Cultural Problems of Elderly Women in Rural and Urban Areas of Nuh and Hisar District of Haryana, India

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Ageism can be very detrimental for the old age groups. The study was conducted on the bases of cultural zone Hisar from Bagar and Nuh from Ahirwati. This is descriptory as well as exploratory type of study which is designed to get specific required information on cultural problems faced by them. Sample for this study has been collected data from urban and rural areas of each district was taken to make a total sample size of 256 old aged women respondents.The objectives of the study is to know the level of Cultural problems areas related to new generation of the elderly women along with socio economic factors associated with cultural problems. Most of the elderly women (45.70%) of both the districts were 'agree' that the changing dress pattern was a threat for preservation of culture followed by 'neutral' (34.00%) and 'disagree' (20.30). Most of the elderly women (47.70%) of both the districts were 'agree' (47.70%) that fast food replaced the home made and simple food. Most of the elderly women (49.60%) of both the districts were 'agree' (49.60%)

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that girls should not be allowed to stay in hostels followed by 'neutral' (35.20%) and 'disagree' (23.80). Most of the elderly women (43.80%) of both the districts were 'agree' (43.80%) that inter caste was marriage perceived as cultural diffusion. The cultural problems among the elderly women were found significantly (P ≤0.01, Z = 4.58) higher in rural area (49.68). To sustain dignity of old women awards should be instituted for the women who are serving to the best of their in-laws by the village panchayat /local bodies.. Most of the elderly women with age group '60-70 years' (47.7%) in rural areas were found significantly associated with the cultural problems with a chi square statistic χ^2 = 13.80 at α = 0.01 level.

1. INTRODUCTION

The term "silent revolution" refers to the compelling demographic phenomena of population ageing, which has various socioeconomic and cultural ramifications and affects older people's quality of life in general and older women in particular. Women experience prolonged periods of poor health, poverty, financial insecurity, high degrees of dependency, and gender-based discriminatory practises since they live longer (than men). Gender prejudices frequently force women to provide care for other elderly family members. Additionally, widowhood is linked to negative traditional and cultural practises. Women are thought to be more resilient than men when it comes to ageing issues due to their innate capacity to adapt well to various life circumstances. Older persons often become active co-constructors of their reality and adapt coping measures to minimise the effects of ageing [1]. In India, gender-based discrimination is a well-researched sociocultural phenomena. Household labour duties typically lock many young girls and women, particularly in rural areas, into vulnerability that lasts through later years, starting from conception (gender biassed sex selection) to schooling, health care, nutrition, early marriage, and child bearing. Men and women age differently for a variety of physiological reasons, including physical, hormonal, psychological, and emotional responses. Men also age differently due to societal norms, religious beliefs, discriminatory laws, and stereotypes that negatively impact women throughout their lives and are largely rooted in the patriarchal culture in which women live. As a result, older women have a higher chance of becoming widowed, homeless, and in danger. Prejudice against age is common and it was found from a study that young men experience more ageism and depression than old female [2].

1.1 Objectives

1) To know the level of Cultural problems among the elderly women in rural and urban areas
2) To find the Cultural problems related to new generation among the elderly women
3) To delineate the socio economic factors associated with cultural problems

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Selection of the Zone

The study was conducted on base of cultural zone from BagarHisar and from AhirwatiNuh .The present study was undertaken in Hisar and Nuh districts of Haryana state. The study was conducted on the bases of cultural zone Hisar from Bagar and Nuh from Ahirwati.

2.2 Selection of the Respondents

A sample of 64 old aged women from urban and rural areas of each district was taken to make a total sample size of 256 old aged women respondents.

2.3 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection

A semi-structured interview schedule containing questions pertaining to research objectives was prepared using existing literature. The questions were framed which clearly indicate their meaning to the respondent and cover relevant aspects of problems according to the objectives of the study. Based on the responses obtained from pre-testing and difficulties faced, some minor modifications were incorporated. To verify validity and reliability of the interview schedule, a pilot study was undertaken among 20 aged women who were not included in the sample for the study.

2.4 Statistical Analysis

The collected data were coded, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted according to the objectives of the present study with the help of appropriate statistical techniques. The descriptive statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, chi-square, weighted mean and total weighted score were adopted to draw the inferences.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Socio Economic Profile of Respondents

The women of age group 60-70 years were found maximum in rural regions of Nuh district (46.90%) as compared to urban regions (26.60%). Higher percentage of married women was observed in urban region of Nuh district (71.90). The elderly women from general category from urban as well as rural regions were found highest in Nuh district (57.80 and 65.60%, respectively), as compared to elderly women of general category of urban and rural region of Hisar district (56.30 and 37.50%, respectively). most of the elderly women belonged to nuclear family residing in urban area in Nuh district (68.80%) as compared to elderly women having the joint family from urban area of Hisar district (59.40%).Most of the elderly women belonged to small family size from urban area of Nuh district (59.40%) as compared to elderly women who belonged to urban area of Hisar district (54.60%).Most of the elderly women were found illiterate residing in the rural area of Nuh district (64.10%) as compared to the elderly women who were found illiterate residing in rural area of Hisar district (60.90%). Most of the family members were primarily educated (26.60%) in both the districts. The maximum percentage of elderly women who were housewives residing in the rural area of Hisar was 79.70 as compared to

Nuh (70.30). Most the family members of the elderly women were from service occupation (36.70%) followed by farming community (28.50%), labour (21.50%) and lowest from business or other class (13.30%). The family members from service occupation of the elderly women were found maximum in urban area of Hisar district (57.80%) as compared to Nuh (46.90%). Most of the elderly women lived with their husbands and children (32.40%) as well as husband along with children (32.40%), and widow with children (19.50%). Annual family income of the elderly women was found between 1.5 to 3.0 lakh (41.80%). Most of the elderly women were observed as landless (28.90%). Most of the elderly women were not a member of any organization (61.00%) followed by member of one organization (28.50%) and member of more than one organization (10.50%). The elderly women belonged to low as well as medium media exposure i.e. 42.60 per cent each, respectively. Most the elderly women were in the 'medium' group with respect to material possession i.e. 39.50 per cent.

3.2 Level of Cultural Problems

A sizable majority of elderly women and men in both rural and urban areas prefer that their children, especially their sons, care for their parents as they age. In (Table 1), data on the scope of cultural issues among older women living in urban and rural areas of the Hisar and Nuh districts are presented. The results made it abundantly evident that Hisar (60.90%) and Nuh districts (40.60%) had'medium' levels of cultural difficulties among the majority of older women residing in urban areas. The extent of cultural problems was found 'medium' among most of the elderly women living in rural area of Hisar (75.00%) and Nuh districts (53.20%). The overall extent of cultural problems was 'high' for 11.80 and 22.70 per cent in Hisar and Nuh districts, respectively.

Table 1. Extent of various aspects of problems among the elderly women in rural and urban areas

Sr. no.	Extent of cultural problem	Hisar		Total (128)	Nuh		Total (128)
		Urban	Rural		Urban	Rural	
1.	Low	19(29.70)	07(10.90)	26(20.30)	20(31.30)	10(15.60)	30(23.40)
2.	Medium	39(60.90)	48(75.00)	87(67.90)	35(54.60)	34(53.20)	69(53.90)
3.	High	06(09.40)	09(14.10)	15(11.80)	09(14.10)	20(31.30)	29(22.70)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Elderly women residing in urban and rural areas of the Hisar and Nuh districts reported experiencing cultural issues linked to the new generation, gender discrimination, customs, language, and technology in four categories (Table 2). Cultural issues affecting the younger generation are described in the following subsections: Most senior women (45.70%) in both areas 'agree' that cultural values have vanished, followed by 'neutral' (31.60%) and 'disagree' (22.70%). The majority of elderly ladies living in rural areas in the Nuh and Hisar districts (56.20%) and (51.60%) 'accept' that cultural values are vanishing. The elderly women of urban area of Hisar and Nuh districts was found same for trend of cultural values in the new generation (37.50%) who were 'agree' that the cultural values in the new generation disappeared. The older women in the Hisar and Nuh areas shared their opinions on the difficulties the current generation has adjusting (Table 2). In both districts, the majority of old women (47.70%) agreed that it was difficult for them to fit in with the younger generation. This was followed by "neutral" (32.80%) and "disagree" (19.50%). The majority of elderly women in Nuh's and Hisar's rural areas (68.80% and 64.10 percent, respectively) 'agree' that they have difficulty adjusting to the younger generation. The older women in the urban areas of the Nuh (34.40%) and Hisar (23.40%) districts 'agree' that they find it difficult to fit in with the younger generation. Most of the elderly women(45.70%) of both the districts were 'agree' that the changing dress pattern was a threat for preservation of culture followed by 'neutral' (34.00%) and 'disagree' (20.30).The majority of senior ladies in rural Nuh (62.50%) and Hisar (57.80%) districts were "agree" that the shifting fashion trends could pose a threat to the preservation of culture. The elderly ladies in Hisar (31.30%) and Nuh district (31.20%) urban areas "agree" that they believe that the changing fashion in clothing poses a threat to the preservation of culture. Most senior women (47.70%) in both districts 'agree' (47.70%) that fast food has largely replaced home-cooked and basic meals, with 'neutral' (35.50%) and 'disagree' (16.80%) following. Most elderly ladies in rural areas of Nuh (65.60%) and Hisar (60.90%) districts 'agree' that fast food has largely supplanted home cooking. Older women in urban Nuh (32.8%) and Hisar district (31.2%) areas 'agree' that fast food has replaced simple home cooking. The majority of elderly ladies in rural Nuh and Hisar districts who were surveyed (65.60%) and (64.10%) were "agree" that

females shouldn't be permitted to stay in hostels. Girls shouldn't be permitted to stay in hostels, according to elderly ladies in the urban areas of Hisar (46.7%) and Nuh district (21.9%). In both districts, the majority of senior women (43.80%) 'agree' (43.80%) that intercaste marriage is viewed as cultural dispersion, followed by 'neutral' (32.40%), and 'disagree' (23.80). Most of the elderly women living in rural area (62.50%) of Hisar and Nuh district (60.90%) were 'agree' that inter caste marriage was perceived as cultural diffusion. The elderly women of urban area of Hisar (34.40%) and Nuh district (17.20%) were 'agree' that inter caste marriage was perceived as cultural diffusion. Most of the elderly women (64.80%) of both the districts were 'agree' that love marriage was not indulged for the family followed by 'neutral' (25.80%) and 'disagree' (9.40%). Most of the elderly women living in rural area of Nuh (67.20%) and Hisar district (56.20%) were 'agree' that the love marriage was not indulged for the family. Most of the elderly women (59.40%) of both the districts were 'agreed' that arrange marriages should be encouraged followed by 'neutral' (27.30%) and 'disagree' (13.30%). Most of the elderly women living in rural area of Nuh (71.90%) and Hisar district (48.40%) were 'agree' that the arranged marriages should be encouraged. The elderly women of urbanarea of Hisar (62.50%) and Nuh district (54.70%) were 'agreed' that the arranged marriages should be encourage. Most of the elderly women (64.80%) of both the districts were 'agreed' that the new generation did not like PardaPartha followed by 'neutral' (25.80%) and 'disagree' (9.40%). Most of the elderly women (67.20%) living in rural area Nuh and Hisar districts (56.20%) were 'agree' that the new generation did not like PardaPartha. The elderly women of urban area of Hisar (70.30%) and Nuh districts (65.60%) were 'agreed' that the new generation did not like PardaPartha. The results revealed that both the rural and urban respondent's family members had no objection regarding their sense of dressing, to interact and to work with male members, to work late hours in the office and to move away from the office to attend conference. Priyanka [3].

According to Table 3's section on the disappearance of folkways, rituals, traditions, and mores from society, the majority of elderly women in both districts (55.10%) agreed with this statement, followed by "neutral" (34.00%) and "disagree" (10.90%). The majority of elderly women in Hisar's and Nuh's rural areas (68.80% and 62.50%) were "agree" that folkways, rituals,

traditions, and mores have all but vanished from society. Elderly women in urban Nuh (46.7%) and Hisar (42.2%) districts were "in agreement" that folkways, rituals, traditions, and mores, etc.disappeared from society. Regarding the fashion for wearing decorations, the majority of senior women (48.90%) in both districts were "agree" in this regard, followed by "neutral" (40.20%) and "disagree" (10.90%). The majority of senior women in rural Nuh (53.20%) and Hisar (42.20%) areas 'believe' that wearing jewellery today is fashionable. Elderly ladies in metropolitan areas of Hisar (51.60%) and Nuh

districts (48.50%) 'agree' that it is fashionable to wear jewellery these days.

Table 4 Cultural problems to language and technology.

The following explanation is provided in Table 4, which details the opinions of older women who reside in urban and rural areas of the Hisar and Nuh districts regarding the use of a variety of languages and technologies in daily life: According to data on linguistic variety, the majority of elderly women in both districts

Table 2. Cultural problems related to new generation among the elderly women in Hisar and Nuh district

S. No.	Statements	Hisar(N=128)		Nuh(N=128)		Total
		Urban(64)	Rural(64)	Urban(64)	Rural(64)	(N=256)
1.	**In the new generation cultural values are disappearing.**					
	Agree	24(37.50)	33(51.60)	24(37.50)	36(56.20)	117(45.70)
	Neutral	23(35.90)	17(26.60)	22(34.40)	19(29.70)	81(31.60)
	Disagree	17(26.60)	14(21.80)	18(28.10)	09(14.10)	58(22.70)
2.	**Facing adjustment problem with new generation**					
	Agree	15(23.40)	41(64.10)	22(34.40)	44(68.80)	122(47.70)
	Neutral	30(46.90)	13(20.30)	26(40.60)	15(23.40)	84(32.80)
	Disagree	19(29.70)	10(15.60)	16(25.00)	05(07.80)	50(19.50)
3.	**Changing dress pattern is threat for preservation of culture.**					
	Agree	20(31.30)	37(57.80)	20(31.20)	40(62.50)	117(45.70)
	Neutral	29(45.30)	14(21.90)	28(43.80)	16(25.00)	87(34.00)
	Disagree	15(23.40)	13(20.30)	16(25.00)	08(12.50)	52(20.30)
4.	**Fast food has replaced by home-made and simple food.**					
	Agree	20(31.20)	39(60.90)	21(32.80)	42(65.60)	122(47.70)
	Neutral	35(54.70)	18(28.20)	24(37.50)	14(21.90)	91(35.50)
	Disagree	09(14.10)	07(10.90)	19(29.70)	08(12.50)	43(16.80)
5.	**Girls should not be allowed to stay in hostels.**					
	Agree	30(46.80)	41(64.10)	14(21.90)	42(65.60)	127(49.60)
	Neutral	17(26.60)	16(25.00)	41(64.00)	16(25.00)	90(35.20)
	Disagree	17(26.60)	07(10.90)	09(14.10)	06(09.40)	39(15.20)
6.	**Inter caste marriage perceived as culture diffusion.**					
	Agree	22(34.40)	40(62.50)	11(17.20)	39(60.90)	112(43.80)
	Neutral	21(32.80)	14(21.90)	33(51.60)	15(23.50)	83(32.40)
	Disagree	21(32.80)	10(15.60)	20(31.20)	10(15.60)	61(23.80)
7.	**The love marriage is not indulged for the family.**					
	Agree	45(70.30)	36(56.20)	42(65.60)	43(67.20)	166(64.80)
	Neutral	16(25.00)	18(28.20)	18(28.20)	14(21.90)	66(25.80)
	Disagree	03(04.70)	10(15.60)	04(06.20)	07(10.90)	24(09.40)
8.	**Arrange marriages should be encouraged.**					
	Agree	40(62.50)	31(48.40)	35(54.70)	46(71.90)	152(59.40)
	Neutral	17(26.60)	19(29.70)	21(32.80)	13(20.30)	70(27.30)
	Disagree	07(10.90)	14(21.90)	08(12.50)	05(07.80)	34(13.30)
9.	**The new generation does not like PardaPratha.**					
	Agree	45(70.30)	36(56.20)	42(65.60)	43(67.20)	166(64.80)
	Neutral	16(25.00)	18(28.20)	18(28.20)	14(21.90)	66(25.80)
	Disagree	03(04.70)	10(15.60)	04(06.20)	07(10.90)	24(09.40)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Table 3. Cultural problems related to customs among the elderly women in Hisar and Nuh districts

Sr. No.	Statements	Hisar(N=128)		Nuh(N=128)		Total(N=256)
		Urban(64)	Rural(64)	Urban(64)	Rural(64)	
1	Folkways, rituals, traditions and mores etc. are disappearing from society					
	Agree	27(42.20)	44(68.80)	30(46.80)	40(62.50)	141(55.10)
	Neutral	27(42.20)	14(21.90)	28(43.80)	18(28.10)	87(34.00)
	Disagree	10(15.60)	06(09.40)	06(09.40)	06(09.40)	28(10.90)
2	Wearing ornaments now-a-day is in trend.					
	Agree	33(51.60)	27(42.20)	31(48.50)	34(53.20)	125(48.90)
	Neutral	25(39.10)	26(40.60)	26(40.60)	26(40.60)	103(40.20)
	Disagree	06(09.40)	11(17.20)	07(10.90)	04(06.20)	28(10.90)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Table 4. Cultural problems related to language and technology among the elderly women in Hisar and Nuh district

Sr. No.	Statements	Hisar(N=128)		Nuh(N=128)		Total(N=256)
		Urban(64)	Rural(64)	Urban(64)	Rural(64)	
1	Diversity in language is a problem for elders.					
	Agree	20(31.20)	35(54.70)	22(34.40)	32(50.00)	109(42.60)
	Neutral	31(48.40)	19(29.70)	34(53.10)	24(37.50)	108(42.20)
	Disagree	13(20.40)	10(15.60)	08(12.50)	08(12.50)	39(15.20)
2	Technology is helpful in life.					
	Agree	35(54.70)	18(28.10)	32(50.00)	19(29.70)	104(40.60)
	Neutral	18(28.10)	29(45.30)	20(31.20)	29(45.30)	96(37.50)
	Disagree	11(17.20)	17(26.60)	12(18.80)	16(25.00)	56(21.90)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

(42.60%) 'agree' that linguistic diversity is a concern for elders, followed by 'neutral' (42.20%) and 'disagree' (15.20%). The majority of the old ladies who reside in rural Hisar (54.7%) and Nuh (50.00%) regions 'accept' that elders struggle with language variety. Elderly ladies in urban Nuh (34.40%) and Hisar districts (31.20%) 'agree' that elders struggle with language diversity. Regarding the role of technology in life, the majority of senior women in both districts were "agree" (40.60%) before being "neutral" (37.50%) and "disagree" (21.90%). The majority of senior women in rural Nuh (29.70%) and Hisar (28.10%) areas 'believe' that technology is helpful in life. The majority of senior ladies in the metropolitan areas of Hisar (54.7%) and Nuh (50.00%) agreed that technology was useful in daily life. Regarding the attitude of the family members toward their job, results revealed that out of total sample, higher percentage of the family members (52.5%) felt honored followed by good feelings (41.6%). Same types of results were reported by rural and urban respondents. Priyanka [3]. Couples seek varied traditional methods and religious practices, including visits to temples, abstaining from visiting a place where a woman has delivered a child, observing tantric rites, wearing charms, participating in rituals, and visiting astrologers as reported by Desai [4].

The data pertaining to socio-economic profile of the elderly women living in urban and rural area having significant association with the cultural problems are presented in (Table 5). The socio-economic factors like age, family education, family occupation and mass media exposure have been explained. Age of the elderly women living in rural area and the cultural problems were significantly associated, while there was no significant association between the elderly women living in urban areas. Most of the elderly women with age group '60-70 years' (47.7%) in rural areas were found significantly associated with the cultural problems with a chi square statistic $\chi^2 = 13.80$ at $\alpha = 0.01$ level. The level of association was found 'medium' (76.9%) in the elderly women having age group '71-80 years' living in rural areas. The level of 'association was observed 'high' (50.0%) with age group 'above 80 years' in the elderly women in rural area.

Table 5. Association between cultural problems and socio economic profile

Variables	Urban(128)				Rural(128)			
	Low	Medium	High	Total	Low	Medium	High	Total
Age								
60-70yrs.	10(23.8)	27(64.3)	05(11.9)	42(32.8)	08(13.1)	36(59.0)	17(27.9)	61(47.7)
71-80yrs	19(38.0)	29(58.0)	02(04.0)	50(39.1)	05(12.8)	30(76.9)	04(10.3)	39(30.4)
Above 80yrs.	13(36.1)	21(58.3)	02(05.6)	36(28.1)	01(03.6)	13(46.4)	14(50.0)	28(21.9)
Total	42(32.8)	77(60.2)	09(07.0)	128(100	14(10.9)	79(61.7)	35(27.4)	128(100
	χ^2=3.93				χ^2=13.80**			
Marital status								
Married	28(32.9)	50(58.8)	07(08.3)	85(66.4)	25(30.9)	50(61.7)	06(07.4)	81(63.3)
Widow	14(32.5)	27(62.8)	02(04.7)	43(33.6)	17(36.2)	27(57.4)	03(06.4)	47(36.7)
	χ^2=0.59				χ^2=0.39			
Caste								
General	23(31.6)	45(61.6)	05(06.8)	73(57.0)	07(10.6)	38(57.6)	21(31.8)	66(51.6)
BC	11(29.7)	22(59.5)	04(10.8)	37(28.9)	01(03.1)	23(71.9)	08(25.0)	32(25.0)
SC	08(44.4)	10(55.6)	-	18(14.1)	06(20.0)	18(60.0)	06(20.0)	30(23.4)
	χ^2=3.01				χ^2=5.92			
Family Type								
Nuclear	24(34.3)	40(57.1)	06(08.6)	70(54.7)	08(13.6)	34(57.6)	17(28.8)	59(46.1)
Joint	18(31.0)	37(63.8)	03(05.2)	58(45.3)	06(08.7)	45(65.2)	18(26.1)	69(53.9)
	χ^2=0.86				χ^2=1.07			
Family Size								
Small	23(31.6)	45(61.6)	05(06.8)	73(57.0)	06(13.6)	26(59.1)	12(27.3)	44(34.4)
Medium	09(28.1)	20(62.5)	03(09.4)	32(25.0)	02(04.7)	29(67.4)	12(27.9)	43(33.6)
Large	10(43.5)	12(52.2)	01(04.3)	23(18.0)	06(14.6)	24(58.6)	11(26.8)	41(32.0)
	χ^2=1.84				χ^2=2.71			
Respondents Education								
Illiterate	18(31.0)	35(60.3)	05(08.7)	58(45.3)	08(10.0)	48(60.0)	24(30.0)	80(62.5)
Primary	09(37.5)	13(54.2)	02(08.3)	24(18.8)	01(04.3)	19(82.6)	03(13.1)	23(18.0)
Middle	05(26.3)	13(68.4)	01(05.3)	19(14.8)	01(07.1)	07(50.0)	06(42.9)	14(10.9)
High School	08(38.1)	12(57.1)	01(04.8)	21(16.4)	04(50.0)	03(37.5)	01(12.5)	08(06.3)
Sr. Sec. and above	02(33.3)	04(66.7)	-	06(04.7)	-	02(66.7)	01(33.3)	3(02.3)
	χ^2=1.58				χ^2=7.71			
Family education								
Illiterate	05(20.0)	18(72.0)	02(08.0)	25(19.5)	04(11.8)	17(50.0)	13(38.2)	34(26.6)
Primary	10(38.5)	14(53.8)	02(07.7)	26(20.3)	04(09.5)	29(69.0)	09(21.5)	42(32.8)
High School	14(38.9)	19(52.8)	03(08.3)	36(28.1)	01(03.7)	20(74.1)	06(22.2)	27(21.1)
Sr. Sec. and above	13(31.7)	26(63.4)	02(04.9)	41(32.1)	05(20.0)	13(52.0)	07(28.0)	25(19.5)
	χ^2=3.48				χ^2=7.72*			
Respondent's Occupation								
Housewife	28(31.8)	53(60.2)	07(08.0)	88(68.8)	09(09.4)	63(65.6)	24(25.0)	96(75.0)
Labour	10(34.5)	17(58.6)	02(06.9)	29(22.7)	03(11.5)	13(50.0)	10(38.5)	26(20.3)
Ex-Service	04(36.4)	07(63.6)	-	11(08.5)	02(33.3)	03(50.0)	01(16.7)	06(04.7)
	χ^2=0.23				χ^2=2.79			
Family Occupation								
Farming	-	-	-	-	09(12.3)	45(61.6)	19(26.1)	73(57.0)
Service	18(26.9)	45(67.1)	04(06.0)	67(52.3)	02(07.4)	17(63.0)	08(29.6)	27(21.1)
Labour	11(29.7)	23(62.2)	03(08.1)	37(28.9)	02(07.4)	17(63.0)	08(29.6)	27(21.1)
Business/other	13(54.2)	09(37.5)	02(08.3)	24(18.8)	01(10.0)	07(70.0)	02(20.0)	10(07.8)
	χ^2=7.01*				χ^2=1.21			

Living Arrangement

Husband-Wife	15(35.7)	24(57.2)	03(07.1)	42(32.8)	05(12.2)	24(58.5)	12(29.3)	41(32.0)
Husband-Wife with Children	16(37.2)	24(55.8)	03(07.0)	43(33.6)	04(10.0)	25(62.5)	11(27.5)	40(31.2)
Widow with Children	05(23.8)	16(76.2)	-	21(16.4)	02(06.9)	20(69.0)	07(24.1)	29(22.7)
Widow Alone	06(27.3)	13(59.1)	03(13.6)	22(17.2)	03(16.6)	10(55.6)	05(27.8)	18(14.1)
	χ^2=5.03				χ^2=1.66			

Family Annual Income(in rupees)

50000-1.5 lakh	10(26.3)	25(65.8)	03(07.9)	38(29.7)	07(12.1)	34(58.6)	17(29.3)	58(45.3)
1.5lakh-3lakh	21(33.8)	36(58.1)	05(08.1)	62(48.4)	02(04.4)	33(73.3)	10(22.3)	45(35.2)
Above 3lakh	11(39.3)	16(57.1)	01(03.6)	28(21.9)	05(20.0)	12(48.0)	08(32.0)	25(19.5)
	χ^2=1.77				χ^2=6.23			

Size of Land Holding(In Acres)

Land less	19(31.7)	38(63.3)	03(05.0)	60(46.9)	01(07.1)	09(64.3)	04(28.6)	14(10.9)
Marginal (<2.5)	12(33.3)	20(55.6)	04(11.1)	36(28.1)	05(14.3)	20(57.1)	10(28.6)	35(27.3)
Small (2.5-5.0)	07(35.0)	12(60.0)	01(05.0)	20(15.6)	02(04.2)	35(72.9)	11(22.9)	48(37.5)
Semi Medium (5.01-10)	02(20.0)	07(70.0)	01(10.0)	10(07.8)	05(20.8)	11(45.8)	08(33.4)	24(18.8)
Medium (10.01-25)	02(100)	-	-	02(01.6)	1(14.3)	04(57.1)	02(28.6)	07(05.5)
	χ^2=3.47				χ^2=7.51			

Social Participation

Not Member of any organization	21(30.4)	42(60.9)	06(08.7)	69(53.9)	08(09.2)	55(63.2)	24(27.6)	87(68.0)
Member of 1 organization	13(32.5)	24(60.0)	03(07.5)	40(31.3)	04(12.1)	20(60.6)	09(27.3)	33(25.8)
Member of more than 1 organization	08(42.1)	11(57.9)	-	19(14.8)	02(25.0)	04(50.0)	02(25.0)	08(06.2)
	χ^2=2.26				χ^2=0.52			

Mass Media Exposure

Low	16(32.0)	29(58.0)	05(10.0)	50(39.1)	05(08.5)	39(66.1)	15(25.4)	59(46.1)
Medium	17(32.1)	33(62.3)	03(05.7)	53(41.4)	05(08.9)	34(60.7)	17(30.4)	56(43.7)
High	09(36.0)	15(60.0)	01(04.0)	25(19.5)	04(30.8)	06(46.1)	03(23.1)	13(10.2)
	χ^2=1.27				χ^2=6.26*			

Material possession

Low	07(50.0)	07(50.0)	-	14(10.8)	06(10.9)	31(56.4)	18(32.7)	55(43.0)
Medium	16(28.1)	37(64.9)	04(07.0)	57(44.6)	03(06.8)	31(70.5)	10(22.7)	44(34.3)
High	19(33.3)	33(57.9)	05(08.8)	57(44.6)	05(17.2)	17(58.6)	07(24.2)	29(22.7)
	χ^2=2.40				χ^2=3.62			

**highly significant at 1% level of significance
*significant at 5% level of significance

Family education of the elderly women living in the rural area and the cultural problems are significantly associated while there was no significant association between the elderly women living in the urban area. Most of the elderly women with family education 'primary' (32.8%) in the rural area were found significantly associated with the cultural problems with a chi square statistic χ^2 = 7.72 at α = 0.05 level. The level of association was found 'medium' (74.1%) in the elderly women having family education 'high school' living in the rural area. The level of association was observed 'high' (28.0%) with family education 'Sr. sec. and above' in the elderly women in rural areas. Family occupation of the elderly women living in urban areas and the cultural problems were significantly associated, while there was no significant association between the elderly women living in rural areas. Most of the elderly women with family occupation 'service' (52.3%) in urban areas were found significantly associated with the cultural problems with a chi square statistic χ^2 = 7.01 at α = 0.05 level. The level of

association was found 'medium' (62.2%) in the elderly women having family occupation 'labour' living in urban areas. The level of association was observed 'high' (8.3%) with family occupation 'business/other' in the elderlywomen in urban areas. Mass media exposure of the elderly women living in rural areas and the cultural problems were significantly associated, while there was no significant association between the elderly women living in urban areas. Most of the elderly women with mass media exposure 'low' (46.1%) in rural areas were found significantly associated with the cultural problems with a chi square statistic $\chi^2 = 6.26$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ level. The level of association was found 'medium' (66.1%) in the elderly women having mass media exposure 'low' living in rural areas. The level of association was observed 'high' (30.4%) with mass media exposure 'medium' in the elderly women in rural areas. In rural communities, girls and women are the ones, who get subjected to abuse more as compared to males. The birth of the girl child is still not appreciated and preference is given to male children. They are not encouraged to study and there are still many cases of child marriages of girls and they are facing harassment for dowry. On the other hand, more attention is paid towards male children, particularly, their education, health, diet and nutrition, participation in other activities. Therefore, in this manner, girls and women experience neglect and discriminatory treatment. They are not given equal rights and opportunities as compared to males. Bhagya Sri Chintakula [5-10].

4. SUGGESTIONS

1. **Assure greater benefit utilisation:** In both rural and urban regions, elderly women experience high rates of income insecurity and dependency. Also biassed against elder women is asset ownership. Furthermore, even among BPL households and widowed women who have no other source of income, the reach of old age pension plans and widow pension plans is quite restricted.
2. **Help strengthen social networks:** According to experience, older people frequently co-construct their reality and collectively adopt various coping mechanisms to lessen the impacts of ageing [1]. Older people typically engage in common activities including meeting friends, sharing experiences, and participating in social networks outside of the house. Such older women clubs could be established using the Elderly Self-help Groups (ESHGs) platform provided by the Ministry of Rural Development for a more planned use of their free time.
3. **The National Programme of Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE):** with its increased emphasis on NCDs, should explore delivering more specialised services for older women. Older women need more and better healthcare. Additionally, health insurance coverage is quite limited, and older women from BPL families are particularly disadvantaged. To suit their unique medical needs, the primary healthcare system needs to be upgraded. Since health is a condition of whole physical, mental, social, and spiritual welfare as well as the absence of disease, it is important to acknowledge that both economic and social position will have an impact on health status in a holistic sense.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

It was determined that old women in rural areas had low socioeconomic profiles and had the same economic, social, physical, and health issues as senior women in metropolitan areas. Today's society needs a number of changes, including a new value system, smaller families, technological advancements, adjustments to the economic and political environment, and social transformation. Aged women from rural and urban regions were found to have moderate levels of general issues. According to chi square statistics, many socioeconomic parameters were discovered to be related to the degree of participation and status of women. Aged women from rural and urban areas displayed notable variations in their levels of economic, health, cultural, and physical concerns, with rural issues predominating. Taking measures to improve the economic, cultural, physical, and health conditions of elderly women in rural and urban areas is essential.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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