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Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease in
Elderly Population

Guest Editors:
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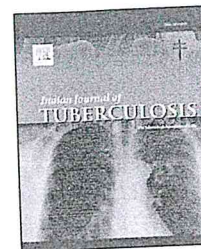
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Review article

Business opportunities for aged specially for under privileged

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ABSTRACT

The aged population is increasing so are the business opportunities. Though there are lot of opportunities for the under privileged, it is the skill-based job that is taking a back seat. Apart from health issues that restricts their participation, there is gross difference among urban and rural aged. The opportunities for the urban aged are more while the rural aged continues to do same work till their health permits. Elderly women are utilizing their cooking skills and creating the business opportunities. Various NGO's and Government schemes are now available for providing business opportunities which has to be materialized and the aged should get trained and also learn new skills to grab the opportunity, while taking care of their health too.

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1. Introduction

The aged (>60 years) are exponentially increasing in number in India. The retirement age is 60 years as on now which cannot be debated in this context. In India, every day, around 15,000 people turn to 60 years. We look towards the aged in two categories namely, biological and functional ageing. Biological ageing is just a number while functional ageing is being active irrespective of age and multi-morbidity. Senior citizens are a wealth of resources. Their experience and professional expertise are waiting to be channelized into meaningful deliverables which can play a key role in increasing national productivity.¹

2. Demography

As per the national records, the elderly population in India stood at 134 million in 2020. Of the total population in the country, the share of senior citizens is expected to increase from 12.5% by 2026 to more than 19.5% by 2050. According to the social survey estimates, more than 80% of this population stated that they are leading a vulnerable and disconnected existence without adequate access to quality healthcare, safety systems, financial security and social support. This showcases an urgent need to have an integrated operating system, enabling elders to have a dignified and safe ageing experience.²

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3. Insight

The aged do not wish to depend on their children as the dignity matters, and hence are looking for job opportunities and now they are available across India.

The older people not only can get opportunities but they can also employ people for jobs. This has an added advantage.

There are two situations prevailing in India as far as senior citizens are concerned. One, the older people in urban areas after their retirement, look for another job while the older people in rural areas continue to work till their functional capacity supports.

The older people till their age of young old (60–74 years) are mostly active and continue to work, while in age group of old (75–84 years) and very old (>85 years) cannot work and become dependent on their family members.

3.1. Advantages of having aged in business

The aged will have following features.

1. Maturity.
2. Experience of know-how.
3. Punctual.
4. Stable.
5. Cost less to the company.
6. Disciplined and are.
7. Willing for flexible work-life balance.

The challenges are.

1. Multiple comorbidity.
2. Chronic diseases which reduce their functional capacity especially Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease, Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Congestive cardiac failure.
3. Differently abled conditions like blindness, hearing loss, stroke with its sequel, bedridden, parkinsonism and dementia.
4. Habits like Alcohol dependence and Tobacco consumption which has negative impact on functional capacity.
5. The aged not having skills so to fit in new job opportunities.
6. The aged with look for new opportunities only if required or else he will continue to live with his savings or have children to support as source of income. This means not all the aged require opportunities.

4. What is done now?

The Government of India and Various Non-Governmental Organisations are now providing business opportunities for the senior citizens. They conduct large scale "Job Fairs" involving job providers and senior citizens. Most of the programs end with providing business opportunities during the meetings. One such example is 60+ job fair organized in Bangalore every year.

4.1. Jobs 60+

The Nightingales Medical Trust, Bangalore not only gives training in computer learning and skill-based training also

provide and explore opportunities of employing the senior citizens.³

The results are astonishing. Of the 350 employers registered with them as of now, around 250 came on board in the last three years. Of the 2655 senior citizens who got placements at these companies — both part-time and full-time — around 1600 took place in the same three-year time period.⁴

5. What else can be done?

There are lot of challenges the aged population has while looking for business opportunities.

The aged should undergo training in computer system learning, mobile phone repairs, education related class for under privileged, consultancy services, tuition for kids, health care services for the bed ridden, volunteer for community health services, hospitality services, start yoga or aerobic exercises as per their expertise, tourism related services, turn their hobbies in to business and guiding the youngsters in new ventures. For all these ventures, the government of India is providing financial assistance in for of Start-Ups.⁵

The National Institute of Skilled Department (<https://nisd.edu.in/Home#>) is providing training opportunities in various fields, but only for youngsters. This should be extended to the aged as well.

5.1. Aged females

Across the world there is Feminization of aged. The Indian aged women are doing yeomen services in creating jobs in field of food and eatery production. Home based preparation of various food stuffs like Papad, khakra, pickles, paper bags for medical stores and stationery shops are being carried out which creates source of income for them and also can employ few people. By doing this they are maintaining their dignity, are self-reliant and not subjected to abuse. The older women are source of babysitting, day care provider and security for the whole family until she is active. Once the aged women fall sick, it is she receives less care. It is pity that the aged women are always at the receiving end.⁶ The NGO's need to promote such home-based business on large scale.

The business model for the aged women should think of work from home facilities. Secondly flexible working hours. This will improve the number of aged seeking job opportunities.

5.2. Business opportunities

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched following schemes to create business opportunities for the aged.⁷

1. Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity (SACRED):

As we are aware that the senior citizens have experience, time and energy which can be used by the business enterprises looking for stable employees with experience. The Human resources cells of many private enterprises seek

experienced but stable persons in certain positions which only can be provided by the aged.

2. Action Groups Aimed at Social Reconstruction (AGRASR Groups): The Elderly Self-Help groups are formed in which the Senior Citizens are encouraged to form Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which will provide them with a platform to share the time constructively with each other.

5.3. Promotion of the health in aged

It is very important that all the aged persons maintain good health and remain active. They should follow healthy life style measures, stop smoking and alcohol consumption if doing, get regular health check-up, get vaccinated against pneumonia and take their medicines regularly.

6. Conclusion

Just being aged, having diseases, differently abled, they should not be devoid of the business opportunities. The main goal in providing business opportunity shall be to ensure dignified life for the aged. By self-reliant they are less likely to be abused by their children. The social medial can boost the opportunities of the business carried out by the aged.

The aged, if in active state or with disability should have opportunity for earning as in present days the work from home concept is accepted norm.

The health-related disabilities should be considered and new innovations for such aged people is need of the hour. The

aged should approach the Ministry of social justice and empowerment for various assistance schemes.

Conflicts of interest

The author has none to declare.

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