

# Role of Public Policy of Odisha for Protection of Elderly Rights: A Qualitative Study

Saroj Kanta Mishra\*<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Hiranmayee Mishra<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Political Science, Utkal University, Vanivihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha


<sup>2</sup>Reader, Department of Political Science, Udyanath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, Adaspur, Cuttack, Odisha

\*Email: [sarojkantamishra1@gmail.com](mailto:sarojkantamishra1@gmail.com)



<https://doi.org/10.55041/ijssmt.v2i4.160>

**Cite this Article:** Mishra, S. K. (2026). Role of Public Policy of Odisha for Protection of Elderly Rights: A Qualitative Study. *International Journal of Science, Strategic Management and Technology*, 02(04). <https://doi.org/10.55041/ijssmt.v2i4.160>

**License:**  This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), permitting use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author(s) and source are properly credited.

## ABSTRACT

Public policies enhance the objectives of democracy and development within our state's diverse society. To protect the rights of elderly populations, constitution of India makes various welfare schemes. Now days, senior citizens are facing many problems in our society due to insufficient financial assistance from government and irresponsibility from their children. Geriatric health issues, loneliness, harassment and financial crises are situations that hinder the right to life and personal liberty of older adults. In democratic era, our state needs to implement more effective policy for providing a secure and stress-free life to the elderly. Much research has been conducted in this field to explore how the condition of senior citizens in our society and in old age homes. Researcher emphasise the need to enhance the objectives of existing study and aims to focus on policy implementation for wellbeing of the senior citizens. This study examines the government initiatives and participation of civil society organizations to protect the rights of the elderly in Odisha. The study involved qualitative data collection through a field visit to some selected old age homes in Puri district of Odisha. Researcher also applied various methods such as, participant observations interviews and focus group discussions to ensure the results.

**Keywords:** Public policy, Democracy, Rights, Elderly populations, Geriatric health issues, Old age homes

## Introduction

Senior citizens are facing many problems in their life and they are neglected and exploited by their children. In democratic era state believes in ideology of liberalization, privatization and globalization. Due to modernization children want to live a standard life that shifted them abroad. Some elderly have adequate money to spend a standard life but they have lack of care, children's companion and cooperation. In Odisha financial insufficiency and lack of effective public policy elderly are not fulfilling their basic requirements. Children are remaining busy in their life where the older parents become isolated. To focus on mass media we can see various news regarding abuse, harassment and crime against elderly in Odisha. This study is a part of the PhD study "titled Public Policy of State of Odisha and Care of Senior Citizens: A Case Study of Old Age Homes in Puri District". The wellbeing of senior citizens is mandated in our constitution of India under Article 41 of the D.P.S.P., "The state shall within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to public assistance in cases of

senior citizens right to equality is guaranteed by the constitution as fundamental right. Social security as the concurrent responsibility of the Central and State Governments, the (UDHR) Universal Declaration of Human Rights declared right to social security is one of the basic human rights. Article 21 of the Constitution recognized right to life as a fundamental right which implies the right to live with dignity. It encompasses not only the security regarding the human needs of good, clothing and shelter but also health security and income security of the vulnerable sections of the society. The Govt. of India has announced The National Policy on senior citizens in the year 1999 which was subsequently revised in 2011. The policy provides broad guidelines in various areas for helping senior citizens of the country to realize their full potential. It laid down guidelines for the State Govt. to make similar action and the Dept. of Social Security and Empowerment of persons with disability. Govt. of Odisha has accordingly formulated state policy keeping in view The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. In spite of several legislative attempts the harassment, torture and atrocities against the senior citizens are increasing day by day in the society. When the traditional family support system is declining, it is the responsibility of the state to protect the rights and do welfare of the senior citizens. It is the moral and constitutional responsibility of the state for the active and productive involvement of the senior citizens in the social development and to ensure their right to independence. Self fulfilment, dignity, care and participation of the duty of the state to provide protection against abuse and exploitation of the senior citizens and should extend financial support, health care shelter, welfare and other needs. The state should recognize that the senior citizens are a valuable resource for the state, as they render useful service in the family and society. Adequate opportunities and facilities should be provided so that the senior citizens can continue to contribute more effectively to the family, community and the society. Priority should be given that care of senior citizens has to remain vested in the family instead of state sponsored institutional care. In Odisha the public policy regarding senior citizens should be effective. Government of Odisha is providing different kinds of effective policies like old age pension scheme, maintenance of parents, establishment of old age care home free health check up and treatment facilities and other policy for senior citizens.

## Review of Literatures

Brajaballav Kar conducted a study of “Factors affecting quality of life of older persons- A Qualitative Study from Bhubaneswar, India (2017) to find out the result how public policies of Odisha and India ensure the quality of life of senior citizens and its democratic values. The study interpreted the financial dependency of senior citizens on their children is very crucial mater of them. Here author also discussed about the benefits of different welfare policies. The result showed that inadequate financial assistance of state government leads to problems of senior citizens.

Namita Rath, Prasant Kumar Biswal and Susen Ku mar Panda (2017) in their study they stated about the care facilities of senior citizens in Odisha. This study focused on the different programmes and policies of Odisha like Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens, National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), National Programme for Health for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE), Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) and Senior Citizens’ Security Cell (SCSC). Authors suggested that these national and state policies and programmes are protecting the rights, dignity and liberty of senior citizens in Odisha. This study discussed about the health care facilities and geriatric care opportunities like formation of special elderly ward in hospitals of Odisha. This study informed about the day care and old age homes facilities in Odisha.. Finally authors stated that there are very few old age homes are established in our state of Odisha. Authors appealed to the government for establishing of more old age homes in Odisha because there are large number of older parents are not live a peaceful life within the family and society also.

Sanghamitra Mohanty, 2024, conducted a study titled “A Study of Rights of Parents and Senior Citizens under Law of Maintenance and Welfare in India” to find out how government has made provisions to protect the rights of elderly. She discussed about Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and 2009. Author analyzed that, elderly are exploited and neglected by their children in Odisha. She suggested for making effective provisions, set up medical camps, ensures separate queue system and increasing the amount of social assistance.

Tusahar Kumar Goyal in his article titled Social Security of The Senior Citizens: A Sociological Study of the Physical, Socio-Psychological and Economic Problems of the Elderly in Western Odisha to find out the causes of

elderly issues. He discussed about many problems such as, health issues, loneliness, social neglect, emotional distress and lack of family support and financial insufficiency faced by the elderly. He found that 68% of elderly faced loneliness and 54 % of elderly were financial dependent on their children. He collected data from 50 senior citizens from various districts of Western Odisha like Sambalpur, Baragarh, Balangir, Sonepur and Jharsuguda.

### Objectives of the Study

1. To make a situation analysis of the condition of elderly population in care homes in the study district. .
2. To evaluate the practices followed by the care homes, the challenges faced by them in ensuring adequate care.
3. To make a gap analysis between elderly care policies and practices in care homes.
4. To suggest some new strategies for protecting the elderly rights

### Research Methodology

This study is a part of the Ph.D. study titled “Public Policy of State of Odisha and Care of Senior Citizens: A Case Study of Old Age Homes in Puri District”. To find out the objectives of the study researcher conducted a field work. In field visit researcher met 120 elderly inmates from 8 old age homes of 6 blocks, namely Delang, Kanas, Nimapara, Pipili, Puri Sadar and Satyabadi in Puri District. The selected old age homes are aided by central government scheme Integrated Programme for Older People (IPOP) - 1992. This study selected 15 respondents from each old age homes among 120 senior citizens. The study is based on random sampling method where each respondent has an equal priority to give their consents. The selected elderly inmates were from age groups between 60 years and above. Including respondents were staying in old age homes or more, able to understand, reply questions and given written informed consent. Exclusion criteria of data collection were the respondents of non cooperative, physical unsound (e.g. Problem in Speech, Hearing and Vision). The researcher conducted field study through participant observations, focus group discussions and open ended questionnaire to explore the conditions of senior citizens in old age homes and execution of senior citizens policy in old age homes.

### How public policies protect the rights of elderly

To provide the rights to the elderly, central and state governments have implemented and executed comprehensive welfare policies for senior citizens. Article 21 of the Constitution of India recognized right to life as a fundamental rights which implies the right to live with dignity. It encompasses not only the security regarding the human needs of good, clothing and shelter but also health security and income security of the vulnerable sections of the society. Different central policies and programmes formulated for increasing the dignity and protecting rights, justice and liberty of senior citizens. Government of India launched National Policy of Older Persons in 1999. According to United Nation General Assembly Resolution no 47/5 objective this policy is to celebrate 1999 as International Year of Older Persons. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment started a programme named Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) in the year 2015 for well-being of senior citizens. Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Scheme is very useful pension policy for senior citizens of the country. Another policy titled Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is providing pension up to Rs 200 and Rs 500 per month. National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) started in 2010 in India. Aim and objective of this scheme is to provide health facilities to the senior citizens. Senior citizen are affected in different types of health problems in present days, therefore the government of India launched Varistha Mediciclaim Policy for stabilizing their health issues. This policy provides financial help for cost of medicines, blood, ambulance charges and other treatment related expenses. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment initiated Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund for providing financial security to senior citizens of India. It is a central government policy and it includes unclaimed amount for small savings and saving accounts. To increase the moral and social value of senior citizens a valuable policy inaugurated by the government of India is known as Vyoshrestha Samman. Reverse Mortgage Scheme launched by the Ministry of Finance of India in the year of 2007. The basic feature of this policy is to provide loan of 60% of value by mortgaging of residential property of senior citizens with a minimum tenures of 10 years. To protect the senior citizen those are living in old age home government of India started a policy known as Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens

(IPSRc). This policy was worked before Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) by the initiative of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Objective of this policy is to provide financial assistance for establishing of old age homes and its maintenance). In the year 2009 Insurance Regulatory Authority of India (IRDA) offered health insurance facility for senior citizen. The Ministry of Finance advised to CEO of every health insurance companies to allow entry into health insurance scheme till 65 years of age and other insurance privileges. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment started a programme named Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) in the year 2015 for well-being of senior citizen. This policy also aims to create senior citizen friendly cities in India. Indian railway offers concession in the fares and other amenities for senior citizens. In the year 2010-11 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a policy named National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE). Main focus of this policy is to provide a healthy and curable life to the senior citizens of India. This policy aimed that set up geriatric OPD and 10 bedded geriatric wards at hospitals. The Government of India has announced The National Policy on senior citizens in the year 1999 which was subsequently revised in 2011. The policy provides broad guidelines in various areas for helping senior citizens of the country to realize their full potential. It laid down guidelines for the State Govt. to make similar action and the Dept. of Social Security and Empowerment of persons with disability. Govt. of Odisha has accordingly formulated state policy keeping in view The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. To provide food security, healthy food supply and nutrition to the Senior citizen of Odisha the government started Emergency Feeding Programme. In 1995 this programme started in KBK District like, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Balangir, Sonepur, Nupada and Kalahandi District of Odisha. This programme is providing one square meal each day throughout the year. This programme also got financial help from the central government. Madhubabu Pension Yojana was launched in January 2008 in Odisha. It was inaugurated by chief minister Mr Naveen Patnaik. This policy is executed by Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Person with Disability. This policy is applicable for senior citizen who must be permanent resident of Odisha. To provide safety, right to live and security of senior citizens the government of Odisha established Senior Citizen Security Cell (SCSC) in the year 2012. This Cell creates in urban District of Khordha (Bhubaneswar) and Cuttack. Odisha State Senior Citizen Policy was launched in 2016 in consonance with the National Policy on Senior Citizen 2011. This policy provides a healthy, wealthy and peaceful life to the senior citizens of Odisha. As per this policy there have a provision to take special attention to the rural senior citizens and provide them health care, social support and stress free life. It promotes partnership across Public Departments, Urban and Local Bodies, Corporate sectors, Academic Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and national and international institution. Government of Odisha launched Barista Ngarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana in collaboration with IRCTC to provide religious tour to the senior citizens. This policy was enacted in Odisha in the year 2018 for holiest purpose. As per this policy the senior citizens can visit different religious destination within the country. This religious tour facilities applicable for poor senior citizen and they must have Antodaya card, Ration card, widow pension card, MGNREG job card etc.

## Results

The old age homes of study district were government aided institutions and comes under Integrated Policy for Senior Citizens (IPSRc) a component of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY). Each old age homes carried 25 inmates of both male and female. The researcher conducted interview with 120 respondent's in study district. Some elderly respondents stated that, they leaved peacefully within the old age homes. Some opined that old age homes gave them new life. Some revealed about the misbehaviours of care takers. Some revealed about uncomfortable room sharing and poor quality of food supply. The rooms were not properly ventilated, well-furnished and well cleaned. Majority of respondents affected in different chronic diseases but some from them had not any health cards Interviews showed that, inadequate financial aid from state or central government led to poor quality of services. The researcher felt policy gap between senior citizens policy practices in care homes. Different state and central senior citizens policies director provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical services, recreational activities and other services to elderly those living in care homes. But practically, the elderly stated reverse opinion. Some respondents revealed about the poor health services and medicine supply. Some respondents of the old age homes did not connect with any social security policies.

## Suggestions

To improve the welfare of senior citizens in Odisha, the state government could implement programmes focussed on financial security, health care facilities and social support, including strengthening the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. To enhance the welfare of senior citizens in old age homes the government of Odisha could focus on establishing more well-equipped homes; ensuring adequate health care and providing opportunities for reaction and engagement, while also promoting intergenerational relationship. All old age homes could maintain minimum standards outlined by the Ministry of Social justice and empowerment. Old age homes could implement measures like hand rails, contrasting strip on steps, easy to grip door knobs, and ensure bathrooms have sliding or outward –opening doors and grab rails. The old age homes could more attentive towards medication management, assistive devices, mental health support, financial support and legal supports.

## Conclusions

The main objective of the study is to find out how public policies of Odisha protect the rights of elderly. The study reflects the activeness of our central government as well a state government. Government should supervise and review the welfare policies regarding senior citizens. The study resulted that all respondents of the old age homes belonged from low economic conditions. The financial security in old age homes to be looked into and process should start much earlier in life. Although it may be still difficult for many, available support from government may be explored. Financial independence of senior citizens is essential aspects as the economic security will also enhance their decision making power in the family. Specific facilities for geriatric health care are needed. These should be available in the community rather than only at territory level of health care system. Public awareness, judicial activities and enhancement of financial aid would give the elderly a secure and stress free life.

## References

1. Amiri Mohammad, July-September, 2018, Problem Faced by Old Age People, The International Journal of Indian Psychology, Punjab University, Chandigarh, India, Volume 6, Issue 3.
2. Asher Mukul G, 2010, Pension Planes, Provident Fund Schemes and Retirement Polices: India's Social Security Reform Imperative, Volume 39, ASCI Journal of Management, Issue 1, pp.1-18.
3. Banjare Pallavi, Dwivedi Rinshu and Pradhan Jalandhar, December 2015, Factor Associated with the Life Satisfaction amongst the Rural Elderly in Odisha, India, Springer Publications, Volume 13, Issue 1, pp. 1-13
4. Barik Debasmita and Panda Bharati, May 2021, Associates of Prevalence of Depression among Urban Elderly of Kendujhar District, A Study in Odisha, India, International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health, Volume 8, Issue 5, pp. 2331-2337.
5. Das Anindya, February, 2014, The Context of Formulation of India's Mental Health Program: Implication of Global Mental Health, Department of Psychiatry, AIIMS, Uttarakhand, Volume. 7, pp. 10-14. Available At-<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajp.2013.09.007>
6. Dash Anjali, November 2013, Health Care Policy and Programme in India and Odisha (A Historical Prospect Analysis), Zenith International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, ISSN 2231-5780, Volume 3, pp.103-115.
7. Dr. Rath Namita, Biswal Prasanta Kumar and Panda Susen Kumar, 2017, Care Facilities of Elderly People in Odisha, Journal of Geriatric Care and Research, Volume 4, No 1, pp. 1-3.
8. Hiremath Sumanth S, November, 2012, The health Status of Rural Elderly Women in India: A Case Study, International Journal of Criminology and Sociological Theory, Volume 3, No 3, pp. 260-293.
9. Kar Brajaballav, 2017, Factors Affecting Quality of Life of Older Persons- A Qualitative Study from Bhubaneswar, India, Journal of Geriatric Care and Research, Volume 4, Number 2, pp. 47-54.
10. Lal B. Suresh, 2011, Economic Analysis of Health Care Services: A Study in Tribal Area of Andhrapradesh, India, International Journal of Health Management and Information (IJHMI), Volume 2, Number 2, pp. 119-131.
11. Mahapatra Pranab, Sahoo Krushna Chandra and et al, November 2021, copes with COVID 19 Pandemic: Reflections of Older Couples Living alone in Urban Odisha, India, Volume 22, Issue 6, PP. 1-9. At-10.1017/s1463423621000207
12. Mishra Abhisek, 2 June 2007, Health Profile of Elderly in Urban Slums of Cuttack City, Odisha, International Journal of Biomedical and Advance Research, Volume 8, Issue 5, pp. 217-221. Available At-<https://doi.org/10.7439/ijbar>