

# **Correlates of Living Arrangements of Elderly in Pune**

**Sharvari Shukla**

[sharvareeshukla@gmail.com](mailto:sharvareeshukla@gmail.com)

# Introduction

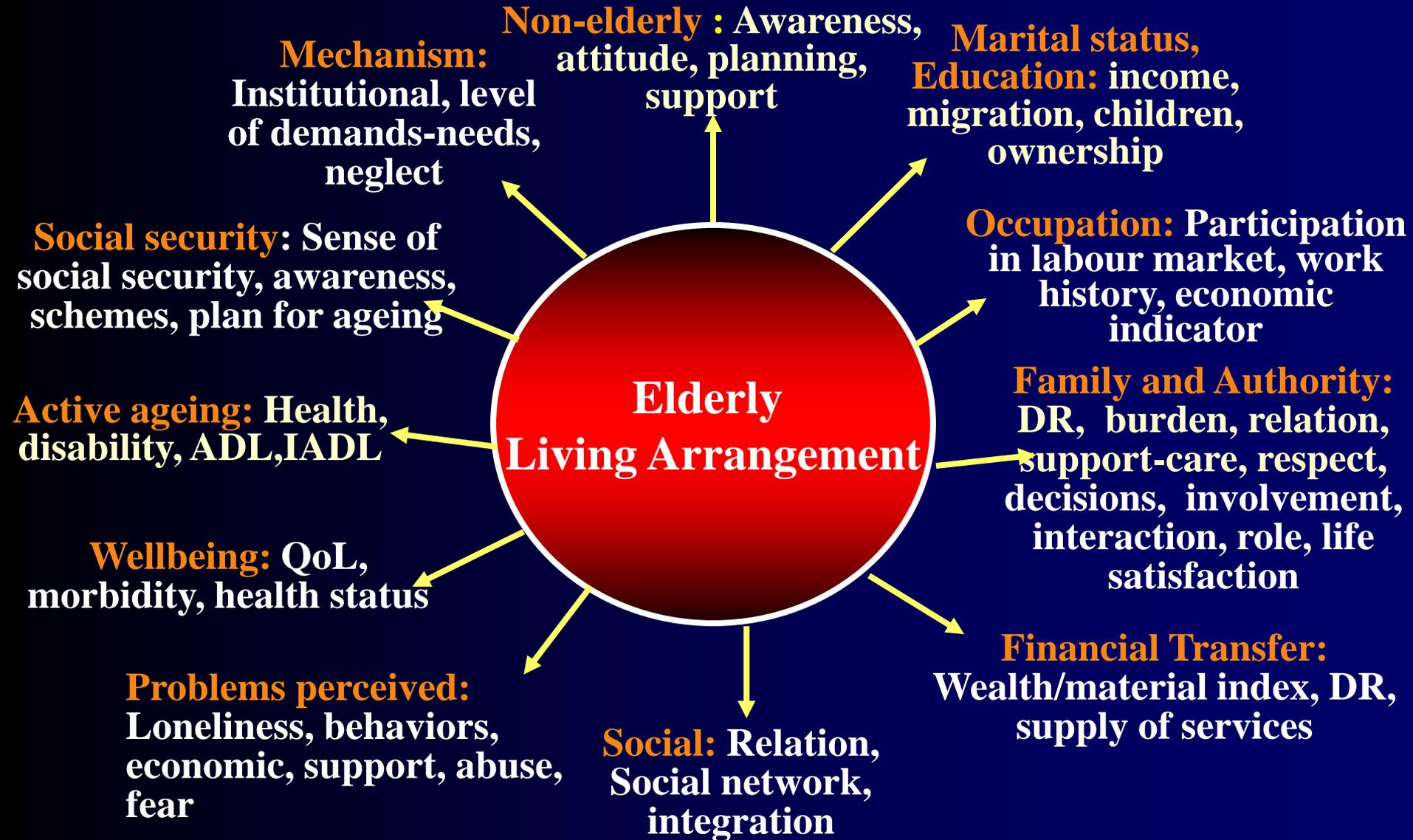
- **About 9.9 percent of the total population of Maharashtra account for the elderly population of age 60 years and above** (*Census, 2011*)
- **Population ageing is expected to have a major impact on many aspects of life**
- **Many researchers have studied the reasons for fertility decline but very few looked at the consequences of the increase in average age of the population—they neglected one of the important consequences of fertility decline as living arrangements**
- **The understanding of the actual living arrangements of the older population remains poor, especially in the developing world** (*Palloni, 2001*)
- **Demographers and family sociologists predicted that industrialization/transition will lead to a convergence of family systems-“weakening of ties with older generation”-which leads to greater prevalence of separate living arrangements as countries develop** (*Goode, 1963; McDonald, 1992*)
- **In this context the study of living arrangements becomes important.**

# Objectives

- **The joint family system is on the decline and more and more families are becoming nuclear**
- **Consequently, patterns of care giving and co-residence are emerging as pre-eminent issues related to the well-being of older persons**
- **Given this background, it is important to explore the current nature of living arrangements and its determinants**
- **In the present analysis we tried to examine a set of socio-economic factors, and the extent to which these factors responsible for different forms of living arrangements of elderly in Pune.**



# Living arrangements of elderly in Pune (n=950)

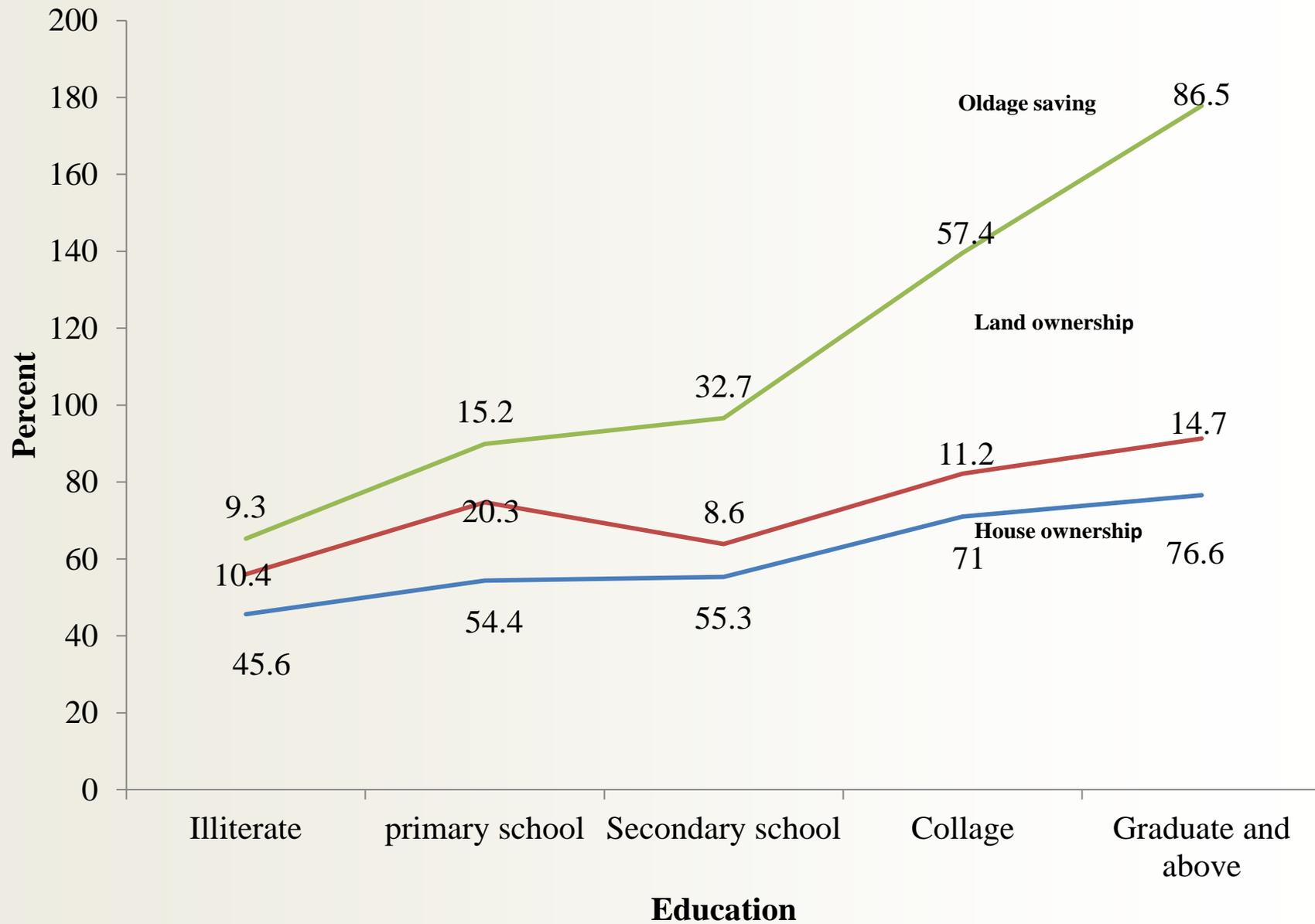


# Profile of elderly

<b>Background characteristic</b>	<b>Male (445)</b>	<b>Female (505)</b>	<b>Total (950)</b>
<i>Age (y)</i>			
60-69	55.5	57.0	56.3
70-79	34.6	30.7	32.5
80+	9.9	12.3	11.2
Age (mean, SD)	69.7 (6.8)	69.6 (7.8)	69.7 (7.4)
<i>Marital status</i>			
Currently married	89.0	44.4	65.3
Widowed	9.3	53.5	32.7
Others	1.7	2.1	2.0
<i>Education*</i>			
No education/Illiterate	14.4	41.0	28.5
1-4 years complete-Primary	8.5	8.2	8.3
5-7 years complete-Secondary	12.8	13.9	13.4
8-10 years complete-Higher secondary	16.6	12.9	14.7
11-12 years complete-Junior college	19.3	12.5	15.7
College and above	28.3	11.4	19.3
Years of schooling (mean, SD)	9.3 (5.5)	5.6 (5.6)	7.3 (5.8)
Staying with any of the child (%)	74.4	72.1	73.2

*Note: \*three elderly with no formal education but can read and write*

**Ownership of assets by education of elderly, Pune, 2013.**

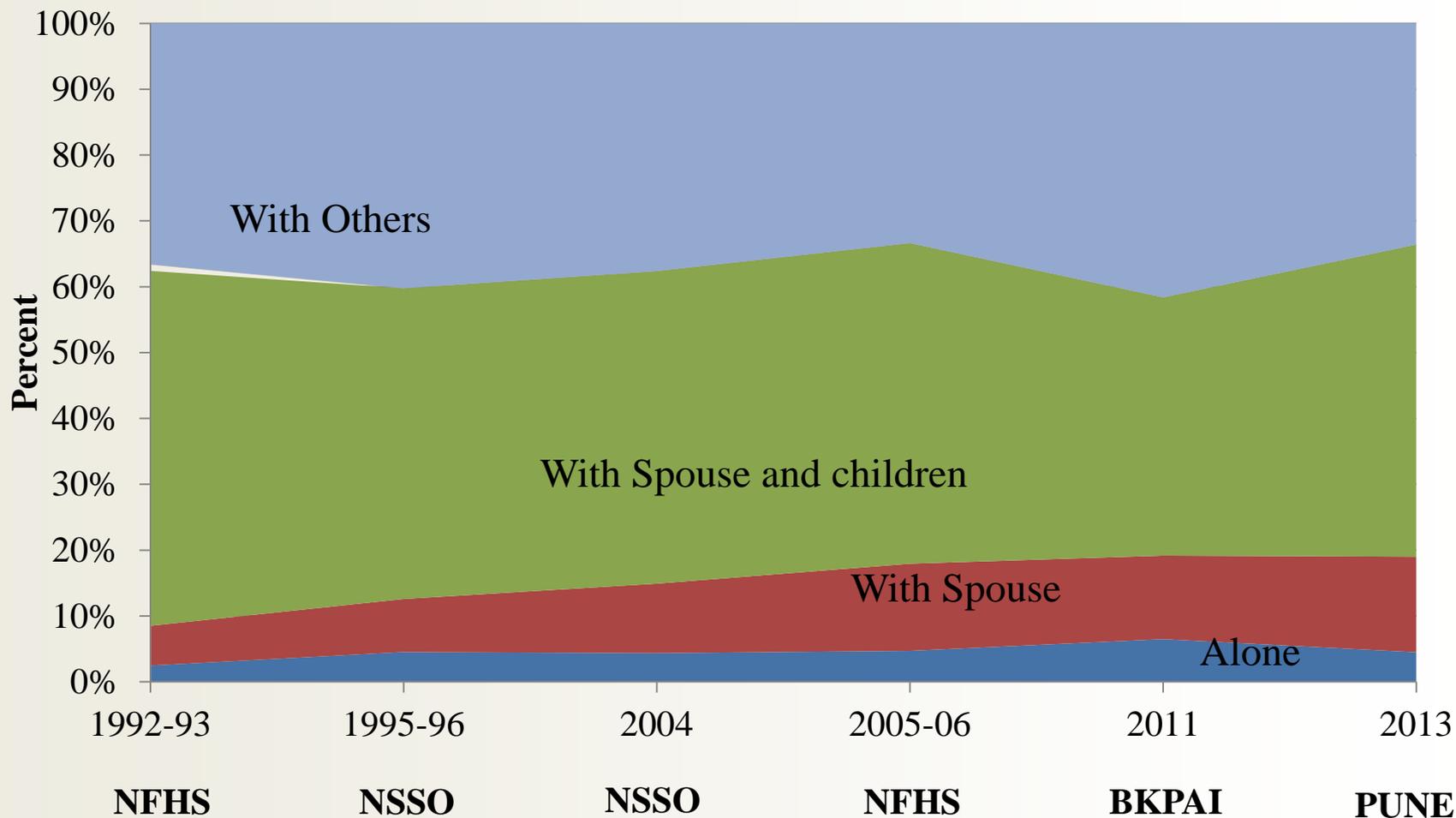


# Distribution of elderly by their differential living arrangements, from NFHS II (1992-93), NFHS III (2005-06) and Pune 2013 study

	Living arrangement	Male			Female			Total		
	Study year	1992-93	2005-06	2013	1992-93	2005-06	2013	1992-93	2005-06	2013
A	Living alone	1.4	2.6	2.5	3.5	7.6	6.3	2.4	5.0	4.5
B	With spouse only	7.5	15.9	18.9	5.6	11.5	10.7	6.6	13.7	14.5
	Sub total (A+B)	8.9	18.5	21.4	9.2	19.1	17.0	9.0	18.7	<u>19.0</u>
C	With spouse, children&gr-child	69.9	65.5	66.5	33.5	30.5	30.5	52.8	48.3	47.4
D	With children & grandchildren	14.9	12.4	7.9	44.5	42.6	41.6	28.8	27.2	25.8
E	With married daughter	1.3	1.4	1.6	5.0	4.4	4.4	3.0	2.9	3.1
	Sub total (C+D+E)	86.1	79.3	76.0	82.9	77.5	76.5	84.6	78.4	<u>76.3</u>
F	With other relatives	3.7	1.7	2.7	6.7	3.1	6.5	5.1	2.4	4.7
G	With non-relatives	0.4	0.2	0	0.3	0.1	0	0.3	0.2	0
	Sub total (F+G)	4.1	1.9	2.7	7.0	3.2	6.5	5.4	2.6	<u>4.7</u>
H	Don't know	0.9	0.3	0	1.0	0.2	0	1.0	0.3	0
	N	20662	22770	445	18089	22027	505	38751	44797	950

Values are percent

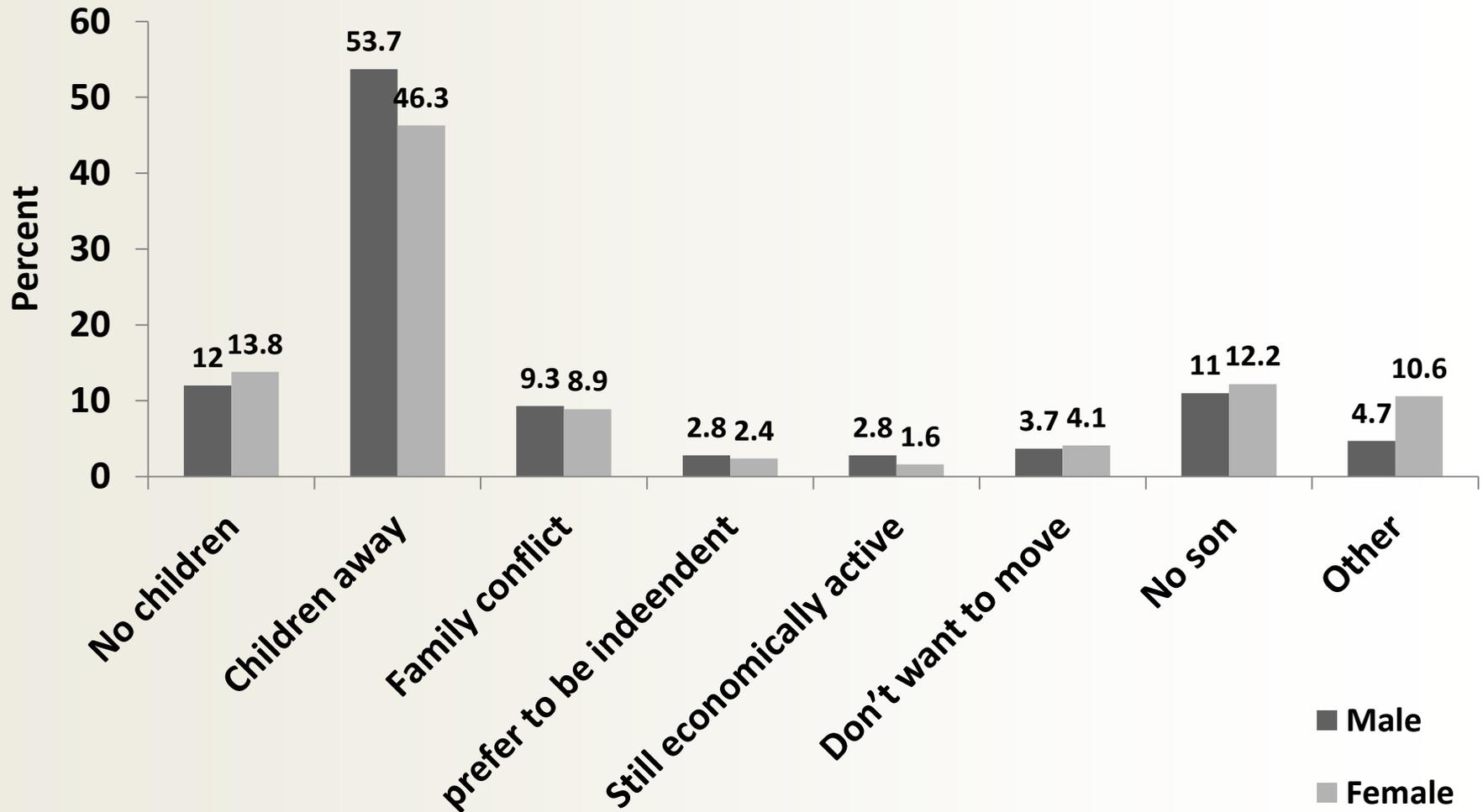
# Trends in living arrangements



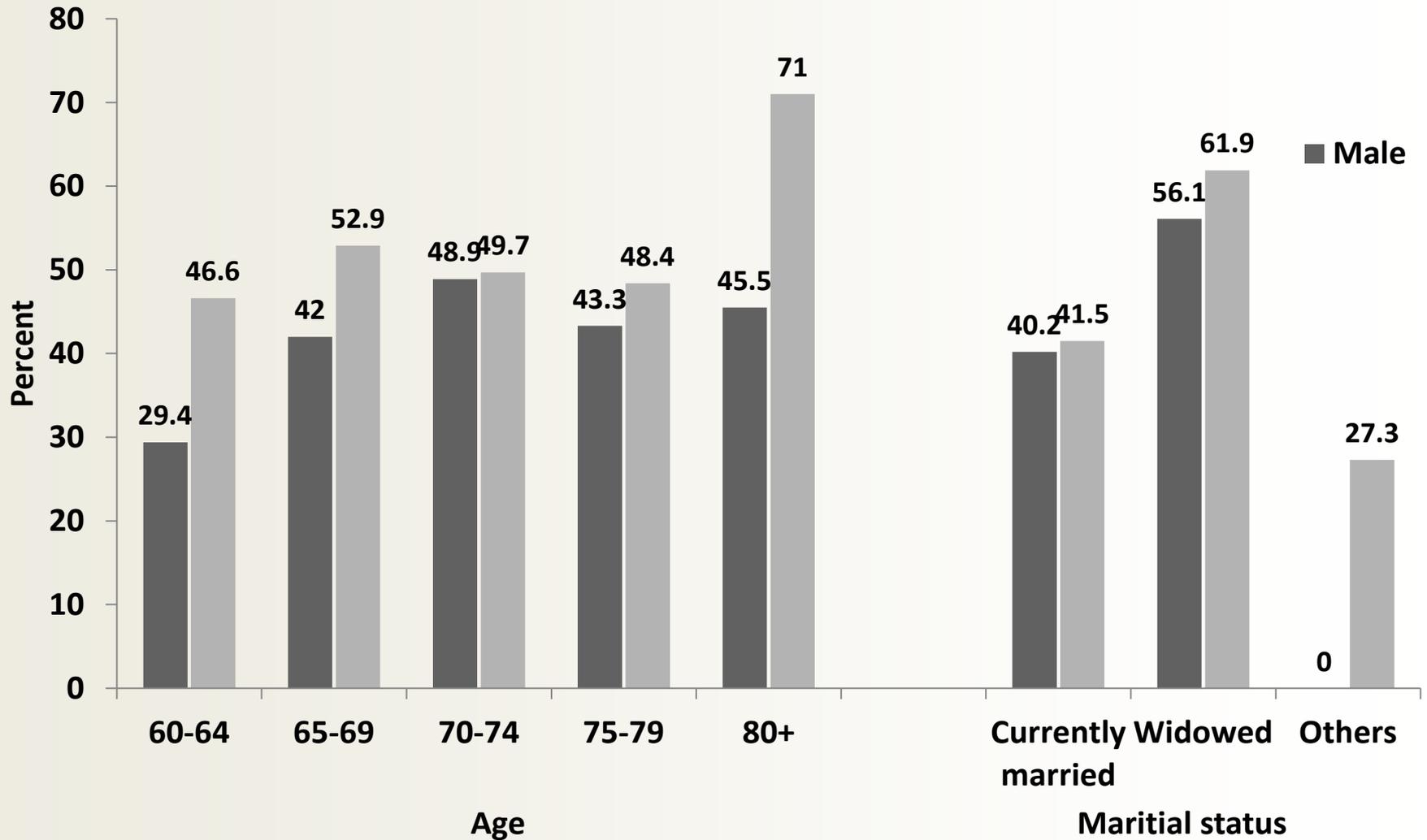
# Profile of elderly by living arrangements

Background characteristic	Alone	Spouse only	Spouse, child-grchild	Children and grchild	Others	Number of elderly
<b>Age (y)</b>						
60-69	3.7	13.8	57.2	22.8	2.4	535
70-79	6.5	14.9	39.5	31.1	8.1	309
80+	2.8	17.0	20.8	52.8	6.6	106
<b>Sex</b>						
Men	2.5	18.9	66.5	9.4	2.7	445
Women	6.3	10.7	30.5	45.9	6.5	505
<b>Marital status</b>						
Married	0.6	22.3	72.6	3.2	1.3	620
Widowed	10.3	--	--	80.7	9.0	311
<b>Education*</b>						
No education/Illiterate	4.4	7.8	30.0	49.3	8.5	270
1-4 years complete-Primary	1.3	15.2	51.9	29.1	2.5	79
5-7 years complete-Secondary	3.1	9.4	56.7	29.1	1.6	127
8-10 years complete-Higher secondary	3.6	11.5	58.3	23.7	2.9	139
11-12 years complete-Junior college	6.0	16.1	54.4	20.8	2.7	149
FY-SY- Senior college	0.0	15.0	65.0	10.2	10.2	20
Graduate and above	7.4	30.1	49.7	8.0	4.9	163
Number of respondents	43	138	450	274	45	950

# Main Reason for Elderly to Live Alone or with Spouse, Pune 2013.



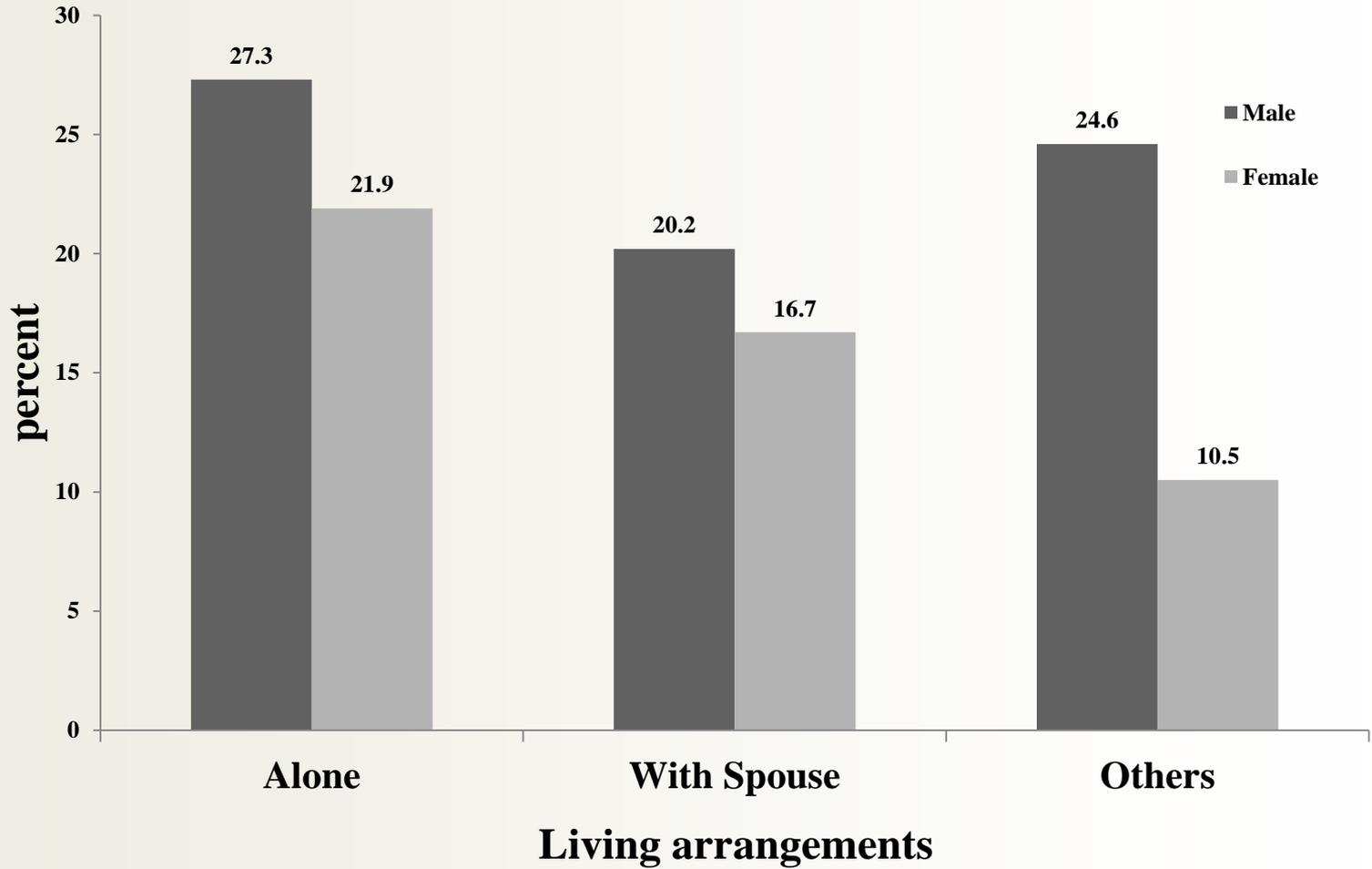
# Elderly Who Think They Are Living with Their Children by Age and Marital Status, Pune 2013.



# Percent distribution of elderly by type of living arrangement according to economic characteristics

Characteristics	Alone	Spouse only	Spouse, children, gr-children	Children and grandchildren	Others	Number of elderly
<b>Working status</b>						
<b>Currently working</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Ever worked</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>426</b>
<b>Never worked</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>358</b>
<b>Employment Benefit</b>						
<b>Retirement</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Pension</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Both retirement &amp; pension</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>441</b>
<b>Still working*</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>Status of gainful employment</b>						
<b>Active</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Non-active</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>741</b>

# Currently Working Elderly by Type of Living Arrangement and Sex, Pune 2013



**68 percent elderly reported the economic need as reason behind current working**

# Predictors of living arrangements

- **On multivariate analysis, after controlling different background variables, younger (60-69) age ( $\beta$ : 0.7), widowhood (3.5), above graduate education ( $\beta$  :1.05), fewer surviving children (1.2), partial or full economic dependency ( $\beta$ : 3.1) are the most significant variables in determining the living arrangements of the elderly in Pune**
- **Although the bivariate analysis showed the existence of differentials in living arrangements with respect to the variables such as gender, working status, HH ownership were not significant in predicting the living arrangement choices when the effect of other variables was controlled.**

# Conclusion

- **It was observed that the likelihood of the elderly with higher education living alone was much higher compared to those who were either illiterate or had a few years of schooling**
- **Economic independence was also an important variable in determining the chances of living alone**
- **There was less likelihood of the elderly living alone when they were fully or partially dependent on others indicating the significance of individual income over household income in determining the living arrangement.**

**Thank You**

# Discussion

- **The changing socio-economic and demographic scenario in India with increasing education and income with simultaneous decline in fertility, there is a likelihood of a higher proportion of elderly Indians living alone in the future.**
- **Therefore, the policies and programmes for the welfare of the elderly have to address the needs of those who live alone or only with spouse.**
- **Rather than having costly solution, the family as the natural fundamental unit of society has to be strengthened as a support system for the provision of care and protection for older persons**
- **Attention should be given to promote co-residence through housing and financial incentives/policy for non-elderly living with parents**
- **Special attention should be given to vulnerable such as oldest-old persons , economically inactive , the widows and the childless.**

- Table 5 shows that elderly women are 2.5 times significantly more likely to live alone than their male counterparts, and urban residents are 1.5 times more likely to live alone than rural residents. There is a strong marital status dimension to ageing that emerges, which is that those widowed have extremely high odds of living alone compared to those that are married- which implicitly means that women are most vulnerable. Interestingly, those with more education are more likely to live alone compared to those with no education, and those currently in the workforce are more likely to live alone than those who have never worked.

# Sex ratio (females per 1000 males), Pune 2013

