

Chapter – IV

Socio-Economic Conditions of Elderly persons in Assam

One of the important objectives of this study is to find out various socio-economic aspects of population ageing in Assam on the basis of sample survey. This chapter analyses the socio-economic status of elderly population of Assam. In section 4.1, the demographic profile of the study region is presented. Section 4.2 explains the socio-economic status of elderly persons in the study region and their living conditions.

4.1 Profile of the study Region:

The present study is devoted to ageing of population of the state and its socio-economic implications with reference to two districts namely Kamrup (metro) and Nagaon. A brief profile of the sample area is presented in the following table – 4.1

4.1.1 District profile:

Profile of Kamrup (metro) District

Kamrup (Metropolitan) district is situated in the Brahmaputra Valley Region of Assam. The district covers an area of 1,5 27.84 sq. km and is surrounded by Morigaon district in the East, Kamrup (Rural) in the West and in the North and Meghalaya in the South. The geographical location of the district is in between latitude 26^o11.0" N and longitude 91^o44.0" E.

The district falls under lower Brahmaputra Agro climatic zone. The climate of the district is sub-tropical with semidry summer and cold in winter. Annual

rainfall ranges between 1500mm to 2600mm. The administrative headquarter of the district is at Guwahati city, which is also the capital city of the state. According to the 2011 census the district has a population on of 1,262,419 with a density of 2,010 persons per sq.km. The district has 143126 numbers of elderly persons according to 2011 census. The district has recorded the highest number of urban population (1,004,832) in the state.

District profile of Nagaon:

The district of Nagaon is located in between latitude 25⁰45'N and longitude 92⁰33'E and is bounded by Sonitpur district and the river Brahmaputra in the North, West Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao in the South, Morigaon in the West and Karbi Anglong and Golaghat District in the East.

The district falls under middle Brahmaputra agro climatic zone. Agriculture is the predominant economic activity of the people of the district. The district has recorded having the highest number of rural population according to the census 2011.

It has 110077 numbers of elderly persons.

Table No. 4.1
Profile of the Sample Districts

District	Total Area (sq.km)	Demographic Profile						No. of Sub-Divisions	No. of Dev. Block	No. of GPS	No. of Villages	No. of Elderly Persons	
		Male	Female	Total	Total SC	Total ST	Density of Population (Per sq.km)						Total literacy rate (%)
Kamrup (M)	1527.84	655630	604789	1260419	101789	75121	2010	88.661	1	2	14	216	1431266
Nagaon	3973	1440307	1385699	2826006	266350	115153	711	73.78	2	18	299	1412	110077

Source : Census Report 2011

4.1.2 Profile of the surveyed villages:

Eight numbers sample villages from four rural development block of the two selected districts are chosen for rural sample as given in the table 4.1 The sample are chosen purposively for conducting the survey keeping in view the ethnic composition of the villages such that it adequately represent all the communities. The sample units are chosen randomly.

4.1.3 Profile of the urban area:

For surveying the urban area, the two mostly urbanized areas viz Guwahati Municipal Corporation area and Nagaon Sadar area are selected. Being the state capital of Assam, Guwahati is the capital city and centre of all administrative

and political activities. The growth rate of elderly population has been increasing enormously. As per the census report of 2011, population of Guwahati is 957,352. Out of total population male and female are 495,362 and 4,61,990 respectively. Although Guwahati city has population of 9,57,352 its urban population is 962,334 of which 498,450 are males and 463,884 are female. The average literacy rate is 91.4 per cent and the sex ratio is 933. Hinduism is the major religion in Guwahati with 84.87per cent followers. Next is the Islam (12.45%).

Nagaon Municipality Board: Nagaon district's only municipal board is located in Nagaon district in the state of Assam with population of about 1.2 lakh. Total geographical area of Nagaon municipal board is 12 km. Population density of the city is 9884 persons per km. There are 28 wards the city, among them Nagaon Ward No. 20 is the most populous ward with population of about 15 thousand and Nartam Gaon Ward No. 28 is the least populous ward with population of 989.

Nearest railway station is Nagaon which is 2 km far from here. Nagaon is the sub district head quarter of the city. District head quarter of the city is Nagaon. Dispur (Guwahati) is the state head quarter of the city and is 121 km far from here. Yearly average rainfall of the city is 1745mm.

Table – 4.2 Village profiles of Sample Districts.

Dist.	Block	Villages	H.H. Size	Male	Female	Total Popn.	SC	ST	Literacy	Total worker	Main worker	Agri Labourer	
Nagaon	Bajagaon	Sonaribali	1362	3608	3442	7050	229	-	4204	2257	1896	239	
		Rangagarah	523	1301	1217	2518	176	-	1341	1032	657	15	
	Kothiatoli	Rangaloo	580	1227	1220	2969	11	129	1625	1595	818	234	
		Lalung Gaon	119	952	901	1853	-	186	104	576	551	-	
	Kamrup (M)	Chandrapur	Panikhaiti Gaon	752	1956	1861	3817	930	501	2519	1380	1275	447
			2 No. Chandra	256	585	582	1167	45	51	896	412	389	-
Dimoria		Tepechia	330	771	799	1570	23	565	1173	499	320	17	
		Amseng	828	3979	2094	1885	102	99	2689	1189	739	09	

Source : District Primary census, 2011. Govt. of Assam

4.2 Demographic and socio-economic profile of the Elderly Respondents & their Living Conditions:

The demographic and socio-economic profile of the elderly respondents are presented in this section. These are based on the data collected by interviewing 473 elderly persons from the area as described in the table 4.3.i and 4.3.ii

Table 4.3.i No. of Elderly persons in two selected Districts.

District	No. of Elderly persons		
	Male	Female	Total
Nagaon	105 (47.5)	116 (52.5)	221 (100)
Kamrup (M)	127 (50.4)	125 (49.6)	252 (100)
Total	232 (49.0)	241 (51.0)	473 (100)

Source: Field survey

Table 4.3.ii Number of Elderly Persons in two selected districts

Survey area	Nagaon	Kamrup(M)	Total
	No. of elderly person	No. of elderly person	Sum
Bajiagaon	71	.	71
Kathiatoli	74	.	74
Sadar	76	.	76
Guwahati Metro	.	94	94
Chandrapur	.	81	81
Dimoria	.	77	77
Total	221	252	473

Source: Field survey

While collecting data, emphasis is given on the elderly person as index person instead of the household head. Detailed information regarding the socio economic characteristics of the elderly, their living conditions, their health

conditions are collected during the survey. Apart from this some information's on support and care they get either from the family member or government are also collected.

4.2.1 Gender wise Age Distribution of Elderly respondents

Table 4.5 shows the gender wise age distribution of elderly persons in the sample. This indicates an expected pattern of lower frequency at higher age groups, with 85 per cent below 75 years of age and 15 per cent above 75 years of age.

Table 4.4 Gender wise Age Distribution of Elderly respondent:

Age group	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
60 - 64	52	11.0	87	18.4	139	29.4
65 - 69	63	13.3	74	15.6	137	29.0
70 - 74	68	14.4	61	12.9	129	27.3
75 - 79	33	7.0	14	3.0	47	9.9
80 +	16	3.4	5	1.1	21	4.4
Total	232	49.0	241	51.0	473	100.0

Note : Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage.

It reveals that majority of elderly persons fall in the age group of 60 to 74 years.

4.2.2 Socio Economic Profile of the Elderly Respondents :

From the table 4.5 it is evident that the proportion of elderly female is higher (52.5 percent) in Nagaon district in comparison to Kamrup district.

Table 4.5: Socio-Economic Profile of the Elderly Respondents

No. of Elderly	Male	Female	Total
Nagaon	105 (47.5)	116 (52.5)	221 (100)
Kamrup	124 (50.4)	125 (49.6)	252 (100)
BPL	54 (47.4)	60 (52.6)	114 (24.1)
APL	178 (49.6)	181 (50.4)	359 (75.9)
SC	35 (42.2)	48 (57.8)	83 (17.5)
ST	54 (65.1)	29 (34.9)	83 (17.5)
OBC	21 (38.9)	33 (61.1)	54 (11.4)
GEN	122 (48.2)	131 (51.8)	253 (53.5)
Literate	199 (42.1)	225 (47.6)	424 (89.5)
Illiterate	33 (7)	16 (3.4)	49 (10.4)
Do not own House	68 (14.4)	60 (12.7)	128 (27.1)
Own house	164 (34.7)	181 (38.3)	345 (72.9)
Married	173 (36.6)	173 (36.6)	346 (73.2)
Widow/Widower	59 (12.5)	68 (14.4)	127 (26.8)
Age below 70 yrs.	115 (24.3)	162 (34.2)	277 (58.6)
Age above 70 yrs.	117 (24.7)	79 (16.7)	196(41.4)

Source: Field Survey. Figures in the parentheses show percentage.

It is also evident from the table that the proportion of female elderly (51%) to total elderly in the surveyed area is more than the male elderly (49 percent). It indicates the greying of female population in the study region.

Among the elderly persons below poverty line category (BPL), the proportion of female elderly is higher than the proportion of female in above poverty line (APL) category. If we notice the proportion of female elderly community wise, table 4.5 reveals that 53.5 per cent elderly persons belong to General Community and 17.5 percent belong to schedule caste and schedule Tribe community each respectively. The literacy rate of the elderly females (47.6 per cent) is higher than the literacy rate of elderly males (42.1 per cent). Among the total elderly persons 27 per cent do not reside in their own house. The proportion of elderly males who do not own house (14.4 per cent) is higher than the proportion of females (12.7 per cent). About 73 per cent of elderly persons are found to be owners of the house. Among them percentage of female is more than male. About 75 per cent of elderly persons are living with their spouse while 27 per cent are widow and widower. Among elderly widow and widower the proportion of widow (14.4 per cent) is more than the widower (12.5 per cent). This implies that elderly persons living without spouse is more in case of female as compared to male.

The proportion of elderly males below the age of 70 years is found to be almost equal to the proportion of elderly males above the age of 70. But the proportion of female elderly persons in the age group of 60 to 70 years (34.2 per cent) is more than the age group of above 70 years (16.7 per cent).

The figures indicate that there exist some differences when elderly men and women are considered separately. The elderly population is not a homogeneous group. The increasing proportion of elderly women, specially widows in the population indicate longer life span of women as compared to men. The higher proportion of elderly women in the BPL category implies lower socio-economic status of the elderly females.

4.3 Living conditions of the Elderly Respondents:

The household structure to which an elderly person belongs are explained and terms the type of housing and toilets facilities available to them, sources of fuel and lighting, sources of drinking water etc. These reflect the physical environment to which the elderly persons belong.

The residence of the elderly persons classified into three categories taking into consideration the materials used in wall, floor and roof of the houses.

	House Type	Roof	Floor	Wall
1.	Pucca	Concrete	Cement	Brick
2.	Semi-pucca	Tin	Cement	Brick/Bamboo/Tin
3.	Kuttcha	Thatched	Mud	Mud/Bamboo

Table 4.6 (i) shows that most of the elderly persons in both the district live in pucca houses. However in Nagaon district the proportion of elderly persons living in semi-pucca and kuttcha houses is higher than the elderly persons in Kamrup district.

Table : 4.6.i: Structure of Dwelling of the Elderly Respondents

House Type	Elderly persons living in		Total
	Nagaon	Kamrup	
Pucca	91 (19.2)	150(31.7)	241 (51)
Semi-Pucca	78 (16.5)	55 (11.6)	133 (28.1)
Kutchha	52 (11.0)	47 (9.9)	99 (20.9)
Total	221 (46.7)	252 (53.3)	473 (100)

Source : Field Survey

Note : The figures in the parentheses indicate percentage.

The availability of a separate room is an important factor determining the status of the elderly person in the household. The availability of separate room for elderly persons is shown in Table 4.6.ii

Table 4.6(ii) Availability of separate rooms for Elderly Respondents:

Availability of Separate rooms	Elderly persons living in		Total
	Nagaon	Kamrup	
Yes	142 (30)	179 (37.8)	321 (67.9)
No	79 (16.7)	73 (15.4)	152 (32.1)
Total	221 (46.7)	252 (53.3)	473 (100)

Source : Field survey.

Note : The figures in the parentheses indicate percentage.

From the table 4.6 (ii), it is evident that 67.9 per cent elderly persons live in a separate room while 32.1 per cent of elderly persons do not have separate room. Again, the proportion of elderly people living in separate room in Nagaon

district is less than that of Kamrup district. As expected, more persons having separate room indicates an improvement of their household status.

The wellbeing of the elderly persons depends on sources of drinking water, type of toilet facilities, types of fuel they use. The availability of all these facilities within the household improves the living condition of the elderly persons.

Table 4.6(iii) Sources of Drinking water:

Sources of Drinking water	Within House	Outside House	Total
Well	6	18	24 (0.05)
Tube Well	196	15	211 (0.44)
Running water facility (Pipe water)	142	95	238 (0.50)
Total	345 (0.73)	128 (0.27)	473 (100)

Source : Field survey

Table 4.6 (iii) reveals that about 73 per cent of elderly persons in the surveyed area get their drinking water within the household. Out of them 50 per cent of the elderly persons dependent on pipe water.

Table 4.6(iv) Toilet facilities available for the Elderly Respondents.

Type of Facilities		Within House	Outside house	Total
Bathroom	Covered	192	0	192
	Open	07	274	281
	Total	199 (0.42)	274 (0.58)	473
Total	Sanitary	282	138	420 (0.88)
	Non-sanitary	6	53	53 (0.12)
	Total	282 (0.59)	191 (0.40)	473

Source : Field survey

Note : Figures in the parent houses indicate percentage of total elderly respondents.

The toilet facilities available to the elderly respondents are summarized by the table 4.6.iv. It reveals that only 52 per cent of elderly respondents have the facility of bathing space within the household. Majority of elderly persons have to go outside their house for bathing. However, 88 percent elderly persons use sanitary toilets, and about 60 per cent have their facility within household.

Table 4.6.v. Sources of Fuel

Fuel for cooking	No. of Elderly persons	Fuel for Lighting	No. of Elderly persons.
Gas	338 (71.5)	Electricity	373 (78.9)
Kerosene	87 (18.4)	Kerosene	93 (19.7)
Firewood	48 (10.1)	Solar	07
Total	473 (100)	Total	473 (100)

Source : Field survey.

Note : The figures in the parentheses indicate percentage.

Table 4.6.v reveals that majority of elderly population use (71 per cent) gas as their source of cooking and 78.9 per cent of elderly people use electricity for lighting. This data indicates a good sign about the states of living arrangement of elderly respondents.

4.4 Living arrangement of the Elderly respondents:

Living arrangement refers to the type of family in which the elderly live, the headship they enjoy, the place they stay in and the people they stay with the kind of relationship they maintain with their kith and kin and the extent to which they adjust to the changing environment (Rajan, Mishra and Sarma, 1995). Majority of the studies emphasized the sociological aspect and explains the types and changes in the structural composition of the families where the elderly person resides. In the socio economic studies, the household is the preferred unit of analysis in place of family because the concept of house hold is more clearly defined than that of 'family'.

The indicators used to describe the living arrangements are size of the household, proportion of elderly persons living alone, head ship ratio among the elderly and the co-residence ratio.

4.4.1 The size of the Elderly household.

The household size is an indication of the degree of bond among the different generations. If more people are living together, the elderly respondents are likely to get better attention including care during sickness. In this study more than 60

percent of total elderly persons are living in three generational households with spouse, children and grand children. About 17.5 per cent elderly persons are living with their children and grand children and 5 percent of total elderly respondents are living alone (table 4.7)

Table 4.7 Elderly persons Living alone

Category	Nagaon (%)	Kamrup (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Living	14 (3.0)	10 (2.1)	24 (5.1)	5 (1.1)	19 (4.0)	24 (5.1)
With spouse only	26 (5.5)	26 (5.5)	52 (11.0)	26 (5.5)	26 (5.5)	52 (11.0)
With spouse, children and grand children	108 (22.8)	178 (37.6)	286 (60.5)	143 (30.2)	143 (30.2)	286 (60.5)
With children & grand children	52 (11.0)	31 (6.6)	83 (17.5)	51 (10.8)	32 (6.8)	83 (17.5)
With other relatives	21 (4.4)	7 (1.5)	28 (5.9)	7 (1.5)	21 (4.4)	28 (5.9)
Total	221 (46.7)	252 (53.3)	473 (100.0)	223 (49.0)	241 (51.0)	473 (100.0)

Source – Field survey.

Table 4.7 shows that out of total elderly living along (24), more elderly women are found to be more than men (19). This finding conforms to the experience of other developing world covering Africa, Asia and Latin America (Bongaarts and Zimmer, 2001) report 8.8 percent of older individuals living alone across all countries and the average proportion of living alone is nearly twice as high for women. This is similar to the study findings of Legare and Martel (2003), that a good proportion of elderly women live alone while their male counterparts live

with the spouses, a phenomenon explained by the higher life expectancy among females.

In our survey it is found that except one unmarried female elderly person, all elderly persons living alone are either widows or widowers. Therefore it is probably that the elderly persons living alone will increase with the death of a spouse and it is true for an elderly widowed women.

Table 4.8 Genderwise living arrangement of elderly persons in the study area

No. of Elderly persons		Living along	Percentage of Living alone
Male	232	5	2
Female	241	19	7.9
Widow	94	19	20.2
Widower	32	5	15.6

Source – Field Survey.

Table 4.8: Reveals that 20 percent of total widows among elderly female are living alone as compared to 15 percent widowers. It is contrary to the common belief that women are more likely to be bonded with the family, the findings rather suggest that proportion of elderly men living with the family members is higher than elderly female.

4.4.2 Composition of Elderly Households

The composition of the household in which an elderly person lives has important implication for his or her wellbeing. The literature on elderly living arrangement suggests that co-residence with one or more children have positive impact on the life situation of the elderly. Literature also suggests that the elderly persons have

to live with their children, as most of them cannot afford to have independent households. (Dandekar, 1996).

An elderly person may live alone or may co-reside with spouse and or children or with relatives and neighbours. It is widely known that the erosion of the traditional norm whereby the elderly generally live with children or relatives reduce the wellbeing of the elder population (Palloni, 2001) Table 4.9 describes the pattern of living arrangements in terms of the current co-residents of elderly persons in Assam as found in the survey.

Table: 4.9 Living Arrangement in terms of co-residence of elderly persons

Characteristics	Proportion of Elderly Respondents					Total
	Living alone	With spouse	With spouse Child & grand Ch.	With Children & G. Children	With others	
Nagaon	14 (3.0)	26 (5.5)	108 (22.8)	52 (11.0)	21 (4.4)	221 (46.7)
Kamrup (M)	10 (2.1)	26 (5.5)	178 (37.6)	31 (6.6)	7 (1.5)	252 (53.3)
Male	5 (1.1)	26 (5.5)	143 (30.2)	51 (10.8)	7 (1.5)	232 (49.0)
Female	19 (4.0)	26 (5.5)	143 (30.2)	32 (6.8)	21 (4.4)	241 (51.0)
Married	-	52 (11.0)	286 (60.5)	8 (1.7)	-	346 (73.2)
Widowed	127 (5.1)	-	-	75 (15.9)	28 (5.9)	127 (26.8)
Below 70 yrs.	11 (2.3)	31 (6.6)	203 (42.9)	21 (4.4)	11 (2.3)	277 (58.6)
Age 70 yrs. above	13 (2.7)	21 (4.4)	83 (17.5)	62 (13.1)	17 (3.6)	196 (41.4)
Low income group <10,000	7 (1.5)	4 (0.8)	74 (15.6)	36 (9.9)	16 (1.5)	137 (29.0)
High income group >10,000	17 (3.6)	48 (10.1)	212 (44.8)	47 (2.5)	12 (3.6)	336 (71.0)

Source Field Survey.

Note: no. respondent was found having monthly income below Rs. 5000

Table 4.9 reveals that except for categories ‘living alone’ and ‘living with spouse only’ about 85 per cent of elderly persons in all other categories are co-residing with children or relatives. The table also shows that total proportion of elderly male co-residing with family members and relatives is more than that of elderly female. About 60.5 per cent of total elderly persons are living with their spouse, children and grand children. Only 5 percent of the elderly respondents who are widow or widower are living alone. This implies that most of the elderly persons in Assam are living with their three or two generation families (joint family).

Table 4.10: Co-residence rate among elderly persons (per 1000)

Category	Co resident	Total	Co-residence rate
Nagaon	181	221	819
Kamrup (M)	216	252	857
Male	201	232	866
Female	196	241	849
Married	294	346	849
Widowed	103	127	811
Below 70 yrs.	235	277	848
Above 70 yrs.	162	196	826
Low income <10000	126	137	919
High income >10000	271	336	806

Source : Filed survey

The co-residence rate is defined as the number of co-resident elderly persons per thousand elderly persons. It is an important indicator of living arrangements of elderly persons. Several studies on living arrangements in Bangladesh and India suggest that elderly people without co-resident spouses and sons are at higher risk of mortality (cain, 1986; Vlassoff, 1990)

In the study area the co-residence rate is found to be higher among elderly persons belonging to lower income group households, the married and the age below 70 years (Table 4.10). This signifies that in lower income group households, the family bond (integration) is stronger than in the upper income group households.

4.4.3 Headship of the Household

Traditionally elderly persons are given a higher status and they are the respected persons in our society. In a patriarchal society, generally males enjoy the headship of a household. This is evident from the table 4.11.

Table 4.11: Head of the household among elderly Males and Females & Marital Status

	No. of Elderly Respondents			Marital status & Headship		
	Male	Female	Total	Married	Widowed	Total
Headship	177 (37.4)	54 (11.4)	231 (48.8)	158 (33.4)	73 (15.4)	231 (48.8)
No Headship	55 (11.6)	187 (39.5)	242 (51.2)	188 (39.7)	54 (11.4)	242 (51.2)
Total	232 (49)	241 (51)	473 (100)	346 (73.2)	127 (26.8)	473 (100)

Source: Field survey.

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage.

Further the table 4.11 shows that the proportion of married elderly persons enjoying headship is higher than the widowed elderly persons. It is worth mentioning that often the death of husband is followed by diminished household size and 54 female headed households include the 19 single member households of widows living alone.

Table 4.12: Community wise Headship of the Households

Community	Male	Female	Total
SC	28	17	45 (19.5)
ST	29	0	29 (12.5)
OBC	17	17	34 (14.7)
General	103	20	123 (53.2)
Total	177	54	231 (100)

Source : Field survey.

It is observed from the table 4.12 that headship ratio is highest (53.2 per cent) for the general class followed by SC category (19.5 per cent). It is important to note that no female elderly from ST category has been able to get headship of the household which is contrary to the belief that tribal women have better position in the household because of their extensive participation in the economic activities. Though majority of the elderly persons consider themselves as head of the household, it may be pointed out here that only 30 percent of the total elderly have reported that they could participate in taking decisions related to financial and other important matters. 8.5 percent take decisions in consultation with other

family members and the rests are only informed about the important family matters but their opinions are not sought.

4.5 work participation of Elderly Respondents

In the study of socio-economic conditions of elderly persons, the work participation of elderly plays an important role. Work participation of elderly plays an important role. Work participation of elderly may be defined in terms of involvement of elderly in productive activities. It may be physical and mental in nature. According to RGCCI (1998), works involve not only actual work but also effective supervision and direction of work. It also includes unpaid work in farm or in family enterprises. The same definition is followed in the sample survey. In the study the whole population is categorised into two- ‘working’ and ‘not working’.

Table 4.13: Elderly work participation in survey area

District		(% of Working)	(% of Not working)
Nagaon	R	41.3	58.7
	U	25.0	75.0
	T	35.7	64.3
Kamrup(M)	R	34.8	65.2
	U	55.3	44.7
	T	39.3	60.7
Total		42.5	57.5

Source: Field Survey

The study reveals that 42.5 per cent of total elderly persons are engaged in work while 57.5 per cent are not engaged in any work (Table 4.13). Among the elderly in different age groups, table 4.14 reveals that

Table 4.14: Agewise no. of Elderly person engaged in work in (%)

Age group	Engaged in work	Not Engaged
60-69	63%	37%
70-79	21%	79%
80 and above	16%	84%
Total Engaged in work	42.5%	57.5

Source: Field Survey

Out of 473 elderly respondents, 42.5 per cent are engaged in work. Out of 42.5 per cent working elderly, 63 per cent are in the age group of 60 to 69 years while 21 per cent working elderly are from 70 to 79 years of age. It is evident that percentage of working elderly declines as they grow older. However in the age group of 80 years and above, about 16 per cent elderly are engaged for their livelihood. The implication is that higher work participation among the elderly indicates lack of safety nets and high levels of poverty (Rajan, Irudaya 2004; Leibig Ohoboe and Rajan 2003)

4.6 Household Income & work Participation

Table 4.15: No. of elderly engaged in work according to income level

Income	Working		Total	Net working		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
Less than 10,000	68	56	124	94	118	212
More than 10,000	28	34	62	57	18	75
Total	186			287		

Table 4.15 shows the workparticipation and household income. It is expected that the work participation of lower income group is higher than high income group. From the table it becomes clear that majority of respondent with income less than Rs. 10000, are engaged in work while females work participation is higher in upper income group. A study by Mahadevan et al (1992) reveals that participation of females elderly is lower as compared to males.

Thus it may be concluded that more elderly persons are engaged in work with lower income group than higher income group.

4.7 Sources of subsistence of Elderly Persons

Table 4.16: Sources of subsistence

Sources of subsistence	Elderly Male		Elderly Female		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Children	96	41.4	90	37.3	186	39.3
Self	61	26.3	78	32.4	139	29.4
Spouse	56	24.1	75	31.1	133	28.1
Others	14	6.0	17	7.1	31	6.6

Figure-3

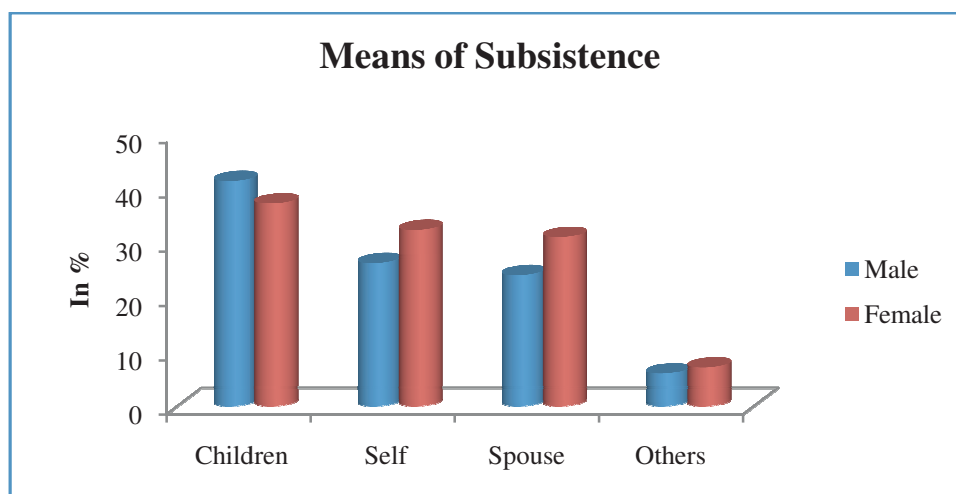
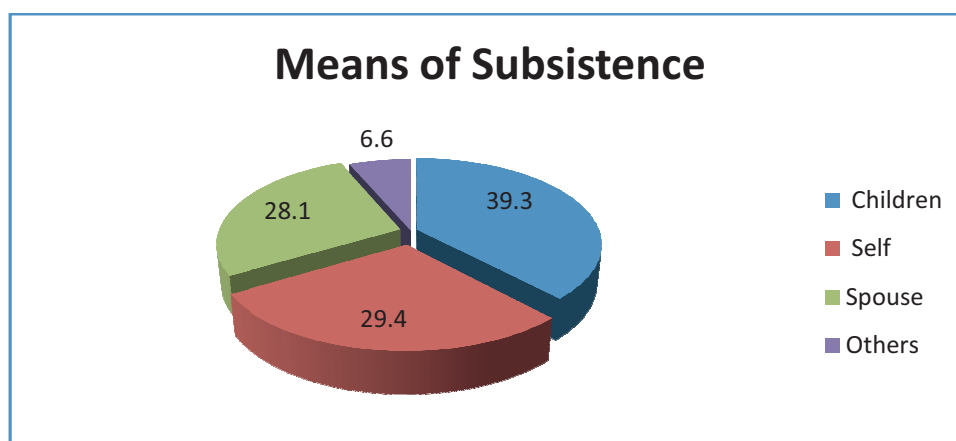


Figure-4



As revealed from the work participation of the elderly persons, about 57.5 per cent elderly are not engaged in any work. They are dependent either on financial assistance like old age pensions etc. or on their children or other relatives for their livelihood.

When asked to identify their sources of livelihood the elderly persons revealed that children are their only important source of support and care. About 39.3 per

cent elderly gets support from their children while 28 per cent gets support from their spouse. Among the total aged, more support from children (Table 4.16)

It is evident from the figure 3 that more elderly female are self supported than elderly male.