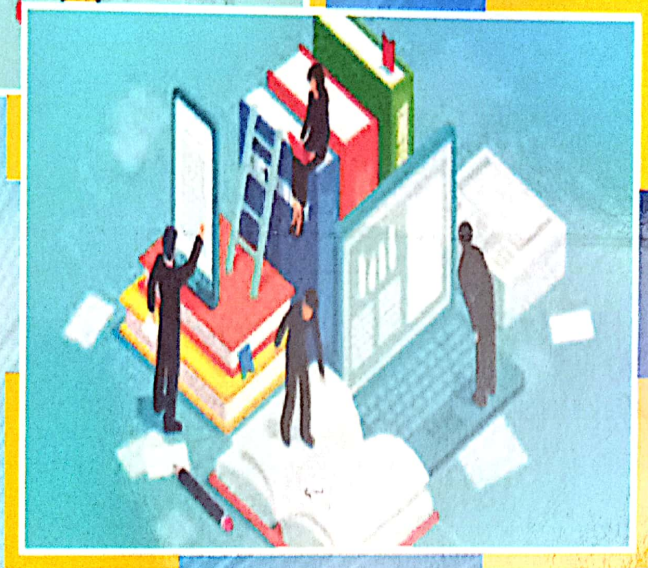


IMPACT OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND COMMERCE IN 21ST CENTURY



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Dr. Prakash R. Kengnal

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**STC, Arts and Commerce,
B.B.A., B.C.A., B.Sc., and P.G College
Banhatti-587311**

Collection of Research Papers on
**“Impact of Research & Development on Social Sciences
and Commerce in 21st Century”**

Copy Right : Chief Editors

ISBN : 978-81-941244-2-9

Pages : x+248=258

First Impression : 2020

Price : Rs. 500/-

Published By : STC, Arts, Commerce, B.B.A,
B.C.A., B.Sc., and P.G. College,
Banhatti – 587311.

Printed At : B. G. Printers, Dharwad.
Mob: 98452 71104

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND PROBLEMS OF ELDERERS

By

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Introduction

In India, elderly population consists of 7% of the total population, in which two third resides in villages and almost half of them live in poor conditions. There is rapid growth in number of older population in India that present issues that need to be taken care of if economic and social development is to proceed effectively. It is affected by the change in socio-economic condition of the elderly that adversely affects the individual's way of life after retirement. Economic loss comes from a change that is due to transformation from salaried to pensioner or unemployment leading to economic dependency on children or closed ones i.e., from independency to dependency. A feeling of low self-worth creeps in that is due to the loss of social recognition and earning power. Traditionally, elderly had occupied the position of power and prestige but now they are becoming inactive, dependent, sick and weak. All these phenomena lead to many physical, psychological and sociological problems. This mental status of a person is harmful. In coming times this stress needed to be taken care of effectively because if not than many health related problems will rise. Though at present due to technical advancement in field's general health, education, medicine and medical facilities, national food related schemes and food availability, there is decline in death rate of all age groups resulting in continuous incline in population with the age of sixty years and more.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PROBLEMS OF ELDERERS:

There are several factors that are contributing to the problems of elderly. These factors are as follows:

- Decrease in purchasing power.
- Increased life expectancy has led to longevity.
- Disintegration of social support system.
- Migration of kin pin due to economic opportunities.

CONDITIONS & PROBLEMS OF ELDERERS:

Ageing is the natural stage of human life, it brings with it innumerable problems for the people who have grown old. These problems can be distinguished under subheads health, economic, physiological, housing and elder abuse related. A more comprehensive approach to explain the problems is as under-

Economic Insecurity: This problem arises when elderly are unable to sustain themselves economically. They either lack the capacity to be productive or lack the opportunity as they were before. They lose their independency due to increase in competition from young generation, sluggishness in physical and mental faculties, mindset of society, malnutrition, decrease in access to resource, lack of awareness about the rights and entitlements with changing times. These all things play significant roles in lowering the ability of old aged to remain financially productive. Financial security is not only relevant to elders only but to those of other age groups. It should be taken care of that elderly who are capable should be motivated and if necessary should be given a helping hand for engaging them in economically productive manner. Those who are not able to support themselves should be

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