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Rights of the elderly: A comparative study of awareness among the elderly in Kanpur and Lucknow

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Abstract

This research paper investigates the disparities in awareness levels of welfare schemes and provisions among residents of Kanpur and Lucknow, India. The study reveals significant differences in awareness rates between the two cities for various initiatives. For instance, awareness of the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme was lower in Kanpur (23.3%) compared to Lucknow (33.0%), with similar discrepancies observed for the Atal Pension Yojna and the Indira Gandhi National Pension Plan for Widows. Notably, awareness levels regarding the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana also differed significantly between Kanpur and Lucknow. Additionally, variations were observed in awareness regarding provisions such as senior citizens' allocation of seats on buses and railway concessions. Furthermore, the study found a significant correlation between senior citizens' preferences and the provision of lower berths in Indian railways, as well as their opinions on setting up dedicated lines for elderly patients in hospitals. These findings underscore the need for targeted efforts to improve awareness and ensure equitable access to welfare initiatives across different regions in India.

Keywords: Old age home, elderly rights, awareness, welfare schemes

Introduction

The 22nd century is predicted to be the century of the "ageing of the aged," whereas the 21st century is generally acknowledged as the century of the elderly people. India has also experienced the worldwide phenomenon of an aging population. According to the 2011 Population Census, there are roughly 104 million senior people in India who are 60 years of age or older. Of them, 53 million are female and 51 million are male. Fund for Population It is projected that the population of India would rise by sixty percent between 2000 and 2050. However, the population over 60, or the aged, will increase by 360 percent. There are currently about 100 million senior people in India, and by 2050, it is projected that this number would rise to 323 million, or 20 percent of the country's entire population.

The shift in general demographics has only recently contributed to a resurgence of interest in the human rights of older people. It is now acknowledged that this new demographic wave will change many facets of society and bring about new social and economic difficulties. Human rights are being violated everywhere in the globe today for a

wide range of reasons. As focus shifts to protecting the various disadvantaged groups and minimizing prejudice, some groups-such as women, children, and individuals with disabilities-get greater emphasis. Even while elderly people had historically received certain policies and privileges, they were not seen as a particular category that needed consideration. The prejudice and maltreatment of older people have been brought to light by current demographic trends, and they are also becoming increasingly vocal about their rights.

Elder abuse can take many various forms, including financial, emotional, physical, sexual, abandonment, incarceration, and willful deprivation. As a result of their advanced age, elderly people are also more likely to suffer from a variety of debilitating illnesses and lack access to appropriate medical treatment and medications. First, the issue of elder abuse was brought to light in developed nations. Research conducted over time in a number of developing nations has also brought attention to the issue of elder abuse. This abuse has detrimental effects on society. It causes a rise in hospitalization, which raises the cost of

public health care, requires more resources, involves the community, etc.

It was established by the conventional retirement age system that an individual ages at that specific age regardless of his true ability. Despite its noble intentions, this has caused age discrimination in society and increased reliance on government assistance for the elderly. The division of the elderly from the non-elderly has resulted in a social issue and the belief among the populace that separates the elderly from the rest of society as unproductive. It is necessary to alter this perception, and one approach to do so is to promote awareness of elder rights issues by bringing them to the public's notice.

Methods and materials

In order to find out why older people in India live in old age homes, the current study was carried out in four different

old age homes in Kanpur and Lucknow, with a sample size of 300 people. A specially designed questionnaire was used to collect data from the elderly.

The study's inclusion criteria were as follows: (a) people who were 60 years of age or older, living in assisted living facilities and able to communicate; (b) people who had been living in assisted living facilities for six months or longer; (c) people who could understand, comprehend, and reply to questions; and (d) people who had provided written informed consent to take part in the study. These requirements were carefully chosen to guarantee that the study participants could offer truthful and trustworthy accounts of their experiences residing in assisted living facilities.

Results and Discussion

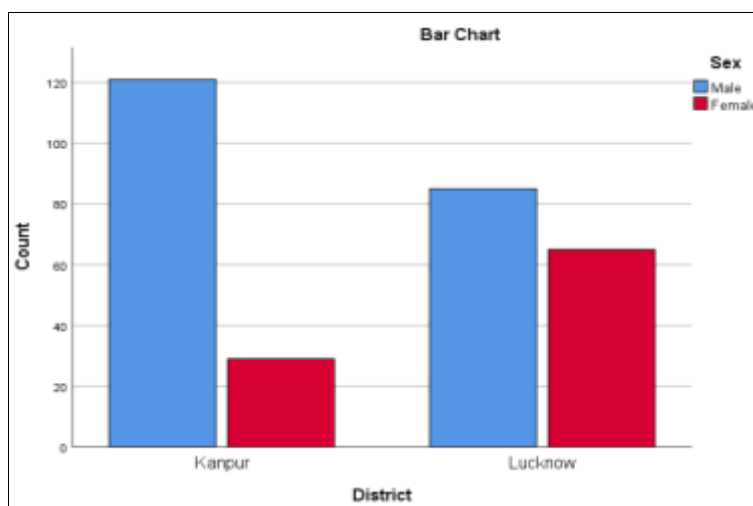


Fig 1: Percentage distribution of elderly according to gender

Figure 1 shows the gender distribution of the respondents, with just 31.3 percent of them being female and 68.7 percent of them being male. According to these findings, there were less female responders than male respondents. The results corroborate the widespread perception that women are more likely than men to participate in household tasks, which leads to the perception of men as burdens on

their families as they age. In the past, the head of the family was usually an elderly male. On the other hand, the proportion of old people leading families declines sharply with age. The oldest son usually becomes the family's leader, which causes role reversals and a variety of issues for the elderly.

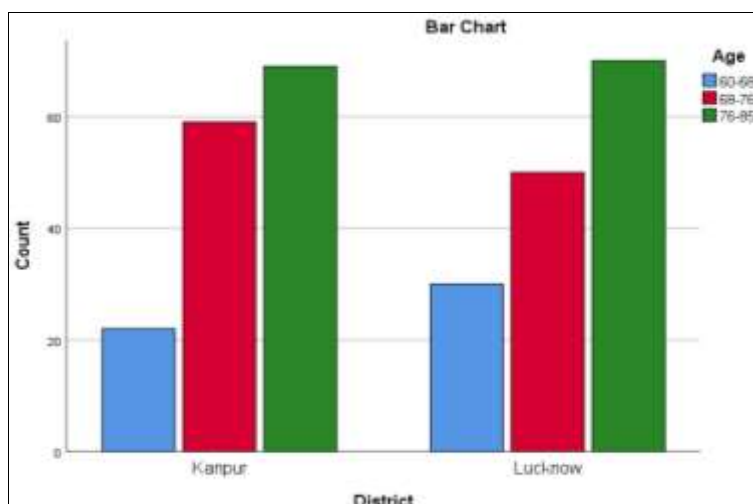


Fig 2: Percentage distribution of elderly according to age

Although age has a big influence on conduct and personality, it's important to take it into account while researching senior citizens in assisted living facilities. Elderly people become more reliant on others as they age due to changes in their physical and psychological capabilities. Thus, age is extremely important when analyzing this demographic. The distribution of research participants by age. According to the statistics, 17.3 percent of respondents were between the ages of 60 and 68, with

36.3 percent aged 68 to 76 years. 46.4 percent of the respondents were older than 76–85 years old, which was the largest number. The information shown in the image supports popular perceptions that older people are not valuable members of the family. People are less capable as they get older, both physically and mentally, which increases their need on others. Because of this, older people and their families frequently reject or ignore the defenseless senior population.

Table 1: Awareness regarding benefits & provisions for elderly

S. No	Awareness of benefits, program & provision	Kanpur n=150	Lucknow n=150	Total	X ²	S/NS
1.	Indira Gandhi old age pension scheme					
	a) Yes	70(23.3)	99(33.0)	169(56.3)	11.396*	S
	b) No	80(26.6)	51(17.1)	131(43.7)		
	Total			300		
2.	Atal pension Yojna					
	a) Yes	44(14.6)	75(25.0)	119(39.6)	13.385*	S
	b) No	106(35.3)	75(25.1)	181(60.4)		
	Total			300		
3.	Indira Gandhi national widow pension scheme					
	a) Yes	41(13.6)	66(22.0)	107(35.6)	9.079*	S
	b) No	109(36.3)	84(28.1)	193(64.4)		
	Total			300		
4.	Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana					
	a) Yes	39(14.6)	27(0.9)	66(15.5)	2.797	NS
	b) No	111(38.8)	123(45.7)	234(84.5)		
	Total			300		
5.	Hindu adoption and maintenance act					
	a) Yes	41(13.6)	109(36.3)	150(49.9)	4.860*	S
	b) No	59(19.6)	91(30.5)	150(50.1)		
	Total			300		
6.	Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana					
	a) Yes	88(29.3)	92(30.6)	180(59.9)	0.222	NS
	b) No	62(20.6)	58(19.5)	120(40.1)		
	Total			300		
7.	Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana					
	a) Yes	102(34.0)	84(28.0)	186(62.0)	4.584*	S
	b) No	48(16.0)	66(22.0)	114(38.0)		
	Total			300		
8.	Childless senior citizen –maintenance &welfare of parents & senior citizens act,2007					
	a) Yes	59(19.6)	52(17.3)	111(36.9)	0.701	NS
	b) No	91(30.5)	98(32.6)	189(63.1)		
	Total			300		
9.	Monthly allowance – maintenance & welfare of parents & senior citizens act,2007					
	a) Yes	71(23.6)	56(18.6)	127(42.2)	3.072	NS
	b) No	79(26.3)	94(31.5)	173(57.8)		
	Total			300		
10.	Two seats for senior citizens in front row of the buses					
	a)Yes	133(46.5)	117(41.6)	250(88.1)	6.144*	S
	b) No	17(0.8)	33(11.1)	50(11.9)		
	Total			300		
11.	Indian railway provides 40% concession for males over 60 years and 50% for females					
	a) Yes	58(19.3)	92(30.6)	150(49.9)	11.226*	S
	b) No	87(29.0)	63(21.1)	150(50.1)		
	Total			300		
12.	Separate counters for senior citizens for purchase /booking/cancellation of tickets					
	a)Yes	128(45.3)	98(35.6)	226(80.9)	16.144*	S
	b)No	22(0.80)	52(18.3)	74(19.1)		
	Total	150(100)	150(100)	300		
13.	Wheel chairs are available at all junction and other important railway stations					
	a) Yes	53(17.6)	67(22.3)	120(39.9)	2.722	NS
	b) No	97(32.3)	83(27.8)	180(60.1)		
	Total			300		
14.	Indian airlines provides 50% senior citizen discount					

	a) Yes	47(15.6)	40(13.3)	87(28.9)	.793	NS
	b) No	103(34.3)	110(36.8)	213(71.1)		
	Total			300		
15.	Provision to allot lower berth to the senior citizen in the Indian railways					
	a) Yes	77(25.6)	52(17.3)	129(42.9)	8.500*	S
	b) No	73(24.5)	98(32.6)	171(57.1)		
	Total		100	300		
16.	Separate geriatric ward for elderly patients in districts hospitals					
	a) Yes	86(28.6)	64(21.3)	150(49.9)	.122	NS
	b) No	83(27.6)	67(22.5)	150(50.1)		
	Total			300		
17.	Separate queues for elderly persons in hospitals for registration and clinical examination					
	a) Yes	112(37.3)	38(12.6)	150(49.9)	5.020*	S
	b) No	94(31.5)	56(18.6)	150(50.1)		
	Total			300		

S=significant

NS=Non-significant

Table- 1 the data indicates that there is a notable disparity in Kanpur and Lucknow's levels of awareness about the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme. Only 23.3% of respondents in Kanpur and 33.0% in Lucknow, respectively, were aware of the initiative ($\chi^2 = 11.396, p < 0.05$). There may be differences in the way information on the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme is disseminated or made accessible, as indicated by the notable discrepancy in awareness levels between Lucknow and Kanpur. Atal Pension Yojna the level of awareness in Kanpur and Lucknow is really different. The scheme was known to 14.6% of respondents in Kanpur and 25.0% of respondents in Lucknow ($\chi^2 = 13.385, p < 0.05$). Indira Gandhi National Pension Plan for Widows the level of awareness in Kanpur and Lucknow is really different. 13.6% of Kanpur respondents and 22.0% of Lucknow respondents ($\chi^2 = 9.079, p < 0.05$) knew about the initiative.

The major differences in the degree of knowledge of the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme and the Atal Pension Yojna between Kanpur and Lucknow point to discrepancies in the availability or distribution of information about these welfare initiatives. Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act Lucknow and Kanpur have very different levels of awareness. Thirteen percent of Kanpur respondents knew about the act, but thirty-six percent of Lucknow respondents did ($\chi^2 = 4.860, p < 0.05$). The notable variation in the degree of knowledge regarding the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act between Kanpur and Lucknow highlights possible discrepancies in the distribution or availability of information concerning this legislative provision.

Yojana Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya the level of awareness in Kanpur and Lucknow is really different. The scheme was known to 34.0% of respondents in Kanpur and 28.0% of respondents in Lucknow ($\chi^2 = 4.584, p < 0.05$). There may be differences in the way information on the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is disseminated or made accessible, as evidenced by the notable discrepancy in awareness levels between Kanpur and Lucknow. Senior folks are allocated two seats in the front row of buses. The level of awareness in Kanpur and Lucknow is really different. With the respondents, 46.5% in Kanpur and 41.6% in Lucknow ($\chi^2 = 6.144, p < 0.05$) were aware of this provision. For men over 60, Indian Railway offers a 40% concession; for women, it is a 50% concession. The level of awareness in Kanpur and

Lucknow is really different. Only 19.3% of respondents in Kanpur and 30.6% in Lucknow, respectively, were aware of this concession ($\chi^2 = 11.226, p < 0.05$). Senior persons should have their own counters to buy, reserve, and cancel tickets. Lucknow and Kanpur have quite different levels of awareness. 45.3% of Kanpur respondents and 35.6% of Lucknow respondents ($\chi^2 = 16.144, p < 0.05$) knew of these distinct counters. A statistically significant correlation ($\chi^2 = 8.500, df = 1, p = 0.014$) was found between the opinions of senior persons and the provision of lower berths in Indian railways. 129 (42.9%) of the 300 respondents agreed with the clause, while 171 (57.1%) disagreed. The strong correlation indicates that senior citizens have differing views about the Indian railroads' policy of assigning inferior berths. The results of the study showed that there was a statistically significant correlation ($\chi^2 = 5.020, df = 1, p = 0.025$) between the respondents' preferences and their views about setting up distinct lines for older patients in hospitals. Out of 300 respondents, 150 (49.9%) were in favor of the implementation and 150 (50.1%) were against it. The statistically significant correlation indicates that respondents have varying perspectives about the establishment of dedicated lines for senior patients in hospitals.

Similar conclusions were published by Rafi.S (2019) [6]; the study emphasizes the necessity of government action to increase public knowledge of senior persons' rights, benefits, programs, and provisions. It promotes an all-encompassing, holistic strategy for the wellbeing of the aged. Furthermore, it highlights how important it is for the media to consistently cover and convey stories about the elderly in order to change public perceptions of them. It also emphasizes the significance of raising awareness of aging concerns among today's young through awareness campaigns run by governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Conclusion

There are notable variances in the awareness levels of different welfare schemes and provisions between Lucknow and Kanpur, which can be attributed to variations in the accessibility or diffusion of information. Notably, there appears to be unequal access to information on these welfare programs given the notable differences in awareness rates between the two cities for projects like the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, the Atal Pension Yojna, and the

Indira Gandhi National Pension Plan for Widows. Additionally, there are noticeable awareness gaps between the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act. Particular clauses like railway savings and bus seating for senior folks highlight the stark differences in knowledge between Lucknow and Kanpur.

These results highlight how crucial it is to implement focused interventions in order to guarantee fair access to social programs and services in all areas. Additionally, the study finds a strong relationship between respondents' preferences and the creation of special lines for older patients in hospitals, as well as between senior persons' opinions and the availability of lower berths on Indian trains. These relationships highlight the necessity of implementing policies that take senior folks' needs and preferences into account. To promote social justice and increase access to welfare efforts for all segments of the population, it is imperative to address the identified disparities in awareness levels and develop targeted strategies to improve information transmission.

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