

## Chapter 2

### **OBJECTIVE AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

With rising life expectancy, soon, there will be more people in India above the age of 60 (a common landmark for defining the elderly), than below it: we are moving swiftly from an extremely young to a rapidly ageing population. India is sitting on a ticking demographic time bomb, where rising dependency ratios, are going to put pressure on living and care arrangements for the elderly. There are, however, given the vast and growing numbers of the elderly already living in India, many of whom are poor, and the shortage of resources available, serious concerns, as to whether India is equipped to meet the challenges in policy formulation and implementation strategies to balance supply and demand on the one hand and sustainability on the other.

The study aims to identify aspects that impact the lives of the elderly in India. The thesis will first look into aspects of the demographics of population ageing in India- the rising numbers of the elderly in absolute and relative terms, rising dependency ratios, the regional variations across the country, the rural-urban divide, the feminisation of the elderly population and the worsening economic dependence of the elderly among other issues of the demographic process. The study will then examine the NPOP, 2002, and the areas that it touches, the challenges it encounters in terms of coverage and in the multiplicity

of agencies that it attempts to control. Another landmark legislation recently enacted in the country- the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 will also be touched upon. The arrangements made by other Ministries such as the Ministries of Health and Rural Development will also be looked into. The study will then look into the preparations being made for handling the challenges of the large numbers of the elderly that India will have in the future- this will be also be analysed in the context of the institutional and infrastructural arrangements being made by neighboring countries in Asia, and the lessons that India can draw from their experiences.

## 2.2 **Aim**

To identify various aspects of the demographics of population ageing in India, the arrangements in place or are proposed to be made, for looking after the elderly and identify the shortfalls in the same, in order to enable the elderly in India to live a life of dignity and meaning.

## 2.3 **Statement of the Problem**

The Study aims to identify the components of the demographics of population ageing in India, the arrangements currently in place that go into ensuring a life of dignity for the elderly in India. The problems that the elderly face in India will then be identified in terms of the extant gaps in the arrangements currently available.

## 2.4 Research Questions

1. What are the demographic trends in India's population that point towards the graying of India's millions?
2. What are the extant arrangements made by the Government for the elderly in India?
3. What are the prominent inadequacies and shortfalls in the arrangements for looking after the elderly in India?
4. What recommendations can be made for the improvement in the arrangements for the care of the elderly in India?

## 2.5 Objectives of the Study

- To study the demographic trends of population ageing in India
- To look into the extant arrangements for looking after the elderly in India, with specific reference to the NPOP 2002 and the MOWPSCA 2007, as well as some of the prominent schemes of some of the key Ministries looking after issues related to the elderly.
- To look into the arrangements being made for the future with special reference to the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan
- Analyse whether the current and future arrangements for looking after the elderly can enable them to look forward to ageing with dignity.
- To make recommendations for a better life for the elderly in India

## 2.6 Research Methodology

The research methodology will be through a study of the existing literature on the subject.

Analysis of Publications (including journals and websites )and data of the following:

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
  - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
  - Ministry of Rural Development
  - Ministry of Panchayati Raj
  - Ministry of Urban Development
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Planning Commission
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- Analysis of publications and Data related to Social Security arrangements in countries in the Asian Continent
  - Analysis of United Nations Reports on the subject of Ageing
  - Interviews with policy makers in relevant Ministries, as well as, representatives of NGOs, Hospitals, senior care facilities etc.

## 2.7 Chapterisation Scheme

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Statement of the Problem, scope, research questions, objectives, hypotheses, research methodology
- Chapter 3: Literature review
- Chapter 4: The Demographics of Population Ageing
- Chapter 5: Action Undertaken so far-NPOP,2002 and MWPSA, 2007, IPOP etc.
- Chapter 6: Health Issues of the Elderly
- Chapter 7: What lies ahead?