



A SURVEY OF AGENCIES FOR THE AGED IN KOLHAPUR CITY

Dr. Mrs. Usha B. Patil

*Associate Professor
Dept. of Sociology,
Mahavir College, Kolhapur.*

INTRODUCTION:

India is passing through a wave of fast socio-economic development. Sustained economic development since independence has brought in its package many important changes in the social profile of the people. The rapid urbanization has been associated with shortage of housing accommodation in the cities and the fact of high rent had affects on joint family. Industrialization, technology changes, urbanization affect on the life style and values of the people. Those cause for change in traditional respect, love and affection towards the aged. Majority of women are now educated and preferring job at various places. So they do not get time to take care of the aged members in the family. The standard living pattern is also affecting the families.

In perspective of the changing socio-economic structure of our traditional society the nature and types of needs of various groups have also changed, specifically of the aged. It is not only the problem of a person who need economic support and institutional care, but also a problem of the aged who are economically sound and physically fit. They need emotional and psychological security and social and community support. Due to the fast and continuous change in socio-economic structure of society, traditional social security approaches can no longer the satisfactorily to the issues of aged.

Taking into account the above matter and taking care of the aged from all dimensions, some community members came forward and established the 'Aged Home' with and without government aid in and around Kolhapur, some of such NGOs are discussed in this paper.

OBJECTIVES:

Following are some of the objectives of the study.

- (i) To survey the NGOs for aged in Kolhapur city.
- (ii) To critically examine the role of these NGOs.
- (iii) To study the problem of these NGOs
- (iv) To suggest measures for improvement.

METHOD OF THE STUDY:

The present paper is based on both the primary and secondary sources to data. Initially the researcher prepared the list of aged homes. The office bearers of these agencies were contacted and interviewed. The secondary literature in the form of booklets, handouts, newspaper, reports and articles are also utilized.

PROFILE OF KOLHAPUR CITY:

The Kolhapur City is situated at Southern part of Maharashtra. The city is surrounded towards its South by adjoining state of Karanataka. The other districts which surround Kolhapur are Satara, Sangli, Shidhudurg and Ratnagiri.

The great heritage of art and culture is associated with Kolhapur. The famous personalities are associated with paintings, cartoonist, sculptures and film making. The city has also contributed greatly in the field of classical music, theater and literature. Kolhapur is also well known for its Engineering Capabilities in the field of automobiles, oil engine etc. There are three major industrial estates in Kolhapur.

The city is known for its big educational institutes in the fields of Engineering, Medical, Pharmacy and Management.

R.K.NAGAR OLD AGE HOME:

Ratnppanna Kumbhar Nagar old age home was established on 11th March 1995 by Shree. Shivajirao Patole, who is a sub staff of secondary school. He has started this agency with the intension of taking care and providing various services to old age people Whole family of Patole i.e. wife, their sons, daughter,

daughter in law, son in law are devoting their valuable life for protecting and securing the life of old people of the society.

This home is totally unaided. At present there are 105 old age people are staying. Out of that 40 are male and 65 are females. Of that 35 are unmarried among that 20 females and 15 male and 30% of beneficiaries are mentally disturbed. 60 inmates are getting free service and 45 inmates are paying rupees 500 to 1000 per month.

Daily routine of the agency is morning from 6 to 7 am morning walk, physical exercises as per inmates capacity, physiotherapy and bathing. 8-30 tea and breakfast, 11-30 lunch. 12 to 4 rest, 4 pm tea and pravachans, discussion among each other, sharing the ideas, grading work, room cleanliness. 7-30 arati, 8-30 dinner.

Activities of the Agency:

Social Activities:

Whenever old people leaves their homes, family and lives in old age home they always feel loneliness, boardom, nervous etc. They always think of past things happened in their life. So, agency conducts group discussion by giving current issues in news papers. Common food arrangement is made for creating family atmosphere and we feeling among each other. Some time inmates are also doing light gardening work and cleanling work. Pooja, arati and bhajans are also arranged everyday to involve every inmates to foget their social, family and psychological stress.

Psychological Support:

Various psychological problems like frustration, loneliness, thinking over suicide etc. are observed in the old age. In this old age home also such type of inmates are living. Therefore, it tries to bring them out from the psychological problems. It arranges common discussion with their past experience, arranging speech on psychiatric, conducting family meet.

Health Services:

Vision problem, hearing problem, muscular problems, high and low blood pressure, diabetes are seen during the old age. Few inmates of above problems

are staying in this old age agency. Agency is having its own ten bed hospital. There are one full time and two part time Doctors. They provide medical and hospitalization services to the inmates.

Recreational Facilities:

Some of recreational facilities are also useful to create happiness among the old people. Due their old age they are not doing any work. So, they feel bored, fatigue, nervous etc. Therefore this old age have made one library by maintaining books like Ramayan, Mahabharat, Tukaram, Ramdas, Mahatma Gandhiji, Swami Vivekanand, Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar, Chh.Shahu Maharaj etc.few drama books, story books. They also keep some local news papers. The agency organising various competition like reading, writing, slow and fast walking on the occasion of agency anniversary day and distributing prizes.

CHAMBUKHADI MATOSHRI VRUDHASHRAM:

This is the second old age home functioning in Kolhapur since last 9 years. It was established by great marathi cineactor Mr.& Mrs. Rajshekhar on 27 Jan. 1998 during the government of Shiva Sena and BJP. This government made policy of establishment one old age home at every district place of Maharashtra for providing welfare services to old poor, destitute and needy old people. Government has declared financial assistance for running the home.

Initially this agency was aided by government. They asked to admit 50% inmates at free of cost and 50% are on payment basis. But from 1998 grant was stopped due to the change in government. Since 1998 to till today this agency has been functioning without any government aid.

This agency is situated out of Kolhapur city on five acres of land. Environmentally the area is very healthy for old people. There are six separate buildings. One is for office including library and small dispensary, second one is for kitchen and dinning, common hall for prayer and yoga, third one is covered double bed building for old couples, fourth one is for old couples. Agency is having its own ambulance van in emergency case. At present there are 55 inmates 19 male 36 females. Out of that 22 are paid inmates. They are paying rupees one thousand per month and the remaining are getting free services.

Daily routine of the agency are -morning 6 to 7 morning walk, yoga and light exercises as per inmates capacity. 7 to 8 breakfast and tea. 8 to 9 pooja and arati, 12 to 1 lunch, 1 to 4 rest, 4-30 tea then bhajan, kirtan, 7-30 arati and 8-30 dinner.

Activities Conducted by the Agency:

Social activities:

This aged home provides some social services for creating social atmosphere. They conduct pooja, arati, bhajan twice in a day, arrange group discussion among them with their past experiences. Agency celebrates all religions and national festivals like 'Independence Day', 'Republican Day', 'Gandhi Jayanti', diwali, dasara, ganesh festival, idd etc. organizing family get together.

Health activities:

This agency keeps inmates with normal health problems. It provides medical services through visiting doctors. Whenever serious health problems arises, patients are admitted in private hospital, because many times agency could not get proper services from government hospital. It keeps some important medicines in the home.

Recreational facilities:

Agency tries to keep their inmates with fresh, tension free, through celebrating various National and religions festivals agency anniversary day etc. On these days they conduct programmes like games, reading and writing competition, mini trips, maintaining library with good books etc.

SAWALI CARE CENTER

Old age brings with it many problems, of these health is the most important one as it directly impinges on quality of life of older persons. Keeping in mind the above problem Sawali care center came in existence in Kolhapur on 18th July 2004. This agency is providing services specifically to the health problem of old people. This is totally unaided so, it charges some amount. Initially it takes Rs.5000/- as a deposit. Further they charge minimum 1800/- and maximum 3500/-per month. Health problems like amputation, psychological

Dr. Usha B. Patil

depressed, schizophrenia, major diabetes is admitted in this agency. Since from last three years this agency has been providing following medical and health care services to its inmates.

Services of the Agency:

Nursing Services:

The agency has appointed four trained nurses in all shifts for taking care and providing medical treatment.

Home Nursing Services:

Many old people with health problems are staying in their home and their children, grand children are taking their care. But many time family members are unable to take proper care due to certain critical health problems. To such type of families agency provides nursing to take care of the old people properly.

Hygienic Services:

Sawali care center always tries to maintain proper and good health and hygienic conditions of the inmates. Every day they clean wards with specific chemical, change the dress and provide hygienic food.

Doctors Visit:

Specialized doctors are visiting the agency regularly as well as in emergency cases and giving necessary medical treatment.

Nutritious Food:

Nutritious food is also one of the important factors of good health. Hence, agency provides nutritious food according to inmates' requirements.

Guidance and Counseling Services:

Counseling is an art of assistance. When person is in difficulty and seeks art someone in whom he has confidence for advice and guidance, a situation exists for counseling. It is very common situation in everybody and at every stages of life. Taking into consideration of this agency provides guidance and counseling in following areas.

Family counseling, psychiatric counseling, medical counseling with children in -laws and individual counseling.

FINDINGS:

Major findings of the study are as under:

- i) In Kolhapur city there are three aged home that are involved in taking care of aged people.
- ii) All the aged people issues are being considered by the agencies.
- iii) One agency is also providing medical service.
- iv) Two NGOs are taking care of old people through social, psychological and recreational approach.

SUGGESTIONS:

Based on the survey we can make the following suggestions-

- 1) It is necessary that government should provide continuous and sufficient material and immaterial assistance to agencies for the aged.
- 2) Appoint professional social worker specialized in counseling, medical and psychiatric social work.
- 3) Mobile Medicare services are necessary to reach medical services up to the aged in unorganized sector wherever such service are not reaching.
- 4) It is also necessary to guide the authorities of old age homes.

CONCLUSION:

The old age homes working in Kolhapur city are playing an important role in taking care and providing different services like social, psychological, health and recreational to the aged inmates. The aims and objectives of the NGOs are helping the poor, destitute, unmarried (male and female) and other old people, whose children are unable to take care of their parents.

REFERENCES:

1. Ageing in India: Moneer Alam, Academic Foundation, New Delhi, 2006
2. Psycho-social Aspects of Ageing in India: Paramjeet Kaur Dhillon, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi 1992
3. Souvenir: Helpage India New Delhi, 2002
4. Counseling and guidance: S.Narayana Rao, Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Ltd. New Delhi, 2005