

Gender differences the problems of spouse absence in elderly people

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■ **ABSTRACT** : The present study was conducted to assess the problem of spouse absence according to across gender in elderly people and specific domain in problem was family problem, social problem, recreational problem, health problem and financial problem of spouse absence in elderly. The study based upon sample of 100 elderly in spouse absent (50 male and 50 female) respondents of age range 60 year up to 80 years, the developed an interview schedule on problem of spouse absence in elderly. Results revealed that majority of elderly had now over all problems faced by both male and female. It is evident from the non-significant differences of problem for male and female elderly respondents.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Problems, Spouse absence, Elderly, Gender, Age

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Aging is normal, biological and universal phenomenon. Aging of the population is occurring throughout the world, more rapidly in developing countries. United Nations considered 60 years to be dividing the line between, old age and middle and younger age group threshold of old age (Meisheri *et al.*, 1998). Elderly consists of age warring or surpassing the over age life span of human being and of the human and terms of the old people includes seniors elderly and later life elderly or again can be defined as a process becoming older. It is the process of systems deterioration with time. Successfully again strive with maintaining a balance on the social, cognitive cultural and economic effects of again, in human society, again is perceived to begin at the age of 65 years which often reflects the biological changes that occur in human being as well as cultural and societal convention. The process of becoming old represents complex interaction among health behaviour, hereditary and psycho-social and environmental factors. It is associated with all the regular changes that occur in biologically mature individual as they advance in chronological age (Harris, 2007). Elderly people face adjustment problems in these areas that are unique in many ways (Pivot and Dennier, 1993). For example, not only must they adjust to working conditions but they must also adjust to working conditions. But they must also adjust to realization that their usefulness to their employers is lessened

as they grow older and that, as a result, their status in the work group decreases. furthermore, they have the problem of adjusting to retirements which, for most elderly people, comes soon after old age, sets in the family older men and women must adjust to depending on each other for companionship; do the lack of contact with, and influence over, their children; and often to the loss of a spouse, unmarried elderly people often face adjustment problems that are more serious than the ones confronting those who are married or who have lost of a spouse (Bennet *et al.*, 2005). Loss of the spouse is the challenging and life changing events, this is even worse in elderly people, whether the spouse dies expectedly or un-expectedly, loneliness among the elderly widows whose social network has already been reduced affects the elderly widows quality of life and they become more vulnerable to loneliness.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The present study was planned on the problems of spouse absence in elderly according to gender differences and carried out an over a period of 10 months from July to May in the community by purposively sample selection by old age home and house to house visit area of Rajeev nagar, Kapoorthala, South city, Adil nagar in Lucknow. The study subject included elderly men and women aged 60 year to +80