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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page No.
1.	GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSIFICATION AND BANK PERFORMANCE: EVIDENCE FROM ETHIOPIA <i>DR. P. HRUSHIKESAVA RAO & ELEFACHEW MOSSISA</i>	1
2.	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FIRM RESOURCES AND SMALL FIRM GROWTH IN BANGLADESH <i>MD. MOSHARREF HOSSAIN, YUSNIDAH IBRAHIM & MD. MOHAN UDDIN</i>	6
3.	INNOVATION NETWORK IN TAIWAN TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY BASED UPON SOCIAL NETWORK PERSPECTIVE <i>CHUN-YAO TSENG & TZU-LIN CHIANG</i>	11
4.	ADVENT OF THE RETAIL SECTOR IN INDIAN ECONOMY: A PERSPECTIVE ACROSS DECADE <i>SWATI SAXENA & DR. HUSEIN ABDULRAHIM HASAN</i>	16
5.	GOODS AND SERVICES TAX: A LEAP FORWARD ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT <i>MINAKSHI GUPTA</i>	19
6.	INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING UNDER-PRICING: A CASE STUDY OF TWITTER IPO <i>SAVITHA, P & B. SHIVARAJ</i>	25
7.	THE CONFINE OF EFFICIENT CONTRACT BETWEEN PRINCIPALS AND DISTRIBUTORS PERFECTLY CONTROL MARKETING MIX STRATEGIES: CHANNEL MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE OF FAST MOVING CONSUMER GOODS (FMCG) INDUSTRIES IN INDONESIAN <i>DR. AGUS TRIHATMOKO, R., DR. MUGI HARSONO, DR. SALAMAH WAHYUNI & DR. TULUS HARYONO</i>	31
8.	AN ANALYSIS OF NON PERFORMING ASSETS OF INDIAN BANKS <i>OMBIR & SANJEEV BANSAL</i>	37
9.	FINO'S TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE YESHASVINI COOPERATIVE FARMERS HEALTH CARE SCHEME <i>DR. G. KOTRESHWAR & V.GURUSIDDARAJU</i>	43
10.	PERFORMANCE OF FISH WORKERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES <i>A. NALINI & DR. P. ASOKAN</i>	46
11.	A STUDY ON ASSOCIATION AND CAUSALITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NSE EQUITY SPOT AND DERIVATIVE MARKETS <i>SATYANARAYANA KOILADA</i>	48
12.	DIVIDEND POLICY AND ITS IMPACT ON STOCK PRICE: A CASE STUDY ON SENSEX COMPANIES <i>BHAGYA LAKSHMI.K & DR. N. BABITHA THIMMAIAH</i>	54
13.	IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR OF INDIAN ECONOMY <i>IBRAHIM CHOLAKKAL</i>	58
14.	A STUDY ON GROWTH AND INSTABILITY IN INDIA'S BANANA CULTIVATION AND EXPORT <i>DR. R. GANESAN</i>	62
15.	ROLE OF ASHA WORKERS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH REFERENCE TO KOTTAYAM DISTRICT <i>TISSY ERUTHICKAL</i>	66
16.	ROLE OF MECHANIZATION IN AGRICULTURAL IN THE PRESENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATIONS: A CASE STUDY OF ANDHRA PRADESH <i>H. RAMANJINEYULU & DR. K. SOMASEKHAR</i>	70
17.	CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL <i>RIDDHIMA MUNSHI & DR. SANJAY SOLANKI</i>	73
18.	DYNAMIC CAUSALITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FDI INFLOWS, TRADE BALANCE, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN WORLDWIDE SELECTED TOP 25 HOST COUNTRIES DURING POST LIBERALIZATION REGIME: A QUANTITATIVE APPROACH <i>SARMITA GUHA RAY</i>	78
19.	WORKING CONDITIONS OF THE UNORGANISED SECTOR IN KERALA: REFERENCE TO SALES WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE SHOPS <i>FREEDA V SIMON</i>	84
20.	INTRA-GENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE AGED PENSIONERS OF BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA <i>AMITA MOHAPATRA</i>	86
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK & DISCLAIMER	91

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INTRA-GENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE AGED PENSIONERS OF BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA

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ABSTRACT

The present study focuses on the relationship between the intra-generational old aged pensioners of Bhubaneswar, Odisha through analyzing their socio-economic status and health related issues to measure their wellbeing. The study used 150 sample of Bhubaneswar, Odisha by using stratified sampling method where the lists of pensioners are collected from the District Treasury Office and Nationalized banks. Hence, the present study used survey method for data collection. The data was collected from aged-pensioners of Bhubaneswar, Odisha region. The reason for choosing Bhubaneswar is that, the number of aged-pensioners is higher in this state. The study adopted diagnostic research design. After data collection, the study made different statistical tests include chi-square test, correlation, regression, etc. The study findings show that the most of the aged-pensioners getting support from her son and daughter-in-law. Further those people are getting emotional support from sisters and brothers. Also, the aged -pensioners shared more social support, monetary support and physical assistance to their brothers compared to their sisters. The majority of the aged- pensioners visited their brothers (72%) and sisters (65.3) occasionally. The frequency distribution clearly indicates that a maximum number of aged-pensioners had the excellent relationship with their brothers who had the residence within 20 Kms distance; while with sisters have within 50 Kms distance. The study concluded that there is a significant association between aged-pensioners' relationship with siblings and siblings' residence distance. The study recommends that future researchers should focus on other states of India.

KEYWORDS

Odisha region, aged-pensioners, intra-generational relationship.

INTRODUCTION

The evolving demographic phenomenon in a global pattern is the rise in population of the aged group. The world statistics report in the year 2000 depicted 8.2 % of the total population belonged to 60 years and above, whereas the trend is projected to burgeon in 2050 by contributing to 21.1% of the total population (Raju, 2011). Asian continent contributes to 53% of the total aged population in the world which reveals the fact that India and China. Almost 100 million people in India are 60 years and above which has been forecasted to upsurge to 323 million by the year 2050 which could contribute to 20% of the entire population (The Economic Times, 2012). According to census statistics 2011 (Census India, 2011), it is evident that 9.3 % population of Odisha are of people aged 60 years and above, out of which aged people in rural India.

Old age citizens in India are facing several problems related to gender aging, economic status, dependency factors, health issues, disability problems, family relationships, fear of losing dear ones and other security issues regarding society (Jamuna, 2000). The transformation occurring in the contemporary society has brought in various social problems such as changes in lifestyles, economic well-being, shrinkage of family structure from joint families to nuclear families. The transformation of work culture regarding urbanization and globalization has also played its part in affecting the traditional values and beliefs of people (Raju, 2011). The need for caring has arisen amongst the elderly in the recent years because of the rising conflicts with the younger generation. Caregivers are essential for elderly people who can be either sibling, intra-generational people or other inter-generational people (Prasad and Rani, 2007). The present study focuses on the relationship between the intra-generational old aged-pensioners of Bhubaneswar Odisha through analyzing their socio-economic status and health related issues to measure their wellbeing.

THE INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIP AMONG AGED-PENSIONERS IN INDIAN FAMILIES

Researchers in recent times have shown increased interest to study in aging families. The reason could be due to the fast growth of aging population and more concerns towards care and support system available throughout the world. Moreover, the structural and compositional change in families might have repercussion on the senior citizens. The structure of multigenerational families has gone for a change with an increase in life expectancy. Again, the aspect of joint survivorship within the generation and across it is the reason behind availing increased periods of support exchanges and better connections over the life span. However, relationships in aging families have also gone for a change due to reduced fertility, more divorce cases, remarriage, and stepfamily formation. Here the spousal and sibling relationship matter. There is a need to analyze implications of more diversity in kinship structures, where the concern is to provide support and care giving to aged family members as there has been reduced family commitment. There are efforts to provide holistic support to the aging families. However, empirical research in this area requires categorizing in terms of relation, between parents and adult children, grandparents and grandchildren, husbands and wives, including siblings (Silverstein and Giarrusso, 2010).

PAST STUDIES ON INTRA-GENERATIONAL RELATIONS

Past decade has witnessed numerous studies providing attention towards aging-related problems and their relationship issues in the family which has increased in a complex manner. Conflicts on handling aged people are increasing among families who insist on providing proper care to senior citizens. The family is the supporting system which emphasizes on offering care and attention to both aged people and children. The early works of family relationships have much-discussed issues for younger children, older age groups, and adult offsprings. The modification in the household structures has altered the patterns of fertility, birth, and death which have provided a deeper insight into intergenerational structures of the family in a vertical pattern. Whereas the intra-generational relationships are shrinking in a horizontal pattern due to the nuclear family structures adopted. The vertical pattern of relationships is becoming more complex and high to maintain durability than the earlier cases. The drastic changes in the behavior of younger generation are the major issue related to vertical structure. An asymmetry is witnessed across intergenerational relationships. In the earlier days, old age people survived by their children and grandchildren whereas, in this scenario, it is evident that present generation does not have surviving grandparents due to high mortality index. Many people had lost their parents even before becoming adults (Uhlenberg, 1996). Harper (2005) insists that shift in family relationships and modernization has resulted in an increase of generations but at the same time decreased the relatives.

The environments in which the families and relationships are prevailing are responsible for their interdependencies upon each other. Caregiving to elder people by the family members is inevitable as the lifetime has doubled since before (Wolff and Kasper, 2006). There are various aspects related to caregiving such as offering personal care, helping in household works, preparing and serving meals, financial support, taking them for shopping, medical assistance, supporting their day-to-day activities, supervising their services and offering companionship to prevent their loneliness (Roberto and Jarrott, 2008). The early literature works depicted that women were providing better care to elder people than men (Silverstein et al., 2006). The meta-analysis of prior studies identified the active female caregivers who offering better care, personal assistance to elderly people and faced heavy burden than male. Women offered extended hours of care to provide support and were prone to massive depression state in handling aged people (Pinquart and Sörensen, 2006). Caregiving women struggle to maintain their labor-force participation to perform their duties in a full-fledged manner. The dilemma of maintaining this balance becomes a stress factor to women, and men do not

much support these women. It is noteworthy to mention that caregivers even working for full-time not able to give proper care. Thus, there is an element risk attached to the recipients as their meets are not satisfied entirely(Scharlach et al., 2007). Those who receive care also make a difference to overall caregiving procedures. It was identified from the meta-analysis that caregivers to dementia victims went through more stress and both physical and mental burnout than recipients without dementia and caregivers (Pinquart and Sörensen, 2003).

Without working as, a team of family and friends, care giving to the needy might not be adequate to fulfill the requisite needs. Facilitating care giving also involves hierarchical structure, where the prime care provider coordinates with the subordinate caregivers. Research carried out in this regard indicates that there is a fine network of caregiver and primary providers, which results in better outcome. A study conducted at the national level among the personnel of care networks and primary caregivers revealed that there was a change in composition, i.e. rotation for every two years. As a result, the aspect of a rotating basis, it reduced the stress and physical burden of the caregiver (Szinovacz and Davey, 2007).

The extensive literature majorly analyzes the spouse caregivers of elderly people in comparison with other care giving persons in the family, especially their adult children. The earlier research has validated that depression symptoms have increased in aged people due to the transition in the pattern of caregiving. This depression is witnessed amongst both spouse and adult caregivers (Marks et al., 2002). Whereas, the researchers revealed that variations in the responses of care giving were based on their relationship existing among the recipients and the caregivers. At certain extents, adult children found the existence of greater emotional bonding with aged people regarding care giving than the caregiving by their spouses(Raschick and Ingersoll-Dayton, 2004). This fact suggests that variation of relationship across different families' result in either positive or negative relationship with the recipients and caregivers.

Prior evidence reveals the fact that grandparents are expecting a greater level of care and attention from their grandchild which either affects or supports their physical and mental health depending upon their existence of relationship(Hughes et al., 2007). Grand children caring their grandparents suffer from emotional stress and behavioral problems compared to parental caregivers. The situation is not surprising as the difference exists in offering care giving to parental and grandparent levels(Musil et al., 2002).Grandparents who provide caregiving as well suffer from family stress and strain, poor relationships with intergeneration members of the family which result in imbalance off physical and mental health (Musil et al., 2006). The role of caregiver itself has been cited as an excited state, especially for offering care to grandparents(Landry-Meyer and Newman, 2004).

METHODS

RESEARCH DESIGN

The present study aimed to analyze the intra-generational relationship of aged-pensioners of Bhubaneswar, Odisha. To understand the relationship of those aged-pensioners, the study adopted conclusive research design, where the researcher had taken diagnostic research design to understanding how the intra-generational relationship among aged-pensioners in Indian families. This design allows understanding the nature and dimensions of the problem and enabling the researcher to analyze the problem which in turn leads to an identification of appropriate remedial actions. Further, the design also allows determining the problems faced by the aged-pensioners due to relationship gap with brothers and their sisters. Thereby, it allows developing the possible policy measures to secure the aged-pensioners. Therefore, the diagnostic research design adopted in this study was justified.

SAMPLING

The present study used a stratified purposive sampling method to select respondents. Odisha has 30 districts while the study selected Bhubaneswar, the capital city, using stratified purposive sampling method, where the list of pensioners are collected from the District Treasury Office and Nationalized banks. Snowball sampling is an approach for locating information-rich key informants. Since the objective is to identify the aged-pensioners based on the classes of service, caste and other socio-economic variables of Bhubaneswar, Odisha, the snowball technique was justified.

DATA COLLECTION

There are two types of data collection method. Primary data was collected from the aged-pensioners with the help of interview schedule. This is an interview made with a detailed, consistent schedule. The same questions are put to all the respondents and in the same order. In the schedule, usually a set of questions are asked and filled by an interviewer in a face- to-face situation with another. According to Goode and Hatt (1968),the schedule is the name usually applied to a set of questions which are asked and filled by an interviewer, in the face to face situation with another. As per Creswell (2001), questionnaires are considered as the most cost-efficient data collection tool that enables in gathering large volumes of data at a short span of time. A questionnaire has developed comprising of simple, rigid, open-ended and close-ended questionnaires.

MODE OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Both open and closed ended questionnaire are included in the survey questionnaire. The first section of questionnaire covers the general background of the respondents include name, age, sex, marital status, religion, mother tongue, caste, religion, present occupation, income, education, income from the present occupation, assets possessed and membership in organizations. Secondly, the section covers family particulars; educational institutions attended, parents' background, brothers or sisters' background, service particulars, personal liability fulfilled during the service period, perk during the service period, financial position of respondents, nature of service and quality of time spent with family. Further sections covered daily routine activities and other queries make based on health status, social visits, food habits, leisure time activities, intra and the intergenerational relationship of respondents.

FINDINGS

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUSES OF RESPONDENTS

TABLE 1: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

Socio-Economic Status	Frequency (n)	Percent (%)
Gender		
Male	139	92.7
Female	11	7.3
Total	150	100.0
Education		
Intermediate	19	12.7
Graduation	80	53.3
PG	40	26.7
Other	11	7.3
Total	150	100.0
Present occupation		
NA	105	70.0
Private	9	6.0
Retired	33	22.0
Social worker	3	2.0
Total	150	100.0
Source of income		
Pension	150	100.0
Total	150	100.0

The socio-economic statuses viz., education, occupation, and income of respondents are presented in Table 1. This study contains around 93 percent of aged male pensioners and 7 percent of aged female pensioners. When considered the education status, the majority of the respondents completed graduation (53%) followed by, 27 percent completed post-graduation, and 13 percent completed intermediate level. Also, all the respondents' source of income was a pension. Hence, the most of the respondents did not work anywhere after their retirement while 6 percent worked in the private organization and 2 percent worked as a social worker.

AGED-PENSIONERS' RELATIONSHIP WITH SPOUSE

TABLE 2: AGED-PENSIONERS' RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR SPOUSE

Stay Together	Frequency (n)	Percent (%)
With spouse, if alive do you stay together? (Yes)	128	85.3
Without spouse	22	14.7
Total	150	100.0
Amount give to spouse		
2000	11	7.3
2400	18	12.0
3000	78	52.0
4000	21	14.0
Frequency of giving amount		
Occasionally	79	61.7
Regularly	49	38.3
Total	128	100.0
During stays the same place	Yes,/Reg.	No/Occ.
Do you stay in the same room	102	0
Do you eat together	84	0
Do you go for walk together	30	63
Do you perform puja together	22	71
Do you visit the doctor together	30	63
Do you go for marketing together	19	92
Change of relationship with spouse after retirement		
Enough time to talk	18	12.0
No	44	29.3
Yes	66	44.0

Table 2 presents the relationship of aged-pensioners with their spouse. The findings indicate that the majority of the aged-pensioners (n=128) lived along with their spouse. When considered the amount tender to a spouse, 52 percent of aged-pensioners provided 3000 rupees to their spouse to spend for personal followed by, 14 percent gave rupees 4000, 12 percent gave rupees 2400 and so on. Also, 62 percent of aged-pensioners gave the money to spouse occasionally while 38 percent gave the money regularly. Also, 102 aged-pensioners stayed along with their spouse in the same room. Among the 102 aged-pensioners, 84 ate together with their spouse, 22 did puja together, and 30 visited the doctor together, and only 19 respondents went for marketing together. Out of 150 respondents, 66 respondents realized the change of relationship with their spouse, after retirement.

TABLE 3: AGED-PENSIONERS' SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUSES AND USUAL BEHAVIOR ALONG WITH THEIR SPOUSE

SES	Eat together		Walk together		Puja together		Doctor together		Marketing	
	Reg.	Occ.	Reg.	Occ.	Reg.	Occ.	Reg.	Occ.	Reg.	Occ.
Education										
Intermediate	10	-	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	10
Graduation	42	-	10	41	22	29	20	31	11	50
PG	32	-	10	22	-	32	10	22	8	32
Occupation										
Private	-	-	-	9	-	9	9	-	-	9
Social worker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Retired	33	-	-	33	11	22	11	22	-	33
NA	51	-	30	21	11	40	10	41	16	50
Income										
10001-30000	83	-	30	62	21	71	30	62	10	92
30001-50000	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	9	-

Where SES-Socio-Economic Status, Reg.- Regularly, Occ.-Occasionally

Table 3 shows that the majority of the aged-pensioners who are graduates and retired regularly ate along with their spouse. However, they walked evening and visited the doctor occasionally with their spouse. Also, the most of the aged-pensioners who are post-graduates and retired did puja and went marketing together with a spouse. Furthermore, the findings reveal that aged-pensioners who receive a pension amount 10001-30000 did walk evening, puja, visit doctor and marketing along with their spouse.

TABLE 4: FACTORS AFFECTING FREQUENCY OF GIVING AMOUNT TO SPOUSE

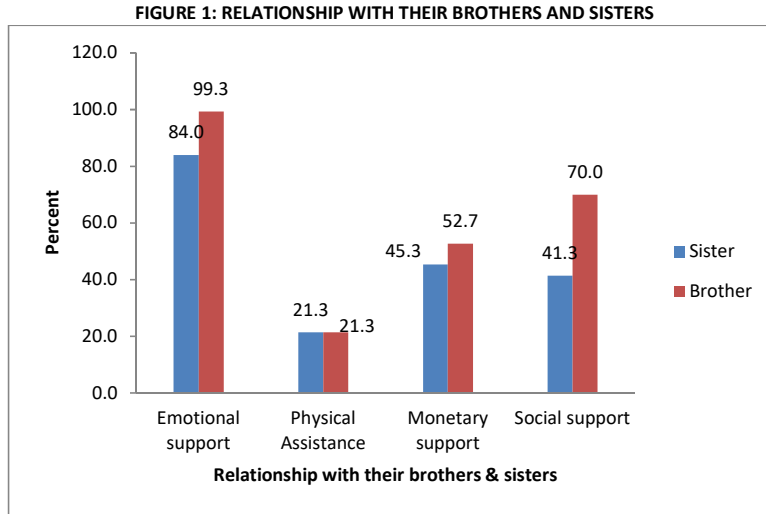
Independent variables	Beta	S.E.	p-value
Education (Intermediate)	-21.371	12710.133	.999
Education (Graduation)	-1.691	.524	.001**
Occupation (Private)	-19.679	13397.657	.999
Occupation (Retired)	1.775	.520	.001**
Occupation (Social worker)	-.204	28153.779	1.000
Pension (<10000)	63.573	24396.482	.998
Pension (10001-30000)	21.167	15941.883	.999
Constant	-20.999	15941.883	.999

Dependent Variable: Frequency of giving amount (1-Regularly)

Cox & Snell R²: 0.413 & Nagelkerke R²: 0.561

Table 4 shows the factors affecting the frequency of giving the amount to the spouse. The statistical model constructed by the frequency of giving the amount to spouse regularly as a dependent variable and socio-economic status of aged-pensioners as independent variables. In the model, the set of independent variables could explain 41 (Cox & Snell R²: 0.413) to 56 (Nagelkerke R²: 0.561) percent of variations in the dependent variable. The level of significance values (p<0.05) clearly

can note that aged-pensioners' education (graduation) and occupation (retired) significantly predicted the frequency of giving the amount to the spouse. Hence, it would lead to conclude the graduate aged-pensioners who are not involved in any work after the retirement rendered the money to their spouse regularly.



Aged-pensioners' relationship with their brothers and sisters are demonstrated in figure 1. The findings illustrate that a maximum number of aged-pensioners shared emotional support to their brothers and sisters. Also, the aged-pensioners shared more social support, monetary support and physical assistance to their brothers compared to their sisters.

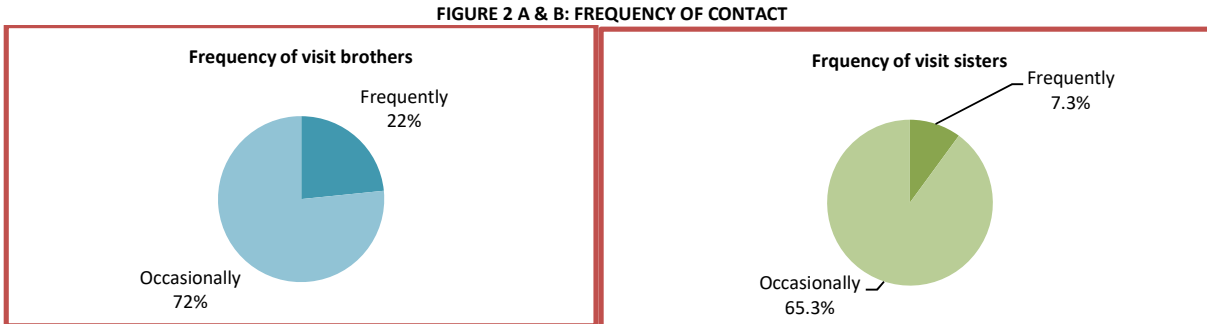


Figure 2 A & B shows the frequency of aged pensioners visit their brothers and sisters. From the analysis, it is observed that the majority of the aged-pensioners visited their brothers (72%) and sisters (65.3) occasionally while a few number of aged-pensioners visited frequently (brothers (22%) & sisters (7.3%).

TABLE 5: ASSOCIATION BETWEEN AGED-PENSIONERS' RELATIONSHIP WITH SIBLINGS AND SIBLINGS' RESIDENCE DISTANCE

Brothers residence distance from respondents (in KM)	Brothers' relation		Chi-square (p-value)
	Good	V. Good	
	n (%)		
Below 20KM	18 (26.1)	29 (40.3)	21.373 (0.001**)
21-40	11 (15.9)	11 (15.3)	
41-60	30 (43.5)	11 (15.3)	
61-80	0 (0)	10 (13.8)	
Above 80	10 (14.5)	11 (15.3)	
Sisters residence distance from respondents (in KM)	Sisters' relation		Chi-square (p-value)
	Good	V Good	
	n (%)		
Below 50	39 (67.2)	29 (56.9)	22.313 (0.001**)
51-100	10 (17.2)	0 (0)	
101-200	9 (15.5)	11 (21.6)	
Above 201	0 (0)	11 (21.6)	

Table 5 presents the association between aged-pensioners' relationship with siblings and siblings' residence distance using chi-square test. The frequency distribution clearly indicates that a maximum number of aged-pensioners had the very good relationship with their brothers who had the residence within 20 Kms distance while 26 percent had a good relationship with their brothers. Likewise, around 43 percent of aged-pensioners possessed the good relationship with their brothers who had the residence distance from 41 to 60 Kms while 15 percent of aged-pensioners had very good relationship with their brothers. Similarly, when considered the aged-pensioners' relationship with their sisters, the most of the aged-pensioners had the good relationship with their sisters who had the residence within 50 Kms distance while 60 percent had an excellent relationship with their sisters. Also, the significance values revealed that there was a significant association between aged-pensioners' relationship with siblings and siblings' residence distance.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The study findings show that majority of the respondents are aged-male pensioners who have completed education status, the majority of the respondents completed graduation. Also, Pension was the source of income for all the respondents. Hence, the most of the respondents did not work anywhere after their retirement. The findings indicate that the majority of the aged-pensioners lived along with their spouse. When considered the amount render to a spouse, 52 percent of aged-pensioners provided 3000 rupees to their spouse to spend for personal. Also, 53 percent of aged-pensioners gave the money to spouse occasionally. Also, 102 aged-pensioners stayed along with their spouse in the same room. Out of 150 respondents, 66 respondents realized the change of relationship with their spouse, after retirement. The majority of the aged-pensioners who are graduates and retired regularly ate along with their spouse. However, they walked

evening and visited the doctor occasionally with their spouse. In addition, the most of the aged-pensioners who are post-graduates and retired did puja and went marketing together with a spouse. Furthermore, the findings reveal that aged-pensioners who receive a pension amount 10001-30000 did walk evening, puja, visit doctor and marketing along with their spouse.

The factors affecting the frequency of giving the amount to the spouse. The findings illustrate that a maximum number of aged-pensioners shared emotional support with their brothers and sisters. Also, the aged-pensioners shared more social support, monetary support and physical assistance to their brothers compared to their sisters. From the analysis, it is observed that the majority of the aged-pensioners visited their brothers (72%) and sisters (65.3) occasionally. The association between aged-pensioners' relationship with siblings and siblings' residence distance is computed using chi-square test. The frequency distribution clearly indicates that a maximum number of aged-pensioners had the excellent relationship with their brothers who had the residence within 20KM distance. Similarly, when considered the aged-pensioners' relationship with their sisters, the most of the aged-pensioners had the good relationship with their sisters who had the residence within 50KM distance. In addition, the significance values revealed that there was a significant association between aged-pensioners' relationship with siblings and siblings' residence distance.

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