

Elders Abuse – A Growing Menace A Critical Study of Belagavi City

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Elderly care, or simply eldercare (also known in parts of the English speaking world as aged care), is the fulfillment of the special needs and requirements that are unique to senior citizens. This broad term encompasses such services as assisted living, adult day care, long term care, nursing homes (often referred to as residential care), hospice care, and home care. Because of the wide variety of elderly care found nationally, as well as differentiating cultural perspectives on elderly citizens, cannot to be limited to any one practice .Elderly care emphasizes the social and personal requirements of senior citizens who need some assistance with daily activities and health care, but who desire to age with dignity. It is an important distinction, in that the design of housing, services, activities, employee training and such should be truly customer-centered. It is also noteworthy that a large amount of global elderly care falls under the unpaid market sector

The number of the elders is growing in India. There are an estimated 90 million older persons in India today. Life expectancy has increased from 40 years in 1951 to 64 years. Growth rate of elderly (3.09) is higher than that of the general population (1.9). At 60+, the proportion of widows (54%) is more than widowers (16%). This demographic transition has posed tremendous challenges for healthy ageing. As per 2001 Census, total population of Senior Citizens (60+ years) was 7.7 crore, of which population of males and females was 3.8 crore and 3.9 crore respectively. Senior Citizens constituted 7.5% of the total population. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Orissa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry have more than the national average (7.5%) of proportion of Senior Citizens population.(ElderAbuseCrimeIndia11.pdf) .Looking into the growing population and the problems faced by this category it was felt for the need of the study .Hence this study.

Key Words: Elder, Abuse, trauma, Psychological, Institution.

INTRODUCTION

At present 95 million people in India are above the age of 60, by the year 2025 nearly 80 million more will be added to this population bracket. With improved life expectancy rate in our country, it's estimated that as many as 8 million people are currently above the age of 80 years. Changing family value system, economic compulsions who are of the children, neglect and abuse has caused elders to fall through the net of family care. Homes for the Aged are ideal for elderly people alone, face health problems, depression and loneliness.

Definition

Elder abuse is defined as: "a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person or violates their human and civil rights".(Protecting Our Future - Report of the Working Group on Elder Abuse, 2002)

Types of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse can occur in many forms and may be the result of deliberate intention, negligence or ignorance. A person may experience more than one form of abuse at a time. Types of elder mistreatment include:

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse has been defined as the non-accidental infliction of physical force that results in a bodily injury, pain or impairment. Physical abuse may include hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication and inappropriate restraint

Psychological Abuse

Psychological or emotional abuse may include the persistent use of threats, humiliation, bullying, intimidation, isolation, swearing and other verbal conduct that results in mental or physical distress.

Financial Abuse

Financial or material abuse has been defined as the unauthorized and improper use of funds, property or any resources of an older person. This may include theft, coercion, fraud, misuse of power of attorney, and also not contributing to household costs where this was previously agreed.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse refers to any sexual acts to which an older person has not or could not consent, including talking to or touching in a sexual way.

Neglect

Neglect refers to the repeated deprivation of assistance needed by an older person for important activities of daily living. This may include ignoring or refusing to help with physical care needs, failing to provide access to appropriate health services, or withholding necessities such as adequate nutrition and heating.

Discriminatory Abuse

Discriminatory abuse may include racism, ageism, discrimination based on disability, other forms of harassment, slur or similar treatment.

Institutional Abuse

Institutional abuse may occur within residential care and acute settings including nursing homes, acute hospitals and any other in-patient settings, and may involve poor standards of care, rigid routines and inadequate responses to complex needs.

How big is the problem? International studies estimate the prevalence of abuse in the community at between 1% to 5% of the population aged 65 years and older. A recent report by the NCPOP, Abuse and Neglect of Older People in Ireland (2010), provided the first national prevalence statistics on the extent of elder abuse and neglect amongst community-dwelling older people.

The overall prevalence of elder abuse and neglect in the previous 12 months was 2.2%. This suggests that over 10,000 people over the age of 65 years experienced mistreatment in the past year. Financial abuse was the most common type reported at 1.3%, followed by psychological abuse (1.2%), physical abuse (0.5%), neglect (0.3%) and sexual abuse (0.05%).

Approximately 4% of older people living in the community have experienced some form of abuse since turning 65 years of age.

The HSE dedicated elder abuse service, established in 2007, receives over 1,800 referrals for alleged cases of elder abuse each year. In 2009 psychological abuse was the most frequently reported form of abuse at 28%, followed by self-neglect (21%), financial abuse (18%), neglect (17%) and physical abuse (12%), sexual abuse (1%) and other/discrimination (3%).

Constitutional and legal protection for Elders in India:

Sec-38. State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people

- 1) The state shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting a social justice, social, economic and political rights.

Sec-41. Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases-

The state shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment.

Sec-42. Provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief-

The state shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and the maternity relief.

Sec-46. Promotion of economic and educational interests of Schedule Caste and Schedule tribes and other weaker sections-

The state shall promote with special care the education and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

Sec -47. Duty of the state to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health

Legal protection of Elders:

The Hindu adoption and maintenance Act. 1956.

This act subject to the provisions of maintenance of legitimate or illegitimate children and aged persons

Protection under Criminal Procedure Code- 1973

Sec-125. Order for maintenance of wives, Children and Parents

- a) If any person having sufficient means neglects or refuses to maintain.
- b) His wife unable to maintain herself.
- c) His legitimate or illegitimate child unable to maintain itself.
- d) His Father or Mother unable to maintain themselves a magistrate of first class order such person to make monitor allowance for their maintenance.

Schemes for Elders in Karnataka:

Old age Homes: State Govt. extend the financial assistance to NGOs to establish and implement Old Age Homes to take care of the elderly persons providing all the basic amenities including Health care protection to life etc.,

Monthly Pension scheme for older person (Implemented by Revenue Dept.):

Rs. 400/- is provided as monthly pension to needy elderly persons to maintain themselves

Eligibility Criteria:

1. He / She should be 65 years or more in age.
2. The combined annual income of the proposed pensioner and his or her spouse shall not exceed Rs.20,000/- as certified by the local revenue authority.

Help Line for Senior Citizens:

Help lines are established at 14 places in the State i.e., Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli-Dharwad, Gulbarga, Mangalore & Belgaum Davangere, Raichur, Bellary and Shimoga with the help of Police Dept. and NGO's to redress the grievances of senior citizens who are in distress. (other 4 help lines)

Day Care Center for Senior Citizens:

Day care centers are established at Bangalore, Hubli-Dharwar, Gulbarga and Belgaum corporation areas. The main objectives of Day Care center is to maintain well being of older persons, to provide social and emotional services, recreation, Health care etc.,

Identity Cards for Senior Citizens:

The Deputy Director Women & Child Development Department of the concerned district will identify NGOs to issue Identity Cards to Senior Citizens. The NGOs can collect Rs. 25 towards issue of Identity Cards to Senior Citizens.

SandhyaSurkasha Scheme (Implemented by Revenue Dept.):

Govt. order No. RD/97/MST/2007, Dated: 2-07-2007. The purpose of the scheme to provide financial assistance in the form of social security pension. The Senior citizens shall be eligible for pension of Rs.400/- per month under this scheme if she / he satisfy the following conditions.

- 1.He / She should be 65 years or more in age.
- 2.The combined annual income of the proposed pensioner and his or her spouse shall not exceed Rs.20,000/- as certified by the local revenue authority.
- 3.If the income is declared by beneficiary himself / herself, the income of Adult children need not be counted for calculation of the income of the proposed social security pensioner
- 4.The total value of combined deposits held by the pensioner and his spouse shall not be exceeding Rs.10,000/-.
- 5.The beneficiaries who are availing old age pension, Destitute widow pension or physically handicapped pension or any other form of pension from public or private sources are not eligible for this scheme.

6) Concessional Bus Pass:

Elder persons above the age of 65 living in Karnataka are eligible to avail concessional monthly bus passes in KSRTC also Senior Citizens eligible to avail 25% concessions in Bus fare for which they travel.

METHODOLOGY

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the conditions of Elders in their homes and reason for their Elderly Abuse.
2. To study the awareness programs conducted by the old age homes for the elderly and their views on elderly people.

Types of the research: Exploratory Research and Descriptive Method have been used in this study.

1) Methods and Tools of Data Collection:

Source of data: Primary data: The data which is collected for the study is directly from respondents is called as primary data The information was collected through Questionnaire

Sample and Sampling: sampling has been done by way of simple random, 73persons has been selected, and they were 50years of age and above target were to reach people from all sectors of society. **Sample:** Data is collected from elders through questioner in the month of May.

Table Showing the information of Age distribution of the elders at different Old Age Homes. INFORMATION OF AGE AND ELDERS

| AGE BETWEEN | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| 50 – 60 | 05 | 09 | 14 |
| 60 – 70 | 11 | 17 | 28 |
| 70 – 80 | 07 | 18 | 25 |
| 80 – 90 | 01 | 03 | 04 |
| 90 + | 00 | 02 | 02 |
| TOTAL | 24 | 49 | 73 |

The above table and chart is indicates to information of age and elders age between 50-60; male 05, female 09,. Age between 60-70; male 11, female 17. Age between 70-80; male 07, female 18, Age between 80-90; male 01, female 03, and total 04. Age 90+ male 00, and female 02, and total 02. Total all male elder 24, and Total all female elders 49.

Table Showing the details of Facilities Provided in the different Old Age Homes.

Facilities in the Institution

| Sl.No | Name of the Institution | Facilities in the Institution. | | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | Food | Shelter | Clothing | Medicine | Exercise |
| 1. | Karunalaya | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| 2. | Shri. Shivabasaveshwar vrudhashram | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| 3. | Shantai vrudhashram | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 4. | Home for homeless | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| 5. | St. Joseph's home for the aged | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |

The above table indicates that the facilities for the Elders in the old age Institution in Belagavi city all sampled institution they were give the facilities to inmates and all the institutions also provide the shelter, clothing and medicine for the old age people living in the institution. There was only one institution (Shantai vrudhashram) giving the facility of daily exercise for the inmates.

Table Showing the information of Source of Funding to the different Old Age Homes .

Sources of Funding

| Sl.No | Name of Institution | Source of Funding |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Karunalaya | Family Members, Friends and Well wishers |
| 2 | Shri. Shivabasaveshwarvrudhashram | Well wishers and Religious persons |
| 3 | Shantairudhashram | Self funding and Well wishers |
| 4 | Home for homeless | Well wishers |
| 5 | St. Joseph's home for the aged | Community |

The above table indicates about funding sources for the old age institutions of Belagavi city , these funding are used for the purpose of the welfare of old age people as well as of the institution. The source comes from family members, friends, religious persons, Community persons, well wishers and some institutions have their own income source as a fund.

Data analysis:

In Belagavi city all the old age homes are run by private institutions and organization. They were not funded by the government but they have sources of funding like from family of the inmates, friends of the inmates, well wishers of the society and religious peoples. Some of them are run the institution by self funding. These old age institutions the number of staff is 33 peoples for 166 elders this means institutions suffering from lack of staff. In these institutions female are more in number as elderly abused that is 49 females and males are 24 persons, in that the age between 60-70 are more in number who are elderly abused by their family member and others. In these institutions the type of inmates comes from residence are destitute, neglected by children, poor unmarried and widows. The institutions are providing love and compassion, care and medical facility and listing of their stories.

The Awareness Programs Conducted by the Old Age Homes for the elderly and their views on Elderly people

Table No- showing the details of the Old Age Homes Working for Rejoin the Elders And Conducting the Awareness Programs.

Rejoining to Family and Awareness Programs

| Sl.No | Name of Institution | Rejoining to Family | Awareness Programs |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Karunalaya | Yes | Yes |
| 2 | Shri. Shivabasaveshwarvrudhashram | Yes | Yes |
| 3 | Shantaivrudhashram | Yes | Yes |
| 4 | Home for homeless | No | Yes |
| 5 | St. Joseph's home for the aged | No | Yes |

The above table explains about the rejoining to families and awareness programs by the institutions about old age abuse. There are only three institutions that make arrangements for joining to the institution and some of them are not having this type of facilities. In Belagavi city all the old age institutions arranged the awareness program for general public.

Table Measures to Avoid Elder Abuse

| Sl. No. | Name of the Institution | Measures To Avoid Elder Abuse | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | | Street Drama | Pamphlets | Speeches | Programs |
| 1. | Karunalaya | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 2. | Shri. Shivabasaveshwarvrudhashram | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 3. | Shantaivrudhashram | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 4. | Home for homeless | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 5. | St. Joseph's home for the aged | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |

The above table shows the measures taken by the old age institution to avoid elder abuse in the Belagavi city. These are the awareness programs arranged by the institutions to make society aware about the elder abuse. Those measures are street drama, pamphlets, speeches in public and students programs and other programs. Almost all the institutions make awareness programs which are mentioned above to control elder abuse.

Data analysis:

Awareness programs help to know about the system, rules and regulations on a particular issue. In this thesis it is explained that the old age institutions have many awareness programs in the Belagavi city in the forms of giving pamphlets to the public, Street dramas in the villages as well as cities. They can also give special speeches and lectures to general public and the students in education institutions. There are some special programs for making aware about elder abuse programs on celebrations of festivals and some special days. The old age institutions also make arrangements for Rejoining of the elders to their family.

To study the family background of Elders in Old Age Homes and the reason for Joining Old Age Home.**Table INFORMATION SHOWING THOSE WHO HAVE CHILDREN**

| HAVE CHILDREN | DON'T HAVE | TOTAL |
|---------------|------------|-------|
| 23 | 50 | 73 |

The above table and pie chart indicates to information showing those who leave children or orphans. Here have children are 23(68%), don't have 50 (32%).

Table 10: Reason for joining old age

| Sl. No | Reason for Joining old age | Number | | Percentage (%) |
|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------|----------------|
| | | Male | Female | |
| 1 | Medical | 6 | 6 | 24 |
| 2 | Harassment | 4 | 7 | 16 |
| 3 | Neglected | 6 | 11 | 24 |
| 4 | Economic Problem | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 5 | Self | 6 | 17 | 24 |
| 6 | Other reasons | 3 | 6 | 12 |
| | Total | 24 | 49 | 100 |

The above table and chart are indicates that the reason for joining the old age people to the old age institution. About 24% of the people are come for the reason of Neglected by the family and some of (24%) the inmates come by self. There are 16% of people come because of harassment by the family members.12% of peoples come for the area

The Conditions of Elders in their homes and Reason for their Elderly Abuse

Table Reason for their Abuse

| Sl. No | Reason for their Abuse | Number | | Percentage (%) |
|--------|------------------------|--------|--------|----------------|
| | | Male | Female | |
| 1 | Medical | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | Financial | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | Other * | 21 | 46 | 92 |
| | Total | 24 | 49 | 100 |

*other means no response, elder and Mental.

The above table and charts are indicates about the reason for the abuse of Elders in Belagavi city. About 92% of people are get abuse because of the factors like mental sufferings and many of them are not responding for their Abuse. Only 5% of people are abuse because of the reason of Medical. And there are only 3% of People are abuse because of Financial purpose.

Opinion of the Elders about their experience in Home. They expressed that they feel lonely in the home. About 47% of people are agreed about they feel loneliness in the home. And there are 23% of people are not feel loneliness in the home. Finally about 30% of people who are not having their home.

about the opinion of elders about their feeling experience in the home. Here focus on the feeling of elders that they are forced to silent at home. There are 23% of people are agreeing that they are forced to silent at home. And 47% of people are not agreeing that they are not forced to silent at home. There are 30% of people who are not having their home.

Table showing Forced to Work at Home

| Sl. No | Forced to Work at Home | Number | | Percentage (%) |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|----------------|
| | | Male | Female | |
| 1 | Yes | 7 | 13 | 27 |
| 2 | No | 10 | 22 | 44 |
| 3 | Not applicable for homeless | 7 | 14 | 29 |
| | Total | 24 | 49 | 100 |

The above table and charts are indicates about the opinion of elders about their feeling experience in the home. Here focus on the feeling of elders that they are forced to work at home. There are 27% of people who are forced to work at home. Women are forced to do domestic works. And about 44% of people are not to forced for work in the home. Finally there are 29% of people are not having their own home.

The above table and charts are indicates about the opinion of elders about their feeling experience in the home. Here focus on the feeling of elders that they are neglected by the family members. There are 51% of elders are neglected the family and there are 34% of people are not feeling any negligence in the home by family members and others. There are 15% of people are not having their own home so it is not applicable to them.

The above table and charts are indicates about the opinion of elders about their feeling experience in the home. Here focus on the feeling of elders that they are ever physically beaten by any one. There are only 8% of people are physically beaten by family members and others. About 62% of people are not physically beaten by the family members and others. 30% of people are not having home they can't applicable to this.

Table representing the FORM OF ABUSE

| SL. NO. | ABUSE FORMS | MALE | FEMALE |
|---------|------------------------|------|--------|
| 1. | Physical abuse | 00 | 05 |
| 2. | Abusing with bad words | 10 | 19 |
| 3. | Mental abuse | 12 | 24 |

The above table and chart are indicates to form of abuse their physical abuse there are no male physically suffered (0%) but the female are 05 are physically abuse, and Abusing with bad words response of male 10, response of female 19. Mental abuse response of male 12, response of female 24

BY WHOM YOU ARE ABUSED MOST

The above table and pie chart indicates to by whom elders are abused most in the home. There are many elders are abuse most by relatives (30%), Neighbors (27%) and Brothers (22%). There are no one abused by their Daughters'. Instead if this by own child, son in law and husband also abused in a little amount.

Data analysis:

There are many elders are neglected are abuse by their own family members because of many reasons. The elder peoples are joining to the Old Age institution by their own children, friends, by institution rescue and some of them are joining because of self thinking. There are many reasons for joining to the institution. In that there are many peoples who are not response clearly. Here the opinion on their earlier feeling in home that there are many people are feeling lonely in the home earlier because there is restrictions to involve with other family members. Many of the Elders are suffering from physically and mentally so there is forced and threat to silence in home. Some time the family members are forced to work in home as a domestic worker.

Findings:

- All the old age institutions are run by private institutions or persons and those are having less number of staffs compare to the inmates.
- In karunalaya old age institution there is more number of elders (31%) compare to others.
- According to the data more number of the old age inmates are don't have children (68%).
- In the institution female are more emotionally disturbed (67%) compare to male inmates (33%).
- There is lack of staff in the institution for care and protection of Elders (36 staff for 166 inmates)
- In the Belagavi city all the old age institutions run by the private organization or person.
- Between the age of 60-70 are more joined to the Old Age Institution (28 persons) in that female are more come for join to institution.
- There are many programs and entertainment activities takes place in the institution for happy living of the inmates.
- In the old age institution there are many facilities which are help for the old age group those are food, shelter, clothing, medicine and exercise.
- There is lack of funding and financial assistance to the Old Age Institution from the Government.
- There are many awareness programs taken by the Old Age Institution to avoiding Elder abuse.
- The people who are come to Old Age Institution are not having children (68%)
- Reason for joining to Old Age Institution that lack of medical facility and neglected by the family members.
- The main reason for their abuse is mentally ill and they are not response clearly (92%).
- There are (47%) of peoples feels loneliness in their home before joining the institution.
- Women are more forced to do domestic work in the home (27%) compared to male.
- There are more than half people are neglected by family because of many reasons (51%)
- There are fewer amounts of people who are physically beaten (8%)
- There are many elders who are suffer from proper care, medical treatment and aid (59%)
- There are many elders not involved in homely functions and celebrations (41%) because they are inability to living with them
- In the Old Age Institution many elders abuse by mentally (24%) and abused with bad words (19%)
- In the Old Age Institution women are more emotionally disturbed compared to male (67%)
- The elders who living in the Old Age Institution not having property (75%)
- In the home elders are more abuse by the relative, neighbors' and brothers .

SUGGESTIONS:

- We care elders and we love elders because an elder wants love and care, they don't want any money or property etc.
- Government must support to the Old Age Homes. Then they can improve their facilities.
- Free medical care may be provided with the help of some organizations..
- Attaching a day care activity for senior citizens with hospitals, primary health centre's, educational institutions, religious places etc are possible, if we seriously consider the protection and care of the elderly as their rights.
- Social workers can help the elderly to be aware about the various policies and programs related to the welfare of the aged in our country. This will help the elderly to protect their rights.
- Take good care of them; one day will be our turn.
- Take care of senior citizen don't harm senior citizen and be positive.

- Love your old people at home, Take time and listen to them.
- If in your heart, full of pain and angry but don't show on them talk with love.
- Elders mind always like a child so treat as child, with care and protection.
- Give funds and financial assistance by Government to welfare of the elder homes.
- Make arrangement for counseling to rejoining the elders to their families.
- Make awareness programs and pity on elders who are liable of respect and dignity not a abuse.
- Involvement in Homely functions and other celebrations.

CONCLUSION

Now a day's man is became very selfish in his life he can't understand the feelings of others because we don't care about others sufferings. They needs everybody loves them but they are not love, care and affection for others. In the cases of take care of his own parents he became a stranger for them but the parents are never discriminate to their children and never think about this love and affection to the children.

It is evident that due to socio-economic changes in the wake of urbanization and increase in the proportion of the aged in the population, the problems of the aged have become formidable. The ultimate responsibility for supporting the aged is shifting from the family to secondary institutions. In these circumstances, it is essential for setting up a large number of Old Age Homes with adequate amenities for those who have no close relatives to look after them. But the coming generation realize that Old Age Homes are not 'dumping place' for the aged.

Family, the aged should be considered as a valuable cultural resources and role models for the younger generation. Therefore, government and non-governmental organizations should come forward to motivate and create awareness among the youth to take care of the aged in the family. The Old Age Homes are no substitute for families.

All should realize old age is not an issue to be taken up by some religion or a section of society. It is a common phenomenon. Unless and until a moral boosting is given, these voiceless people will remain as voiceless. So first of all families must be consented, giving them concrete vision about the dignity of human kind and especially the elderly. The picture about elderly in the eyes of the present generation must be one that of divine and majestic rather than, rusty or useless. Hence, younger generation especially children may be motivated and encouraged to take care of the aged in a family environment with due respect.

Becoming older and existence of younger one is cyclic biological process. No one can get rid of these two states of life. Old age people need care, love and healthy emotional family sharing for satisfaction. New one needs growth and success in today's competitive world. These two objectives are to be strategically balanced. The parents are to be given high priority over everything. They should be included in the family running process so that they could feel themselves not ignored.

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