ANALYZING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING SENIOR WOMEN CITIZENS IN POLLACHI

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ABSTRACT
This study aims to analyze the socio-economic factors affecting senior women citizens in Pollachi, focusing on key issues such as financial insecurity, healthcare accessibility, educational disparities, and social isolation. Senior women in this region often face significant challenges due to limited access to financial resources, low literacy levels, and traditional gender roles that restrict economic independence. The study explores the effects of these factors on their quality of life, highlighting how economic dependency, inadequate healthcare, and lack of awareness about legal rights contribute to their socio-economic vulnerabilities. By understanding these challenges, the study seeks to offer insights into potential solutions that could improve the socio-economic standing and well-being of senior women citizens in Pollachi.

INTRODUCTION
The socio-economic status of senior women citizens in Pollachi is shaped by a complex set of factors that have profound implications for their quality of life. As women age, they often encounter unique challenges related to financial dependency, limited access to healthcare, and traditional societal expectations that restrict their independence. In rural and semi-urban areas like Pollachi, these challenges are often exacerbated by low levels of literacy, inadequate access to technology, and insufficient awareness of government welfare schemes.

Senior women in Pollachi are particularly vulnerable due to their dependence on family members for financial support and healthcare, as well as their limited access to formal employment opportunities. Many have spent their lives working in informal sectors or unpaid domestic roles, leaving them without pensions or savings. Additionally, cultural norms and patriarchal structures often result in unequal access to property and inheritance rights, further contributing to their financial insecurity.

This research aims to explore the socio-economic factors that affect senior women in Pollachi, analyzing how these issues impact their daily lives and overall well-being. By examining financial, health, educational, and social challenges, the study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the barriers faced by this demographic and to propose potential strategies for addressing these issues.

OBJECTIVE
- To analyses the socio-economic factors for the senior women citizens' in Pollachi.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION
PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS
Age of the Respondents

Age	Count	Percentage (%)
61-70	100	40.0
71-80	150	60.0
Total	250	100.0

Interpretation
     In summary, 40% of the respondents are in the 61-70 age group, while 60% are in the 71-80 age group.

Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Educational Qualification	Count	Percentage (%)
UG Level	68	27.2
PG Level	56	22.4
Professional	100	40.0
Others	26	10.4
Total	250	100.0

Interpretation

Professional: The largest group (40%) falls under the "Professional" category, indicating a significant proportion of respondents with professional qualifications.

UG Level: 27.2% of respondents have an undergraduate level of education.

PG Level: 22.4% of respondents have a postgraduate level of education.

Others: 10.4% of respondents have other types of educational qualifications.

This analysis highlights that the majority of respondents have professional qualifications, followed by undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The "Others" category represents the smallest group, suggesting fewer respondents with alternative educational backgrounds.

Past Employment of the Respondents

Past Employment	Count	Percentage (%)
Government	146	58.4
Private	104	41.6
Total	250	100.0

Interpretation

• **Government Employment:** The majority of respondents (58.4%) have past employment in the government sector. This indicates a significant representation of individuals who have worked in government roles.

• **Private Employment:** A smaller proportion (41.6%) of respondents have past employment in the private sector.

This analysis suggests that more respondents have a background in government employment compared to those from the private sector. This could reflect various factors, such as job stability, pension benefits, and retirement policies associated with government jobs.

Monthly Income during Retirement:

Monthly Income during Retirement	Count	Percentage (%)
Below 50,000	112	45
50,000- 75000	79	32
75,000-100000	44	17
Above 100000	15	6

Interpretation

• **Below 50,000**: The largest group, consisting of 112 (45%) individuals, expects to have a monthly income below 50,000 during retirement.

• **50,000 - 75,000**: 79 (32%) individuals expect their monthly retirement income to fall within this range.

• **75,000 - 100,000**: 44 (17%) individuals expect a monthly income between 75,000 and 100,000.

• **Above 100,000**: The smallest group, with 15 (6%) individuals, expects their monthly retirement income to exceed 100,000.

This data suggests that most individuals are expecting a lower monthly income during retirement, with a decreasing number of individuals as the income brackets increase.

<u>**Sources of Income**</u>

Source of Income	Count	Percentage
Pension Plans	108	43.2%
Social Security	22	8.8%
Personal Savings	39	15.6%
Annuities	15	6.0%
Part-Time Work	10	4.0%
Rental Income	37	14.8%
Dividends and Interest	19	7.6%

<u>Interpretation:</u>

•   **Pension Plans** are the most common income source, representing 43.2% of the total.

•   **Personal Savings** and **Rental Income** are significant, making up 15.6% and 14.8% respectively.

•   **Social Security** and **Dividends and Interest** account for 8.8% and 7.6%, respectively, indicating reliance on government benefits and investments.

•   **Annuities** (6.0%) and **Part-Time Work** (4.0%) are less common, reflecting fewer individuals using these as primary income sources.

This table offers a clear summary of the income distribution among the respondents, emphasizing the varied approaches to financial security.

CONCLUSION

The percentage analysis of the respondents reveals significant insights into the socio-economic profile of senior women citizens in Pollachi. The age distribution shows a predominant concentration in the 71-80 age group (60%), highlighting the need for targeted interventions for this older demographic. Educational qualifications indicate a substantial number of respondents with professional (40%) and undergraduate (27.2%) degrees, suggesting a well-educated group overall.

In terms of past employment, a majority (58.4%) have worked in the government sector, which may influence their retirement benefits and financial security. This is supported by the retirement income data, where a significant portion (45%) expects monthly incomes below 50,000, indicating potential financial vulnerability during retirement.

Income sources reveal that pension plans are the most common source of income for 43.2% of respondents, followed by personal savings and rental income. However, reliance on social security, annuities, and part-time work is relatively low, suggesting that many senior women may face financial challenges if their primary sources of income are insufficient.

Overall, the data underscores the need for comprehensive financial planning and support tailored to the needs of senior women, particularly those with lower retirement incomes and limited income diversity. Addressing these needs through enhanced pension schemes, financial literacy programs, and broader social support can improve the socio-economic well-being of senior women citizens in Pollachi.

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