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Urbanisation and its impact on the vulnerable section: a critical study on the elderly

The pace of population ageing around the world is rapidly increasing. Population ageing has emerged as the grand challenge of this century; for policymakers, care providers and society as a whole. India has joined the rank of 'Greying nations' with over seven per cent of its population in the 60 plus years segment (Ennapadam S. Krishnamoorthy). A United Nations report (2017) has predicted that India will have 198 million 'Old' (60+) people in 2030 and 326 million in 2050. Ageing is a continuous, irreversible, universal process which starts from conception till the death of an individual. Indian society is undergoing a rapid transformation due to industrialisation, urbanisation, science and technological change, education and globalisation. Rapidly urbanizing environments can challenge social integration and increase the risk of social exclusion among the elderly. In India, urban spaces with mobility restrictions are perceived as unsafe and inaccessible for the elderly (Chao, 2017; Prattley et al., 2020).

For the most part, cities are designed and structured with a younger demographic in mind. Among the elderly, poorly maintained streets, lack of traffic management and lack of physical segregation between pedestrians, cyclists and motorized vehicles contribute to increased risk and fear of falling (Rosenberg et al., 2012). Stressors from the built environment, such as loud horns, speeding vehicles, lack of pedestrian facilities and physical disorders, can also increase the elderly's anxiety levels, resulting in a compounding impact on social isolation in the most vulnerable old (Mooney et al., 2017; Gardiner et al., 2018). Developing urban environments that promote healthy, active living for the elderly is at the forefront of global planning policy debates, resulting in concepts and design

guidelines to support population ageing. Various agendas on 'ageing-in-place', 'healthy ageing' and 'active ageing' have been designed to support and enable older adults to age well in urban environments (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2017; WHO, 2002, 2012). The paper is prepared with the help of primary and secondary, which attempt to address how urbanisation has affected the elderly, the vulnerable section of Indian society.

Keywords: Ageing, urbanisation, globalisation, elderly, social exclusion.

Recent Publications

1. Hiremath, Sumanth S. (2021). "Impact of Urbanisation on Mental Health: A Critical Appraisal", (2021). Journal of Alzheimer's Parkinsonism & Dementia. Scient Open Access Journal (Exploring the World of Science), Las Vegas, USA. Volume 5, Issue 1, pp: 032. May 28, 2021.
2. Hiremath, Sumanth S. (2022). "A Shimmering Transformation of Indian Society through Cultural Globalisation". International Journal of all Multidisciplinary Research Studies. 1(4): 01-04.
3. Hiremath, Sumanth S., Jayarajan D., Jadhav, Vivekanand B. (2022). "Role of New Education Policy 2020 in Transforming Higher Education in India: An Empirical Study". I.I.P. Iterative International Publishers. Volume: 1. Page: 52-59.

Biography

Sumanth S Hiremath is faculty in the Dept. of Sociology, and also the Nodal Officer for Youth Red Cross, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi. Currently, he has 16 years of Teaching and Research Experience. His research areas are 'Science and Technology'; 'Information and Communication Technology'; 'Elite Studies'; 'Higher Education'; 'ICT and Indian Society'; 'Elderly and Gender Studies'; 'Environmental and Urban Issues'. He has presented 110 Research Papers and has delivered about 36 Special Lectures. He has organised many conferences and awareness programmes. He has authored 04 Books, 60 Research Papers and has good number of citations. He is associated as 'Associate Editor'; 'Journal

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Reviewer'; and 'Editorial Board Member' to Journals. He is an 'Academic Member' of 'Athens Institute for Education and Research, Athens, Greece. He is Joint-Secretary of Karnataka Sociology Association. He is 'Executive Committee Member' for the Indian Red Cross Society, Belagavi. He is associated as 'Life Member' to 'International Sociological Association'; 'Indian Sociological Society'; 'Karnataka Sociology Association'; 'Association of Gerontology' and 'Indian Red Cross Society'. He visited

Toronto, Canada; Bangkok, Thailand and New York. He is awardee of 'Karnataka Rajya Pratibha Puraskar' and was honored 'National Merit Scholarship – Govt. of India' and; Research Fellowship for Ph.D. He is known for student mentoring activities and being an active blood donor is also known for his social service.

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