

SOCIAL SECURITY STATUS OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN NEPAL
(A Case Study of the Kathmandu Pashupati Elderly People's Home)

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University (TU), Kirtipur, for the partial fulfillment of the requirements of Master's Degree in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Jeny Shrestha has successfully completed her Project Report entitled "**SOCIAL SECURITY STATUS OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN NEPAL**" A Case Study of the Kathmandu Pashupati Elderly People's **Home** under my supervision and guidance. Thus, the draft is forwarded for final approval.

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This thesis entitled "**SOCIAL SECURITY STATUS OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN NEPAL: A Case Study of the Kathmandu Pashupati Elderly People's Home**" submitted by Jeny Shrestha has been accepted for the partial fulfilment of the requirements of Master's Degree in the faculty of Arts in Rural Development by the evaluation committee.

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ABSTRACT

Ageing has now become a big problem with unprecedented increase in the number of elderly people worldwide. In 1950, the number of people above 60 years of age was about 200 million. The number tripled to nearly 600 million by 2000. By 2025, the number of such persons is expected to exceed 1 billion. The problem is more serious in Asia, where half of the world's old people are living. About two-thirds of the world's total people above 60 years of age will be living in this region by 2050. The population of this age-group is projected to reach 1,200 million by the year 2015. The number of children in Asia will decline marginally over the next 50 years. The old people will start outnumbering children by 2040. By 2050, there will be 25 percent more old people than children in Asia (Source: UN Resolution on Ageing, 2001).

In Nepal, the share of elderly persons (60 years and above) was 5 percent between 1952-54. The figure increased to 5.8 percent in 1991 and 6.5 percent (1.48 million) in 2001 (www.kantipuronline.com/ko/newsphp). The elderly population is estimated to double by the year 2017. Elderly people in Nepal are usually found active and productive in their advancing years. They are seen involved in many activities ranging from childcare, cattle herding, and handicraft making to other farming related jobs. Elderly females, in particular, mostly share responsibilities in household chores. However, their contribution and economic value have not been duly recognized.

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 objectives of this study.

Of the total population, only 30 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 had their own homes. 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 PEHP. Speaking on the ground of the food served at the PEPH, 63.3% 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 73.3 percent stated that their voices were considered. Speaking on the satisfaction level of the respondents on the medical facilities offered to them, about 86.6 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 56.6% 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 were found to be childless and about 33.3% of the respondents conceded the fact that they had children. Speaking on the habit of smoking, majority of the respondents said that they were smokers. About 23.3 percent of them said that they quit smoking after it had a negative impact in to heir 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.

Acronyms

AFP	Agence France Presse
AP	Associated Press
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CPN (UML)	Communist Party of Nepal (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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

APPROVAL LETTER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABSTRACT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLE

LIST OF FIGURE

ACRONYMS

Chapter - One

	Page No.
1. Introduction	1
1.1 The Study Context	1
1.2 Identification of Problem	5
1.3 Description of the Study Area	7
1.4 Objective of the Study	9
1.5 Rationale of the Study	9
1.6 Limitations of the Study	9
1.7 Organization of the Study	10

Chapter - Two

2. Literature Review	11
2.1 Ageing: The Basis	11
2.1.1 Definitions	11
2.2 Theoretical Review: Some key Theories on Ageing	13
2.2.1 Sociological Theories	13
2.2.2 Disengagement/Activity Theories	13
2.2.3 Structured Dependency Theory	14
2.2.4 Biological theories on Ageing	14

2.2.5 Gerontological theories of Ageing	15
2.2.6 Evolutionary Theories of Ageing	16
2.3 Social security	16
2.4 Age and Generation	16
2.5 Why Social /Security for Senior Citizens?	18
2.6 Some Important Media Coverage on the Elderly Citizens living at Home and abroad	19
2.7 Some Case Studies Related to the Subject Matter	22

Chapter - Three

3. Research Methodology	25
3.1 Rationale for the site selection	25
3.2 Research Design	25
3.3 Universe and Sampling Procedure	26
3.4 Nature and Sources of Data	26
3.5 Techniques of Data Collection	26
3.5.1 Observation	26
3.5.2 Interview	26
3.5.3 Key Informant Interview	26
3.5.4 Case Study	27
3.5.5 Data Analysis and Processing	27
3.5.6 Operational Definition and Measures	27

Chapter - Four

4. Data Analysis and Interpretation	28
4.1 Previous Status	28
4.2 Classification of the People Living in Pashupati Elderly People's Home on the Basis of Caste	21 29
4.3 Distribution of the People Living in Pashupati elderly people's Home on the Basis of Development Regions	30

4.4 Zonal Classification of the Elderly People Residing at Pashupati Elderly People's Home	31
4.5 District - wise population Distribution of the Elderly People Residing at Pashupati Elderly People's Home	32
4.6 Distribution of Elderly People with Respect to Age Group	33
4.7 Disabled People Taking Shelter at Pashupati Elderly People's home	34
4.8 Home Status of the Respondents	35
4.9 Reasons behind Choosing to stay at the Elderly Home	36
4.10 Satisfaction Level pf Respondents pm Quality pf Services	37
4.11 Quality of food Served at Pashupati Elderly People's home	38
4.12 Quality of clothes provided at Pashupati Elderly People's Home	39
4.13 Voice Consideration	39
4.14 Medical Facilities	40
4.15 Health Facilities	41
4.16 Further Improvement	42
4.17 Status of the off-springs of the Respondents	43
4.18 Frequency of Visit by the Relatives	44
4.19 Functional Living Arrangement	45
4.20 Smoking Habit	46

Chapter - Five

5. Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations	47
5.1 Findings	47
5.2 Conclusions	49
5.3 Recommendations	50

References

Annex I (Questioner)

Annex II (Map of the Study Area)

Annex III (Photograph)

List of Tables

	Page
1.1 Age Structure in Nepal by Broad Categories (1952-54 & 1991 -2001)...	5
4.1 Previous Status	28
4.2 Classification of the People Living in Pashupati Elderly People's Home on the Basis of Caste	29
4.3 Distribution of the People Living in Pashupati elderly people's Home on the Basis of Development Regions	30
4.4 Zonal Classification of the Elderly People Residing at Pashupati Elderly People's Home	31
4.5 District - wise population Distribution of the Elderly People Residing at Pashupati Elderly people's Home	32
4.6 Distribution of Elderly People with Respect to Age Group	33
4.7 Disabled People Taking Shelter at Pashupati Elderly People's Home	34
4.8 Respondents having their own homes	35
4.9 Reasons behind choosing to stay at the Elderly Home	36
4.10 Satisfaction Level pf Respondents on Quality of Services	37
4.11 Quality of food Served at Pashupati Elderly People's home	38
4.12 Quality of clothes provided at Pashupati Elderly People's Home	39
4.13 Voice Consideration	39
4.14 Medical Facilities	40
4.15 Health Facilities	41
4.16 Further Improvement	42
4.17 Status of the off-springs of the Respondents	44
4.18 Frequency of Visit by the Relatives	44
4.19 Functional Living Arrangement	45
4.20 Smoking Habit	46