

2) In India, the share of elderly living alone or only with a spouse has increased rapidly. Examine the reasons & discuss the problems faced by them.

India will soon become the youngest country in the world & likely reap its socio-economic benefits. Whereas, there is also a rapid increase in the share of elderly population living alone due to —

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in out-migration of rural youths. • Rise of nuclearisation in families • Decline in Traditional occupation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference to Patrilineal & Patrilocal marriages • Materialistic individualism in youth brought by westernization. |
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Along with natural old-age problems, the elderly population living alone are subjected to various economic, social, psychological hardships —

⇒ Digitally illiterate: Improvement in technology has made money transfers, pension payment instantaneous yet digital literacy acts as a barrier.

⇒ Vulnerability of elderly women: Lower castes, minority elderly women are at the worst economic, social, psychological risks.

⇒ Role stereotyping: More so often, the grandchildren become a burden on them, while the parents stay out.

⇒ Old age homes are often a compromised choice.

⇒ Lack of social security makes them more vulnerable to health issues & climate change issues.

There is a regional variation in the share of elderly living alone but the rapidly increasing trend is disturbing. While the government is working on the measures to channelize forced out-migration & revive the traditional economy, other stakeholders like the civil societies can meaningfully engage with the elderly group to make them economically, socially, psychologically stable citizens.