

Locating Elderly population in the Pandemic situation.

Sumita Saha

The last months have marked the emergence of a global health threat that has taken the world by its knees. The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the SARS-CoV-2 has crippled the public health, economy and the daily lives of billions. Pandemics like Covid19 are not merely biological phenomena. They affect society at a large, having long-lasting psycho-social implications, many of which tends to outlast the pandemic itself. Even though the virus is considered to be global public health problem, certain sections of the society are at a clearly defined and increased risk. One such section are the senior citizens. Amidst all the chaos of the ongoing crisis, certain sections of the population like the elderly are as vulnerable to the virus as to the psychological effects of the pandemic and the situations put in place to control it.

Any form of pandemic brings huge transformation in daily lifestyle patterns. With reference to the Corona Pandemic, a parallel notion which comes is 'social distancing', which has diverse affects across different age parameters. In case of elderly population, the pandemic not only affects their daily lifestyles but it also has affects them physically and mentally. With reference to the former, recent studies on the pandemic clearly suggests the impact of comorbidity factors in case of any patients. From these aspects, it can be remarked that the elderly population is more susceptible to the disease , which often prove fatal for them. On the other hand, elderly population has often been seen to be dependent entities who often need help for their daily chores. At this juncture, we need to problematize the impact of social distancing for the elderly population. They had often been deprived of any domestic help too in the wake of these pandemic outbreak followed by lockdown. Further, it is also seen that the uncertainty and fear of the pandemic can have increased effect on the minds of the aged, as they are aware of their vulnerability. The fear of death stays lost in the existential fear of losing their loved ones and guilt of possibly being the carriers of the infection. This can lead to significant 'what after me' issues and self-neglect, which can in turn lead to non-compliance to the prescribed standards of precautions.

In the aforesaid paragraphs, an attempt has been done to explore the various facets of elderly interactions in coherence to the pandemic. Students are now hereby requested to submit their sessional with reference to elderly discourses and analyse it through pandemic lenses.