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PRINT: ISSN 0972-0073 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6802

Anthropologist, 13(2): 137-146 (2011)

DOI: 10.31901/24566802.2011/13.02.11

Assessment of the Extent of Social Isolation amongst the Aged for Various Dimensions of Social Isolation

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KEYWORDS Social Isolation. Aged. Males. Females. Family. Friends. Neighbours. Coping Mechanisms

ABSTRACT The present study was undertaken in 2008 to assess the extent of social isolation amongst the aged for various dimensions of social isolation. It is based upon 120 aged people (65 and above years), drawn from an urban setting (Ludhiana city). The sample was distributed equally over the three socio-economic strata (high, middle and low) and the two sexes. The results revealed that the males and females experienced social isolation in comparable proportions and degrees, across various dimensions of social isolation (family, friends, neighbours and coping mechanisms) and at all socio-economic levels (high, middle and low). The reported high levels of social isolation in both the sexes were impacted more by the family and friends rather than the neighbours and coping mechanisms dimensions.