

ABSTRACT

Gender Perspective of Population Ageing in India

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Abstract: In recent decades, human civilization has gone through a slow but deep transition from world with more young population to one with more elderly population. This poses a serious demographic challenge to the world. Population ageing and the new emerging phenomenon of feminisation of ageing are becoming major concerns for the policy makers all over the world. Gender is a powerful and dominating factor affecting the quality of life at all stages of life, even at old age, more or less in all the societies of the world. Gender based stereotyping, discriminating and exploitative attitude towards women has led to undernourishment, food restrictions, early marriage, multiple pregnancies and less attention to health and education. High illiteracy, negligible presence in employment market combined with low wages, improper property rights and subordinated status in family further leads to elderly women stand in an unambiguously disadvantageous position in comparison to elderly men. In reality the concerns of the oldest old must be viewed largely as the concerns of elderly women in India. In the present paper, the endeavour is to analyze the demographic transition of population from young population to more elderly population and examine the emerging phenomenon of feminisation of ageing in India.

Key words: Population ageing, Gender perspective, Exploitative attitude, Demographic transition, Feminisation of ageing