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RESEARCH ARTICLE

CHANGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION AND LIVELIHOOD OF AGED SOCIETY OF TRIBAL COMMUNITY IN EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Majority of tribal's are living below the poverty line, possessing meagre assets and are exclusively dependent on wages, forest produce and agriculture. The income and living condition of the elder tribes in comparison with other community elder people are much discouraging. In order to get a clear view of this issue, this study attempts to examine the changing pattern in socio-economic condition and livelihood of the elder in tribal community of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The study is the outcome of intensive fieldwork analysis of collected data from 25 villages of three districts in eastern Uttar Pradesh, India. Main findings of the study can be succinctly summarised as; only 15.7 % of the total households had Pucca house in 2005 which is increased to 27.8 % in 2015 and only 3 % have toilet facility in 2005 which goes up to 10.6 % in 2015. Annual income of 43.7 % household in 2005 is less than INR 5,000 as compared to 24.2 % in 2015 and Out of the total sample only 8.6 % had access to loan in 2005 which has increased to 18.2 % in 2015. Prior 2005 only 11.6% were having saving bank account, during 2005-2015 number of households having saving increased to 25.5 % and major source of household income in 2005 was forest gathering and daily wage labour but in 2015 it include minor share of government and private Sector job. The study noted that as a result of developmental interventions like IAY(Indria Awas Yozna), MGNREGA, SGSY(Sanjay Gandhi Swarojgar yojana), OLD AGE PENSION and other awareness programs; the Lifestyle of elderly tribal have not changed and it's not much helped them to join the mainstream.

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INTRODUCTION

Elderly population in India (aged 60 years or above) account for 7.4% of the total population in 2001, and 8.2% in 2011, and in Uttar Pradesh (a state in northern India), elderly population is 7.7% in 2011 (Census, India 2001& 2011). Elder population covers about 8.4 % of the total population in Eastern Uttar Pradesh out of which 89.65% of them live in rural areas (census India 2011). The tribes are often characterized by their own language, heritage, love for freedom and self identity. The so called civilized communities of the mainstream society regard them as native, uncivilized people, aboriginals, *Adivasis* (original settlers), *Vanabasi* or *Vanyajati* (forest dwellers), *Adimjati* (primitive castes), *Girijan* or *Pahari* (hill dwellers), *Janjati* (folk communities), indigenous people etc. In India, they are generally called '*Adivasis*' implying original inhabitants. There is no particular definition for tribal, but the India constitution simply said that "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal

communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution". (Ministry of tribal affairs,. [Http://tribal.Nic.In/content/definitionprofiles.Aspx](http://tribal.Nic.In/content/definitionprofiles.Aspx)), The population of tribes had grown at the rate of 24.5% during the period 1991-2001. (Annual report of Ministry of tribal affairs-2004-05). The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census is 104 Million, which constituting 8.6% of the total population. The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in Uttar Pradesh is 107,963 as at 2001 census, constituting a meagre 0.1% of the total population of the state. In 2011, the number increases to 11,34,273 which is 1.08% of total population with Decadal change 2001-2011 is 950.6. (Census India 2001 & 2011). Now more than ever, the elder tribes engage in serious struggles in several aspects for their survival, they hunt for identity, autonomy, equality and empowerment. They became more vibrant with new expectation, they move out of their isolation to participate in all struggles in all institution as equals. The shift in age structure makes issues of social security and economic support for elder tribal people very crucial. In India, tribal development progresses but at a slow pace in spite of the increased flow of funds from both governmental and non-governmental bodies. Moreover, most elder tribals in India live in inaccessible hilly terrains, but if the

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hill tribes can also take part in the nation building activity at par with the mainstream society, it will serve as the guarantee to attain unity and progress. The specific objective of the study is to explore and better understand the Changing Socio –Economic Condition and Livelihood of Aged Society of Tribal Community In eastern Uttar Pradesh. This study was embarked upon because of the perceived and real difficulties in creating effective policies and programmes for increasing elder tribal people participation in public life. However, this is not only a study of the situation of elder tribal men and women, but the social norms that determine their participation in decision making on priority interests and concerns of families and communities.

Data and Methodology

A community based Empirical study was conducted in rural areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, India. Which include 29 districts in total geographical area of 85,298 sq. km. of Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is the most populous northern state of India. Eastern Uttar Pradesh has Multicultural, multiracial, fabulous wealth of nature –hills, valleys, river, forests, and vast plains. People belonging to different ethno-cultural and linguistic background co-reside here. Multistage random sampling procedure was used to collect information from the area under study. Three Districts were selected for this study. The composite index of development (based on 13 important indicators of socio-economic development) is the basis for the selection of districts. Randomly one district each from low (Sonbhadra), middle (Chandauli) and high index categories (Deoria), and from each selected districts one sub districts (Dudhhi from Sonbhadra, Sakaldiha from Chandauli and Deoria sub-district from Deoria district) were selected at random out of which one village was selected randomly and at the end complete enumeration of the elderly tribal population in a particular village was carried out. However, if after complete enumeration the required sample size has not been obtained in a particular village, then we select another village randomly from the sub-district and follow the same process. But if the minimum sample size after complete enumeration is still not obtained, then the same procedure will be followed to complete the minimum sample size which is 148. As per government reports Approximately 2.5 households in a village of eastern Uttar Pradesh get at least one elderly tribal living in the family and according to our methodology we surveyed 25 villages for this study. Thus, a total number of 370 households are covered under this study. The instrument used to collect information from the respondents is a personal interview; this was used as the main tool of data collection. Alongside with the Interview Schedule, the researcher also set out an observation sheets to record relevant and Useful observations with a view to strengthen or back up and cross-check the information gathered using other tools.

Economic Index

Economics status of a household (HH) is a function of a number of interrelated variables like landholding, income sources, occupation characteristics, etc. The total earning of a rural HH have been computed by adding total income in Rupees (Indian currency) from all possible sources in a HH, Which includes (i) Income from agriculture (ii) Income from business (iii) Income from services (government / private) (iv) Income from pension Old age / Widower's / Disability. (v) Income from hunting / natural product collection / forest

gathering. (vi) Income from daily wage and all different sources. The total monthly income of a HH has been calculated by compiling the monthly income from these aforesaid sources of income and utilized in computation of income index of a HH. The income index of a HH is defined as the ratio of total earning from all sources of a HH to effective size of a HH. The effective size of a household is defined considering each person aged 15 years and above as one unit and aged less than 15 years as half unit. The way to determine social and economic status has been adopted from the study of Kumar *et al.* (2005)

After calculating the total earnings from all different sources and effective size of the HH, the Income index (I.I.) is calculated as

$$I.I. = \frac{\text{Total earnings of a HH}}{\text{Effective size of a HH}}$$

Thus, the economic status of a HH based on I.I. is classified into four groups as

- Extreme Low if I.I < Rs. 500
- Low if I.I is between Rs. 501- Rs 1000
- Middle if I.I is between Rs. 1001 – Rs. 1500
- High if I.I > Rs. 1501

Social Status

Social status has been defined on the basis of different kind of facilities available in a household. For completeness these are:

1. Total family Income between Rs.5000 to 8000
2. Residential accommodation more than one "Pucca Room" per eligible couple
3. Regular use of milk and vegetable
4. Education at graduation level of at least one member of the household
5. Household cash shavings up to 25000 (In Indian Rupees).
6. Possession of at least four of the following facilities :
 - Drinking water facility: Borehole / Private tap at house / Water pump /
 - Tube well
 - Entertainment facility – Radio / T.V / Transistor
 - Travelling or transport facilities- Bicycle / Motorcycle / Car
 - Luxurious items – Dressing table / Mattress/ Refrigerator / Washing machine /
 - Agricultural equipment – Tractor /Animal drawn cart / thresher
 - Kitchen facility - LPG / Bio gas / Separate kitchen / Pressure cooker
 - Communication –Mobile /Telephone
 - Home use - Solar light / Computer / Laptop / Sewing machine
 - Other facilities – Toilet/ Electricity

In light of presence of above facilities, social status has been classified in to three different groups as,

- Extreme Low - If at most two or less than two facilities are available
- Low – If three facilities are available

Middle – If four facilities are available

High – If five or more facilities are available in a household

Inclusion criteria for the respondent: Elder tribal people of the community of both sexes (male & female), Age range between 60 years and above, who are willing to be interviewed and participate in the study and who are fluent in speaking Hindi.

Exclusion criteria for the respondent: Elder tribal people with serious physical problem, age less than 60 years and not willing to be interviewed.

Livelihood System in Tribes of Eastern Uttar Pradesh

The livelihood patterns in eastern Uttar Pradesh are primarily dependent on combinations of agriculture, forests and laboring. Due to little holding and the very low productivity of the agricultural land mostly households move out a living by maintaining a diversified pattern of occupations no single activity provides sufficient resources to entirely ensure their livelihood. There are, however, a few numbers of artisan Tribes and tribal communities who depend on providing services to the community or on small scale processing and marketing. Elderly Women's work is critical for the survival of tribal households both in terms of provisioning food and income as well as in the management of resources. Agriculture in the tribal villages/area is predominantly rain fed and mono-cropped. Amongst the vulnerable Tribes such as Baiga, Pahari, Agaria and Gond women play an important role in (i) food gathering from the forest; (ii) honey collection (With the help of young people); (iii) herbal medicinal plant collection, processing & sale; (iv) basket making; (v) shifting cultivation; (vi) labour and Broadly, tribal livelihood system can be classified into three types. First forest dependent upland systems (approx 30%) are usually located in Hilly areas and comprising most Tribal villages/ tolas. Second, mixed systems (approx. 55%), which are usually located in the middle, watersheds and these are partially hilly areas, where communities depend less on forest and place added reliance on agriculture. Farming is mainly single crop with some paddy and vegetable cultivation. Food security extends to three to four months. Third lowland systems (approx. 15%) are located in lower watershed. These communities extend into the lower plains and may have relatively little forest access and maximum of them are involve in labour activity. They tend to be more multiethnic, have smaller but more intensively farmed land holdings and own more cattle. Cropping is more common, and if there is supplementary irrigation, even a double crop may be grown. There is a greater reliance on paddy, vegetables are cultivated nearly year round and overall food security can extend from five to seven months. Year round access to most communities allows for greater market orientation. Many fields are already bunded as the terrain is generally flatter and there is better system farming has a longer history, which is reflected in greater productivity per hectare. Distant migration may be less prevalent but local wage-earning opportunities are more available.

RESULTS

Results obtained from a representative sample of elderly from the eastern Uttar Pradesh data at both household and individual level revealed that about 52% of the elderly lived together with their Son/Daughter and Spouses, nearly one-third live without

the spouse but with children and a small proportion (2%) live with other relatives or alone. Furthermore, some important indicators of well being which may vary between then only 20% of household have income more than Rs. 12,501/- per month and about 51% of households have income less than Rs.8000/- per month. In 2005 the less than Rs. 8000 /- consist share of 70.1% and only 4.9 % had income of Rs. 12,501/- and above per month.

Housing

Mainly the type of houses can be categorised into three types - Pucca (Roof are made from Concrete / Stone), Semi Pucca (At least walls are made from Bricks and stone with cement) and Kaccha (made by mud, bamboo and wood). Greater percentage (69.4%) of tribal household have Kaccha type of house, while only 28.1% have Pucca type of house and only 2.6 % have semi pucca type of house in 2015 and the share of Kaccha type of house was 83.4% in 2005. At present time 11.2 % of the respondents accepted that toilet facility in home and nearby proportion for separate animal shed or separate kitchen in home, but 27.8% use electricity in their homes in present time which was just more than double of using electricity in 2005. In 2005, 69.6 % of elderly household are living in BPL and at present time it decrease up to 6.23%.

Fuel availability

All the Tribal household are use different types of fuel like wood, coal, kerosene, electricity or LPG cylinder for lightning and cooking. 97.7 % and 48.6 % to those who used wood for cooking and lightning in 2005 and its goes up to 98.4 % in cooking and decreasing growth found in lightning with 22.6 % in present time. Only 0.3% of the Tribal Household are used electricity as fuel for cooking in 2005 and 2.3 % in 2015 but in case of lightning 6.2 % are using electricity as fuel for lightning in 2005 and with growth of 18.18 % its goes up to 24.4 % in 2015. Majority of tribal household are using multiple type of fuel for lightning and cooking as Table:3 shows that 13.76 % growth rate are found for Using LPG as a fuel for cooking During 2005 to 2015 and LPG use as a fuel for lightning is slighter much higher than cooking with 17.66% during 2005 to 2015 and decreasing rate found in firewood and kerosene use as a fuel for lightning with 25.97 % and 0.50 %. Description of the Tribal Household by the Demographic characteristics has been presented in Table 3. The study shows that 57.4 % belonged to 60 to 69 years of age group " young old" ,30.6 % "old old" and 11.9 % are belonged from "Older old" , the education level of the elderly indicates that 93.8 % of the elderly were illiterate and there were only 0.5 % literate among elderly women. Regarding the Marital status 63.1 % are married and the rest 36.9% are widow, widower, separated, unmarried or living alone. As we saw 79.2 % of tribal household are joint family, living with two or more generation and only 20.8 % are living in nuclear family e.g. : living alone, with spouse or living with children. This analysis logically begins at the Social and economic Status of household. It is of great importance to look at the economic and social status of people in the household, 46.2 % are in extreme low category and 21.8 % & 8.8% in middle and high category of social status. It is a bad indicator that more than half of the population is belong to low social status. In Income majority of tribal household that is 67% are living in low and middle income index category and only 15.3 % are living in high income index Category.

Table 1. Distribution of the elderly tribal household by selected demographic characteristics

Amenity	Distribution of Households		
	2005	2015	Changes
	Type of House		
Kachha	321(83.4 %)	267 (69.4 %)	- 14.02 %
Pacca	61(15.8 %)	108(28.1 %)	12.20 %
Semi Pacca	3(0.8 %)	10(2.6 %)	1.81 %
	Number of Dwelling Rooms		
One	106(27.5 %)	73(19.0 %)	- 8.57 %
Two	140(36.4 %)	129(33.5 %)	-2.85 %
Three	52(13.5 %)	79(20.5 %)	7.01 %
More Than Three	87(22.6 %)	104(27.0 %)	4.41 %
	Ownership of House		
Own	345(89.6%)	318(82.6%)	- 7.01 %
Provided by the Government	38(9.9%)	65(16.9%)	7.01 %
Others	2(0.5%)	2(0.5%)	0.0 %
	B.P.L Card		
Yes	268(69.6%)	244(63.4%)	-6.23 %
	Ration card		
Yes	346(89.9%)	344(89.4%)	-0.51 %
	Colour of Ration Card		
Red	122(31.7%)	101(26.2%)	-5.45 %
Yellow	77(20.0%)	99(25.7%)	5.71 %
White	146(37.9%)	143(37.1%)	-0.77 %
Don't have	40(10.4%)	42(10.9%)	0.51 %
	Electricity		
Yes	48(12.5%)	107(27.8%)	15.32 %
	Toilet		
Yes	14(3.6%)	43(11.2%)	7.53 %
	Separate kitchen		
Yes	25(6.5%)	29(7.5%)	1.03 %
	Separate animal shed		
Yes	50(13.0%)	65(16.9%)	3.89 %
	Irrigable land		
yes	300(77.9%)	250(64.9%)	-12.98%

Table 2. Type of fuel use for cooking and lightning in eastern Uttar Pradesh

	Source of Cooking		
	10 year before	At present	Changes
Firewood	376(97.7%)	379(98.4%)	0.77 %
Straw & leaf	360(93.5%)	338(87.8%)	-5.71%
Cow dung cake	353(91.7%)	325(84.4%)	-7.27 %
Cooking Gas LPG	11(2.9%)	64(16.6%)	13.76%
Gobar Gas	1(0.3%)	2(0.5%)	0.25%
Kerosene	35(9.1%)	75(19.5%)	10.38%
Electricity	1(0.3%)	9(2.3%)	2.07%
	Source of Lightning		
Firewood	187(48.6 %)	87(22.6%)	- 25.97%
Straw & leaf	2(0.5%)	7(1.8%)	1.29 %
Cow dung cake	3(0.8%)	4(1.0%)	0.25%
Cooking Gas LPG	10(2.6%)	78(20.3%)	17.66%
Gobar Gas	5(1.3%)	6(1.6%)	0.25%
Kerosene	382(99.2%)	380(98.7)	- 0.50%
Electricity	24(6.2%)	94(24.4%)	18.18 %

The livelihood patterns in eastern Uttar Pradesh are primarily dependent on combinations of agriculture, forests and laboring. Due to little holding and the very low productivity of the agricultural land mostly households move out a living by maintaining a diversified pattern of occupations no single activity provides sufficient resources to entirely ensure their livelihood. Regarding the occupational status there is great difference among tribal household that only 5.2 % of tribal household are engaged in government offices in present time in comparison 2005 the percentage of tribal household are merger or 2.3% and 79.7% are working as daily wage labourers, 13.8% engaged in making and selling bidi, Basket, leaf plate and few others are engaged as folk artist. But in case of 2005, majority of them are engaged, are labourer or Wages from working on other people's land are 85.5% and 2.1 % household had income from land, property and interest from bank saving and merger share of household had income from

different welfare scheme like disability pension, widower's pension, Old age Pension and social security. The economic condition of elderly tribal household is not sound. Merger 4.2 % of family possess television in 2005 and growth of 16.1 % goes up to 20.3 % in 2015. A few families have Motor cycle, Car, Tractor, Animal Drawn Cart etc. The main source of income of these household are labour and forest gathering and income comes from making and selling Product. Refrigerator, Washing machine, Computer /Laptop and other luxury commodities were seen only in few household as their standard of living was better than rest and belong to High Income Index Category. The picture of elderly tribal household are same as the normal population, as 72.4% of the tribal using Mobile Phone /Telephone in 2015. It is observed that only approx 90% family did not have any vehicle but rest of tribal Household have vehicles. Many have cycle and bikes. Some have four wheelers as well as bikes and cycles in present time.

Table 3: Distribution of the elderly tribal by selected demographic characteristics

Variable	Age groups		Total
	Male	Female	
Age			
Young Old "60 to 69"	117 (59.1%)	104 (55.6%)	221 (57.4%)
Old Old " 70 to 79"	59 (29.8%)	59 (31.6%)	118(30.6%)
Older Old " 80 and above	22 (11.1%)	24 (12.8%)	46(11.9%)
Marital status			
Married	149 (75.3%)	94 (50.3%)	243(63.1%)
Others	49 (24.7%)	93 (49.7%)	142(36.9%)
Education			
Illiterate	175(88.4%)	186(99.5%)	361(93.8%)
Literate	23(11.6%)	1(0.5%)	24(6.2%)
Social status			
Extreme low	92(46.5%)	86(46.0%)	178(46.2%)
Low	41(20.7%)	48(25.7%)	89(23.1%)
Middle	46(23.2%)	38(20.3%)	84(21.8%)
High	19(9.6%)	15(8.0%)	34(8.8%)
Economic status			
Extreme low	31(15.7%)	37(19.8%)	68(17.7%)
Low	63(31.8%)	61(32.6%)	124(32.2%)
Middle	75(37.9%)	59(31.6%)	134(34.8%)
High	29(14.6)	30(16.0)	59(15.3)
BPL Household			
Yes	131(66.2)	113(60.4)	244(63.4)
No	67(33.8)	74(39.6)	141(36.6)
Family type			
Nuclear	44(22.2)	36(19.3)	80(20.8)
Joint	154 (77.8)	151 (80.7)	305(79.2)

Table 4. Household Main Source of Income

Variables	10 Year Before	At Present	Changes (%)	P value
Wages from Working on other People's land	(329) 85.5 %	(307) 79.7 %	-5.71 %	0.03662 , Z-Score :2.0912
Income from Own farm Business / Shop	(37) 9.6 %	(45) 11.7 %	2.07 %	0.35238, Z-Score :-0.9346
Income from own nonfarm business- Including making / fixing Goods	(48) 12.5 %	(53) 13.8 %	1.29 %	0.59612, Z-Score :-0.5338
Income from Land , House (Including rent) or other Property , Interest from Bank account	(8) 2.1 %	(10) 2.6 %	0.51 %	0.63122, Z-Score :-0.477
Old age Pension and Social Security	(27) 7.0 %	(74) 19.2 %	12.20 %	0, Z-Score :-5.0173
Disability Pension	(10) 2.6 %	(2) 0.5 %	-2.07 %	0.0198, Z-Score :2.3276
Widower's Pension	(5) 1.3 %	(31) 8.1 %	6.75 %	0, Z-Score :-4.4383
Any other Welfare Scheme	(11) 2.9 %	(7) 1.8 %	-1.03 %	0.34212, Z-Score :-0.954,
Hunting , Folk artist , Fisheries, Forest Gathering	(91) 23.6 %	(89) 23.1 %	-0.51 %	0.86502, Z-Score:0.1703,
Agriculture, Natural Product Collection	(240) 62.3 %	(231) 60.0 %	-2.33 %	0.50286, Z-Score :0.6655,
Daily Wage Labour	(290) 75.3%	(279)72.5 %	-2.85 %	0.36812, Z-Score :0.9026
Government Job (Contract/ Permanent) / Private Job	(9) 2.3%	(20) 5.2 %	2.85 %	0.03752, Z-Score :2.0822,

Table 5. Asset possessed of the Household of elderly

Variable	10 year before	At present	Changes
Radio/ Transistor / Wall Watch	181(47%)	232(60.3%)	13.3 %
Television (C/B.W)	16 (4.2%)	78 (20.3%)	16.1 %
Telephone/ Mobile	16 (4.2%)	295 (76.6%)	72.4 %
Water pump/ Tube well	82 (21.3%)	119 (30.9%)	9.6 %
Bicycle	212 (55.1%)	277(71.9%)	16.8 %
Motor Cycle	22 (5.7%)	62 (16.1%)	10.4 %
Animal Drawn Cart	14 (3.6%)	16 (4.2%)	0.6 %
Car	7 (1.8%)	11(2.9%)	1.1 %
Tractor	2 (0.5%)	10 (2.6%)	2.1 %
Mattress / Dressing table	9 (2.3%)	42 (10.9%)	8.6 %
Pressure Cooker	35 (9.1%)	106 (27.5%)	18.4 %
Chair / Sofa set / Table	232 (60.3%)	293 (76.1%)	15.8 %
Sewing Machine	41 (10.6%)	78 (20.3%)	9.7 %
Solar light	6(1.6%)	115(29.9%)	28.3%
Computer / Laptop	1(0.3%)	9(2.3%)	2%
Refrigerator	1(0.3%)	21(5.5%)	5.2%
Washing Machine	1(0.3%)	9(2.3%)	2%

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

It is well known that most of the tribal are victims of acute poverty and are living in wretched living conditions. Lack of money, along with illiteracy and unawareness, is often responsible for poor social conditions, and as a result the tribals remain at their present position on the graph of development (Sharma and Dwivedi, 2007). Various studies have been made on poverty, living standard and quality of life of different tribal populations, viz., Elwin (1939), Saxon (1957), Caprihan (1982), Mahapatra (1994), Yadav (2001), Sharma *et al.* (2002, 2004), Mishra *et al.* (2008, 2009) and many others exhibit low quality of life of the Tribals. The present study shows that the elderly tribal people are victims of poor socioeconomic conditions. Majority of elderly live in kaccha houses with one or two rooms without kitchen and possess one cycle only. They don't have toilet and drinking water facility, purchase wood for fuel and their daily food intake consists of rice with dhal or curry which is void of rich foods like fruits, milk and non vegetarian items. Majority of them are farmers but have well established themselves in different private services as they have poor educational status. Lack of money, interest and motivation along with alcoholism has led to the downfall of elderly household in their educational and occupational status. Thus, there is an urgent need to launch income generating, educational and health awareness programs so as to make them aware and help them to grab the opportunities given by the government and non government organizations. This is a small scale study, but each of participant in this study raise issues that may be of interest to stakeholders who are working in the eastern Uttar Pradesh and possibly India more widely. The recommendations given below are intended to be more specific to organizations working in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Recommendations

- Increase transparency in selecting members of VOs and other community structures.
- Identify opportunities for elder men and women's participation. Based on findings that elder men and women's interests have not been defined or are not being met, and the potential obstacles to defining them, special consideration should be given to identifying culturally appropriate participatory methodologies
- Provide opportunities for elder men and women's to gain practical knowledge. Opportunities for elder men and women's to advance their practical knowledge, and be seen to be contributing to the welfare of their households, other households and the community at large should be developed. These should be paired with encouraging their skills in community participation and followed up over time.
- Prepare proper policy and program for elderly people for their participation and increase knowledge

Ethical Issues

We fully followed the ethical principles that guide research on human subjects and none of the activities included in the study is likely to harm the participants. Verbal consent was taken before proceeding to administer the interview schedule. Confidentiality of the respondents fully maintained throughout the study and not be revealed to anyone outside of the study.

We gave full freedom to participants to leave the study at any point of time. The subjects with perceived health problems were informed about available health functionalities in the area. And ethical clearance certificate taken from Institutional Ethical Committee, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

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