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To study the special facilities available for elderly people in selected areas of their residence

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Abstract

A house may generally be divided into number of discrete areas that include bedroom, kitchen, living room, bathroom and others. Each area has special functioning work task, and it is thus necessary to design functional areas that do not impede the profile of an ageing user. Facilities available in the bedroom of elderly indicates that majority (91.00%) of elderly population were living on ground floor and 73.00 per cent had separate bedroom. A similar finding was reported by Sandhu *et al.* (2005) [4] where they lived on ground floor with flat entrance (68.30%) and enjoyed provision of small but separate room. However this indicates that about 27.00% of the respondents were sharing their room with others or vice versa and this was more among female respondents (32.00%). In more than 60.00% of human (67.00%) these was no attached bathroom /water closet. Among those it was present (32.00% male and 22.00% female) it was of Indian style of water closet. Availability of western water closet was very low (06.00%). Very few houses had additional facilities such emergency bell, floor carpet, bed switches / lamp and telephone, it was found to be less than 20.00 per cent.

Keywords: Socio-economic status, wooden materials, water closet, routine activities, elderly population

Introduction

In the modern society a phenomenal transformation due to technological revolution and urbanization is taking place and this change is having its impact on elderly population. According to National Sample Survey Organization reported by, 36.70 per cent of 7 million elderly people want to shift to old age homes because they cannot manage alone. Old age has started emerging as social problem in the Indian society due to the social cultural changes brought about by industrial revolution (Saraswati, 1976) [5].

Due to availability of better health facilities people in India are living longer and its typical socio-economic conditions like poverty, breaking up joint family system, care of the aged persons is posed a threat to them (Rao 1972) [3]. In future, rapid rise in the number of old people is bound to cause serious problems for which our society has to be well prepared. These include good health care and special care for the aged with respect to living arrangements so that they can to carry out routine activities comfortably without any problems. Thus, Research in geriatrics is gaining attention, covering all spheres of their life of the aged. There have been accounts of some research done on this aspect in West but very few studies have been reported in India.

After retirement years, most of the individuals want to remain in their own house and be independent for as long as possible. An AARP [American Association of Retired Persons] Survey (2000) reveals that approximately 85.00 per cent of older persons want to remain in their homes as long as possible. Bruin (1997) [2] measured housing satisfaction among American elderly and suggested that elderly were often ill housed which created a housing dissatisfaction. Among the factors found to affect housing satisfaction most strongly is inadequate space. There are many common misapprehensions about the sources of housing satisfaction and dissatisfaction among older people. The physical quality of the housing that they occupy is the most important factor in explaining older people's satisfaction with their housing.

Objective

1. To study the socio-economic information of selected elderly.
2. To record the special requirements of the elderly in their Bedroom, bathroom and Kitchen for comfortable living.

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Result

Table 1: Types of furniture available in the selected households N=100

Name of furniture	Furniture materials				
	Steel	Wooden	Cane	Plastic	Foam/ upholstered
Chair	51.00	58.00	28.00	77.00	11.00
Dining table	12.00	64.00	-	-	-
Sofa set	-	65.00	20.00	-	24.00
T.V. stand	48.00	25.00	-	-	-
Centre table/tea table	-	36.00	09.00	22.00	05.00
Cot/ diwan	35.00	72.00	-	-	-
Shelf / rack	27.00	33.00	-	-	-
Stool	18.00	36.00	12.00	09.00	-
Tables	15.00	45.00	-	-	-

Note: Indicate multiple answers

Table 1 indicates the possession of different types of furniture of different materials by the elderly family. The recorded types of furniture in the respondent's houses are chairs, dining table, sofa set, TV. stand, cot, center/tea tables. Both steel and wooden materials were found to be common among the sample's households however, except TV. stand (48.00%) and

shelf / rack(27.00%) remaining all other furniture were found to be made of wood viz., dining table (64.00%), sofa set (65.00%), center/tea table (36.00%), cot/ diwan (72.00%), stools (36.00%) tables (45.00%). Plastic chairs (77.00%) were found to be more common and cane furniture also found to be scanty.

Table 2: Facilities available in the bedroom of retired elderly population N=100

Particulars	Respondents		Percentage
	Male (n=50)	Female (n=50)	
Location and availability of separate bedroom			
Ground Floor	47 (94.00)	44 (88.00)	91.00
On the First Floor	03 (06.00)	06 (12.00)	09.00
Separate bedroom	39 (78.00)	34 (68.00)	73.00
Not available	11 (22.00)	16 (32.00)	27.00
Facility of attached bathroom/ water closet			
Indian style water closet	16 (32.00)	11 (22.00)	27.00
Western style water closet	03 (06.00)	03 (06.00)	06.00
Not Available	31 (62.00)	36 (72.00)	67.00
Additional facilities			
Bell for Emergency	04 (08.00)	05 (10.00)	09.00
Floor carpet	06 (12.00)	11 (22.00)	17.00
Rubber mat near the cot/bathroom door	08 (16.00)	02 (04.00)	10.00
Additional lamp or bed switch	10 (20.00)	09 (18.00)	19.00
Additional telephone in bedroom	04 (08.00)	05 (12.00)	10.00

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage.

Facility available for elderly people in various units

Table 2 indicates the location and availability of separate bedroom and facility attached bathroom in the elderly bedroom. Majority of male (94.00%) and (88.00%) of female respondents lived in ground floor in their separate bedroom (male 78.00% and female 68.00%). Higher percentage of selected respondents in both the gender (62.00% male and 72.00% female) did not have attached bathroom facility in their bedroom. However, those who had the facility were found to be Indian style water closet to a greater number (32.00% and 22.00%) of male and female respectively).

With respect to additional facilities in the respondent's bedroom, 20.00 and 22.00 percent of additional lamp or bed switch and floor mat was provided in the bedroom of male and female respondents respectively. Emergency bell, rubber mat near the bathroom door and telephone are the other facility recorded in few of the bedrooms of the selected respondents. Plate 6 shows the big button telephone for old age people.



Plate 1: Big button telephone for old age people

The interior environment of the dwelling have to be senior friendly. Hence designing / redesigning is essential for not to impede the safety of an aging user. The literature on geriatrics indicate that most of the accidents occur in the house /home when dwelling is not senior friendly or barrier free. However, in the present study, these are missing as quality flooring is of

slippery in nature and many households do not have attached water closet to the bedroom of elderly people.

Well documented evidences indicate that during old age, squatting posture is difficult and this may be due to the changes takes place in physiological condition related to aging. Hence, western style water closet may be convenient & comfortable for old age people. But majority of the selected households do not have western style water closet and during old age this may become basic necessary.

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