

## Comparison of Aging Years with Mankind

Sindhuja I\*

Department of Pharmacy, Alumnus, Vignan Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

### DESCRIPTION

People in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> live longer and live better than ever before. Consider that 200 years ago most of our ancestors were living at or just above subsistence level. Farmers are trying to eke out a living, village smiths, shoemakers or craftsmen. If they developed diabetes, they would go blind and probably die early. If their eyesight started to give way as they reached middle age, they had to give up reading. Often a simple infection meant death in good olden days. Why here it is mentioned as good olden days because, technology is nowhere, people worked hard in farms for food but these days people working hard in front of computers for food. Of course a simple infection well lead to death I do agree but a chemical agent will ruin entire generation along with the soil required for food destroying the resources left for us. And instead of struggling to eat fewer calories we eat today, they fought to get enough to eat.

We have made phenomenal progress. Today most of us enjoy better health and a longer life than the wealthiest people in the wealthiest countries did just a century ago and barring any catastrophic surprises in the first half of 21st century things are very luxuries, people used to think they can buy everything with money.

Now it is completely changed like Life before COVID-19 and after COVID-19 where people started caring the elder ones. These huge demographic shifts happen very rarely in our society.

In the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, for example we began to the further define and refine stages of life. We began by creating the concept of childhood.

In the years of following World War II older people in this country were seen as a huge societal problem. No group had been so ignored as older people were then. There was a period of time between the end of work and the end of life that former labor leader explained Too old to work and too young to die. People entering this age were lost. Too many did not know what to do and society did not seem to want them. Age was viewed simply as the residue of youth. In 1950 we saw the emergence of a life stage we think of today as retirement. The plight of older people began to change. This was a time of tremendous demographic upheaval in the different countries brought on by the birth of the baby boom generation. We created a social infrastructure to support and nurture this disruption, woven together by private investment. The benefits of this social contract were felt by people throughout to provide more and more people with a foundation for income in retirement. Those of us entering this period of our lives don't want to be defined by our age, and we do not want to live in fear that our possibilities become more limited as we get older. We believe our life experience has tremendous value. We still want to make a difference in the world because of increased longevity and for better health.

**Correspondence to:** Sindhuja I, Bachelor of Pharmacy, Vignan Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India, Tel: 919553138382; E-mail: sindhujaidadas@gmail.com

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