

Does Ageing Matter?

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Editorial

The old age population has increased consistently over the last decades. If future, the increased number of old age population in the society will affect our economy. One out of every five will be an older person by 2050. One third of the people in the world are expected to be 60 years of age or older by 2150. Around 17% of US population will be 65 or older in 2020. In the developing countries, this figure will rise up to 20% or more. More than 20% of Europeans will be 65 or over by 2025. The average life expectancy is increasing with the increase in healthcare facilities and demand for standard of living around the world. In 2011, average life expectancy of an US old person (65 year of age) ranged from 10–20 years. Thus growing life expectancies of older populations have brought into question under which pension systems and other economic measures those should be designed carefully.

Medical treatment can be critical due to major changes in the later age. These changes can happen and affect in many ways such as retirement, loneliness, and ageism. Whatever changes are, harmonious relationship with family members, friends and society is important. Seniors' life should not be characterized as a period of loss of relationship by death and distance. Disengagement in old age occurs not by desire but by the barriers to social engagement. It has also been found that happiness in old age is not always proportional to disagreement with their retirement. It thus occurs by mutual engagement and relationship between all people and the society. Older population can enjoy their old age without stress by becoming engagement in voluntary work and performing family responsibilities. Public welfare systems have also resulted in decrease of their problems like dementia that were seen in modern times. Scientists warn against the tendency to medicalize and over treat the elderly, because of this. Scientists argue that appropriate social engagement and community involvement can tripped over medical intervention. Full Social Security benefit in the US has begun to increase gradually and will continue to do so until it reaches 67 in 2027. Full retirement age for Social Security benefits for people retiring in 2012 is age 66. The state pension age in UK for men and women will rise to 66 in 2020 with further increases scheduled after that. The purpose of old age pensions was to prevent elderly persons from being reduced to beggary, which is still common in many other developing countries. The dominant perception of the American old age population changed from needy and worthy to powerful and greedy. It is because old people are getting more than their share of the nation's resources. Social participation and coping strategies are very important in the aging process to move forward. Senior citizens' club in many countries has been formulated that sought amplify the importance of senior citizens or older population. It is the way a person adapts and copes, reflects his/her aging process on a psycho-social level. Seniors' increased social participation can benefit in many ways through the wealth of their life

experience. More recognition should be given to older people for their role in helping to shape societal norms and values. Senior citizen's day, for example, should be observed around the world. Residents of the community including school children should come out in their numbers to celebrate with a march the day designated for the elderly. The passion to celebrate and cherish the senior citizens has to begin to such an extent that there is lot of appreciation and respect from the society. It will be nice to see the children and young people with their banners urging the society and community to do something nice for the senior citizens. As the day of the elderly is compelled to reach out community involvement, more benefit and prospects will come out. Senior citizens day should be featured by a number of ways and activities recognizing the importance of the elders. Older persons will then make major contributions to our society through volunteer work, transmitting their experience and knowledge. They can also help their families with caring responsibilities and increasing their participation in the paid labor force. Throughout Africa and elsewhere, millions of adult and young AIDS patients are cared for at home by their parents. In war affected countries, orphaned children left behind (currently, 14 million under the age of 15 in Africa) are looked after by their grandparents. In Spain, caring for dependent and sick individuals is mostly done by older women. Old Hispanics in the US view themselves as quiet, peaceful, and somewhat religious who can help community services in many ways. The late-life rise in religiosity is stronger in Japan than in the US, however. Participation in the organized social, religion and charity is always good indicator of improving friendship with others.

The current use of elderly is a dis-honor to those who have sacrificed for our society in their young age. Old people require a high level of respect in the society that can postpone their stress and illness. There is a need of increasing social participation and family care. Elderly's emotional disorders and psychosocial stress should not jeopardize their life. Community services should be integrated in such a way that older population is happy and joyful irrespective of barriers from individuals' culture and tradition. The family and community service integration thus require adjustments to social perceptions towards senior citizens. And, thus we must change our attitudes and should improve our morale and keep due respect towards older population.

Older people should play an important role in our fast ageing world since ageing is one of the greatest social and economic challenges to our society. The chronological age denoted as old age varies culturally and historically that also consists of ages nearing or surpassing the life expectancy of human beings. Old age can be considered as a social construct rather than a definite biological stage. Social concepts propose explanations for the distinctive relationships between an old person and his/her society. The organic process of **ageing** is called

senescence. The medical study of the aging is **gerontology**. The study of diseases that afflict the elderly is **geriatrics**. More research and studies should therefore explore the issue that typically accompanies the ageing process worldwide. The views expressed herein are the views of the editor of the journal, and not necessarily the views of any other authors, affiliates, advertisers, sponsors, partners and researchers.