IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES
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The contribution of the senior citizen in the fields of philosophy, science, literature, technology, art, culture, freedom struggle and nation building is endless. Through ages, a cohort of young generation passes through different stages of active life and steps into the cohort of senior citizens. Through this endless process from time immemorial wisdom accumulates, decisions making sharpens and perspective vision widens. Thus senior citizens in a society at a particular crossroad of age are the respected citizens in the nation, where they can guide the nation with their wisdom and maturity. On the basis of the findings of the study it is concluded that the Institutionalized and non-institutionalized aged have scored equally on measures of general well-being. Similarly, the rural and urban aged have scored equally on measures of well-being. This has implication for the policy planners because the findings are contrary to the earlier trends, where non-institutionalized aged have been reported to be having better general well-being than the institutionalized aged. The concept of institutionalization has been substantiated yet it should be kept in mind that the institution/oldage homes should be located near the localities/communities where the aged people resided earlier. This will help the aged to remain in their own localities and among the people known to them. Hence, they will not be totally cut off from their relatives. Efforts should be
made to involve the aged in the activities of the oldage home. This will create a sense of involvement in them and will keep them active which ultimately may give them a sense of satisfaction. Efforts should also be made to set up oldage homes as day care centers, or half way homes where the aged can join the home for a limited period. This will help them adapt to the life of the institution. Therefore, the campaigns should be organized to form the opinion and make the elderly and the society accept the oldage home as an institution, like a hostel for students and working men and women, which cater to the needs of persons who are away from their families. Though there is no difference in the rural/urban aged, yet policy planners should focus more on the rural aged, as a large proportion of aged in India resides in villages which do not have excess to such institution or any other support. Attempt should be made to open institution near their localities itself. In this regard it is pertinent to mention here that government of Haryana has taken initiative to open oldage home at every village, if implemented sincerely and might prove to be beneficial for the aged. It is further concluded that overall females have poor well-being as compared to males. This again has implication for policy planners to concentrate more on the women while setting up institutions and approvement of funds for such activities. Moreover, the social support and financial support have come out to be significant predictors of well-being in the aged. It has implications in the sense that social network friendship and financial support are the most important factors determining the well-being of the aged. Therefore, these things should
also be taken care of while planning for the aged. Moreover their financial need should also be taken care of. Some sort of oldage pension or allowance should be provided to the aged, which should be sufficient enough to meet their basic needs. Those who are healthy and capable of contributing to the society by their zeal, wisdom and valuable experience should be involved in various ongoing activities, through which they can earn and fend for themselves. Hence, the policy planners should try to tap the potentials of the elderly persons acquired through hard, strenuous, sincere and dedicated service during their fully active life and geared in proper direction, need to be recognized and harnessed.