

Socio-economic Differentials in the Extent of Social Isolation among the Aged

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ABSTRACT The present study is an attempt to assess the socio-economic differentials in the extent of social isolation among the aged. It is based upon 120 aged, drawn from an urban setting (Ludhiana city). The sample was distributed equally over the three socio-economic strata (High, Middle and Low) and the two sexes. Results revealed that the socio-economic status made an impact on the level of social isolation experienced by the aged, with the more number of males and females reporting 'High' social isolation from the middle and low socio-economic status. The reported 'High' levels of social isolation in both the sexes were impacted more by the 'family' and 'friends' dimension rather than the 'neighbours' and 'coping mechanism' dimensions. The high socio-economic status aged were found to be impacted most by 'family' dimension as a fairly high number of the aged reported high level of social isolation whereas 'High' level social isolation in middle socio-economic status was reported more because of 'friends' and 'neighbours' dimensions. However, the high levels of social isolation among the low socio-economic aged was significantly because of 'friends' dimension and moderately because of 'family', 'neighbours' and 'coping mechanism' dimensions.