



OLD AGE HOMES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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Introduction

Andhra Pradesh, the state popularly known as the “Rice Bowl of India”, is situated in south eastern coast. It is India’s 8th largest state by area and 10th largest by population. Andhra Pradesh is bordered Telengana and Chhattisgarh in North, Tamil Nadu in South, Orissa in North East and Karnataka in the West and the water body Bay of Bengal in the East.

There are two regions in the state of Andhra Pradesh viz., Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema. The two regions are commonly referred to as *Seemandhra*.

There are 13 districts in Andhra Pradesh with 9 in Coastal Andhra and 4 in Rayalassema. Hyderabad is the joint capital of both Andhra Pradesh and Telengana states for a period of ten years. The size of population of Andhra Pradesh as per 2011 Census is 84,665,583. Of the total population, 66.5% are rural population and 33.49% are urban population. The literacy rate is 67.665 among which male literacy rate is 75.56% and female literacy is 59.74%. The size of population in select district.

Size of Population in select districts in Andhra Pradesh.

District	Population
East Godavary	51, 51, 549
Guntur	48, 89,230
Krishna	45, 29,009
Visakhapatnam	42, 88,113
Chittoor	41, 70,468
Anantapur	40, 83, 315.

Source: www.populationindia.com

This chapter focuses on the socio-economic and societal implications of old age homes in Andhra Pradesh. The study is based on the survey conducted in select districts in Andhra Pradesh. The surveys are conducted



on 27 old age homes spreading over 8 districts in Andhra Pradesh viz., Guntur, Anantapur, Prakasam, Vishakhapatnam, West Godavari, Chittoor, Srikakulam and Nellore. The number of old age homes surveyed.

The Survey List of Old Age Homes: District wise.

District	Old Age Homes (No's)
Guntur	12
Anantapur	1
Prakasam	4
Visakhapatnam	11
West Godavari	5
Chittoor	1
Srikakulam	1
Nelloore	2
Total	37

Source: Research Survey

We have surveyed 1029 old age people in 8 districts in Andhra Pradesh. Among the total 1029 elderly persons 410 are men and 619 are women.

Number of Elderly People in Select District in Andhra Pradesh: Sex Wise

District	Old Age People		
	Men	Women	Total
Guntur	115	239	354
Anantapur	14	16	30
Prakasam	30	85	115
Vizag	134	126	260
W. Godavari	56	60	116
Chittoor	7	8	15
Srikakulam	14	16	30
Nelloore	40	69	109
Total	410	619	1029

Source: Research Survey



The old age homes surveyed consists of those which are running on free of cost, on payment basis and both free and payment basis. Among 37 old age homes surveyed 13 are running on payment basis. Twenty two old age homes are offering services free of cost and two old age are serving freely and on payment basis.

Mode of Services in Select Old Age Homes.

District	Payment	Free	Payment and Free
Guntur	2	8	2
Anantapur		1	
Prakasam	1	3	
Vizag	9	2	
W.Godaveri	1	4	
Chittoor		1	
Srikakulam		1	
Nelloore		2	
Total	13	22	2

Entertainment facilities like TV s are available in 36 old age homes survey. 31 old age homes offer regular medical facilities and weekly services are offered by 4 old age homes and 2 old age homes offer medical services as and when required.

Entertainment in Old age Homes in select districts in Andhra Pradesh

District	Old Age Homes	Entertainment (TVs)
Guntur	12	11
Vizag	11	11
Chittoor	1	1
Srikakulam	1	1
Prakasam	4	4
Nellore	2	2
W.Godavari	5	5
Anantapur	1	1

Source: Research survey



Medical services in Old age Homes in Select Districts in Andhra Pradesh

Districts	Old Age Homes	Doctor's Services
Guntur	12	Regularly 12
Vizag	11	Regularly 11
Chittoor	1	Any Time 1
Srikakulam	1	Regularly 1
Prakasam	4	Regularly 4
Nelloore	2	Regularly 2
W.Godavari	5	Regularly 1; Weekly 4
Anantapur	1	Regularly 1

Source: Research survey

Old age homes running on payment basis in select districts fix the payment rates ranging from monthly payment of Rs 1000/ to Rs 6000/. Certain old age homes accept fixed deposits . One old age home accepts Rs 5000/ and Rs another Rs 10,000/.

Payment Systems in Old Age homes in select districts in Andhra Pradesh

Districts	Monthly Payment (Rs)	Old Age Homes	Deposits (Rs)
Guntur	2000-28000	1	5000 (1)
	1000-4000	1	10,000(1)
Vizag	2500	1	
	3000	3	
	3500	1	
	5000	3	
	6000	1	
Prakasam	5000	1	60,000 (1)
W.Godavari	5000	1	

Source: Research survey

The Societal Implications of Old Age Homes.

Old age homes are necessarily meant for the elderly living. The inmates in old age homes are those who are unable to stay with their families or are utterly poor. There are old age homes in almost all states in India and Andhra Pradesh is not an exception. There are 114 old age homes in Andhra Pradesh as per Help Age India Directory of old Age Homes in India, 2009. The total inmates in old age homes in Andhra Pradesh are 1029 of which 410 are males and 619 are females.



Most of the old age homes offer free accommodation. Some old age homes work on payment basis depending up on the types and quality of services offered. Apart from food, shelter and medical facilities, many old age homes also have the provision for physical exercises such as yoga to senior citizens. Old age homes also provide access to telephones and other forms of communications so that the inmates can keep in touch with their dear ones.

For elderly people, who have nowhere to go and no one to support them old age homes are a better solace. In old age homes the inmates get the family like atmosphere. Elders experience a sense of security and friendship. They share their joys and sorrows with each other. In the twilight of their lives, the old aged people are neglected by their relatives or elder children, who are either unable to care for them or hardly take responsibility to look after. The elders are thus destined to suffer at their fag end of their days.

As the people become older there, the physical abilities and economic strength declines and their position and importance in families also become deteriorated. The changing lifestyles and the transforming social behavior of the people have placed a greater impact on the family system of the people and resultantly the problems of the old age people have also aggravated. As sweeping development in almost all areas of society becomes evident, the opportunities for modernizing life style are invariably increased. Increasing lifeexpectancies and the greater interests in adopting small family norms by younger couples led to the increasing size of elderly population in the society. Joint families are disintegrated. Higher aspirations among younggeneration are on the increase. Shouldering responsibilities in younger age and family commitments are distancing the elderly parents from their elderly children. Individual economic independence among the elderly children also made their parents keeping away from them. As the educational qualifications increase, the prospects for earningby the younger population are also on the increase. Children are hardly getting time to look after their parents. Increased working hours and individual stresses of modern young workers in all fields are also a casualty for serving their elderly parents.

Migration to urban areas for enjoying employment necessitates to settle them far away from home. Taking additional burden foraring the elderly parents is rare. Elderly people are thus treatedas worthless. The people who have spent their time, money and energy to make their children healthy and educated are thus become redundant in our socialstrata.



Changing Aspirations of the Young and the Growing Insecurity of the Old.

Elderly people are a neglected segment of the family system in India. The traditional systems of joint families are degenerated into the emergence of single family systems throughout the country. Family values are dwindling. Family support systems are falling apart. All these factors aggravated the situational problems of the elderly people. Nearly two-thirds of the elderly people in Andhra Pradesh are economically poor. Most of the elderly parents experience one or other forms of ill treatment at their own home by their children or family siblings.

Because of the newly imparted aspirations for better living standards and personal achievements, the young people find it difficult to shoulder the natural responsibility of caring their elderly parents. Sometimes they themselves are finding difficult to make both ends meet. Migration for better jobs, irregular incomes, job insecurity, odd working times and such other factors are also their grave concerns. As health care and educational facilities are developed leaps and bounds and communication systems are institutionalized to make revolutionary impact, living standards of the people are increasing. Because of better health care the morbidity rates are found falling as well as the death rates. Elderly people are thus enjoying extended life.

Now the elderly people, once have worked hard for earning to save more for their future living, find hard to lead a peaceful life due to increasing cost of living. Most of their retirement plans do not work to their expectations. As the people are getting retired, they have little worries. They only want to lead a calm and peaceful life. But realities are far from truth. There are always a few concerns for them. As the joint families are regenerating into nuclear families, more and more elderly people are ending to live alone. Three out of every ten elderly people are living alone. Not only living alone, many of them are living in single independent homes without having any supporting help. Loneliness and insecurity are thus become their major concerns.

Security is for most requirement for the elderly living. The survey indicates that 80% of the elderly people feel insecure in their later living. Six out of ten elders hardly wish to live in a home without security. Many of them feel insecure in life on retirement. 80% of the elderly people would like to work after retirement to sustain their livelihoods.



Conclusion:

The old age people feel a pathetic situation of helplessness. Old age is no longer a golden age to them. A vast majority of them suffers from emotional stress. They are lonely. They are neglected by all. In earlier days elders were the part of the large family. They were a respected lot. They were in the center stage of family affairs. Now they are in peripheries and invariably a neglected sect. Old age homes are thus emerging as a desirable destination for the elderly living. Andhra Pradesh has the highest number of centenarians in South India (Census data, 2011).The census data also shows that population of fairer sex in 100 and above age category is significantly higher than that of men. It is drawn that Andhra Pradesh's population growth rate, improved life expectancy and a historically large population are reasons behind the higher number of elderly people.

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