



WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

The sociocultural problems of elderly in Gurage zone, in case of Gubre sub city.

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to investigate the sociocultural problem reliable on elderly people with in Gubre sub city. Therefore, the research was conducted to explored and collected determine data from the selected simple random techniques through interview and questioners. Data were analyzed use both quantitative and qualitative triangulation methods such as percentage, tables as well as statement. The finding of the study shows that there was various sociocultural problem most seriously affected elderly people in the study areas. They faced health problems lack of support from both relatives and children and age ignorance.

*Key words; **elderly, sociocultural***

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATION

CSA: Central statistical Authorities

ESA: Ethiopia statistical Abstract

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

HAI: Help Age International

SRP: Student Research Program

USA: United States of America

WHO: World Health Organization

NGO: nongovernmental organization

CHAPTER ONE

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Elderly was a period of time occur of all individual life stage as he/she grow up and reach the maximum life expectancy of society or specific group to which the person belongs. The definition of elderly differs from one society to the other society (Summons 1998). Although there was common definition of elderly, there are no general agreement on the age at which a person becomes old.

On the global level, the chronological time has little or no importance in the meaning of old age in the different parts of developing world (Gorman 2000) and like that the UN has not adopted the standard criteria but general use above 60 years to refer the older population (Personal Correspondence 2001). Even though the definition of the chronological time span is not well accepted, the number of people over the age of 60 were expected to increase to 2 billion by 2050 from 600 million in 2000 (UN 2002). China has the greatest number of the older people's as the year 2000, with more than 87 million followed in older people by Indian and USA. The same as the countries which are the top three in terms of the overall population size (John R. Week 2002).

According to Zastrow (2003), industrialized countries have the highest percentage of the elderly. The growing of mobilization is so new that two third of people who pass age of 50 in history of world we live in today (Sheafor 2006). The elderly are discover minority group whose treatment has come to view as a major social problem (Charles 1996).

In ancient society, the elderly were valued for their knowledge. Their experience has enable to them to supervise planning to mass knowledge about hunting and gathering, housing, craft making, and funeral. They also pay a key role in

preserving and transmitting the culture (Gibbon 2005). Whereas, the rapid advancement of science and technology have limited the value of the technological knowledge of elderly beings less valuable as store house of culture and records. According to Gibbon's (2005) many elders live in poverty, a fair number lack of enough food, cloth and telephone is may be the another problem of the elderly people which are living in below the poverty line only some have of elderly substantial saving habit and money investments.

On the national level, in our country, the elderly people has face greater problem than other world countries. According to the statistical abstract of Ethiopia in (2008), there are the number of elder persons comprises three millions of the total population that indicate in poverty and unsatisfied life and among them more elder population grow up is living in rural areas of Ethiopia. Many of them are unable to use their land because, when their age become older and their physical strength is decrease. As well as, the traditions of providing children with endowment at their wedding tend to deplete the land and other store able asset from the elderly (Assefa and Firehiwot 2004).

1.2 Statement of the problem

As people were living longer time, it was essential that all people can live with dignity, respect and security (Tewodros 2000). With increase of this population, the problems encountering them are escalating. In many societies everyone believes that experiencing problems in elderly is inevitable. Many people just view this elderly as one step towards grave. However, some would rather die than growing old. Therefore, growing older should not be a frightening issue existing in the societies.

Thus, the evidence still exist that aging and elderly are negative. It is highly oppose with the misrepresented view point of physical and mental deterioration. For these

case, elderly people face in so many ways in different problems. Many elderly people usually face decline health, lack of money or retirement fund, cost of living, discrimination at work place, abuse at home and view by young people as useless and frail (Gashaw 2003).

Early people face more problems than other age groups in any society. Among the age categories state in the foregoing, the middle-old and the late- old face a number of pressing problems. The problems are more serious for the late- old, because they are more likely to be frail or disable (Kifle 2002).

Even if the adult have significant contribution of the elderly also in agricultural production, resolve conflict that grow up between varies groups of the society, and they care their children's such as: daughters or sons which they are socialize the new boning. However, this contribution of elderly is not equally value in urban areas like that of rural one. In urban area of the country, the elderly face many problem that affect them in many dimension and this problem arise because of lack of income and other factors (Kifle 2002).

In another ways, the elder abuse and cultural relate problems are the most risky factors that affect the older people. The continuous lifelong stresses amplify the effect of the great environmental and interpersonal violence in their communities. Living in under resource geographic environments adds to be the burden violent stress that elders face and this will be follows the greater mental and physical health problems (WHO 2002).

Nowadays, elderly people have become vulnerable to emotional, poverty, inequality and another threats survival to fell worthlessness and deprivation of their hope. Older people are a forgotten group in humanitarian, situations. Their needs

are rarely assess, and they are seldom forgotten by governments, UN agencies, and NGOs, for the specific projects.

Generally, the above research which was conduct by (Kifle 2002) about elderly mainly focus on only the disabled people. Here, the researcher did not focus on the non-disable, economically back-ward, low life expectancy, low income, which older people who have faced various sociocultural problems, and also the researcher does not identify the coping mechanisms of these problems. The gap is to fulfil the sociocultural problems that is not covered by priors' researchers. **1.3**

Objective of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general aim of this research is to assess the socio-cultural problems of in Gurage zone which particular emphasis in Gubre sub city.

1.3.2 Specific Objective

- To investigate the sociocultural elements problems which elderly people are facing.
- To explore the perception of the community towards sociocultural problems facing elderly people.
- To determine the coping mechanisms of elderly to tackle the sociocultural challenges.

1:4 Research Questions

- What are the impact of sociocultural problems to elderly people?
- How community perceived the elderly people s problems?

- Which elderly people affecting mostly the females or the male?

1.5 Significance of the Study

As well as it had provided information to Gurage zone distinctively for different responsible bodies like governmental and non-governmental organization to participate and solve their problems with collaborate. Not only this but also this research provide information for these organizations of concerning with elders to improve their living conditions. It will give a crucial information for adults to know elderly problems which help them to think and to prepare for their future life. In addition, it will serve as a frame of reference for future researchers who want to study more on the issue. It also will add some knowledge for the field of sociology about the sociocultural problems which elderly people faces.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study was conducting in Gubre sub city which found in Gurage zone. It only focus to investigate the sociocultural problem affecting elderly as scope of the study. Other variable such as economics and occupation. The study was geographically declaiming to Gubre sub city. Since the study is only in Gubre sub city, the finding will not generalize the large population of other city or the whole community.

1.7 Limitation of the study

There would be different problems on the research during the data collection time. Because of it'

Clear that the researcher faces many problems what is that, some people are not volunteer to gives full or appropriate information for the questions and they are request some incentive from the researcher. Even though many problems were faced by the researcher during this study have taken great effort to solve the

problems and to maintain the quality reliability and validity of finding. Financial problem is also take in to account in this research to conduct research factor in the most influential but I has no time to cover a lot of things that is the reasons, and I do this research at weekend.

1.8 Operational definition

Elderly: is a period of time occur to every individual life cycles as he or she grow up and reach the maximum life expectancy of the society or specific group to which the person belongs or people over the age of 60 refer as elder people.

Alienation: being force or lose of decision making in working and other places.

Hindrance: it is a thing or a person that restricts or hinder and it is the affection of the well-being of sociocultural aspects.

Culture: in this context, it refers to the societal mechanisms of treating the elderly people necessary supports.

Social problem: - are problems associated with elderly including physical segregating health problem and felling of loneliness.

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction
Elder are old age persons, aging was a natural process which can happens to each and every generation. Old age affect the physical and mental strength of person. The old age are sociocultural problems that may weaken the elders, it can cause some health problem such as: Coughing, paralysis, heart pains and respiratory problem. Biologists (corner and Alshcon sky in 1993) suggest that as we move post the productive year (post our biological “usefulness”) we undergo set of concurrent process known as senses decline in physical viability accompanies by arise in vulnerable to disease.

According to Wag (1995) important generalization about physical aging is (1) all the physical logical change that take place tend to be speedy but gradual through adulthood to elderly. (2) The complex that bodily function of the rapid rate of decline. (3) Individual age of different rate and different tissue and systems within one person also many age at different rate. (4) Aging brings with its ability to resist disease.

The aging process is a course of biological reality, which has its own dynamic largely human control. However, it is also subject to the construction by which society makes sense of elderly. In developing countries chronological time older play a paramount role. In many part of the developing world, chronological time

has little or no importance in the meaning old age. In developing world, Chronological time plays a paramount role, the age of 60 or 65 roughly equivalent to retirement in most developed countries are said to be the beginning of old age.

The United Nations mentions that people over the age of 60 referred as elder people Ethiopia is a country, which adopt the definitions of United Nations charter govern by definitions of elderly or older person (Birru 2004).

2.2 Problems faced by the Elderly

The elderly suffer because we have generally unsuccessful in finding something important for them to do. In earliest societies the elder were respect and view as useful to their people to a much greater degree as is the cause in our society, for their knowledge about hunting, housing, craft and experiences that enable them to surprise planting, harvesting and for advice. They also play great roles in preserving and transmitting the culture (Sembajwe 1999:76).

Nevertheless, industrialization and the growth of modern societies rob or embedding the elderly high status. Not only this but also the low status of the elderly closely relate to with ageism (the term that refers to having negative image and attitude that toward people simply because they are elderly). Today many people e react negatively to elderly. Ageism is like sexism because, it is involves prejudices and discrimination against all members of a particular social category.

In western nations such as America, Europe and others, elder people are not given much respect because they are often lack status. Many occupy the lower rungs of the economic ladder and go without adequate medical care. In Japan, able bodies continue to work or help their families in the home. In addition, they are guarantee a minimum income, receive free annual health examinations and are eligible for completely free medical care after age of 70 year.

In addition, the Japanese integrate elderly to into their daily liver. About 75% of elderly people living with their children as oppose to 25% in United States of America. Japanese government has introducing daily visit and calls for elderly people. They also establishing programs particularly social activities such as subsidies of elder people's clubs and sport, reduce responsibilities and increase insolation (Help Age International 2002:35).

2.2.1 Emphasis on Youth

Our modern societies are youth orient societies which devalues growing elder and glorifies the body beautiful and physical attractiveness. We like to think we are doers. However, why this emphasis is on youth alone in our society, the reasons are not clear. According to the world statistical Information in (2000), the youth population and all children increase in the world of developing counties likewise Ethiopia. Rural youth account for around 55% of the world youth population. They are among the most disadvantages of groups.

2.2.2 Housing problem

Many elders in the urban areas trap in decaying, low value houses needing considerable maintenance and often surround by racial and ethnic groups different from their own. Their neighborhoods may be decaying and crime hidden and such elderly are easy to prey for thieves and unpleasant living condition. This problem is not only familiar in urban but also in all developing countries of rural region is facing similar problem.

Most rural people developing countries living in deteriorate houses, mud and worst conditions of shelter. Housing is one of the problems of elderly people. Research work has shown that most of the huts of elder people need maintenance. The poor and poorest categories are victims for this problem. The walls of some huts have not been daubed and thus could not protect the blowing of wind that in effect

affects the health of elder people. The roofs are not well covered to protect them against rain. It is widely known that aging necessitates special services for disability is most common in later life. Besides, shelter and other related problems, the problems of toilet is the one to be mentioned (Kaseke 2002:76).

2.2.3 Poverty

Data about elder person is scarce in Ethiopia therefore, there are no figures, that document. The proportion or actual number of elder person classifies as a living in poverty from the available data, elder persons, comprise 3 million (4.5%) of the total population, it is indicated that more elder population group is living in rural areas of Ethiopia (Ethiopia, statistical abstract 2008).

Among them, nearly half millions of the people entities for benefit and major income they receive is not sufficient to fulfill their necessities. Hence, they subsist below a level of income that can sustain only bare minimum standard of living, the rest of elder persons depend only on subsistence income particularly of farming, hand craft and other activities for their livelihood and those without any income constitute the majority.

According to (Assefa and Firehiwot 2003), the greater proportion of the elder person or people live in Ethiopia are living in poverty. Food and income security were to serious problems identified in some particularly planning and the seven particularly planning on focusing areas around Ethiopia by help age of international Ethiopia. The other problems of elder persons are identifications of focusing, such as: poor shelter, homelessness, lack of care as well as poor health.

In south Africa, the take up of the elderly payment is high particularly in the poorest group and at the oldest age using data from 1998 and 1999 October household survey, many (2003a, and 2003b) report that 84% of people age 64 or

elderly in poverty line were receiving a government support. However, the payment or pension is often insufficient to support the number of household member who are dependent on it. Indeed evidence exists that the pension per household member (Molder and Sotshon 1996). Thus despite of the state pension, many over people live in poverty.

2.2.4 Health Problems

The aging begins with conception and end with death. Those who escape the hazards of youth will find that from about 60 on they grow more vulnerable to stresses, diseases, and the completion of aging process. The pattern of illness in later years different, from what we learn to expect in youth and middle age (Larson 1978:17). Complete loss of vision is uncommon. According to (Michael R. 1997:54). Some people develop of three common eyes diseases when they grow older, which exacerbate their social problem, they are cataract, glaucoma and Macular degeneration.

Cataract: - cloud eyes lens. The person becomes unable to see, even with glasses. Usually pair of glasses is required and it is often helpful to improve light at home. For some people have severe clouding an operation may be necessary to replace the cloud lens with an eye lens otherwise special pair of glass with contact lens will be needed.

Glaucoma: - disease in which the pressure of fluid inside the eye ball increases to such degree that it damages the nerve fibers in which conduct light. It does not always cause obvious symptoms in early status, people do not notice. The loss of vision until it is too advanced. If it is diagnosed early if perhaps in routine eye test, it can be treated successfully.

Macular degeneration: - a disease in which the most central part of the retina begins to fail. The loss seriously and may cause total blindness.

Hearing: - there is often a loss of ability of hearing pitch sounds, sounds such as ring telephone, because of a ringing process in the inner ear, these hearing problem causes difficulties of social interaction with other people (Wilson 2001:43).

2.2.5 Impact of Demographic variables on number of Elderly

As death rate reduce, the older population increase partly because of life expectant goes up. Somewhat of the elderly and so, people live longer whom old....we don't know if there is limit to human life span. So, we do not know whether the transition is rectangular of the age structure or if people will just keep surviving to every elder. However, we know that in history the most important of mortality on aging has been the fact that lower mortality and increase the probability of surviving to elderly (John M. 2002).

2.3 Employment and Occupation

Although freedom from work component of myths about the advantageous of elderly retirement, any consider retirement as social problem. In the past several decay voluntary retirement has become increasing possible with development of pension plan, social security and union retirement funds. At the sometimes, early retirement become institutionalize in the same society, with the increasing number of business industrial, government and education organization mandating such policy.

These focus help to explain both the declining labor force participating of elderly men and the occupational distribution of those work (Sueconno 2004:88).

Elderly workers are less likely than all workers to have blue collar jobs but, more likely to have services of farm jobs, elderly willingness to work age over rides the

potential hindrances in employment elderly, other salaries non-unionized position in which they are generally found include for instance, gardens, washrooms, and night watchman (Cowgirl 1972).

2.4 Current thinking on aging issue in Ethiopia

2.4.1 The community's view

In Ethiopia the elderly, are the head of the family and the community are threatened with respect, they plays enormous social and cultural role that contribute to the well-being of the society as a whole (Assefa and Firehiwot 2003, 16). Because of these, the traditional support mechanism and reciprocal relationship still exercised with a few exceptions of cities and town in aging considered as a blessing in Ethiopian society.

2.4.2 Governments view on elderly persons

The Ethiopian government is committed to institute affirmative action in terms of disadvantage and vulnerable people. This explicitly stated in the development of social welfare policy as it indicate in the policy, the underlying cause of old age poverty is lack of a family support and absence of comprehensive social security systems.

2.5 Social Policy and Elderly

In Nigeria, today social security policy for old age are yet to be formulate, but there are increasing need the wake of the apparent decline in the adequacy of material family support that has occur in recent time and the rising deprivation and poverty to which growing number of older people expose (Margaret M. 2001, 189). The lack of social security system for elder people accelerates this process. The nation that investment includes one children serve as social security in elderly is now dispute as adult children find difficult securing employment and receiving an income sufficient to me their immediate needs. The only social provision in

Ethiopia is the pension scheme. Formal government employees are eligible for pension and their number reaches to 496,000 (Assefa 2003). Recently the government has proclaimed the official retirement age to both is 60 years. The remained elder persons are not entitling to any type of social security benefits.

2.6 Elderly in sub-Sahara African countries

Elderly people had made a profound influence up on the demographic characters. Thus, at this moment, Africa is witnessing rapid increase of population of elder people. For instance, in East Africa, the number of people aged over 60 increased just from 3 million in 1950 to more than 11 million in 2000 and is project reach 56 million by 2050. In the same way, North Africa had witness on increase of the population of elder people from 11 million in 2000 and project to be more than 60 million in 2050 with an increase from 6.2% to 19.9%. Eventually, southern Africa has an increase of 5.7% to 13.2% and West Africa with an increase of 4.7% to 9.5% (United Nations, 2002).

Elder men and women in Africa make vital contributions to their families and communities. Across the continent, 64% of men over 60 years of ages continue to work across the formal and informal sectors. Elders' women trend to live longer than elder women, with a life expectancy of at 60 of a further 17 years (UNDESA, 2006).

Despite this indispensable contribution, many elder people in Africa continue to experience deepening poverty, discrimination, violence, and abuse and are unable to access entitlements that are there by right. Many elderly in Africa lived in rural areas where they experience access to fewer services. They usually face economic exclusion and are often denies employment and access to insurance or credit schemes. They also encounter exclusion social exclusion due to age discrimination and changing roles and practices within the family. Literacy among elder people,

particularly elder women remained low, and is often lower than the population as a whole (Us census Bureau, 2004).

2.8 Theoretical framework of the study

There are different sociological theories that studying aging as a process and its impact on the people and societies as whole. The earliest theories on aging rejecting the functionalist approach that was dominant in sociology during the 1950s and 60's. They emphasize how individuals adjust (prepared themselves) to changing social roles as they aged and how those roles are useful to the society. The earliest theories often assume that aging brings with its physical and psychological decline and that changing social role have to take this decline in to account (Hendricks 1992). The American sociologists Talcott Parsons argue that society needs to find roles. For older people consistent with advanced age. He expresses concerned that the USA, in particularly with its focuses youth and its avoidance of the subject of death, had fail to provide roles that adequately drew on the potential wisdom and maturity of its older citizens.

2.8.3 Social conflict theory

As social conflict analysis is bases on the idea that access to opportunities and social resources differs for people in different age categories. For this reason age is a dimension of social stratification.

The social conflict approach claims that industrial, capitalist economy creates an age bases hierarchy. As per Marxist thought, StevenStpitzer (1980) points out that a profit orient society devalues any category of people that is less productive. To the extent that older people do not work, our society labels from them as mildly deviants. Social conflict theory analysis also drew attention to various dimensions

of social inequality within the elderly population. Differences of class, race, ethnicity and gender divided older population as they do everyone else.

Symbolic interaction theory.

Base on the symbolic interaction approach, activity theory is the idea that the high level of activity increases personal satisfaction in old age. Because everyone base social identities in many roles, disengagement is bound to reduce satisfaction and meaning in live of older peoples. Activity theory does not reject the idea of job disengagement, it simply said that people need to find new role to replace those who leave behind. Research confirms that elder people who maintain a high productivity level find the most satisfaction in their live.

Political economy theory.

One of the most important stand in the study of old aging in a recent years is the political economy perspective by (EStas 2003). Political economy theory provides an account of the role of the state and capitalism as contributing to system of dimension and marginalization of old people. Political economy theory focus on the role of the economic an apolitical system in shaping and reproducing the prevailing power arrangement and inequality in society. Social policy in income, health and social security, for instance as seen in social policy understand as the result of social struggle conflicts that time. Policy affecting old age people reflecting the stratification by gender, race and class.

Conceptual frame work.



CHAPTER THREE

3. Research Method

3.1 Description of the Study Area

Elders are peoples who are above 60 years of age. The sociocultural problems that elder peoples are facing would be tackle through identifying them, by knowing who the elders are and what social problems they are facing. The research is conduct on Gurage zone, especially on Gubre sub city. The Gubre sub city is one of the place which is found in south west of Wolkite town. The total population of Gubre sub city were enumerated is 2676 from 1988 and the population is categories in to two the males' population and the females' population.

Males are 1025 and females are 1515 from that populations, we targeted the elders 'people in Gubre sub city which is 136, from the total population of elderly 61 are males and 75 are females. Among them, 54 are the married males and 66 are married females. The Gubre sub city surround in the west of Wolkite University. It is 2 km near from Wolkite University and the people's engagement of economic activity they are mostly trade, agriculture and the land feature is plain. The community have two hospitals, one from Wolkite University specialists and another one from NGO (*Attat*) and they have one primary school and one secondary school.

3.2 Research Design

This research study would employ cross-sectional research design as to collect data at the same time from the sample to describe the study of the population. Due to shortage of time and lack of resources, this research design is appropriate for this study.

3.3 Sources and type of Data

For this study, the data have been conduct from the primary source. The primary data would be collect by the researcher himself from the sample. In addition to this, the secondary data will be collected from the finding of other document, written information (evidences) and research interview like: research works, and documents related with elderly.

3.4 Sample size and Sampling techniques

We use simple random sampling, in this technique every elements of the total population has equal and independent chance to be select. The total population of Gubre sub city is 136elderly according to the elderly populations of [CAS-2010] the sample size of the study was 25who are select as a sampling [10 males and 15females]. the list of sample will include the elders both males and females in Gubre sub city as the researcher were conduct by taking twenty-five as sample size of the total numbers of the elderly people in the study areas.

$$n=N*P/100 \text{ where } n=\text{sample size}$$

$$N=\text{total numbers of elder in Gubre sub city}=136.$$

$$P=\text{the percentage taking}=25/100=0.25\%.$$

$$n=136*25/100=34$$

3.5 Data collection instruments.

In order to collect relevant and reliable data from the selected samples, the study of the researcher have employ particularly in-depth interview, case study, observation and focus group discussion. As the primary data in the main source of the study, the above mention data collection methods had appropriate to collect primary data.

3.6 Data Analysis Techniques

In this study, mostly qualitative methods of data participatory analysis, ethnographic, investigation and rapid assessment that have been employed in order to analysis the collecting data. The qualitative methods are face-to-face interview, observation, questionnaire as well as the data is the primary source and the quantitative research lend to produces different method using data framework non contextual method longitudinal village /urban survey

3.7 Ethical Consideration

The researcher had informed the purpose of the study to the respondents to get their agreement and keeps their confidentiality. In additions, the respondents have been informed that, they have right for refusing and to participate in the interview and the researcher chooses suitable way according to the interviewees.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. Data Analysis and Discussion

As clearly the issues stated in the statement problem on the main concerns, the study was to assess the socio-cultural problems of elderly in Gurage zone; in case in Gubre sub city. This part contains the presentation and analysis of the data and the data was collected obtained by the researcher during in the survey. After collecting the necessary data mostly focused on qualitative approach and in a rare case the quantities method of data analysis was used like percentage, frequency, table, and the researcher was used to employ in-depth interview, self-guided questionnaire, case study, observation and focus group discussion for the obtained data through interview.

4.1 background characteristics of the respondents

The following data are discussed and presented below in the t

based on the characteristics of the respondents' background to identify and analysis the cultural elements which elderly people facing problems and assess the coping mechanisms of elderly to tackle the socio-cultural challenges of elderly. As clearly presented in the below tables, the background characteristics of respondents information was collected and examined in terms of sex, age group, marital status, religious affiliation and educational status.

Table 1 : distribution of the respondents relation with sex.

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	10	40
Female	15	60
Total	25	100

Source:ownsurvey,2020

From the total respondents in terms of sex 10 (40%) of the sample population of the study are male and the remaining of 15 (60%) are the female elderly. This implies that the number of the male elderly are exceed than that of female elderly. From this I conclude that, the majority of the respondents are male, because the female elderly are not present and sat at home and mostly they go out of home for their economic engagement purpose.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents' relation with age-groups

Age groups	Frequency	Percentages (%)
61-64	10	40
65-69	11	44
70-74	4	16
Total	25	100

Source: own survey,2020

In the age profiles of the respondents, the male is greater than the two categories because, the majority of the respondents which are accounts 10 (40%) are found within the age group 61-64 and the large are female respondents which are account 11 (44%) found within the age group 65-69. In addition, those older respondent people, aged between 70-74 accounts 4[16]. From these, the majority of respondents are aged as I searched and found between ages of 61-64 and 65-69 which are consecutively of the elder age group are younger than some extent from the 70-74 age group.

Table 3: distribution of respondents' relation with the marital status

Marital status	Frequency	Percentages
Married	15	60
Single	6	24
Widowed	4	16
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

Also the study includes the marital status of the respondents which are, 15 (60%) of the married who live with the wife and husband, divorced are 6(24%) are splinted from their marriage by disagreed, dissatisfied and conflict between in the different cause like low income, shortage of basic needs and 4(16%) of the respondents are widow who lost their marriage partner because of death. This

information of respondents indicates that the rate of married number is never greater than that of divorced and widowed respondents.

Table 4: distribution of respondents' relation with religious affiliation.

Religions affiliation	Frequency	Percentage
Protestant& Orthodox	14	56
Muslim& Catholic	7	28
Others	4	16
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

As well as the study was seen very important profiles of the respondents are religious affiliation. From this protestant & Orthodox are 14(56%), the respondents of Muslim & Catholic share to accounts 7 (28%) of the respondents, and the respondents of Others are 4(16%). From these participants, the majority are the Muslim religion followers and I tried to conclude that the most of people who are Muslim followers in this study area, therefore they are more dominant than that of the rest other respondents.

Table 5: distribution of the respondents' relation with educational status

Educational status	Frequency	Percentage
Degree	1	4
Diploma	2	8
High school	3	12
Primary school	5	20
Never learnt(illiterate)	14	56
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

The last respondents' profiles are the educational status. The respondents share degree are 1(4%) the diploma are shares to account 2(8%), the respondents stopped and catted from the high (secondary) school are 3(20%), the respondents which can read and write about them are accomplished primary school and they account 5(20%) and the neutral (never) learnt are accounts 14 (56%), from this, the majority of the respondents are primary educated and the near learnt. So, that, this information indicates that, there is low educational access in the study are some of the respondents are not learnt which are illiterate. In addition, from this information, I can understand that the majority of the people are facing in the education problems in case of low educational accessibility in Gurage zone in Gubre sub city.

Table 2: distribution of respondent's relation to place of birth

Place of birth.	Frequency	Percent (%)
Rural	20	80
Urban	5	20
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

According to table 2, respondent which are account 80% have birth born in rural areas and 20% were born in the urban areas.

Table 3: Distribution of respondent's relation to your children.

Item		Frequency	Percent (%)
Do you have children?	Yes	24	96
	No	1	4
	Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

The above table 3 shows that, the respondents were asked to tell about the total number of he/her children and the 24[96%] and 1[4%] which have no children

Informed that to refusing to giving respecting respondents who are account to hearing from elderly people and which are account are informed is the modernization or developing. Sub-culture like seeking from western culture, for instance, individualism and being

choose alone as an elder to give as more information for your children.

Table 4: distribution of respondent's relation with culture of women participation.

Item	Types of problems	Frequency	Percent(%)
What are the cultural related problems that can affect the women participation in your home and community?	Perceiving women as a commodity good	3	12
	Dehumanizing the women	2	8
	Thinking them as home servants	4	16
	Segregating women	2	8
	Male domination on resources	3	12
	Preventing to participant on agricultural activities	3	12
	Preventing equal opportunity to participant with men	2	8
	Lacking responsibilities	1	4
	Religious related attitude	1	4
	Preventing women participation on cultural, social political .	2	8
	Assigning women as a	2	8

	child care		
	Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

According to table 4, the researcher tried to mention and explain the major cultural related problems that can affect women participation in the study area as were as this above information contributes the cultural problems of women facing and it affecting the well-being of the elderly.

Table 5: distribution of respondents related with cultural elements to elderly

Item	Categories	Frequency	Percent (%)
What are you practice the cultural elements that on your life course?	Practicing on public celebration	4	16
	Respecting the elderly	12	40
	Helping elderly	5	20
	Participating on social issues life funeral	4	16
	Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

Table 5 shows us that the cultural elements of the community, which the elderly are, practice in their life. The information shows the majority of respondents, are 4(16%) practicing on social problems (issues) like funeral and 12(40%) respective the elders, therefore 5(20%) are those who help the elderly and 4(16%)the elder who can participated on social issue like funeral conclude that the table shows me most of elders are participating sensitivity on practicing the cultural elements in their social environment.

Generally, this table explanation, the government and Gurage Zone cultural and tourism bureau should to provide a suitable condition for the Gubre sub city elderly to conserve and make cultural sustainability to the coming generation not to extinct the cultural elements.

Table 6: Distribution of respondents related with the societal views of culture

Do you think the societal view on elder people is an ignorance to the sociocultural problems?	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	11	44
No	14	56
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

According to table 6, the majority of the respondents account 11 (44%) giving responses and answers that there are no societal views

of the culture 14(56%) are affect, which are not, ignores the elders' resection. In addition, this tabular forms of information shows me, the societal views of culture are favorable for elders' dignity.

Table 7: distribution of respondent's relation to the family respect of elderly.

Do your family respect you for being an elder?	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	22	88
No	3	12
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

According to table 7, the majority of respondents are account 22 (88%) of elderly are strongly agree to give positive answer and respondents said that the family are respected me as important for their life and 3(12%) they informed that the respect is based on culture as was respected them because they are my children.

4.3 Social problems of elderly

Social problems are the problems, which can affect the social life of elder's in their age groups. There are a number of the social problems, which the elderly people are facing in a time of the study area. According to this survey, there are different types of the problems, which threats elderly in based on their age. Mostly the elderly facing in social problems in the study area are the different types of diseases, insufficient health institution or low social

services, stereotypes, prejudices, age-based discrimination and bias, exploiting stealing adults the elder's wealth and are the social and elders' problems in the study area.

Table 8: distribution of respondents' relation the one who lives

respondents in the house and the majority of the respondents said that they

with elderly.

Have you own the house?	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	13	52
No	12	48
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

According to tables the above information to shows the one who lives with 13(52%) are living with their children and 12(48%) have no house.

In addition to these, the respondents informed there is insufficient of house to live no enough houses to live as the common problem we faced.

Table 9: distribution of respondents' relation with life sustainability of elderly

Do you have income to fulfill your life to sustain within your society	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	10	40
No	15	60
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

According to above 9, the respondents informed that the majority of elder can fulfill their life to sustain within their society and their home and a few of the elderly from them have no enough life sustainability and they could not live in the amazing life.

Table 10: distribution of respondent's relation with the sources of the sustainable fulfillment.

What are the sources of your sustainable fulfillment of the life in your community?	Frequency	Percent (%)
From retirement	5	20
from daily work	10	40
From children	6	24
From government	4	16
Total	25	100

Source: own survey,2020

According to table 10: respondents informed about the sustainable fulfillment of life and which are accounts the 5(20%) of from the

retirement, accounts 10(40%) are from household support, accounts 6(24%) are from daily work and the respondents account 4 (16%) are from children. This above information contributes that, the minority of elders' life sustainability and economic engagements from government and it shows that government is the one who can help our life.

Table 11: distribution of relation with contribution to solve social problems.

Item	Frequency	Percent (%)
Is there any governmental and non-governmental organizational contribution to solve the social problems?		
Yes	2	8
No	23	92
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

As table 11 shows, the most respondents, which are account 2 (8%), answers that there is governmental and non-governmental contribution that to solve the social problems which the society stigmatizing their life, and these who said that there is no government and non-governmental organization who supports them are account 23 (92%). This implies that, there is no or less governmental and NGOs are not provided to solve the social problems by accessing different services. In this case, majority of

respondents informed, many elderly people are not involving on the social support in their community in case of low body capacity, shortage of support and highly body weakness 50 these conditions leads to dependency.

Table 12: distribution of respondent's relation with informal social services.

Is there any social support in your community?	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	5	20
No	20	80
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

According to table 12, the respondents which are account 5(20%) informed that the majority of the elders are lacking support in the community social support mostly on “Idir” for their emergency problems and the rest are account 20(80%) are participating on “Ikub” and “Mahiber”

Table 13: distribution of respondents' relation with the access of social services.

Do you have food and clean water at home?	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	9	36
No	16	64
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

According table 13, respondents account 9(36%) are informed the neutrality and even low coverage of social services like food and clean water and the respondents which are account 16 (64%) informed some access of the social service are lacking. As based on the above table information, the majority of elderly are facing food and water problems, low access of clean water and the respondents said that, there is shortage of clean water and even they face many problems.

Table 14: distribution of respondents' relation with the shelter.

Do you have shelter?	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	20	80
No	5	20
Total	25	100

Source: own survey 2020

According to table 14, the respondents which account 15(80% are accepted they have shelter & the absence of additional money saved to entertain and recreational services and as the respondents account to 5(20%) said that they have no shelter & money to enjoy. Therefore, the above information shows, the majority of elderly have enough money and they consider themselves as in the absolute poverty. In case of this, the most elders have no much time to rest and entertain during after their works.

Table 15; distribution of respondents' relation to clothes

Do you have clothes?	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	17	68
No	8	32
Total	25	100

Source: own survey, 2020

According to table 15, the respondents account 17(68%) are said that they have clothes in case of lacking household support and the respondents which are account 8(32%) said that they have no clothes workloads with infill services of their household.

4.4 Coping mechanisms of elderly

Assessing the coping mechanism of elderly to tackle the cultural problem is the techniques or methods to solve the elderly are facing problems in their life.

As the majority of respondents informed, there is a mechanism to solve their cultural problems like the stolen thing. If there is steal the thing and the issue is not clearly, they seriously following the problems to solve not to be repeatedly with the young people behavior that affect elders and if. The young who is not obey to the parents like playing gambling, and robbing, the natives were called to take a measurement on the guilt and refuse to prevent the foods that to stop and to be obey for his parent. Generally, the elderly are using to solve different problems by different mechanisms for social

problems. As, the respondents informed, the elderly are using the torching mechanisms for the social problem like steal, and ribbing, if the issues are clearly visible, they advising, counseling but the action is not clearly visible the elders are meeting in under tree and giving the government actors of the illegal activities. As well as, they have a great role to solve this the social problems that overcome to survey them and they cooperating and making integration with the responsible legal bodies.

4.5 Participants response towards about

Based on the information from the key participants about the socio-cultural problems of the elderly are increasing time to time, because of the globalization and the rapid growth of industrialization. In the modern society youth oriented and the developing of the culture of individualism, the culture of elder's is embedded and replacing by the western culture. So, the elders are lacking resection, no the young running partial alone, and the elders have no power, capacity and potential to help themselves and they lack meet to the cultural incentives, therefore, they face by various socio-cultural problems in Gurage zone, particularly in case of Gubre sub city. This implies that, most of the elderly are not participate in cultural and social issues because of their age.

4.6 Participants response shows about their social problems

According to the participant's response, about the study, there are a problems related with their elderly, for instance, segregating and

pushing from the common benefits and social participation. In this case, they are the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups as well as they are exposed to exploiting and stealing when they cross their village. In addition to this, the elders have a problem of participating in the social issues to decision making. Sometimes, the young and adult age groups try to respect them but the resection. Is not much enough so, the researcher identified and compare with the other Ethiopian generation. Nevertheless, the contemporary societies are globalized, industrialized and youth oriented societies which ignores and devalues about growing elder, glorifies the body beautiful and physical attractiveness.

As the informants contributed their ideas the social problem is the most serious problem in that of cultural problem, even though the elders are facing in the culture problems but the social problems related with the most of elders which includes segregates, discriminates and pushes them from informal social institutions like “Idir”, “Ikub”, and “Mahiber” which is the most important for social emergency time.

4.6.1 Participant response towards coping mechanism of social problems

Firstly, the all generations have to aware own self as that of the elders have make a lot of struggle and sacrifices in order to have the generation to know about the elders and based on this we should have to care of our elders.

According to the focus group discussion (FGD), results, there is not used official coping mechanism of social problems of elders, so, this explanation implies that the government is expected to initiate the mechanism to insure their life existence.

The other coping mechanism of social problems of elders is voluntary youth are treating and protecting these elders by their own sense. In addition to this, the FGDs and the participant observation or the researcher that as participants suggested that, this activity is not only the activities of the selected parts of the societies, rather it is the responsibilities of whole citizens of the country because, they have power efforts for our existing identify. Therefore, we the generation are expected to care, treating and protecting the elders from mental and physical injuries.

4.7 Participants response about the elder's health problem

When the age of the people is increasing, going up and when they become old, they are vulnerable to a lot of diseases that make them weak of doing any activities.

According to the participants' information, the most elders have the problems of sight, hearing, sickness and the problem of weakness to do any activities.

This implication of the elders' health problem is needs the cooperation of the government and the communities to reduce the health problems of the elders in the research area of Gubre sub city

4.7.1 Participants response towards coping mechanisms for health problems

As the FGD result implies that, the elders are threaten in traditional ways which needs more improvement. They said that, the elders are cannot to protect themselves from health problems accident because, they have sight problems, heaving and the related other health problems. So, as the respondents of the study implied, reduce this health the country's ministry of health and other collaborating of WHOs are should be expected to participate to reduce and solve this health problems of elderly.

4.8 Discussion of the data

The main objective of this study was to assess the socio-cultural problems of elderly and what are the coping mechanisms where identified in this study by using survey and key informants methods.

Based on the findings, the researcher has been got the socio-cultural problems of elderly. Based on this, the researcher has to identified the cultural elements which elderly people are facing problems, to find out the types and features of social problems that facing elderly people are facing problems, to find out the types and features of social problems that facing elderly people and assess the coping mechanisms of elderly to tackle the socio-cultural challenges of elderly people in the study area. As the researcher mentioned in back-section, the elderly people where facing in a various problems

like health problems (contract, Glaucoma, macular degeneration, hearing and the like), and the other problems which they facing are: housing, money or retirement discrimination and poverty that affect the ways of life and well-being of elders. In this case, this study is similar with kifle's study through including both the non-disabled, and disabled, cultural affected, facing by low life expectancy and their health problems.

Generally based on the finding 75.38% of elders are discriminated, and living without support from the governmental and non-governmental organizations contribution to solve the elderly problems in their life.

As the study shows the elders are faced and exposed to various problems like cultural, social and health problems for instance, mental illness (stress), hearing, and sight problems

CHAPTER FIVE

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Conclusion

Elders are one group of society. Their status is various from the society to the society, that is in one society they are respected but in the another society, they are alienated. This alienation starts from pushing and forcing the old aged people to leave from their work and informal institutions because of low capacity to mix with the adult aged groups. This makes the elderly to suffer from different cultural and social problems (Gashaw 2003).

As finding shows, the form of this study, the cultural problems is not as much as affect the elders as the social problems, it is very danger: - out for the elderly people.

There are so many social problems which elders are facing, fore instances, alienation from governmental organization, discrimination at family level and absence of resection by the modern society.

As the researcher conducted the research to investigated the sociocultural problems affect both disables and nondisabled elders which are mostly exposed and pushed by cultural and social problems made the elders suffers through different cultural and social problems.

But in this study, the researcher adds both the disabled and non-disabled or normal elders group who are facing various cultural and social problems like the absence of respect ion, absence of inclusive social involvement for societal activities. As well as, the modern youth adult and the governmental bodies did not think about the cultural and social problems of elderly people.

The previous studies of Kifle's mostly explain the disables elderly problems which they facing but here, this study tries to solve and address the sociocultural problems and the root causes of cultural and social problems as well as the coping mechanism, of these problems. In addition to this as Kifle's study explain the cultural and social problems of disables elders which they face but in here, this study solves and address what is the root cause to expose that inability to get appropriate the elders due to cultural and social problems.

5.2 Recommendation

Based in this study the researcher put the following point to be point in to account.

- Increase the awareness of people who are going to research the age of elderly to prepare the elders to coming through gradual change that occur because of aging problems.
- The government bodies should establish organized social, and cultural institutions for elders which can help to afford

their social and cultural issues in their geographical living residences.

- The individual members of every society should give attention to expose the socio-cultural problems of elders as they can do it.
- The social and cultural policy should be providing by the governmental bodies to sustain table for the elders' life, because of the elders cannot compete with youth and adult aged group of people in case of their age influence.
- Communities should attach the elders with other group to save them from mental and physical injures by involving them with their social and cultural activities.
- The elders themselves should participate to various socio-cultural actives rather not simply meriting supporting from others.
- The social policy should be seriously design for elders to handling the elders who have not capacity to resist the social, cultural and health problems.
- Incorporating elder people in education policy of the country to relief them form ignorance's by providing different training which enable. Them to coping with the coming problems because of their age.
- Building and providing the entertainment centers to the need of elders and making them by low cost.
- The governmental an NGOs should give the support to the elders and take to control and handling of the elders.

- Their children should be aware of their parent problem and have to fulfill their needs.

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APPENDIX

Wolkite UNVIRSTY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

This questionnaire is filled by elders (60 years and above) living in Gubre sub city.

The questionnaire is collecting relevant data to assess the situation and sociocultural problems of elders living in Gurage zone in the case of "Gubre sub city

Dear respondents, you are kindly requested to complete this questions. You are genuine

Response valuable for the successful accomplishments and reliable finding of the study

Understanding of elders living in Gubre sub city

Your response will be kept and will not be used for any other purpose do not write your name.

INSTRUCTION: below this is a list of questions which checks participants, demographic characteristics. Please read each questions carefully and respond the right answer which represents you.

PART ONE DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

I. Age: _____

2. Sex: Male ☐ female ☐

3 .Religions: Orthodox ☐ Protestant ☐ Muslims ☐ other ☐
specify

4. Level of education: do not write and ☐ read ☐ read and write ☐ 1-☐
grades

5-8 grade ☐ 9-12 grade ☐ certificate ☐ diploma degree master and ☐
above

5. Birth of place. Rural ☐ urban ☐
6. Marital statuses. Married ☐ single ☐ divorced ☐ widowed ☐
7. How many children do you have? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Part two specific objectives

1. To describe the current sociocultural problems of elder's people.

Do you fulfill basic needs? ☐ yes ☐ no

2. With whom do you live? With spouse with children ☐ with relative ☐

Institution ☐ other, specify-----

3. Is there any social or family support and care for elders in your area? ☐ yes ☐ no

4. If you "no" question (3) do you think that eroding mutual support between families?

Aggravating the problems of elders? -----

5. Have you own living house? ☐ yes ☐ no

6. If your answer is "no" for question "5" from whose house do you live? -----

.....
.....

7. What is the main source of your income today? Retirement ☐ daily working ☐ support from Children and relatives ☐ begging ☐ government support ☐

NGO support ☐

other, specify-----~-----

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☐

2.3 To describe the livelihood strategies of elder people.

1 do you respect for being an elder? Yes ☐ no ☐

2 If your answer is "no" for question "1" what are the reason for not being respected?

3 In what social institutions are you involved? not involved ☐

Other, specify -----"

4 Under what situation, do you have attend for medical case?

With your own money ☐ free medical service ☐ with the assistance of institution ☐

Other, specify -----

5 Have an elders a chance to participate and decide in social and sociocultural problems in your areas? Yes ☐ no ☐

6 How much of your' income per monthly? Less than 100

101-300 ☐ 301-600 ☐ 601-900 ☐ 901 and above ☐

2.3 Suggest the coping mechanism of elders' people to address the problems

1 Do you involve in conflict resolution activity in your society? Yes ☐ no ☐

2 Do you think that elders' people contribute a lot for the community?

Yes ☐ no ☐

3 Is your answer is "yes" for question "2" list the kind of contribution you give? ---

4 What situations are improved to elders' people to share their rich life experience?

Interview guideline for Gubre sub city labor and social affair

1. What are the current sociocultural problems of elderly people?
2. What is the main cause of sociocultural problem of elders' people?
3. What are the challenges of livelihood of the elderly people's?
4. What sort of attitudes do you think the younger generation holds about elders people today?
5. What is the contribution of elders' people to the community?
6. What should be done on the part of government and NGOs for the elderly people in your community?
- 7, which elderly people are affects mostly? The male or female.