from table 4 that the major cause for staying alone as reported by sample citizens is the family conflict (40 per cent). The second reason cited by sample respondents for staying alone is due to far away of children (12.86 per cent). The children of some of these parents are away from their home as they are working as employees in government or private sector. The children of some other parents migrated for employment to cities. Around 11.43 per cent of sample reported that they prefer to be independent; as such they are living alone. As the income sources to 10 per cent of sample is good, they were leading life lonely. In this regard women's percentage is higher than males. There are no children for 8.57 per cent of sample; as such they are living alone. The feel affection on native place not allowed another 8.57 per cent sample tribal senior children to go along with their children. So they are living lonely in their native place. The physical fitness of 5.71 per cent of sample not allowed them to depend on their kith and kin.

**Source of Income**

The living conditions of senior citizens are influenced by their income sources. In good number of families the children or other relatives look after the old people only when they earn some amount by their labour or otherwise. Table 5 gives the details of sources of income for the sample tribal senior citizens.

**Table 5**  
**Source of Income for Present Living**

S. No.	Source of Income	Female	Male	Total
1	Employer’s Pension	5	9	14
		(4.00)	(7.20)	(5.60)
2	Social Pension (Old Age/ Widow)	39	32	71
		(31.20)	(25.60)	(28.40)
3	Rental Income	5	6	11
		(4.00)	(4.80)	(4.40)
4	Agriculture/ Farm Income	16	42	58
		(12.80)	(33.60)	(23.20)
5	Business Income	7	3	10
		(5.60)	(2.40)	(4.00)
6	Interest On Savings/Fixed Deposits	2	1	3
		(1.60)	(0.80)	(1.20)
7	Others	2	3	5
		(1.60)	(2.40)	(2.00)
8	Agriculture Wage income	43	24	67
		(34.40)	(19.20)	(26.80)
9	No Income	6	5	11
		(4.80)	(4.00)	(4.40)
<b>Total</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>
		<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Data

For good number of Scheduled Tribe senior citizens the major source of income is agriculture and allied activities. Exactly half of the sample respondents reported agriculture and agriculture wages are main source income for leading life at present. To be precise, 26.80 per cent of sample respondents reported that agriculture wages were main source of income. Here, the female dependency is higher (34.40 per cent) than the male (19.20 per cent). Around 23.20 per cent of sample respondent’s source of income is agriculture/farm income. The next major source of income for ST senior citizens is social security pensions (28.40 per cent). The pension given to public servants is the source of income for 5.60 per cent of sample. Income from rents of residence/ shops etc is the source of income for 4.40 per cent of sample. Around 4 per cent of sample ST senior citizens were leading life with the income from petty business. There is no particular source of income for 11 out of 250 respondents.

**Feeling on Present Living Arrangement**

The feelings of sample respondents on present living conditions are presented in table 6.



**Table 6**

**Respondent’s Feeling on Present Living Arrangement**

S. No.	Responses	Female	Male	Total
1	Comfortable	37 (29.60)	42 (33.60)	79 (31.60)
2	Satisfactory	19 (15.20)	12 (9.60)	31 (12.40)
3	Uncomfortable	63 (50.40)	66 (52.80)	129 (51.60)
4	Can't Say	6 (4.80)	5 (4.00)	11 (4.40)
<b>Total</b>		<b>125</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>125</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>250</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

It is evident from table 6 that a preponderant majority i.e. 51.60 per cent of sample respondents feeling uncomfortable with present living arrangements. On the other hand 31.60 per cent expressed that they are feeling comfortable with present living conditions. Present living conditions are satisfactory for 12.40 per cent of sample respondents. The remaining 4.40 per cent of sample not responded.

**CONCLUSION**

Living independently might be the preferred arrangement for some older individuals, but it might be an undesired situation for others, depending on the cultural norms and the intergenerational support system of the particular society. In developing countries where older persons have limited resources to sustain themselves and rely heavily on support from children, living independently, especially alone, could be a disadvantage or even an indication of neglect. In societies where older persons have sufficient economic resources, including public pensions and asset income, living independently tends to be a sign of economic self-sufficiency and higher standards of living.

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