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Care and Support during Twilight Years: Perception of Elderly from Rural India on Their Children

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Abstract

Background

In today's context of modernization and its associated developments, it is necessary to know not only the perceptions of the elderly about the care and support provided by their children but also those of the younger generation with a view to understanding the current situation particularly in the rural areas. The present paper focuses on care and support elderly gets in the family and their perceptions towards the younger generation in rural Maharashtra.

Objective

Issues like situation of the aged in the context of respect and care, how the aged and their subsequent generation (their children) perceive ageing, elderly's views and opinions about the young generation have been explored in this study. Further, the impact of various socio-economic characteristics on the perceptions of the elderly towards the younger generation is discussed in detail.

Methods

Data for this study was collected from the rural areas of Amravati district using semi structured interview schedule. 600 males and females were interviewed; systematic sampling technique was used for data collection.

Results

Findings reveal that a majority of the elderly respondents perceive ageing as a problem because they cannot do the work they used to do earlier. The results also reveal that elderly people living alone with their spouses develop a more negative perception towards the younger generation as compared to those living with their children. This could be because the elderly feel they have been left alone by their children or relatives to fend for themselves.

Conclusion

The study highlights the need for company of either married or unmarried children to make the elderly feel more secure.