

Economic Problems Faced by Elderly People in India

Avyaya Kheria

Abstract:- India, a country with a booming older population, is a demographic billionaire. above 1.2 billion people or one in ten, in the nation, are above the age of sixty. Even if the majority of older people are still struggling with socioeconomic, physical, and psychological issues, a sizable portion have seen their net worth grow significantly over time. India is a diverse nation with residents who practise many religious faiths and speak a variety of languages. Living together are people of many castes and creeds, regions of the world, and socioeconomic, educational, and familial backgrounds. The vast gap in the financial situation of the elderly in India is apparent from a peek into their cultural pluralities and diversities. This paper looks at the economic conditions of elderly people in India.

I. INTRODUCTION

In Indian societies, senior family members have traditionally had the right to inherit land, houses, and other ancestral property. However, the rapid rise in land prices brought on by a rapidly growing population, the ongoing industrialization process, the creation of infrastructure, rising real estate investment, the Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG) of the economy and the resulting individualism & materialism, as well as a number of other factors, all played a role in the net worth of people in general and the elderly in particular.

The net worth of elderly individuals increased proportionately considerably more among those living in urban and semi-urban areas than among those in rural areas. Nowadays, elderly individuals are beginning to earn more money each month from sources like rent on land or houses, interest, returns from investments, etc., especially in urban areas. While people who live in rural areas typically have higher earnings than ever before due to the expansion of cash crops and the rising domestic and global demand for their products. There are still a lot of older people who struggle with social, economical, and psychological issues as a result of the remarkable gap between the rich and the poor and between urban and rural areas. The majority of elderly people in India experience financial trouble as they age since the bulk of them are unable to support themselves. If they have any savings at all, it is not enough to cover their daily needs, especially their medical costs. Many times their family members and relatives exploit them owing to their susceptibility. Comprehensive data gathered from surveys done with the help of questionnaires across the nation reveals that in India, more than about 65% of the elderly were dependent on others for their daily maintenance.

II. AIMS AND OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The country's rapidly shifting socioeconomic conditions, continued free market policies, the liberalisation of the economy, and a number of other factors have ultimately altered the financial situation of the populace in general and older people in particular. These factors are partially to blame for the widening gap in financial well-being between older people from diverse social, economic, religious, or regional backgrounds and the rising rural-urban split. The primary goal of this research project is to identify the subtleties of these changes as they affect the lives of elderly people through an in-depth qualitative analysis. The following is a set of particular goals that have been created to conduct research on the situations of the older people in the study region in order to further examine and comprehend the realism:

- To determine older people's net worth.
- To evaluate how older people's financial situations are changing.
- To carry out a socioeconomic situational analysis of senior citizens.
- To investigate the senior population's financial concerns and related challenges.
- To evaluate the effect of financial situation on senior patients' healthcare
- To examine the financial situation of older people in rural and metropolitan areas.
- To evaluate the spending habits of senior high-net-worth individuals.
- To recognise the rapidly expanding problems of senior citizens.
- To evaluate the main issues that older persons face as they age.
- To solicit older people's comments and viewpoints on the factors that affect their financial situation and the value of their net worth.

III. RESEARCH AREA

- *Considering that this is a broad study that focuses on the healthcare and financial difficulties that older people confront as they enter their golden years, a research area of the probe was created for the study that includes the following inquiries:*
 - How wealthy are older people in terms of their net worth and yearly or monthly income?
 - What are the main causes of the elderly's increased net worth?

- How do elderly people's financial and health statuses relate to one another?
 - How does an older person's financial situation impact their access to healthcare as they age?
 - What financial issues are the elderly most concerned about?
 - How do elderly people's income and spending habits differ?
 - What are the evolving demands of senior citizens residing in rural and urban areas?
 - What does financial independence mean to senior citizens?
 - Are elderly people's financial rights and interests protected?
 - What are the main issues that elderly persons face as they age?
- *Age and gender are crucial factors, as are residence (rural or urban), type of family (joint or nuclear), and class level. (income) Continual Source of Income?*
- The gap between the rich and the poor as people age.
 - Net worth as measured by property value
 - Availability of medical services/facilities
 - Older adults' reliance on social security programmes
 - Protection of financial rights and interests
 - Financial independence
 - Older adults' ability to control their healthcare
 - Serious issues with ageing
 - Older people's awareness of money issues

IV. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The goal of this study is to better understand financial dynamics by emphasising trends that relate to the problems and difficulties elderly people are currently facing financially. The association between older people's quality of life and high net worth has been explored.

➤ *Universe and Study Units*

The study's subject area was the entire nation, accordingly, rural and urban. The study's subject areas were chosen. The study's sample included every male and female over sixty.

➤ *Sampling frame*

As 8.6% of the nation's 1210 million people are over the age of sixty, there are approximately 100 million senior people living in India.

Additionally, 8.3% of the overall elderly population are men and 9% are women. Therefore, it would not be possible to research every senior citizen living in the nation. However, *a list of senior citizens who were open to participating in the study was initially created.*

According to the literature study, older persons experience a variety of issues, problems, and challenges, including their frailty and functional limitations, physical and health issues, social isolation and loneliness, neglect,

and economic insecurity. Therefore, the representation of this diversity was kept in mind when establishing the list of respondents or the sampling frame to ensure that the research captures the wide range of difficulties, notably financial worries that older people confront.

V. SAMPLING, TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

The respondents that made up the study's sample were chosen at random based on factors including gender, community (rural vs. urban), age group, etc.

A total of 50 respondents were chosen randomly across India. The survey was conducted in the month of march 2023 itself and questionnaires were circulated among the people to get the response from the senior citizen. A more intuitive approach was used for the research because the focus was mostly on qualitative data. This allowed us to better comprehend the issue and identify a pattern. Focused group discussions and in-depth interviews were employed to enhance the material.

VI. FINDINGS AND RESULTS

- Two-fifths of the respondents (41.43%) reported that their primary source of income was their pension or family pension.
- It has been determined that their primary source of income is interest on deposits, dividends on savings, and rent from residential properties, among other things, with an 18.75% yield.
- Old age pensions were discovered to be 12.36% of senior respondents' primary source of income.
- Approximately one in eight subjects (11.69%) reported that their primary source of income came from work or other gainful activities.
- 10.5% of respondents indicated that their income came mostly from their businesses or professions.
- Of the respondents, 5.27% reported having no source of income.
- In terms of monthly revenue, it was found that almost two during the sunset years, a third of the informants (34.6%) made a respectable monthly income (more than Rs 10,000 per month).
- Twenty-five per cent of the respondents (40.63%) reported having a monthly income of up to Rs. 5000.
- Approximately 18.97% of elderly respondents (29.09% older men and 9.11% older women) reported that they make between Rs. 10000 and 20,000 per month. 15.63% of respondents (20.97% older men and 10.42% older women) admitted that their monthly income is above Rs. 20,000/-.

- Almost one-fourth of senior citizens who responded (24.77%) reported that their monthly income is in the range of Rs. 5000 and Rs. 10000.
- 16.3%, or 2451 older people, reported having a monthly income of less than Rs. 5000, while 17.6%, or 2644 older respondents, indicated they had no or very little.
- Compared to 44.83% of respondents from rural areas, 38.04% of senior urban respondents reported that their primary source of income is a pension.
- Only 2.39% of respondents in urban areas reported receiving an old-age pension, compared to 22.33% of respondents in rural regions.
- About one-fourth of respondents (24%) in urban areas and 12.72% in rural areas reported receiving income from interest, rent, or other sources.
- Only 2.95% of elderly respondents in rural areas claimed to make their primary source of income from their business or profession, compared to 18.05% of respondents in urban areas.
- Gender-specific data analysis revealed that, compared to senior women, 42.56% of elderly males said their pension was their main source of income. The pension was cited as the primary source of income for 40.33%. There were 41.43 of these older people overall.
- Compared to the overall older population of 18.75%, 18.11% of elderly men and 19.37% of elderly women answered that their primary source of income is interest, rent, etc.
- 13% of older women, or 1009 out of a total of 7589 older people, allegedly stated that their primary source of income is from their jobs or other gainful activities, compared to 10.05% of older men.
- The majority of respondents in rural regions (34.83%) said that their monthly income is Rs. 5,000, whereas the majority of respondents in urban areas (32.41%) claimed that their monthly income is between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000.
- In urban regions, every second elderly respondent (50.27%) had a monthly income of Rs. 10,000 or more, whereas just 18.67% of respondents in rural areas had a monthly income of Rs. 10,000 or more.
- A sizable majority of older men (29.06%) said that their monthly income is between Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 20,000/-, while older women (30.27%) claimed that their monthly income falls in the area of Rs.

VII. MAJOR PROBLEMS IN OLD AGE

More than 4/5 of interviewees (82.77%) mentioned that their biggest issues had to do with medicine and healthcare.

According to 56.34% of older respondents, social concerns were their main old age challenges. A third of respondents (34.16%) reported having issues, mostly because of monetary problems.

- *Effects of financial situation on elderly patients' access to healthcare*
- **Nearly a quarter (26%) of respondents with strong financial standing said that their sound financial situation contributed to their good health.**
- **In this category, 38% of respondents said they were in ordinary health, while 36% said they were in poor health, even though their financial situation was still favourable.**
- **Elderly people with high net worth values reported spending a large portion of their annual income on either their own or their family members' medical and healthcare needs (44.7%).**

VIII. REPRESENTATIVES STATEMENT

- *Respondent 1*
"My house and land property values have improved significantly over the years, and I now have a nice monthly income from rent and investment returns. But because I am unable to preserve my health, I frequently need to go to the doctor and the hospital. I had to spend the majority of my money on medications and medical care since I was unable to lower the cost of my medications or find them elsewhere."
- *Respondent 2*
"This is an extremely difficult period in our lives. Throughout our working lives, my wife and I both worked as agricultural labourers. The only regular source of income we currently have is a meagre government pension for seniors. Our kids have moved out to huge places and barely help us out financially. I am in a bad financial situation and cannot afford to buy my wife's medicine."
- *Respondent 3*
"I spend the majority of my income paying down my large medical costs. Because of how expensive good hospitals and clinics are, I cannot attend them. My insurance agent says that they don't provide medical insurance to persons my age, despite the fact that I want to purchase medical insurance coverage so that I can receive proper care in reputable hospitals."
- *Respondent 4*
"After my spouse passed away, I received his entire estate, worth about a crore, in my name. My kids have now started ignoring me and not taking care of my financial necessities. I wish to make use of my land so that I may

regularly generate some monthly revenue to support my daily necessities. I'm not interested in selling this house.

➤ **Respondent 5**

Since my wife passed away about 8 years ago, I have been living alone. My sons have moved abroad and rarely come to see me. I never stop being afraid of robbers and other criminals. There are no insurance services nearby, which is why I want insurance on my belongings so that I can live in peace.

IX. OBSERVATION

The majority of elderly people, especially in rural regions, continue to experience financial difficulties, and their dire state financially is a big contributor to their awful circumstances in old age. Furthermore, there is strong evidence to support the premise that while older people's financial situations are improving in metropolitan regions, they are deteriorating in the case of informants living in rural areas.

The significant rise in real estate prices over the past 20 years is the main reason why older people's net worth has soared. In the poll, it was also discovered that elderly people's names are on property titles for longer periods of time because their life spans have also expanded dramatically over time.

It has been noted that older people have grown more attached to their assets and possessions throughout time due to the relative increase in life expectancy. The ever-growing importance of money in contemporary life is also considered to be a key component in elderly people's connection to financial resources.

The socioeconomic and demographic environment has changed, and older people's attitudes towards using their wealth have altered as a result. The majority of them are now obliged to live far from their children and families, and they are less devoted to them than they were in the past. They, therefore, desire to take advantage of their rising net worth value.

Despite having a healthy net worth, older people frequently face medical, social, and financial issues because there are so few senior citizen-specific programmes that may guarantee a comfortable and dignified old existence.

X. CONCLUSION

It is widely known that in India's old society, elderly family members had inherited rights to land, houses, and other ancestral property. (primarily older people). Growing individualism, materialism, the emphasis on personal development, migration to pursue higher education or take corporate jobs that result in a rapidly changing socioeconomic environment, rising real estate values, the demand for land property for infrastructural development across the nation, etc. are some of the key factors that have

increased older people's net worth. Older people's net worth increased far more in metropolitan regions. At the same time, older individuals have begun to generate a substantial monthly income from investments, rent on land and houses, and interest.

A longer lifespan and a shift in elderly people's financial situation have altered their concerns as well.

In a nutshell, it has been found that older people in India must have the following necessities:

- Protection under current and/or upcoming social security programmes
- Longer life insurance for retirement financial security
- Having health insurance can help with rising medical costs as people live longer.
- Coverage of movable and immovable properties under general insurance programmes
- Financial planning to ensure a comfortable retirement
- Raising knowledge of the medications and medical supplies that are best for people as they age, especially in rural and semi-urban locations
- Specialized medical centres, especially in rural and semi-urban locations

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