The Central Statistics Office (CSO) presented all the relevant data for elderly at one place for the first time in 2000. The efforts of CSO continued and have resulted into bringing out the fourth edition of the publication titled, Elderly in India –Profile and Programmes, 2016.

The phenomenon of population ageing is becoming a major concern for the policy makers all over the world, both for developed and developing countries. India too is not immune to this demographic change. The changing demographic profile has thrown many new challenges in the social, economic and political domains. There is an emerging need to pay greater attention to ageing related issues and to promote holistic policies and programmes for dealing with ageing society.

The Key Highlights of the Report on Elderly in India are-

- According to Population Census 2011 there are nearly 104 million elderly persons (aged 60 years or above) in India; 53 million females and 51 million males.

- Both the share and size of elderly population is increasing over time. From 5.6% in 1961 the proportion has increased to 8.6% in 2011. For males it was marginally lower at 8.2%, while for females it was 9.0%. As regards rural and urban areas, 71% of elderly population resides in rural areas while 29% is in urban areas.

- The sex ratio among elderly people was as high as 1028 in 1951, subsequently dropped and again reached up to 1033 in 2011.

- The life expectancy at birth during 2009-13 was 69.3 for females as against 65.8 years for males. At the age of 60 years average remaining length of life was found to be about 18 years (16.9 for males and 19.0 for females) and that at age 70 was less than 12 years (10.9 for males and 12.3 for females).

- The old-age dependency ratio climbed from 10.9% in 1961 to 14.2% in 2011 for India as a whole. For females and males, the value of the ratio was 14.9% and 13.6% in 2011.

- In rural areas, 66% of elderly men and 28% of elderly women were working, while in urban areas only 46% of elderly men and about 11% of elderly women were working.

- The percent of literates among elderly persons increased from 27% in 1991 to 44% in 2011. The literacy rates among elderly females (28%) is less than half of the literacy rate among elderly males (59%).

- Prevalence of heart diseases among elderly population was much higher in urban areas than in
Most common disability among the aged persons was locomotor disability and visual disability as per Census 2011.

In the age-group of 60-64 years, 76% persons were married while 22% were widowed. Remaining 2% were either never married or divorced.

The cost-norms of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) Scheme implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been revised w.e.f 01-04-2015. The average increase in cost norm ranges between 70-110%.

Vayoshreshtha Samman, presented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to eminent and outstanding institutions or organizations and individuals in thirteen categories, has been conferred the National Award status in 2013.

Warm regards,

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