



Physical Problems of Old Aged (60+ Years) Santhal Population of Two Municipal Areas of Jangal Mahal, West Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT The elderly population is increasing rapidly in India as well as around the world. In this present scenario of the great demographic shift, understanding the problems of the elderly population has become more important than ever. The present study aims to get a better understanding of the prevalence of a few common physical problems among the Santhal elderly population. This study also aims to find sex differences in the prevalence of physical problems. To fulfill the purpose, the present study was conducted among 300 elderly Santhals of Jangal Mahal (Paschim Medinipur and Jhargram), West Bengal. Very high prevalence was found for most of the problems under consideration, namely eye problems, hearing problems, skin problems, digestive problems, diabetes, diarrhea, cold and cough, bone or joint pain, and sleeping problems. Most of the chronic problems which do not affect daily life greatly are treated as small problems and believed as inevitable as a result of old age by the elderly respondents.