

Changing Demographics & Dementia: A Reflection on the Challenges Ahead for India

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Abstract

India being the second most populous country in the globe is expected to surpass China by 2022 (United Nations Report). The demographic structure of India is changing at a rapid pace with an increase the proportion of old age population (Subaiya, 2011). The elders are socially deprived and have little or no access to Social support, security and insurance. The old-age problems are not only associated with deteriorating physical health but also affects their mental well-being. However, the ageing literature is closely associated with physical health problems often ignoring the mental issues owing to social stigma attached with it. The present research is an attempt to fill this gap, with a particular focus on Dementia, which is associated with impairment of effective functioning of brain. The study assesses the changing demographic trends and the associated constraints pertaining to the delivery of health care services in India. This study will highlight inter an intra socio-economic differential in health expenditure. The data for the above study is sourced from secondary data sources that include NSSO 71st Round, Census 2011, CEIS, NFHS, etc. and Dementia is studied through various secondary reports. The authors adopt structured equation model and margins plot to measure the differences in healthcare expenditure between different social groups. The study will be beneficial for the policymakers to identify the challenges that need to be addressed in the near future for delivering key health services.