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WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

BHUBANESWAR, INDIA | 9-14 AUGUST 2023

CTD: 20HH- HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING
SUB-DOMAIN: THE ENVIRONMENT, QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELLNESS

PANEL TITLE: AGING IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

A growing interest in Gerontology, the scientific study of the process of growing old and old age, follows, inevitably, the accelerating demography of aging people in the 21st century, particularly in India. Life expectancy, improved sanitation, medical technology, and modern health care services, among other things, have contributed to the growth of the aged; their roles too, with the accompanying infirmities, get shifted from decision makers to those of dependents. The aged population simply cannot be viewed as a homogenous group. Hence the manifestation, consequences, health issues, psychological and social problems of the aged population of the whole country or state can't be generalized. Variations in every aspect of the life of aged people are seen based on social category, geographical distribution, personal income and family income, educational status, family size, structure, etc. The issues and challenges of the indigenous elderly population are different from those who are living in urban areas or who belong to well-to-do families. There is an urgent need to bring the issues relating to the social, economic, psychological, nutritional, medical, and family of indigenous elderly people to the limelight upon which very few studies have been done yet. Research on aging has seldom considered the plight of indigenous elderly people. It is very much essential to debate and study issues related to aging in the indigenous population.

Keywords: Aging, Geriatrics, Gerontology, Elderly, Indigenous population

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