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Old age homes far from 'home' for India's elderly

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NEW DELHI (AFP) - Ejected from the house of his son and daughter-in-law, Brij Mohan Garg looks around the spartan surroundings of his state-subsidised old age home in Delhi with a mixture of despair and disbelief.

'After doing so well in life I find myself here,' said the 72-year-old retired government official, shaking his head and gesturing at the dirty upholstery covering a well-worn sofa in the home's 'visitors' room'.

Mr Garg's predicament is in many ways a direct result of India's rapid economic growth, which has brought enormous social change - including the gradual break-up of the traditional extended family.

For elderly people like Mr Garg, the 'joint' family, where parents, children and grandchildren all live under one roof, was once a dependable safety net of comfort and companionship in their old age.

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