

Housing Environment on Morbid Conditions of the Elderly

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ABSTRACT Housing environment plays a crucial role in determining the morbid conditions of the residents. In view of this, an attempt is made to examine the housing environment factors on the morbid conditions of the elderly, making use of the data collected from 778 elderly persons from Coimbatore city, Tamil Nadu. On the whole, more than one-fourth (27%) of the elderly were suffering from one or more morbid conditions. Results based on cross-tabular analysis highlighted that housing environment has exhibited the prevalence of morbid conditions among the elderly. Logistic regression analysis based on Model I (environmental factors alone) revealed that 'the odds of elderly' morbid conditions are significantly lower among those who reside in *pucca* houses and using drinking water from own tap, whereas such odds are moderately higher among those residing in more dense households. In Model II (socio-economic factors also included), the net effects of the first two environmental factors on morbid conditions have reduced a little extent. Further, it is noted that while the odds of morbid conditions are lower among elderly who belonged to better family income, forward castes as well as higher educational status than their counterparts, the reverse pattern is noticed across their age categories under consideration.