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International Conference on ALZHEIMER AND DEMENTIA

July 18, 2022 | Webinar

VULNERABLE ELDERLY MIGRANTS: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Elderly in India feel a strong connection with their native usually villages. They value the solidarity, unity and friendly relations among the family and friends in the villages. With the expectation that children should take care of the parents/elders in India, they (elders) are aware of the dynamics of the society, and migrate to stay with their children usually sons who are into non-agricultural jobs in cities. A small group of elders have adopted modern and most of the group retaining traditional values and opinions. It's a challenging task for them to adjust to the urban culture/lifestyle, as they are chronically ill and need long term care. Thus, the paper highlights mobility impact on the lives of elderly and how they use different strategies to rationalise and compensate the absence of co-residing children. The paper focuses on the qualitative component to document the experiences of the elderly and use the quantitative data to support these experiences. It must be remembered that comprehensive care to the elderly is possible only with the involvement and collaboration of family, community and the Government.

Keywords: elderly, migrate, mobility, rationalise, compensate.

The 21st century, is an era of 'Information and Communication Technologies' (ICTs) with abundance of potential for creative skills and development. In today's world of science and technology, with internet tools, it is easy to carry out many activities at any corner of the globe. Today's rural youth, are so curious to know on various issues with the help of computer/mobile phone and internet connection, that, it is serving in transforming the lives and livelihoods of Indian rural families. The study is an empirical study on the rural girls of Belagavi taluk (Belagavi District, Karnataka, India) pursuing higher education. The paper illustrates the transformational role of ICTs in empowering among rural girls. The advancement in the field of ICT has made the rural girls excited, to leave rural areas for urban life. This opens up a lot of opportunities for them since they are able to access real time information. The increase of mobile telecommunication systems to rural areas has made them, to connect a computer to internet using mobile phone. Using a mobile phone to access the internet is not only cheaper but also more reliable. They are able to get and share a lot of practical information by increasing outreach for development work. The paper reveals that, while most of the ICT initiatives are disseminating new information and knowledge useful for rural girls, some are unable to make use of it, due to lack of access to complementary sources of support and services. However, we find, with greater access women all over rural India have started to reap the benefits of the technology revolution, it may be seen as a threat to the overarching patriarchal. Armed with technology and internet, women are able to develop their own ideas and act on them.

Biography

Sumanth S. Hiremath is faculty in the Dept. of Sociology, and Coordinator for Youth Red Cross, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi, and Karnataka, India. He has 15 years of Teaching & Research Experience. His research areas are 'Elite Studies'; 'Higher Education'; 'ICT & Indian Society'; 'Elderly & Gender Studies'; 'Environmental & Urban Issues'. He has presented 108 Research Papers, delivered 36 Special Lectures and organised conferences and awareness programmes. He has authored 04 Books and 54 Research Papers. He is 'Associate Editor'; 'Journal Reviewer'; & 'Editorial Board Member' to many Journals. He is an 'Academic Member' of 'Athens Institute for Education & 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 honoured 'National Merit Scholarship – Govt. of India' & 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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ALZHEIMERS-2022

Volume: 12