St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata

organizes

ICSSR Sponsored One-Day National Seminar on

Enhancing Quality of Life and Addressing Vulnerability Issues Among India's Elderly Population

December 14, 2024

About St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata

Founded in 1860 by the Society of Jesus, a Catholic minority religious order, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, stands as a testament to the transformative power of Jesuit education within a Christian minority context. For over 164 years, the college has nurtured generations of students, fostering intellectual curiosity, ethical leadership, and a commitment to service. Initially affiliated with Calcutta University in 1862, St. Xavier's embarked on a journey of academic distinction, culminating in its well-deserved autonomy in 2006. This significant milestone marked a new era of self-governance and academic innovation. The University Grants Commission recognized the college's immense potential, bestowing upon it the prestigious "College with Potential for Excellence" status in the same year. St. Xavier's College's unwavering pursuit of excellence has garnered consistent recognition. In 2014, St. Xavier's was awarded the coveted "College of Excellence" status by the UGC, followed by "College with a Special Heritage Status," acknowledging its unique historical and cultural significance, in 2015. The college achieved the highest possible NAAC rating of A++ with a CGPA of 3.77, a testament to its unwavering commitment to quality education. St. Xavier's College, Kolkata secured the All India 6th rank in the esteemed India Ranking 2024 for colleges, conducted by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

About ICSSR

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), established by the Government of India in 1969, is dedicated to promoting research in social sciences across the country. ICSSR provides grants for various research-related activities such as projects, fellowships, international collaborations, seminars, conferences, and publications. It supports capacity-building programs and surveys to enhance research output. Additionally, the National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC), a part of ICSSR, offers library and information services to social science researchers. ICSSR also operates the ICSSR Data Service, facilitating data sharing and reuse to foster a strong research environment within the social sciences community in India. The Council plays a vital role in sponsoring research programs, offering scholarships, promoting interdisciplinary research, and supporting publications in the field of social sciences.

About Vision Viksit Bharat@2047

Vision Viksit Bharat@2047 aims to position India as a developed nation by 2047, based on advancements in socio-economic, cultural, political, and technological domains. The initiative underscores the importance of interdisciplinary research to identify and address challenges through strategic policy interventions. Social science research, employing mixed methodologies such as inductive and deductive approaches, is seen as critical in guiding policymakers toward sustainable development. The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) supports this vision by inviting collaborative research projects focusing on evidence-based policy suggestions, new strategies, and innovative solutions across various sectors. Researchers are encouraged to collaborate across institutions and disciplines, fostering innovation and experimentation in areas like Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), resource optimization, and socio-economic growth. These projects aim to break from traditional approaches and offer actionable frameworks to propel India toward becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Concept Note

India stands today on the brink of a momentous demographic transformation. While it has long been recognized for its youthful population, the nation bears testimony to an unprecedented surge in its elderly population, which is expected to constitute nearly 20 percent of the total population by 2050 (Paltasingh & Tyagi, 2012; Agarwal et al., 2016, UNFPA, 2023). This shift presents unique challenges and opportunities. On the one hand, India faces substantial obstacles in addressing the healthcare needs, financial security, and social inclusion of its ageing population (Sahoo et al., 2023). On the other hand, the escalating number of elderly populace presents a wealth of opportunities for technological interventions to augment their quality of life in terms of telemedicine, wearable health monitors, and AI-powered platforms, which can provide them with real-time health monitoring, enhance access to healthcare services, and reduce social isolation through virtual support networks (Wilmink et al., 2020, Haleem et al., 2021, Shiwani et al., 2023). Embracing active ageing initiatives and reinforcing social safety nets can help disengage the potential of such a demographic transformation. As India transitions into an Ageing society, it becomes increasingly crucial to recognize and address the vulnerabilities that older adults face. This 'demographic dividend' can only be fully realized with a deep understanding of these challenges and a commitment to establishing robust support systems (Barik et al., 2015).

Economic insecurity remains a significant concern, as many older adults in India rely heavily on family support or inadequate social security measures (Muhammad et al., 2021). This vulnerability is further compounded by the limited reach and effectiveness of existing government schemes. A critical gap persists between policy formulation and implementation, hindering the widespread adoption of social security programs designed for older adults (Asri, 2019). Several factors contribute to this implementation gap. Research suggests a lack of awareness about existing schemes, complex application processes, and cumbersome documentation requirements hinder access to social security programs or schemes designed for older adults (Kohli et al., 2017). Furthermore, the social stigma of seeking financial assistance prevents some older adults from accessing available support (Burholt et al., 2020, Maurya et al., 2022). Compounding these economic challenges are the escalating issues of social isolation and elder abuse, exacerbated by rapid urbanization and evolving family structures. Traditional family-based support systems, while crucial, are strained by increasing migration and the rise of nuclear families. This shift necessitates exploring alternative support mechanisms, including community-based initiatives, NGO-led interventions, and technology-driven platforms, to bridge the gap in care provision. A deeper understanding of the needs and experiences of older adults, particularly those facing multiple and overlapping vulnerabilities, is crucial for developing effective interventions. Research that examines the interplay of economic insecurity, social isolation, and elder abuse within the context of India's ageing population is essential to inform policy and program development (Ingle & Nath, 2008, Evandrou et al., 2017, Ghosh, 2023).

The ICSSR-Sponsored National Seminar under the aegis of the Vision Viksit Bharat@2047 collaborative research project, organized by St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, aims to address these critical issues through interdisciplinary discourse. The seminar aims to bring together leading academics, researchers, policymakers, social workers, healthcare professionals, NGOs, and students to engage in deliberations on the social, economic, and health implications of India's ageing population. It will explore the multidimensional vulnerabilities faced by the elderly, encompassing physical health challenges, such as the increasing burden of chronic diseases and mental health concerns, including the rising incidence of depression and cognitive decline. The seminar further seeks to highlight the critical need for affordable and accessible healthcare services tailored to the elderly population. The seminar also aims to emphasize promoting healthy ageing by centering on preventive healthcare measures, mental well-being, and initiatives that encourage active participation of older adults in society. The seminar aspires to generate momentum toward building a society that recognizes the skills, experience, and contributions of the elderly, ensuring that they remain valuable, active members of their communities.

Key Themes & Sub-themes

Theme 1: Demographic Shifts and the Ageing Population
- *Opportunities and Challenges of Ageing Societies*
- *Trends, Projections, and Regional Variations of Ageing*
- *Global and National Policy Responses to Ageing Populations*
- *Socioeconomic Implications of Ageing on National Development*

Theme 2: Economic Security, Livelihoods, and Financial Inclusion of Older Adults
- *Economic Insecurity and Financial Dependence in Later Life*
- *Challenges and Innovations of Social Security and Pension Systems*
- *Banking, Digital Payments, Financial Literacy for building Financial Inclusion for the Elderly*
- *Employment, Retirement, and Income Generation Opportunities for the Elderly*

Theme 3: Healthcare Systems and Well-being of the Elderly
- *Age-related Health Issues and Geriatric Care Systems*
- *Integrating Traditional and Modern Healthcare Approaches for Elderly Care*
- *The Role of Technology in Healthcare Delivery*
- *Addressing Mental Health Issues in Ageing*

Theme 4: Social Inclusion and Community Support for Older Adults
- *Social Isolation and Loneliness: Understanding and Addressing the Issue*
- *Family, Community, and Institutional Roles in Elderly Support Networks*
- *Urbanization, Migration, and Changing Family Structures*
- *The Role of NGOs, Civil Society, and Faith-Based Organizations in Elderly Welfare*

Theme 5: Technology, Innovation, and Ageing
- *The Role of Assistive Technologies and Digital Platforms in Enhancing Elderly Well-being*
- *Innovations in Health Monitoring for the Elderly*
- *Addressing Digital Divide for the Elderly by enhancing Social Connectivity for the Elderly*
- *Ethical Considerations in the Use of AI and Robotics in Elderly Care*

Theme 6: Policy Frameworks and Governance for an Ageing Population
- *Policy Innovations for Healthy Ageing at the National or International Level*
- *Challenges in Implementing Social Security Programs for the Elderly*
- *Urban Planning, Public Spaces, and Mobility Solutions for Older Adults*
- *Public-Private Partnerships in Elder Care*

Theme 7: Ageing and Social Vulnerability
- *Economic, Health, and Social Vulnerabilities in Ageing*
- *Gender-Specific Vulnerabilities and Challenges Faced by Elderly Women*
- *Preventing Elder Abuse by Identifying, Addressing, and Preventing Neglect & Mistreatment*
- *Cultural, Religious, and Social Norms in Shaping Elderly Care Practices*

Theme 8: Promoting Active and Healthy Ageing
- *Preventive Healthcare and Wellness Programs for the Elderly*
- *Lifelong Learning and Skill Development for Older Adults*
- *Encouraging Civic Engagement and Volunteering Among the Elderly*
- *The Role of Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Mental Well-being in Promoting Healthy Ageing*

Theme 9: Ageing, Society, and Intergenerational Solidarity
- *Intergenerational Relationships in Elder Care*
- *Building Intergenerational Solidarity through Community Initiatives*
- *Economic, Social, and Psychological Impact of Ageing on Younger Generations*
- *The Role of Education and Awareness in Bridging Generational Gaps*

Theme 10: The Future of Ageing in India
- *Exploring Future Directions for Research on Ageing in India*
- *The Role of Sustainable Development and Ageing in India's Economic and Social Future*
- *Long-Term Planning for Ageing Populations by building Age-Resilient Societies*
- *Balancing Institutional and Home-Based Care for Older Adults*

Note: The themes and sub-themes listed above are not exhaustive, and authors can explore additional related topics that align with the overarching themes of Ageing and elderly care.

Who can Participate in the Seminar?

- Academics and researchers from various disciplines (sociology, economics, public health, etc.)
- Policymakers
- Healthcare professionals and geriatric care specialists
- Social workers and practitioners focused on elderly welfare
- Representatives from NGOs and civil society organizations
- Students and research scholars interested in ageing-related issues

Registration Fees

There are no registration fees for presenting papers in the seminar. However, participants and paper presenters must register for the seminar.

Important Dates

- Extended Abstract Submission Deadline: November 10, 2024
- Notification of Abstract Acceptance: November 20, 2024
- Full Paper Submission Deadline: December 5, 2024
- Registration Deadline for Presenters: December 7, 2024
- Seminar Date: December 14, 2024

Submission Guidelines

Format for Extended Abstract:

The extended abstract should follow a specific format with a word limit of 1000-1200 words, using Times New Roman font, size 12, and a line spacing of 1.5. Paragraphs should be spaced with 1 line between them, and the margins should be set to 1 inch on all sides, with justified alignment. The file should be submitted in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx).

Structure of Extended Abstract:

The structure of the extended abstract should include a title in bold and centered, using a 14-point font. The author(s) name(s) should be centered, with affiliations mentioned in footnotes. Following the title and author information, 3-5 relevant keywords should be italicized at the end of the abstract. The abstract itself should be structured with an introduction that provides a brief background and objective of the research, followed by an overview of the research methodology. The results/findings section should summarize key results or expected outcomes, and the conclusion/implications should highlight the importance of the findings and their potential impact. References should follow APA citation styles.

Submission Process:

Submissions must be sent via email to icssrsxcproject@gmail.com by November 10, 2024. The file name should include the author's last name and the title without spaces (e.g., Roy_AgingPopulation.docx). All submissions must be original work that has not been published or presented elsewhere.

Publication Opportunities

Selected high-quality research papers from the seminar will have the opportunity to be published in an edited book by a reputable publisher. Papers chosen for publication will undergo a blind rigorous review process to ensure they meet the standards required for inclusion in the book.

Seminar Organizing Committee

Chief Patron:
Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata

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