

SOCIAL SECURITY STATUS OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN NEPAL (A CASE STUDY OF  
PASHUPATI ELDERLY PEOPLE'S HOME)

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## ABSTRACT

*Ageing has now become a big problem with unprecedented increase in the number of elderly people worldwide. Number of persons aged 60 years or over There are approximately 810 million persons aged 60 years or over in the world in 2012 and this number is projected to grow to more than 2 billion by 2050. At that point, older persons will outnumber the population of children (0-14 years) for the first time in human history. Asia has more than half (55 per cent) of the world's older persons, followed by Europe, which accounts for 21 per cent of the total.*

*According to the 2001 census, Nepal's elderly population constitutes 6.5 percent of the total population of the country. During the years 1991-2001, the annual elderly population growth rate was 3.39 percent as against the national population growth rate of 2.3%. According to the 2011 census, the percentage of elderly population has increased to 9.1 percent (male 4.6 % and female 4.5%). [www.nepalnews.com/.../18567-nepals-ageing-population-are-we-prepare](http://www.nepalnews.com/.../18567-nepals-ageing-population-are-we-prepare))*

*The elderly population is estimated to double by 2017. Elderly people in Nepal are usually found active and productive in their advancing years . they are involved in childcare, cattle herding, handicraft making and other farming related activities. Elderly females, in particular, mostly share responsibilities in household chores. However, their contribution and economic value have not been duly recognised. Making an overall assessment of the living conditions of the elderly people staying at the PEPH was the general objective of the study. Assessing the challenges of senior citizens at PEPH; identifying the reasons for the displacement of a large number of old-aged people from their homes and making recommendations to the concerned authorities regarding the urgent steps to be taken for helping the old-aged people were the specific objective of this study.*

*Of the total population, only 60 people were selected as the respondents in this study. The respondents were selected on the basis of simple random sampling method, while the population was purposively selected. Questionnaire was the major tool of collecting data. Apart from this, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) were also used for collecting more reliable data from the field survey.*

*It was found that majority of the respondents did not have own home. But they were found to have left their homes due to conflict and lack of harmony with their family members. Some of them had lost their homes due to natural disasters. Lack of persons to offer them food and necessary care, loss of income, domination by their family members, physical disabilities were the major reasons behind choosing PEPH as their shelter. Majority of the respondents were found satisfied with the services being provided to them at the PEPH. Speaking on the ground of the food served at the PEPH, 65% stated that the food was reasonable. Majority of the respondents said that whatever clothes being given to them were sufficient and satisfactory. Similarly, while assessing the consideration of the voices of elderly people at PEPH, about 70 percent stated their voices were considered. Speaking on the satisfaction level of the respondents on the medical facilities offered to them, about 80 percent of the respondents were happy with the medical facilities being provided at the elderly home. Most of them complained of rheumatism, asthma and loss of appetite. About 61.7 percent pointed out the need for making overall improvements in the facilities and services being offered to the people at the shelter home. Majority of the respondents had children and about 45 percent of the respondents conceded the fact that were childless. Speaking on the habit of smoking, majority of the respondents said that they were smokers. About 18.3 percent of them said that they quit smoking after it had a negative impact in their health.*

*To sum up, the social security status of the elderly people at PEPH was found to be satisfactory. However, there are some challenges and problems that need to be addressed in due course of time for the welfare of the elderly people living at PEPH.*

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## ACRONYMS

AFP	Agence France Press
AP	Associated Press
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CPN (UML)	Communist Party of Nepal (Unified- Marxist- Leninist)
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
ILO	International Labour Organisation
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
MRDT	Mortality Rate Doubling Time
NC	Nepali Congress
PEPH	Pashupati Elderly People's Home
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
UN	United Nations
U.S.	United States
VDC	Village Development committee