Chapter 3
Demography of Aging in India
CHAPTER 3

THE DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING SOCIETY IN INDIA

The 21st century will witness a gradual transition to an aging society the world over. Aging is a privilege and a societal achievement. It is also a challenge, which will impact on all aspects of 21st century society. The process which first started in low fertility western societies and in Japan is now spreading to the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Countries like China and India will not only be at the forefront in terms of absolute number of total population, but also in terms of absolute number of the elderly (60+) population (Bose, 2000).

India and China are the most populous countries of the world. India's population growth might take over that of China in the near future. The United Nations Population Fund estimated that the size of world population is likely to increase from about 6 billion in 1998 to about ten billion in 2050. As the proportion of aged persons rise, that of other age groups in the population would fall. The projections indicate that the proportion of younger people upto the age group of 15-24 years would fall in most places. The intergenerational balance that is seen today may not be observed in the future (Chakraborti, 2004). With improvements in life expectancy (and these improvements will take place at a faster rate for females than for males) there is and there will be, a progressive aging of the older population and majority of them would be females.

Since these demographic changes have been accompanied by rapid and profound socio-economic changes, cohorts might differ in their experience as they join the ranks of the elderly. The traditional Indian society and the age-old joint family system have been instrumental in safeguarding the social and economic security of the elderly people in the country. However, with the rapid changes in the social scenario and the emerging prevalence of nuclear family set-ups in India in recent years the elderly people are likely to be exposed to emotional, physical and financial insecurity in the years to come (ibid).
3.1. Aging:

Some scholars like P. N. Mukherji (Bali, 1999) distinguish between biological and sociological or psychological age. Chronological age is a poor predictor of functional ability. Old age is also determined by the cultural norms prevailing in a particular society. The Indian Census has adopted the age of 60 for classifying a person as old. Aging has three dimension and each one is associated with another. These are (i) physiological aging, (ii) psychological aging and (iii) social aging (Behua, Mohanty, 2005:5).

i. Physiological Aging

Physiological aging is the product of biological process. It is process by which physical and mental changes occur through growth and decline. In the early years of life, ‘growth’ predominates and in the later years ‘decline’ predominates (Bhatia, 1993:3, as cited from Behua and Mohanty, 2005: 6). So the aged easily identified out of its physical appearance as in old age skin is wrinkled, head and body hair becomes grey, tooth falls, etc. Apart from these visual changes, some other changes also occur inside the body which are not visual. Rao has pointed out that in old age the immunological system, cardiovascular system, digestive system, skeletal system, respiratory system, reproductive system and function of kidney deteriorate (idbi:6).

ii. Psychological Aging

Psychological aging is a process by which a person loses his/her mental ability. Most of ten psychological pressure or disturbance bring young people to look aged and it is reflected in body as an unnatural process. Poplin says that ‘one of the major problems of aging persons is the shock of growing old’. Mohanty (1978) further points out that ‘we are’ ‘aging’ may be the most profound shock we experience in our lifetime’ (1978:339, as cited from idbi:6). This ‘shock’ of course hardens the remaining life course and the persons get older much faster than the natural process because of this psychological trauma attached to the person (idbi). Wechsler states that ‘psychological capacities may show decline with age, but traits like interpretation and imagination may decline very little over the years’ (1995:275, as cited from Behua and Mohanty, 2005:6).

iii. Social aging

Social aging is a process by which a parson acquires the superior knowledge and takes up responsible roles depending upon its age-status in the society. Relating to this, Bhatia
says that ‘Every society has its own conception of aging and age groupings. Through the process of socialization, the society ensures the transmission of social and cultural values from one generation to next and enables its members to acquire necessary skills, values, norms etc. As the individual moves from one age grade to the next, he acquires new roles, privileges practices. Age related roles, privileges and expectations are defined by the society. ‘Social age, as distinct from biological and psychological aging, thus referred as old aged by the group’ (1983:5, as cited from the Behua and Mohanty, 2005:7).

3.2. Demographic transition: A recent Path

The population aging is an obvious consequence of the process of demographic transition. the developed countries of the world have faced its impact and the developing countries is on its way to encounter a similar situation. In developing countries elderly person population is more in absolute terms especially China and India because of their large population. Whereas their growing population is leading to demographic transition, their deteriorating situation is considered as the result of fast eroding traditional family system in the times of rapid modernization, urbanization and globalization process. The population dynamics fueling India’s growth and changing age structure are rooted in the combined impact of increasing life expectancy and declining fertility. Life expectancy at birth in India climbed from 37 years in 1950 to 65 years in 2011, reflecting declines in infant mortality and survival at older ages in response to public health improvements (Arokiasamy et al., forthcoming; Haub and Gribble 2011 as cited from PRB, 2012).

There is a considerable demographic diversity in India. Within the general contour of a marked increase in life expectancy along with a change in population structure and an increase in the number of elderly, there are major difference within different states of India (Bajaj, 2000:4)

Kum (2011) very well describes that, One of the key factors in Asia’s growth has been its “demographic dividend,” the large number of its working age people versus its smaller number of children and the elderly. This is set to change as Asians live longer, marry
later, and have fewer children. As Asia gets older, it faces the problem of supporting a vast number of retirees with fewer and fewer working people. Asia must now deal with the problems posed by its demographics in its silver years, and find new ways to wrest opportunities from its changing population (Kum, 2011).

The projected increase in both the absolute and relative size of the elderly population in many Third world countries is a subject of growing concern for social policy (World Bank, 2001, United Nations, 2002). It should be evident from the above discussion that the aging of populations is a modern phenomenon, something which has never occurred to human populations before. It began first in the populations of western Europe and has progressed to the greatest degree in those same populations. This aging of populations is a by-product of a demographic revolution which is usually called the demographic transition. It has commonly been viewed as a consequence of the Industrial Revolution, but it is much more closely related to changes in public health and education than to changes in modes of production (Cowgill, 1974).

Demographic transition is the transition from a stable population with high mortality and fertility to a stable population with low mortality and fertility. During the transition, population growth and changes in the age structure of the population are inevitable. In India, the demographic transition has been relatively slow but steady. As a result, the country was able to avoid adverse effects of too rapid changes in the number and age structure of the population on social and economic development.

The changing proportions of the aged have been accompanied by steady decline in the proportions of children. Over the half century, the proportion of children (0-14 years) dropped worldwide from 34.3 per cent in 1950 to 30 per cent in 2000. In the MDRs, the proportion of persons aged 60 years and above is slightly higher than the proportion of children below 15 years of age. Age distribution changes have been very slow in the LDRs and Asia. Substantial changes are, however, expected to occur in the next 50 years (United Nations, 2002).
Figure 3.1 depicts the world population ratio of the male and female population of the World in year 1950, the bottom of the pyramid is broad as the population of children are more and as age increases the population decreases. Figure 3.2 depicts the change in population in year of 2015 of the male and female of the World and shape of pyramid gets change as the population of the teenage increases. Figure 3.3 depicts the United Nations Projection of population of world in 2050, the shape of figure change from pyramid to tomb as the number of elderly increases in coming years. In figure 3.4 depicts the population projection by UN in year 2100, the shape of population further change with increasing longevity and decreasing child birth in coming years.

**Figure 3.1 World Population Prospects- 1950**

**Figure 3.2** World Population Prospects 2015

![Figure 3.2](image1)


**Figure 3.3** World Population Prospects 2050

![Figure 3.3](image2)

Growth in the size of the elderly population and increase in the life expectancy have led to population aging, or an increase in the proportion of older people relative to younger people. The number of older persons has tripled over the last 50 years and it is projected that it will be more than triple again over the next 50 years in the Globe. In 1950, there were 205 million persons aged 60 or over throughout the world. In 2000 it increased up to 606 million. But in India in 1950 the number of older persons were around 20 million whereas in 2000 it became 77 million which is more than the tripled over the last 50 years and it is projected that by 2050 the number of older persons will be 324 million which is more than four times of the present older population. In India the growth of older population is faster than the total population.

Not only the fertility was decreasing over the past decades, simultaneously the life expectancy is also increased in India. In 1950-55 it was 38.7 years whereas in 2000-05 it
became 64.2 years and it is projected that by 2045-50 it will be 75.4 years in India (UN, 2002).

In 1950, the number of persons aged 60 years or older was 205 million. Their numbers surged to 606 million in 2000. By 2050, these numbers are projected to rise to two billion. In terms of per centage, the aged constituted 8.2 per cent of the total population in 1950; this per centage rose to 10 per cent of the world's population in 2000 and is projected to rise to 21.1 per cent in 2050, by which time the world population of the aged will be larger than the population of children between the ages 0-14 years (Chakraborti, 2004).

According to the estimation of United Nations Asia holds the largest number of aged (53 per cent), followed by Europe (25 per cent). This pressure of increasing numbers of the aged will further intensify in the next 50 years.

In 2050, 81 per cent of the world's elderly will be in the developing regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America while only 19 per cent of them will reside in the developed regions of Europe and North America. In such a global demographic trend, developing countries have relatively greater share. This share is about 75 per cent in the world. China, India and Africa alone constitute about 50 per cent of the total global population. India contributes 16.9 per cent of the total population of the world. There has been a constant increase in India's population, parallel to the global trend (Haq, 2007).

By 2050 aging will be more pronounced in the developing countries. The combination of high fertility and declining mortality during the twentieth century has resulted in large and rapid increases in elderly populations a successively larger cohorts step into old age.

Aging of population is affected due to downward trends in fertility and mortality. Low birth rates coupled with long life expectancies, push the population to an aging humanity. It is observed that per centage of aged 60 or more is rapidly swelling and even the per centage of persons above age 80 is going up over the years. Simultaneously, the
ratio of people of “working age” (15–59 years) to those of elderly population is shrinking and even within the working age group average age is also increasing. For the developing countries like India, the aging population may pose mounting pressures on various socio economic fronts including pension outlays, health care expenditures, fiscal discipline, savings levels etc.

Figure 4.5 depicts the growth of the population of India from 1901 to 2011 according to the Census report of 2011. In the year the total population was 238.4 million and in the year 2011 it reached up to 1210.19 million.

**Figure 3.5 India Population 1901-2011**
3.2.1. Aging: The Indian Scenario

The 2001 census has shown that the elderly population of India accounted for 77 million. While the elderly constituted only 24 million in 1961, it increased to 43 million in 1981 and to 57 million in 1991. The proportion of elderly persons in the population of India rose from 5.63 per cent in 1961 to 6.58 per cent in 1991 (Irudaya Rajan, Mishra and Sarma, 1999) and to 7.5 per cent in 2001. This is true of other older age cohorts too. The elderly population aged 70 and above which was only 8 million in 1961 rose to 21 million in 1991 and to 29 million in 2001. Besides, the proportion of elderly above 70 in the total population increased from 2.0 per cent in 1961 to 2.9 per cent in 2001. The Indian population census reported 99,000 centenarians in 1961 their number rose to 138,000 in 1991. The growth rate among different cohorts of elderly such as 60 plus, 70 plus and 80 plus during the decade 1991-2001 was much higher than the general population growth rate of 2 per cent per annum during the same period (Rajan, 2006).

Table 3.1 depicts the elderly population of both the sex in the years of 1901 to population projection in the 2026 for both male and female population of India. In year 1901 the total population was 12.06 million and this increase to 75.93 million in the year 2001 and further this will increase up to 171.66 million in the coming years of 2026.

Table 3.1 ELDERLY POPULATION IN INDIA BY SEX 1901-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CENSUS YEAR</th>
<th>POPULATION 60+ (in millions)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>12.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>13.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>13.48</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>14.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>18.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>19.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>24.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>32.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981*</td>
<td>43.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991*</td>
<td>55.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001**</td>
<td>75.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>97.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>141.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>171.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India.

* Excludes figures for Assam in 1981 and J & K in 1991 where the census was not conducted.

** Excludes 3 sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur

It is observed from the table ‘Elderly population in India by sex 1901- 2021’ that the elderly population in India was continuously increasing from the beginning of the 20th century. Their magnitude, either in terms of number or share to total population is found to rise gradually. At the beginning of 20th century about 12.06 million people were in the age of 60+ years. At the middle of the century this elderly population increased to 19.61 million (1951). In the next thirty years (1951-1981) the aged population has increased by more than double as it was in 1951 census (43.98 million). This population was further increased to 55.3 million in 1991 and at the turn of this century, about 75.9 millions are elderly Indians, making up about 7.7 per cent of the total population and are expected to be 171.6 million (around 12 per cent) by 2026 (CSO, 2006).

In India, if we divide the total population into three major age- groups, i.e. in years 0 to 14, 15 to 59 and 60 & above we find clear that during last few decades the share of child (age 0-14) is decreasing from 37.6 per cent in 1991 and is projected to be about 25 per cent by the year 2021. On the other hand the proportion of population in the working age-group (15-59 years) and the aged (60 years & above) both are increasing rapidly (Central Statistics Office, 2011). It can be interpreted as the aging transition is a structural shift in the age composition from a conical shaped age pyramid with a wide base and rapidly narrowing off towards its apex, characterizing high fertility and mortality conditions in
pre-transitional stages, towards a barrel shaped age pyramid resting on a relatively shortened base and slowly tapering off towards its apex, characterizing low fertility and mortality conditions in the advanced stages of demographic advancement (Gulati, 1989).

Figure 3.6 depicts the India's population distribution of male and female with increasing age in the year of 2001, being the young country the population between 4 to 14 years is higher.

Figure 3.6  Population Pyramid India- 2001

Figure 3.7 depicts the India's population projections in the year of 2026 and the shape of pyramid changes and the population of middle age will increase with coming years.
The UN defines a country as “Aging” or “Greying Nation” where the proportion of people over 60 reaches 7 per cent to total population. By 2011 India has exceeded that proportion (8.0 per cent) and is expected to reach 12.6 per cent in 2025. In order to study the implications of an aging population in India, the changing Indian demographic configuration needs to be highlighted first.

Figure 3.8 depicts the Comparative Demographic Facts of elderly of age above 60 years of age in India and the World in the year of 2002 and 2050. India’s population of elderly of age 60+ will increase from 8 per cent to 21 per cent in the year of 2050.
The figure 3.9 depicts the comparative demographic details of elderly of 80+ age of India and World. India’s population increase of elderly above 80 will increase from 8 per cent to 15 per cent in the year 2050.
The composition of the population can have a tremendous impact on the social structure of a society. Some of the social demographic characteristics of the aged such as sex ratio/ Feminisation of the Elderly, dependency ratio and aging of the aged plays important role in determining their status.

### 3.2.2. Dependency Ratio

The young age dependency ratio reflects the dependency burden from children below 15 years of age. Similarly, old age dependency is the ratio of persons aged 60 years and above to the working age population. In 2001, the total dependency ratio (from both the young and the old age-groups) was significantly high (73 per cent) but is expected to fall to 56 by 2026. The young age dependency ratio is generally much higher than the old age dependency ratio since the population age structure in India has been young. While the young age dependency ratio is expected to decrease by 25 per cent to 36.3 by 2026, the old age dependency ratio shows an increasing trend and is expected to increase by about 7 per cent during the same period (Subaiya & Bansod, 2011).

Another way to look at the support for elders from the younger generations is to measure the number of elders in comparison with the number of married adults in the household. Here, we would get a better sense of the number of related elders that a family is likely to support. Data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2005-06) indicates that in India it is more common to find a household with only one elder. About twenty-five per cent of households with one married adult have one person aged 60 years or above and among households with three or more married adults about 45 per cent have one elder and 17 per cent have two (Subaiya & Bansod, 2011). Figure 3.10 depicts the dependency ratio of India from 1961 to 2026 the dependency of elderly is going to increase in coming years and population of working age group and children will decrease.
Another numerical, rather than visual, way of summarising the structure of a given population is via the use of the dependency ratio. This refers to the measures which express the `dependent' population, defined as those not considered to be potentially active in the labour market, as a per cent age of the population classed as not being dependent on or in relation to the overall total population. It is customary to calculate two distinct measures. One is concerned with children and is termed the 'youth dependency ratio' and the second is concerned with older people. In each the number in the population aged 0–15 (the age range which approximates to childhood) or 60/65 (the current ages for British women and men to become eligible for retirement pension) is expressed as a ratio (usually per 1000) per cent age of those classified as economically active (i.e. 16–59/64) or as a ratio of the total population (Victor, 2005).
The National Sample Survey in its 52nd round (July 1995-June 1996) focused on issues such as economic independence, chronic ailments, retirement and withdrawal from economic activity and familial integration among the elderly 60 and above. This was a large-scale sample survey conducted throughout the country. The elderly covered in the sample consisted of 16,777 males and 16,428 females.

As most of the aged do not work, depending instead on their families, religious or communal institutions or the state, it is often stated that the aged are a burden on society. Since the earnings of all the institutions stated here originate directly or indirectly from the income of the working population, the ratio of the non-working age and working-age population provide crude indication of old age dependency (Chakraborti, 2004). The dependency ratio compares the number of economically productive versus economically non-productive individuals. The working age of the population in India is considered as 15-60 years. The aged dependency percentage is on the increase since the past few decades.

In 1950 the total dependency ratio was 73.2 whereas the younger dependency ratio was 67.4 and the old age dependency was 5.8 persons per one hundred persons of age 15-64. But in 2000 the young and old age dependency become 54.4 and 8.1 respectively whereas the total dependency ratio was 62.5. It is projected that by 2050 the young and old age dependency will be 30 and 22.6 respectively. So the dependency load of rearing children is gradually decreasing and at the same time with the increasing trend of longevity, the dependency load of elderly is gradually increasing (Kumar 1999; Knodel 1999; Sun 1998).

The age structure of any population is the result of the complex and dynamic interrelationship between three factors: fertility, mortality and migration. Fertility simply refers to the numbers of children born in any given population. There are various ways of describing and analysing patterns of fertility within and between populations. At the most basic level we can calculate the total numbers of children born in a given year. The second major influence upon the age distribution of a given population is the pattern of mortality or deaths. Migration is the third main influence upon the demographic profile of
any given population. Large outflows of young people can bring about the aging of a population while the immigration of the young will have the opposite effect (Victor, 2005).

3.2.3. Feminization of aging:

The recent projections by the UN indicate that by the year 2025, the number of 60+ women shall be 604 million amongst a total world population of 7.7 billion. More than two-thirds of these women shall live in rural poverty. Thus these women will be disadvantaged on three counts: (i) gender; (ii) age; and (iii) poverty (Bajaj, 2000:13).

The ratio between female and the male elderly increases in favour of females as the age segment over 60 years increases. Among the centenarians, the number of females will be much higher than males in all countries (Bagchi, 1997). Females have a longer life expectancy than males. Elderly females are increasing rapidly in numbers throughout the world, and this trend is magnified many fold in India.

Today around 55 per cent of those aged 60 plus are women. This percentage has remain almost the same since 1950 and is not expected to change in the next 50 years. Among the 80 plus, 65 per cent are women. In 1995, 77 per cent of the centenarians were women and by 2050, this number is expected to increase to 84 per cent. The women out weigh the women in almost all the countries in Asia.

3.2.4. Aging of the Aged:

Population aging is characterised not only by an increasing proportion of old people and their growing numbers, but also by aging within the elderly population and aging of the labour force. If the age 60 years and above introduces social and economic complications, the aging of the older population aggravates the problem further. Currently, the 'Oldest old' (80 years or older) constitute 11 per cent of the population aged 60 years or older. In Asia today, every 11th aged person is 80 years old or above. Every fifth among them would be over 80 in the next 50 years.
The oldest old are the fastest-growing segment of the elderly population. By 2050, those in the age bracket 80 and above would constitute 19 per cent of the elderly population. Not only that, there would be a considerable shift from 'young elderly' to 'old elderly'. In 1950, people in the age group of 60-64 constituted 36.3 per cent of the elderly population. Their proportion fell to 31.5 per cent in 1995 and is projected to fall further to 25.9 per cent by 2050. People in the age group 80 and above constituted 6.7 per cent of the total population in 1950. This percentage rose significantly to 11.5 per cent in 1995 and is projected to rise further to 18.9 per cent by 2050. The number of centenarian (aged 100 years and or older) is projected to increase from 115,000 in 1995 to 2.2 million people in 2050 (Chakraborti, 2004).

In India, living beyond the age of 100 is considered to be a divine blessing. Only 3,000 such people are currently blessed in this way. However, the manner in which the Indian society will react when their '100 plus' people reach 111,000 by 2050 remains to be same.

Population aging is often exaggerated as a social problem, and demographic facts have been used to create irrational fears that the rapidly increasing costs of pension plans and health care, for the elderly, will strain our institutions to the breaking point. This phenomenon has been termed 'apocalyptic demography' and 'alarmist demography' by social scientists who demonstrate that while population aging certainly presents social policy challenges (Cited from Bose, 2000; Willson, 2007).

Although projections indicate that India’s population above 60 years will be double in size between 2001 and 2026, the elders will account for 12.17 per cent of overall population in 2026, and being a vast country. India may face the problems differently at rural and urban part. India will have another kind of a problem as despite of rapid and consistent economic growth, it will have a huge aging population who may be far poorer than their counterpart in the West. In India, most of those who have worked in organized sector get pension and other retirement benefits after attaining the age of superannuation varying between 60 to 65 years. But for others, Government of India and State Governments, at present, have very nominal old-age pension coverage. It varies from Rs. 75/- to 150/- in a month. In addition some other additional benefits for the elderly are also
being provided by the Central and State Governments. But much is to be done as at the old age their medical expenses go up and dependency on children / relative goes up for physical, mental and economic support.

3.2.5. Demographic dividend and aging

Aging is a privilege and a societal achievement. It is also a challenge, which will impact on all aspects of 21st century society. Depending on the decline in fertility and mortality rates and the increase in the expectation of life, this will lead to an increasing proportion of the elderly after a time lag. A graying of the population is inevitable and one must understand its implications. Paul Wallace, dramatically describes this phenomenon as ‘agequake’. If we understand the implications of aging, agequake will not descend on us unexpectedly like an earthquake with death and destruction all around. Instead, we will be prepared to face a world converging on the elderly.

A report from the daily newspaper The Hindu (2013) article titled Demographic dividend at its peak stress on the India’s population statistics, The office of the Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner released ‘single year age data’ for the 2011 Census on Friday, which refers to the number of people at each year of age in the population. The data shows that India’s working age population (15-64 years) is now 63.4% of the total, as against just short of 60% in 2001. The numbers also show that the ‘dependency ratio’ — the ratio of children (0-14) and the elderly (65-100) to those in the working age — has shrunk further to 0.55. “Even as the western world is aging, these new numbers show that India’s population is still very young,” according to Census Commissioner C. Chandramouli of India.

According to the report of UNFPA and HelpAge (2012) with increasing longevity, many developed countries and some emerging economies are challenged with an aging workforce and ensuring the sustainability of pension systems, most developing countries have to establish their systems now when the challenge is less acute and when the fiscal space available for social policies is increasing as a consequence of the “demographic dividend”(UNFPA and HelpAge, 2012).
These changing demographics creates challenges for many social institutions, such as health care and retirement income systems, labour force, families, social security, pension and the health care policy. The society as a whole needs to examine the negative stereotypes of aging and formulate ways in which stereotypes can be overthrown and aging released from negative connotations that lead to unnecessary suffering for the elderly, whether caused by others or by themselves (WHO, 2004).

• The window of demographic opportunity has already opened and will remain so for some more decades. The extent to which India can capitalize on this depends on how well the workers can be employed. This brings in issues of quality of labour force and capacity of the economy to harvest the potential dividend into actual benefit.

• Over time, the large bulge of population will move from working ages to old ages raising old age dependency. This would matter at the macro-level, but also at the micro or household level.

• Traditionally, supporting elderly parents has been the responsibility of working adults but low fertility means small families who would find it difficult to support elderly parents. This would then call for developing mechanism to provide old age support. At the national level, this matter does not seem urgent now but some states, the leaders in fertility transition, would face this issue soon (Kulkarni, 2014:48).