

**VIOLENCE AGAINST AGED WOMEN IN
SLUMS OF AGRA: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY**

**SUMMARY
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Submitted by

Harshita Agarwal

Supervisor

Dr. Birpal Singh Thenua

Assistant professor

Dep. Sociology & Political Science

Dean

**Prof. Swami Parkas Srivastava
Faculty of Social Sciences
Dayalbagh Educational Institute,
Dayalbagh Agra**

Head of Department

**Pro. Poornima Jain
Dep. Sociology & Political Sciences
Faculty of Social Sciences**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DAYALBAGH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE (DEEMED
UNIVERSITY)
DAYALBAGH, AGRA**

SUMMARY

Aged women have faced marginalization since ages. Marginalization in term of economic deprivation, social isolation, skewed pattern of intra-familial adjustment or psychological stress. These components singularly and in totality compose violence. Violence has many forms: - physical, socio-cultural, economic and psychological. Violence has not been clearly articulated in the literature concerning violence against aged women. Violence means marginalization by family members, inadequate attention to the aged women, denying participation in community and group activities excluding is major decision making in this family matters and the like. During old age, men and women require care, affection and concern from the family members. Retirement from work does mean retirement from life. Aged women in the slums especially, are victims of exclusion, as they are unable to productively contribute to the family expenditure and their dependency ratio also increases, thereby leading to frustration and distress. This gets an expression, when aged women are abused and battered. They loose dignity and respect, when inactive, incoherent, dependent, and senile. The picture is built up by the moral, social and cultural values on the one hand and self-images and personality of the aged herself on the other. The ever present fact of violence, overt and covert, physical and non-physical has an alarming influence on the status of women. Low income is one of the main causes of violence against aged women. But low income men fare better than low income and upper income women. Aged women suffer more than aged man. Today in our society women are vulnerable to all sorts of exploitation, molestation, violence and even fatal assaults.

AGE STRUCTURE OF AGED 2014

AGED PERSONS TO TOTAL POPULATION BY SEX		
AGE GROUPS	MALE	FEMALE
55-64 Years	43,625,668 (7%)	43,175,111 (7%)
65 Years and over	34,133,175 (5.8%)	37,810,599 (5.8%)
TOTAL	7,77,58,843	8,09,85,710

Source- Office of the Registrar General of India

ESTIMATED INDIAN POPULATION FOR THE YEARS 2016-2026

THE POPULATION OF PERSONS AGED 60 PLUS(IN MILLIONS)			
Year	Males	Females	Persons
2001	34.94	35.75	70.69
2006	40.75	42.83	83.58
2011	48.14	50.33	98.58
2016	58.11	59.99	118.10
2021	70.60	72.65	143.24
2026	84.62	88.56	173.18

Source: Office of the Registrar General of India

Violence is an extreme form of aggression, such assault or murder. Violence has many causes, such as frustration, media, exposure to violence in the home or neighborhood and a tendency to see other people's actions as hostile even when they're not, certain situations also increase the risk of aggression, such as drinking, insults and other provocations and environmental factors like heat and overcrowding.

Violence against aged women to a larger extent depends poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, lack of proper space in house. The Aged women of slums are the most vulnerable to violence. They do not have proper caring, food, medical facility. After all, they are the victim of familial violence, torture and oppression.

A slum is a compact settlement with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions. Such an area is considered as "non-notified slum" if at least 20 households lived in that area. Area notified as slums by the respective municipalities, corporations, local bodies or development authorities are treated as "notified slums".

UN-HABITAT defines a slum household as a group of individuals living under the same roof in an urban area who lack one or more of the following:

Durable housing of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions.

Sufficient living space which means not more than three people sharing the same room.

Easy access to safe water in sufficient amounts an affordable price.

Access to adequate sanitation in the form of a private or toilet shared by a reasonable number of people.

Violence against aged women has become a regular feature in the Indian society across caste, class and cultural variations. "Violence" becomes all the more pronounced when aged women are at its receiving end specially in the slums dwellings. Violence as an act would refer to the use of force, intended to hurt, physically, psychologically, financially or emotionally. Aged women in the slums are malnourished, emotionally possessed and psychologically distressed. These women at the twilight years of their life find it difficult to adjust in their own families. Derivate in socio-economic terms is characterized as the violence faced by aged women. Health problem and lack of proper centers of care make the plight of widowed aged women worse as they are not in a position to exercise their agency in the family, or contribute economically. Indian Government has taken some steps to curve the problem of violence against aged women. Indian government framed the national policy for older persons in 1999 response to the increasing number of persons 60 years and above and their vulnerabilities arising out of income insecurity and concerns about health and other socio-economic and physical wellbeing. It was also in keeping with the national constitutional provisions as well as the UN resolution to observe 1999 as international year of older persons. Following 10 years of implementation, the NPOP has been reviewed and revised recently and the new National policy for senior Citizens is currently awaiting Cabinet approval. While the 1999 policy (as also the revised draft) is comprehensive in many respects. The maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens act 2007 envisages providing need based maintenance to the parents/ grandparents from their children. Tribunals will be set up for the purpose of settling the maintenance claims of the parents in a time bound manner. Lowers are barred from participating in the proceedings of the tribunals at any stage. The maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens act 2007 also containing enabling provisions like protecting of life and property of senior citizens, better medical facilities, setting up of old age homes in every district, etc. A careful reviewed and resolution of these constraints will help in effective implementation of NPSC. The need for improving the overall awareness and empathy for aged women and strengthening resources and national policy for integration have been underlined in the research. The logical result is social marginalization, which can also be referred to as social violence. It is very important to know

their own views to improve condition of aged women of slums area in research. Sociological research needs to be drawing to the causes and consequences of violence faced aged women in the slums dwellings as it is significant area of research.

The problem of violence against women in slums has been a neglected area of research. The significance lies in the fact that weak and marginalized aged women need statics intervention attention. The significance of the problem also lies in the fact that most studies on aged concentrate on their psychological or biological problems. But not much study has been conducted on violence against aged women in slums frame a Sociological angle. It is an emerging area of concern in sociological literature. Suffering of violence against aged women in slums requires societal concern and formulation of policy by the government. Violence against aged women in slums will open a new area of research in sociology. So topic has been chosen to add a new dimension to sociological literature and finally suggest measures to improve the conditions of aged women in the slums.

The present research study entitled Violence against Aged Women in Slums of Agra: A Sociological Study has got five objectives. (1) To study the socio-economic background of aged women who are victim of violence in slums of Agra. (2) To find out the causes of violence faced by the aged women in the slums of Agra. (3) To explore the nature and degree of violence against aged women in the slums of Agra. (4) To study the Policies for Awareness of Aged Women about Government Policy for Welfare of Aged. (5) To suggest measures to improve the conditions of aged women in slums.

The present research study is divided into seven chapters.

Chapter One covers the introduction of the topic, the background of Agra specifically, review of literature, objectives of the study and the research methodology. The study has adopted an exploratory and descriptive research design. The study has been conducted Agra, Since the universe of the study was quite large random sampling method had been adopted. 5% (21) slums colonies have been selected purposively.

Chapter Two emphasizes on the theoretical and conceptual framework of Violence against women.

Chapter Three describes the first objective of the research study to know the socio-economic Background of aged women who are victim of violence in slums of Agra, because the study of violence against aged women in slums cannot be completed without knowing the socio-economic status of aged women of slums who are suffering from violence and perpetrator as it plays an import role to understand various factors behind violence. It emphasizes on the socio-economic background from which they belong i.e. education level, age, living conditions, of the aged women in slums and perpetrator which influence of violence, economic status, caste, religion, family types,

Chapter Four is The Causes of violence faced by the aged women in slums, this chapter focus on the relations between aged women and their family members and relatives).

Chapter Fifth is the nature and degree of violence against aged women in slums of Agra. This chapter unravels all the factors which are responsible for violence against aged women in slums. like acquaintance with the survivor which influence incident of violence, degree of violence, nature of violence, by the perpetrator.

Thus the present study has been conducted to know the causes behind violence and how social infrastructure affects violence in Agra, why a relative's / family members do violence on an aged women and what is the mentality of them and what is the perpetrators perspective and perception about the incident and about the aged women.

Chapter Six is Policies for Awareness of Aged Women about Government Policy for Welfare of Aged.

Chapter Seven discusses the suggestion to improve the conditions of aged women in slums of Agra. The sum of the outcome of the study along with some suggestions and scope for further studies which would be helpful to at least mitigate the crime of rape if not eradicate it fully. The study concludes by emphasizing the fact that the incident of violence is increasing rapidly and justice provided by the society and the legal system respectively. Hence, proper care should be taken by the family, relatives, medical staffs, police personnel and the other legal authorities and to do all the possible measures to which can be of any help for the rape survivors to reduce their

pain and sufferings and which can be helpful in restoring her normal condition. As it would be worth living if we can at least mitigate this violence if we cannot fully eradicate it.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

AREA OF THE STUDY

21 slums of Agra will be area of the study.

List of 21Colonies

S. No.	Name of Colonies	Population	Aged Men	Aged Women
1	PuraGoverdhan (Foundary Nagar)	1,509	197	144
2	Hanuman Nagar	3000	264	244
3	Nunihai-Sanjay Colony/ Nagar	800	212	249
4	KotliBagichi	8000	283	160
5	NaglaBaasi	720	126	98
6	Shankerpuri	600	155	80
7	Raj nagar	5,025	114	147
8	Bhim Nagar	5,300	220	264
9	John's mill line	1,900	296	103
10	Khatikpada (BhagMuzafar Khan)	1,400	214	216
11	Dhakran	1,740	113	118
12	Hajjupura	3000	181	160
13	Shyam Nagar	780	52	63
14	NaglaJassi	2400	172	175
15	UkharaChota	787	112	109
16	Akbarpur	3000	258	140
17	Naglabudhi	5575	211	213
18	Thipri	600	77	51
19	Prakashnagar	2400	107	126

20	Naglapadi	3300	536	327
21	Boadla	1370	183	134

Source- Nagar Nigam office of Agra

Total Aged Women of selected 20 colonies	3320
Sample size	644 (20%)

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design will be Exploratory and Descriptive.

UNIVERSE AND SAMPLE

All the aged women living in 417 slums of Agra will constitute the universe of study.

5% Slums (21 in number) will be selected randomly from the list produced from Nagar Nigam office of Agra.

SOURCES OF DATA

Both primary as well as secondary data will be used.

Primary data will be conducted from Interview Schedule, Open questions, observation and Case Study.

Secondary data will be conducted from Books, Journals, E-libraries, Newspapers, Magazines and Census Survey Report.

TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

Schedule has been used for the collection of primary data. The interview schedule has been divided into six parts- (1) Part will comprise questions concerning the biography of aged women in slums of Agra. (2) Part will comprise questions concerning the socio-economic background of the aged women in slums of Agra. (3) Part will comprise questions concerning the causes of violence faced by the aged women in slums. (4) Part will deal in questions concerning the nature and degree of violence against the aged women in the slums of Agra. (5) Part will deal in questions Policies for Awareness of Aged Women about Government Policy for Welfare of Aged. (6) Part will deal suggest measures to improve the conditions of aged women in slums.

On the basis of this study we can say socio -economic status of age women in slums of Agra is very low. They are living in very miserable condition. They were deprived of basic infrastructure required for basic living. Most of them are not having house. They were not having a proper source of income. Half of them were sitting at their house without any work. Some of the widows aged women in slums were getting widow pension amounting to 700 rupees. Which was the only source of income from them to feed themselves. Their family member behavior towards them was pathetic and inhuman. They were forced to do all the household chores and physical work. They were not allowed to participate in family decision and discussion. They were not considered as a family member. It shows predicament situation of in such a society where women are treated like a goddess and kept top of the society. In study we found that all the aged women in slums of Agra experienced violence. They faced physical, mental, and economic violence caused by their family members and relatives. Aged women in slums face emotional, mental, economic and physical violence. When I asked them why they were staying with family members while they beat and behave like a servant then they said that for the sake of familial bond, social compulsion and no other shelter were reason of this. To prevent the violence against aged women in slums, the government has formed various act and framed various programs and yojna in India. When I studied and enquired about the awareness and knowledge of these act, program and yojna among the aged women in slums of Agra. I came to know that none of them were having knowledge of these acts, programs and yojna. Merely formulating the schemes and programs and passing the acts is not enough. The successfully implementation and wide spread awareness among the people is important. For awareness of provision of schemes, mostly the government uses electronic media and print media widely which are having the lease exposed in the slums. During my study I found that the majority of my respondents were not having any exposer of electronic media as well as print media. I found that for the successful implementation and awareness of provision of these schemes can be done by visiting their houses and educating them and elaborate them about the scheme thoroughly. There should be some free read centres to teach them basic necessities like reading numbers on a phone, counting the money. Government should open saving cooperatives to encourage to saving among the aged women in slums of Agra.