Sex ratio* tended to decrease overtime in almost all age groups.

*Sex ratio is the number of women for every 100 men in the same age group.

More women than men at more advanced ages

In 2019, the proportion of female is

- 54% in young-old (60-64) group.
- 65% in oldest-old (80+) group.

2029-2069 FORECAST

Over time, the sex ratio will decrease, particularly for the oldest-old. Feminization of ageing will happen, but less severe over time.
In 2009-2019 period, the proportion of widowed older persons decreased in all age groups, but age-based difference was significant. The rate of widowhood for the oldest-old was about three to four times of that for the young-old.

80% of widowed older persons in all age groups are WOMEN.


Women at more advanced age and living in rural areas account for higher proportions in the most vulnerable workers** group.

The proportion of older women living in rural areas is higher than older men and increases with age.

The trend will continue.

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The rate of widowhood for the oldest-old was about three to four times of that for the young-old.

The fact that older women in rural areas are vulnerable workers requires priorities in policy-making for income security in particular and social protection in general for older persons.

Feminization of ageing calls for specially attention to gender-sensitive policies and programmes responding to population ageing and addressing individual needs of both older women and men.

Living alone due to widowhood might result in physical and mental health consequences, which in turn negatively affect quality of life (including life satisfaction). Such a situation should be considered carefully in designing and implementing care services for older persons, especially when women are the majority among widowed older persons.

The higher rates of living in rural areas for older women at more advanced ages affirms that there should be priorities in planning and providing services, such as long-term care (LTC) for older persons living in rural areas, particularly for the oldest-old and older women.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Feminization of ageing calls for specially attention to gender-sensitive policies and programmes responding to population ageing and addressing individual needs of both older women and men.
- Living alone due to widowhood might result in physical and mental health consequences, which in turn negatively affect quality of life (including life satisfaction). Such a situation should be considered carefully in designing and implementing care services for older persons, especially when women are the majority among widowed older persons.
- The higher rates of living in rural areas for older women at more advanced ages affirms that there should be priorities in planning and providing services, such as long-term care (LTC) for older persons living in rural areas, particularly for the oldest-old and older women.
- The fact that older women in rural areas are vulnerable workers requires priorities in policy-making for income security in particular and social protection in general for older persons.