

# CARING FOR THE AGED

The share and size of India's elderly population are steadily growing, posing a fresh set of challenges in terms of economic security and health care. **By Ramesh Chakrapani**

## SNIPPETS

As per Census 2011, there are about **104 million** elderly persons (aged 60 years or above) in India, 53 million women and 51 million men.

UNFPA says elderly population, which rose from **77 million** in 2001 to **104 million** in 2011, will likely touch **300 million** by 2050.

Share and size of elderly population rising over time, from **5.6%** in 1961 to **8.6%** in 2011.

71% of elderly population resides in rural areas.

Sex ratio among elderly people was **1,028** in 1951, subsequently dropped and again rose to **1,033** in 2011.

Prevalence of **heart diseases** among elderly population much higher in urban areas.

In the age group of 60-64 years, **76%** persons were **married** while **22%** were **widowed**. The other **2%** were either divorced or never married.

**Kerala** has maximum proportion of elderly people in population (**12.6%**) followed by **Goa (11.2%)** and **Tamil Nadu (10.4%)**.

In rural areas, proportion of elderly men **fully dependent** on others is highest in Kerala (43%) and lowest in Jammu & Kashmir (21%); for women, the figure is highest in Assam (81%) and lowest in Haryana (44%).



The Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index 2018 report, which compares retirement systems in 34 nations across the world, ranked India at the 33rd position, stating that the country's system had major weaknesses and omissions that needed to be addressed. The report comes at a time when there is increasing awareness of the rising number of elderly in the country and the challenges it posed to the government and civil society.

According to a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report in 2017, the number of elderly (aged 60 and above), which crossed 100 million as of 2011, will likely touch 300 million by 2050. Government data showed that the decadal growth in the elderly population was twice that of the total population between the years 2001 and 2011.

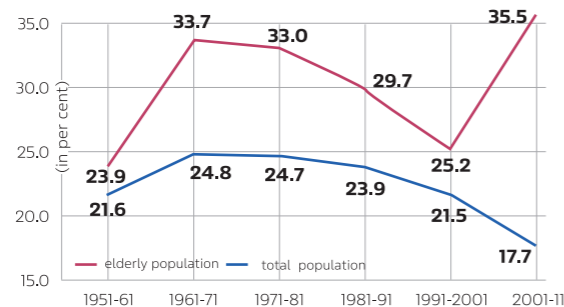
Official statistics also show that Kerala has the highest proportion of elderly people in the population (12.6 per cent), followed by Goa (11.2 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (10.4 per cent). Kerala also ranked second in pension as a percentage of revenue expenditure for 2014-15 (Budget Estimate), behind Himachal Pradesh.

## Pension as percentage of revenue expenditure (top States)

State	2012-13	2013-14 (RE)	2014-15 (BE)
Himachal Pradesh	17.0	16.8	17.7
Kerala	16.6	16.0	15.8
Punjab	15.1	13.4	14.0
Tamil Nadu	13.6	13.3	13.5
Uttar Pradesh	12.7	12.4	13.1
West Bengal	13.4	13.3	12.8
Bihar	15.4	14.2	12.7
Odisha	14.1	13.0	12.4
J&K	13.8	13.5	12.3

RE Revised Estimate. BE Budget Estimate. SOURCE: <http://niti.gov.in>

## Decadal growth in elderly population vis-a-vis that of total population



## Percentage of elderly in population (top States)

India	8.6
Kerala	12.6
Goa	11.2
Tamil Nadu	10.4
Punjab	10.3
Himachal Pradesh	10.2
Maharashtra	9.9
Andhra Pradesh	9.8
Odisha	9.5

## Expenditure on all National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) schemes (in ₹ crore)

2002-03	582.99
2003-04	651.85
2004-05	872.56
2006-07	1,977.42
2010-11	5,352.36
2011-12	6,192.4
2012-13	6,626.33
2013-14	8,347.22
2014-15	9,314.02
2016-17	25,174.90
2017-18	29,387.84
2018-19*	19,916.92

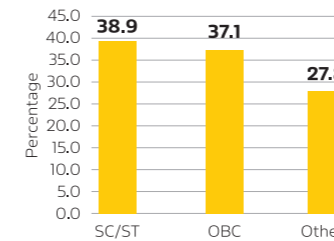
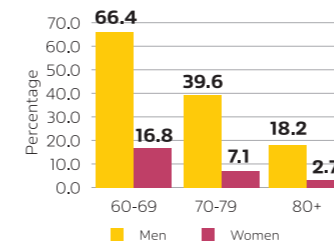
\*upto October

## No. of beneficiaries under NSAP pension schemes

2002-03	66,97,509
2003-04	66,24,000
2004-05	80,79,386
2005-06	80,02,598
2006-07	87,08,837
2007-08	1,15,14,026
2008-09	1,50,20,640
2009-10	1,63,33,578
2010-11	1,70,59,756
2011-12	2,13,84,404
2012-13	2,27,12,043
2013-14	2,23,31,089
2014-15	2,29,81,127
2018*	3,46,06,860
2018**	3,19,00,506
2018***	27,06,354

\*All schemes \*\*Central schemes \*\*\*State schemes

## Work participation of elderly (2012) (by age, sex and social groups)



SOURCE: UNFPA

## Population of people aged 60+ (in million)

Area	Male	Female	Total
Rural	36.0	37.3	73.3
Urban	15.1	15.5	30.6
Total	51.1	52.8	103.9

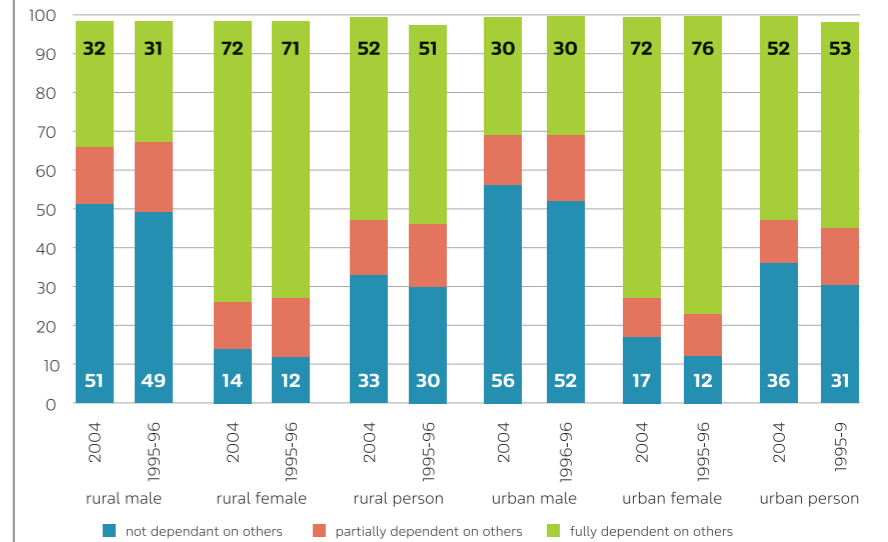
## Share of elderly people in total population (%)

Rural	8.4	9.2	8.8
Urban	7.7	8.5	8.1
Total	8.2	9.0	8.6

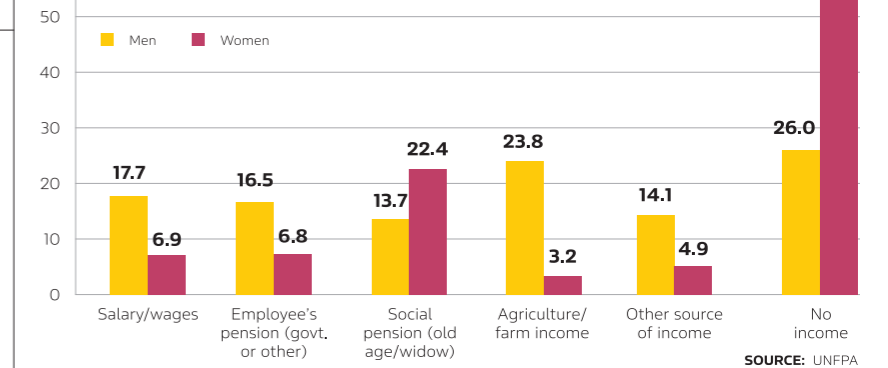
## Percentage of elderly people working

Rural	66.4	28.4	47.1
Urban	46.1	11.3	28.5
Total	60.4	23.4	41.6

## Percentage distribution of elderly population by state of economic independence



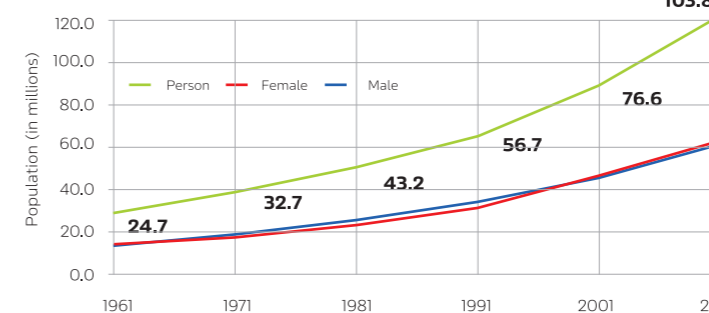
## Sources of personal income of the elderly (2011)



SOURCE: UNFPA



## Elderly population (aged 60 & above) in million



## Incidence of disability (2011) (per 1,000 persons, by age and sex)

