



Sociology

Explore–Journal of Research

ISSN 2278 – 0297 (Print)

ISSN 2278 – 6414 (Online)

UGC Approved List of Journals No. - 64404

© Patna Women's College, Patna, India

<http://www.patnawomenscollege.in/journal>

Elderly People: Their Problems, Condition and Contributions in the Society

• Kirti Raj Singh • Patanjali Aryabhata • Smrity Sinha
• Tapashi Bhattacharjee

Received : November 2018

Accepted : March 2019

Corresponding Author : Tapashi Bhattacharjee

Abstract : *Old age refers to ages nearing or surpassing the life expectancy of human beings and thus heralding the end of the human life cycle. The organic process of ageing is called senescence, the medical study of the ageing process is called gerontology and the study of diseases that afflict the elderly is called geriatrics. The elderly also face other social issues related to retirement, loneliness and ageism. From the sociological point of view old age is not a definite biological stage, as the chronological age denoted as "old age" varies culturally and historically. Since 'ageing' is a process, it is very difficult to define the term 'aged'. There is no single definition*

which is unanimously accepted worldwide. In this context, chronological age is often a poor criteria for distinguishing between the young and the old. The old people are those, to whom society categorizes as old. It is a social construct rather than a biological-stage. It's a natural process of becoming older and older. It is universal reality. In India elderly people have been facing various socio-economic, psychological, physical and mental health problems. In our old scriptures, respect was given to old people and they were cared in the family. The younger generation are becoming too much careerist and have no time to take care of these old age people rather the old people are being abused in various families. It has been observed that an old man today is a 'tattered coat hanging to a stick'. Age is nothing but a number, according to new research – you are only as old as you let yourself feel. Old age is simply a state of mind – enjoying life to the fullest can keep you young.

Keywords : *Chronological age, Elderly people, Gerontology, Senescence, Social construct.*

Kirti Raj Singh

B.A. III year, Sociology (Hons.), Session: 2016-2019,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Patanjali Aryabhata

B.A. III year, Sociology (Hons.), Session: 2016-2019,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Smrity Sinha

B.A. III year, Sociology (Hons.), Session: 2016-2019,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Tapashi Bhattacharjee

Head, Department of Sociology,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna-800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : tapashibhattacharjee63@gmail.com