

A Glance on Deeper Feelings of Inmates - Old Age Homes in India

***Dr.S.Sundararajan**

****P.Magudapathy**

Research Guide., Assistant Professor ,Department of Public Administration,
Government Arts College, Coimbatore.
Research scholar, Bharathiar university., Coimbatore.

Abstract

This paper aims to explore and understanding the deeper feelings of the inmates the old Age homes in India and to provide suggestion to improve their conditions in Old Age Homes both physically and mentally for their Happy and peaceful living.

Introduction

The very concept of an old age home is new to India. An old age home is usually the place, a home for those old people who have no one to look after them or those who have been thrown out of their homes by their children. The place is of course like home where the inmates get all the facilities for a routine living, like food, clothing, and shelter. Indian population continues to increase, there are demand for increased in number of old age homes in India and consequent to these, there is need to ensure satisfaction of inmates of old age Homes in India.1

Much needed Love

All these necessities are well looked after but, the much-needed love, and care of loved ones is of course sadly missing; for, how can outsiders provide solace? In these homes, it is very interesting and even touching to talk to people whether they are men or women.

They do get their daily needs fulfilled but, from where will the love of the dear ones come? The stories of almost all the old people are the same and very dismal. From the dread of death to the inordinate law-abidingness of the old, from their loquacity to their penny-pinching, Posner paints a surprisingly rich, revealing, and unsentimental portrait of the millions of elderly people in the old age Homes are in need of Love.2

Impact of West

At least in India till now, the old people staying away from the home, from their children, or left to themselves is not considered to be a very happy situation. This concept of separating the elders from the youngsters has been imported into India from the West. However, for the West, it's their original life style that two generations never stay under one roof. But, in India where for centuries, not only two but also even three generations have lived together. This new concept of nuclear families with the elders ousted is just too touching to bear.

Nuclear Family Concept

It is the breakup of the system of the joint family and the introduction of a nuclear family that has brought this unhappy situation enter our society, and the old age homes have had to come up to cater to the needs of the elderly people.

However, for the West it may not be so heart rending for, there, it is their original life style that two generations never stay under one roof. But, in India where, for centuries, not only two but also even three generations have lived together, this new concept of nuclear families with the elders ousted, is just too touching to bear.

Lost Family Atmosphere

If, in any home we talk to the inmates, their story would be much the same-turmoil in the family, disgust against the old and, finally the removal of the elders from the family scene. It is the family atmosphere, and being among their flesh and blood that, most of the old people miss at the old age home.

Working Women Attitude towards Elders

Besides this, since the women have started working out of homes, there is now, no one to look after the routine needs of the elders at home. Also with the women working out come their attitudes towards the elders, for, today, the working women do not take the elders as their duty but as useless appendages in the family.

This attitude of the women has also largely contributed to the removal of elders from families. With this backdrop, the necessity for old age homes was felt, and is being increasingly felt with the passage of time. The entire spectrum of circumstances has led to this unhappy need for old age homes.

Mental Depression

No matter how well they are looked after in these homes, a single visit to an old age home brings depression to the onlooker as, no one - Yes, no one seems to be happy there.

It is very clear to all who visit an old age home that, all the inmates are there, not for the love of being away from home and independent but, because there is no better alternative left for them, once they are neglected and unwanted in their homes by their own children. The only solace is that, they are getting their daily requirements of shelter and food - if not the bonds of love from the family. Ageing results in Loss of abilities you once had, loss of health, loss of loved ones, loss of what were once central beliefs.³

Facilities Provided in Old Homes

The old age home provides all the necessary facility to the old persons as:

- * Lodging
- * Boarding,
 - * Clothing and Bedding,
- * Case work and Counseling services,
 - * Medical care of the all Old person,
 - * T.V., Radio, and religious discourses/Bhajan Kirtan,
 - * News paper and others programmes,
 - * Helpers to assist the bed ridden or incapacitated old persons to perform their daily needs.

* Occasionally the old persons are also taken out by a special transport to other religious places.

Staff Members in old Age Homes

The staff includes one superintendent one Welfare Officer, One staff Nurse, One Part time doctor, one upper division clerk, one care taker, one house attendant, one lady made, two cook, two washer men, four sweepers and one part time barber.

Fulfillment of Needs in according to scheduled time programme

Every old persons gets his bed tea at 6 a.m. and they are served breakfast 9:00 am to 10:00 am includes two bread, mash, half litre milk, 400 gm. Fruits.

They visit the library between 10:00 am to 12:00 noons.

Lunch is served from 13:00 to 14: p.m., items includes unlimited Roti, Rice, Pulse, Vegetables, 70 gms. Cheese or one egg. Every old person gets some items for daily routine work through free of cost as; 100 gms. Tooth paste, 500 grams soap both for bathing and washing of clothes, two matches and 90 ram mustered oils. They take rest till 5 p.m. and then they have their dinner.

Absence of Happy Situation

Old age homes are well looked after but, the much-needed love, and care of loved ones is of course sadly missing. How any outsiders can provide solace? In India till now, the old people staying away from the home, from their children or left to themselves is not considered to be a very happy situation.

The entire spectrum of circumstances has led to this unhappy need for old age homes. No matter how well they are looked after in these homes, a single visit to an old age home brings depression to the onlooker as no one - Yes, no one seems to be happy there.

It is very clear to all who visit an old age home that, all the inmates are there, not for the love of being away from home and independent but because there is no better alternative left for them, once they are neglected and unwanted in their homes by their own children. The only solace is that, they are getting their daily requirements of shelter and food - if not the bonds of love from the family.

Modernization

Rapid growing of industry, modernization in India, it has also effected the people in many ways. The tradition of joint family in the culture of Indian society is disappearing slowly, which was based on the love, affection and tradition. It has also transformed the life of family. With a move to city living, there is less space in the children's homes, and the extended family living structure has broken down.4.

People have started in believing in "Nuclear family" rather than combined or joint. It has made people to live with his own family which including husband, wife and their children. This culture has also affected the emotion of each individual person. In today's time parents afraid from their children, that's why they have started refusing to live with them (children).

Due to this reason they have started moving in the old age home where they only which for death. In India the population of old citizens is growing in 1901 it was 12.1 million, but it has been recorded in 2011 is 103.2 million.

The population of elderly in India (over 60 years) ranks second in the world. The main reason for this is latest instruments, advanced medicine, world class treatment, social protection, living standard and food is available now a days. If we move on the deeper side, it will observe that the number of old people would be more than the new born children.

Findings

In Many of the Old Age Homes whether it is paid or free, they have provided the all the above said facilities through their special staff members on time, but Inmates in the home are suffered severely from need – LOVE, AFFECTION, RESPECT, CARE, HOMELY ATMOSPHERE, HAPPY ENVIRONMENT, HAPPY ENDING...

Suggestions

Probably old age is the age when a human being feels more in need of someone to interact with and someone to share his/her feelings with. Government should concern about their (old people) health and application of many helpful programmes

The problem of elder abuse cannot be solved if the essential needs of older people-for food, shelter, security and access to health care-are not met. The nations of the world must create an environment in which ageing is accepted as a natural part of the life cycle, where anti-ageing attitudes are discouraged, where older people are given the right to live in dignity-free of abuse and exploitation-and are given opportunities to participate fully in educational, cultural and economic activities.

Conclusion

The study reflects that Inmates of old age home are from different caste and religion and even spoke different languages as well in some cases.

It is better for the some old parents to stay in a good old age home. For instance if the children are staying in a different country or city and if the parents do not want to spend the last years of their life in an alien environment then old age homes might be a good option with occasional travel to spend some time with their children.

If for some reason, the old parents are not treated with respect and care at home, then rather than suffering a life of humiliation, it is better to move into an old age home where at least their self respect will be intact and they will get some company in the form of other old people.

In general, we can say that we are not in need of Old Age Homes...

End Notes.

1. P-78., Shewanti N. Kashyap, Promila Sharma, Shukla. A.K., Ergonomic of Old Age Homes and Health, Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi-110 059. 2014.
2. P-152., Richard A. Posner., Aging and Old Age., University Of Chicago Press, USA. 1997.
3. P-29 Helen M Luke ., Old Age Lindisfarne Book Publishers., USA ., 2010.
4. P-261, Estes, C. Social policy and aging: A critical perspective. Sage. Publishers., USA 2001.

Bibliography

1. Anindya Mishra , The Elderly in India: A Study of Old Age Homes in the State of Orissa, Lambert Academic Publishing House, USA., 2012.
2. Beth Baker, Old Age in a New Age: The Promise of Transformative Nursing Homes., Vanderbilt university Press., USA., 2007.
3. Satya Brink, Housing Older People: An International Perspective, Transaction Publishers, New brunswick university, New Jersey, USA, 1997.
4. Pappathi.K. , Ageing: Scientific Perspective & Social Issues, A. P.H., Publishing Corporation, New Delhi. 2007.
5. Behura N. K., Mohanty R. P., Aged in Changing Social System: Their Problems, Discovery Publishing House., New Delhi. 2005.
6. Cornelius L. E. Katona ., Depression in Old Age., Wiley Publishres., USA . 1994.
7. Haim Hazan., Old Age: Constructions and Deconstructions, Cambridge University Press, London., UK. 2003.
8. Jennifer Cole, Deborah Lynn Durham ., Generations and Globalization: Youth, Age, and Family in the New World Economy., Indiana University Press., USA. 2007.
9. Shewanti N. Kashyap, Promila Sharma, Shukla. A.K., Ergonomic of Old Age Homes and Health, Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd.New Delhi-110 059. 2014.
10. Richard A. Posner., Aging and Old Age.,University Of Chicago Press, USA.1997.
11. Helen M Luke ., Old Age Lindisfarne Book Publishers., USA ., 2010.
12. Estes, C. Social policy and aging: A critical perspective. Sage. Publishers., USA 2001.