

Agewell

(In **Special Consultative Status** with ECOSOC at **United Nations** since 2011)

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

www.agewellfoundation.org

AGEWELL FOUNDATION

Agewell Foundation is a not-for-profit NGO which has been working for welfare and empowerment of old people since 1999. It endeavours to bring about a change in our perceptions of old age while ensuring better interaction between the generations.

Agewell has set up a two-tier network of over **7000 primary** and **75000 secondary volunteers** spread across 620 districts of India besides successfully operating its on-going programs i.e. **Agewell Helpline for Older Persons, Employment Exchange for Older Persons, Centre for Research & Advocacy** for Needs & Rights of Older Persons, etc. Presently Agewell interacts with over 25000 older persons and other concerned people on daily basis through its volunteers' network.

Recognizing the work being done by Agewell Foundation, **Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)** has granted **Special Consultative Status** to Agewell Foundation at **United Nations**. Agewell has also been member of Working Group and Steering Committee on Social Sector for three consecutive Five-Year-Plans of **Planning Commission** of India since 2002.

Agewell Foundation

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VISION

Growing old is inevitable and it is a part of life.....we must accept it gracefully and continue to live our dreams.

Agewell Foundation's vision for the older persons is to empower them to lead a life of dignity and respect. We believe, sustained efforts would not only create older persons friendly environment, it would also awaken a sense of responsibility amongst us all, to make this possible.

Older persons do not need charity or sympathy. They need respect, companionship and opportunities to live with their beliefs.

Agewell Foundation is committed to make a coordinated effort with compassion and understanding to transform social attitudes towards senior citizens. The effort is to create the infrastructure to empower every older person.

MISSION

Agewell endeavors to bring about a change in the perception of old age and assist older persons to move surely but steadily from helplessness and self pity towards - Confidence, Respect & Mutual Caring.

Agewell has been set up to initiate better interaction between the generations. It endeavors to:

- Bring about a change in perceptions about Old Age
- Initiate steps towards senior citizens friendly environment
- Evolve a sense of moral and social responsibility towards senior citizens
- Advocate for the needs and rights of senior citizens
- Extend a helping hand to senior citizens wherever required

AGEWELL'S HIGHLIGHTS

- *Special Consultative Status with Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) at United Nations*
- *Consortium of over 1500 NGOs spread across 540 districts of India*
- *Two-tier national voluntary network - 7000 primary & 75000 secondary volunteers*
- *Interaction with approx. 25000 older persons on daily basis*

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- *5 million+ older persons helped, 35000 assisted with jobs & 3490 Self -help groups*
- *16 National Surveys on old age issues by Agewell Research & Advocacy Centre*
- *Member – Working group on Reforming the Social Deviants and Caring the Other Disadvantaged, for Xth and XIth Five-year-plan and & Steering Committee of XIIth Five-year-plan, Planning Commission, Govt. of India*
- *Member - Consultative group on Social Justice & Empowerment, Planning Commission*
- *Member – Council of National Literacy Mission Authority, Ministry of HRD*
- *International association & alliance with Association of American Retired People (AARP), USA & Global Action on Ageing*
- *Represented Indian delegation to Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, Spain in 2002 & represented Indian delegation to intl. Workshop on Ageing, Tokyo, 2000*

PEOPLE BEHIND AGEWELL

Mr. Himanshu Rath, FOUNDER Chairman

- Communications strategist & Social activist
- Member – Steering Committee & Working Group, XIIth Five-Year-Plan, Planning Commission, Government of India.
- Member – Working group on Reforming the Social Deviants and Caring the Other Disadvantaged, for XIth Five-year-plan, Planning Commission, Govt. of India
- Member – Working group on Reforming the Social Deviants and Caring the Other Disadvantaged, for Xth Five-year-plan, Planning Commission, Govt. of India
- Member - Consultative group and Review Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment, Planning Commission, Govt. of India
- Member – Council of National Literacy Mission Authority, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.
- Also associated with Ministry of Power, various Government & Non-Government bodies as consultant, advisor, member, etc.
- Member – State Level Committee for Senior Citizens, Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of NCT of Delhi,
- Member – Draft Committee for State Policy on Older Persons, Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

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ADVISORY BOARD

- **Shri P. Murari, I.A.S.**
Ex. Secretary to the President of India
- **Shri Murad Ali Baig,**
Social Commentator
- **Shri A. N. Ram**
Ex Secretary External Affairs, Govt. of India

PROGRAMS

AGEWELL - HELPLINE FOR OLDER PERSONS - DELHI & NCR

Agewell aims to disabuse the popular mindset that regards old age with a sense of pity for their helplessness. Replacing it with an attitude of confidence, fostering respect for them and encouraging fortitude in them. And bringing a little certainty, even fun into their lives.

With this purpose in mind, Agewell-Helpline was set up for Older Persons. A network of thousands of volunteers is already at work in given areas. They are constantly alert to attend, to matters of medical or emotional nature, affairs to do with security as well as legal and financial advice. They are spread across 540 districts of India so that no cry for help goes unanswered.

Agewell Helpline for Older Persons endeavours to bring about a change in the perceptions about old age. It has been set up with the sole objective of providing assistance to older persons and helping them find solutions for their problems.

During the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 over 22000 older persons from Delhi & NCR have contacted the Helpline for Older Persons for their respective problems. Older persons were adequately counselled and assisted by the trained and experienced counsellors.

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Details of responses received at the Helpline for Older Persons from older persons of Delhi & NCR for their various problems:

Sl	Nature of problems of older persons	Nos. of Older persons visited/contacted Helpline
1.	Social problems / Family related Problems	7124
2.	Financial (Pension, Investment, etc.)	3325
3.	Medical/Health related problems	2948
4.	Legal / Property related Problems	1610
5.	Residential, Old Age Homes	1945
6.	General Information, etc.	5120
	Total	22072

AGEWELL - RESEARCH & ADVOCACY CENTRE FOR NEEDS & RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

The Agewell Centre for Ageing is committed to bringing in a dynamic change for the Older Persons in terms of social participation & integration, economic security, macro societal change and development, healthy ageing, enhancing the physical and mental quality of life and ushering in care systems in diverse cultural, socio-economic and environmental situations.

The research agenda includes - studies in policy related areas of ageing where the findings may have practical and realistic application. Agewell undertakes advocacy on issues of concern for welfare of elderly with the government, national and international agencies, elected representatives e.g. parliamentarians, bureaucrats, political parties, business, industry and other structures of power & media at all levels.

The Centre has organised many meetings, conferences, symposia, etc. various Old Age related issues. It has also made representations to various concerned authorities including Election Commission on behalf of older persons.

SERIES OF SYMPOSIUMS ON NEEDS & RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

Agewell's series of Symposia has been designed to provide an open forum where discussions and debates will be initiated addressing special & peculiar problems and difficulties covering Social, Medical, Legal, Financial & Emotional hurdles which the

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elders of our society have to face. The symposiums will also inform and apprise the senior citizens of their rights & privileges in these fields.

"Importance of Literature in Old Age"

Agewell Foundation organized a Symposium-cum-Interactive Session titled **"Importance of Literature in Old Age"** under the Series of Symposiums on Needs & Rights of Older Persons on 12th April 2012 at **Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Center, Lodi Road, New Delhi.**

Dedicated to the rich literary heritage of the country, the interaction in the symposium covered various aspects of the literature and its role and importance in old age. **Mr. Dinesh Mishra**, President of India Society of Authors, **Mr. Sudhir Tailang**, renowned cartoonist and **Mrs. Paramjit Kaur Narang**, Educationist were among the key speakers. Many eminent representatives and experts from every walk of society also shared their views on the subject.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR STUDY ON NEEDS & RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

Legal Provisions & Practices in India With Special Focus on HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLD PEOPLE August 2012

Research & Advocacy Centre at Agewell Foundation carried out a nationwide survey to study the Legal Provisions & Practices in context of protection of human rights of Older Persons. It conducted a survey to assess the status of the legal protection of older persons. Under the survey, it was attempted to identify core areas of concerns in the field of legal system for safeguarding interests and rights of older persons.

For the survey a **representative sample of 50000 older persons** (28460 older men and 21540 older women) was interviewed spread across **300 districts of 25 states & Union Territories** of India. Volunteers visited various Public / community places including court complexes (District Courts/ High Courts/ Supreme Court of India/ Lok Adalats (local public courts)/ Consumer courts) spread across 540 districts across the country. At the same time, interviewers also interact **with a representative sample of 1000 legal practitioners** (Spread across 230 districts of India) to collecting useful data pertaining to legal provisions and practices pertaining to old people.

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MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Need of legal protection in old age

- ❖ Only 14.34% of the respondents felt the need of legal protection in old age.
- ❖ Every sixth older men (i.e. 17.27%) said that they wanted to take legal action at some point of time in their life.

Filing Legal cases by older Persons

- ❖ When asked about actually registering cases or filing petitions, out of 7171 older persons only 1086 (15.14%) had opted for legal route.
- ❖ When this data was further classified, it was found that majority of cases 60.87% were filed in urban areas while 39.13% cases were filed by rural older persons.
- ❖ In rural areas only 94 elderly women filed legal cases against violators, while in urban areas 167 elderly women opted for legal action in old age.

Factors responsible for discouraging older persons

- ❖ 84.86% of older persons who felt the need of legal protection in old age, did not file their cases with any legal authority due to various reasons
- ❖ 88.43% elderly women in comparison to 83.21% elderly men opted for not to go ahead with legal action, in order to seek justice in old age.

First priority given by respondents to various responsible factors

- ❖ When asked to give priorities to the reasons/factors responsible for stopping older persons to seek legal justice, as per first priority given by respondents, it was found that :
 - Overall 27.28% of older persons (25.81% older women & 28% older men) who thought about legal procedure but did not move further, did this due to lengthy legal process.
 - 14.05% older persons wanted to go for legal justice, but due to their weak financial condition, they had not enough money to pay fees of lawyers, etc.

Second priority given by respondents to various responsible factors

- ❖ When asked to give second most priority to the responsible reasons/factors for apathy towards legal system, it was revealed that lingering legal process and weak financial status in old age are gain second most responsible factors, over all 22.96% and 13.49% older persons respectively agreed with these reasons.

Legal Cases of older Persons: Filed by them v/s Filed against them

- ❖ When information collected from older persons respondents analyzed, it was found that majority of cases (53.15%) were filed by other against older persons or were against them, whereas 46.85 % cases were filed by older persons themselves for seeking legal justice.

Kinds of legal cases of older persons

- ❖ 85.11% older persons (5249 out of total 6167 older persons involved in court cases) were found fighting civil cases in various courts while 14.89% older persons were involved in criminal cases.

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Awareness about the elderly friendly Legal provisions

- ❖ Only 19.98% older persons (9990 older persons out of total 50000 older persons) admitted that they are aware of some elderly friendly legal provisions available in the country.
- ❖ Approx. 4/5th (80.02%) of sample respondents had no knowledge of any special legal provisions for older persons.

Attitude towards legal system

- ❖ Older persons seem to be pessimistic towards legal system of the country. It was reportedly found from the study conducted among 50000 older persons that only 25.83% older persons (12915 older persons) expressed their optimism or positive attitude towards legal system of the country.
- ❖ More than 1/3rd respondents (35.13% older persons) had expressed their apathy towards legal procedures due to various reasons.

Interactions with Legal practitioners to assess the impact of legal provisions on older persons

- ❖ According to legal practitioners, number of court cases pertaining to older persons has risen over the years. Out of total 1000 legal practitioners interacted, 345 said that in their opinion majority of older persons are involved in house/land property related cases.

Kinds of legal cases, older persons involved in

- ❖ As per responses received from sample 1000 people dealing with various legal matters across the country, older persons are involved in property related legal cases. According to 34.5% legal practitioners most of the older persons, who visit courts, have legal issues pertaining to their land/house properties.
- ❖ 20.1 % respondents said that effective and strong legal provision and practices will play most important role in creating awareness in the society about legal and human rights of older persons.

Though legal provisions and practices have very little to do with old age, but it certainly determines the path of building and developing an environment full of social harmony towards elderly. Therefore there is an urgent need to relook at the existing legal provisions and come up with more equitable, effective and strong legal provisions to encourage older persons-friendly legal practices in the country. The same should be followed by spreading of awareness with equal zeal.

Comprehensive Study on Status of Older Persons in Delhi & NCR October 2012

Agewell Foundation conducted a comprehensive study on various issues concerning old age to understand the present status of older persons In Delhi & NCR. Agewell volunteers' network spread across Delhi & NCR worked as interviewers for the survey. For the survey a **representative sample of 15000 older persons** were interacted during the month of September-October, 2012.

Major Findings of the Study are as under;

- 83.8% older persons were found isolated in old age (60+) in Delhi & NCR. They said that they feel isolated or experience loneliness in their present life.
- Majority of older persons (44.2%) said that no/less interaction with family members or within society is major cause of their state of isolation or loneliness in Delhi & NCR.
- 10.9% older persons living in joint families accepted that they consider themselves isolated, within their joint families in Delhi & NCR.
- In No income category percentage of 80+ years elderly is highest (36%). In this income group percentage of young older persons (60-70 years) was 30%.
- 89.1% older persons said that in old age maintaining good health is bigger challenge before them; therefore medical products /services are their major expenses.
- 84.5% of all respondents (86.6%, 84.5% and 82.4% respondents in age-groups of 60-70 years, 71-80 years and 80+ years respectively) say the economy is in very bad condition and getting worse.
- 90.32% older persons said that they want to change things accordingly, so that they can better their old age.
- Study shows that a majority of respondents (79.6%) had cast their votes during last general elections. According to the study older persons constitute almost 21.5% of the actual voters during elections.
- 21.2% older women were living alone in their houses. Most of them were widow and their children were living at distance places far from them.
- 28% older women had no source of monthly income.
- 80.9% older persons were found living in Nuclear families/ small families.
- 69.4% respondents were found living alone or in nuclear/small families
- In Delhi & NCR section only 24.3% older persons said that they are aware of human rights of older persons.

In spite of major role and active participation of older persons in Delhi & NCR's economy, they are still considered as negligible consumers in comparison to younger generation. Older persons living nuclear families in Delhi & NCR have very little say in day to day lives of their children or grandchildren. In urban set up violation of human rights of elderly population is on rise. Popularity of small/nuclear family system, lack of intergenerational interaction, less social interaction of older persons, age discrimination, non-existence of inclusive social security system in the country, etc. are among the most important reasons of miserable condition of older persons in Delhi & NCR.

Study concludes that older persons living in Delhi & NCR need to be organized so that their role in economy could be recognized as well as appreciated at various levels and on the other hand their interests could also be protected. In changed set up, old people face increased incidences of age discrimination, ageism, elder abuse and mistreatment of older community. In the fast changing circumstances when the number of old people in every society is increasing at a very fast pace we need to inculcate a sense of responsibility in the society towards needs & rights of older persons.

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Sense of Security Among Older Persons & Their Human Rights (in collaboration with NHRC) (OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2012)

Research & Advocacy Centre at Agewell Foundation carried out a survey to study the sense of security among older persons & their human rights. Under the survey, it was attempted to assess the living conditions of older persons and to identify responsible factors for violation of their human rights. For the survey a **representative sample of 1500 older persons** (768 older men and 732 older women) were interviewed.

MAJOR FINDINGS

After exhaustive exercise of collection of data from 1500 respondents, research team analysed and interpreted the data from different point of views. Major findings of the study were found as under;

Financial Status of older persons in Delhi-NCR

1. Almost every 5th Older person (21% respondents) i.e. 315 older persons out of total 1500 elderly respondents were earning or getting monthly income of less than Rs. 1000.
2. 36.4% respondents i.e. 536 older persons are in the monthly income group of Rs. 1001 – Rs. 5000.

Social Status

1. 40.40% older persons (606 out of 1500 respondents) were living with their joint families.
2. 36.4% respondents said that they are living with their spouse only.
3. Almost every 1/4th elderly people in Delhi & NCR have no family members living with them. 23.2% older persons agreed that they are living on their own.
4. It was found that approx. 60% elderly (894 out of 1500 older persons) were not living in joint families.

Health Care Status

1. Almost every third elderly (35.53%) i.e. 533 out of 1500 respondents were not enjoying good health; they admitted that their health condition is poor.
2. 28.4% older persons said that their health is good and they are not facing any serious health problem in old age.
3. 36.07% older persons reportedly claimed that their present health condition is average. However, they were facing many old age related problems.

Old Age engagements

1. Only 1/5th older persons i.e. 305 out of 1500 older persons found to be involved in some income generational occupations in old age.
2. Surprisingly out of 305 older persons involved in income generational activities, 233 i.e. 76.4% were older men and only 72 older women were indulged in any such activities.
3. 38.58% of older persons who are not involved in any income generational occupations said that they want to work in old age, so that they earn some money and keep themselves busy as well.

Support system in old age

1. 22.8% older persons interacted during the survey said that they were getting some kind of support from government. They were getting support in terms of financial, medical, legal and other help in old age.

2. But 77.2% respondents were of the view that they are not getting any old age support individually from government. They admitted that they are not dependent on government welfare schemes directly.
3. 25.76% elderly respondents (88 out of 342) were getting such support for 7-10 years.

Most urgent requirements in old age

1. Most older persons (335 out of 1500) interviewed during the survey admitted that treatment for illness and medicines was their first priority, while respect in old age was seen by 331
2. In Delhi & NCR requirements like shelter and clothes were ranked rather low.
3. When respondents were asked about their second most urgent requirement, almost the similar trend was seen, which was expressed for first priority by older persons.

Human Rights of Older Persons & Legal Provisions

1. 53.67% elderly respondents said that they are not getting proper respect from younger generations at family level, while 36.53% i.e. 548 older persons out of 1500 older persons were reportedly being respected by their younger family members.
2. When data collected by interviewers was analyzed, it was found that in general society this situation is comparatively better, where 43.67% respondents admitted that they are getting proper respect from younger generations.
3. More than 2/3rd elderly respondents (68.07%) admitted that they are facing negligence in old age. Out of 1500 older persons interacted during the survey 1021 people felt that they are being neglected.
4. 38.27% elderly respondents were being abused within their respective families and/or in society.
5. 17.13% older persons contacted during the survey reportedly claimed that they are victim of physical violence in old age.

Participation of Older Persons

1. When it was attempted to assess the status of participation of older persons in socio-economic activities, it was analysed that only 26.87% (403 out of 1500 older persons) respondents were of the view that older persons also have opportunities to participate in socio-economic activities.
2. 48% respondents said that there are no opportunities for older persons while 25.13% older persons said that they have no idea about availability of such opportunities.
3. 34.07% older persons said that they participate or their participation is sought in various forms in decision making process at national level.

More details on Research Activities undertaken by Agewell Foundation can be obtained from our blog <http://agewell-initiatives.blogspot.com>

SPREAD THE WARMTH CAMPAIGN A Winter Initiative

Agewell Foundation conducted “**Spread The Warmth**” campaign to ensure no needy & destitute old person is deprived of warmth in Delhi-NCR during the year. Agewell has been conducting this campaign since 2010.

During the year 2012-13 the campaign was started in December. Agewell conducted the process of mobilizing donation & collection of old/used woollens from across Delhi & NCR & distribution of woollens amongst poor & needy older persons.

Agewell Foundation set up Collection Points at prominent locations, posh localities, Clubs, Residents Welfare Associations as well as select schools (while sensitizing the younger generation towards their responsibilities towards senior citizens) across Delhi NCR. Hundreds of Agewell volunteers spread across Delhi & NCR dedicated their time & efforts to make this initiative a great success.



During the campaign the Lt. Governor of Delhi Mr. Tejendra Khanna flagged off the distribution vans. Under the campaign over 3 lacs pieces of woollens, etc collected and distributed amongst over 2 lacs destitute and older people through distributions camps set up by volunteers across Delhi-NCR



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“I AM RESPONSIBLE” INITIATIVE A School Outreach Program

Agewell Foundation in collaboration with Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC), a central government public sector undertaking initiated school children sensitization program “**I Am Responsible**” to sensitize School Children towards old people and conservation of Energy & Water in Delhi & NCR during the year.



Under the campaign over **50000 school children** in the age group of 8-15 years (from class III to class X) from **across Delhi-NCR** were interacted. For sensitizing school children towards Conservation of Energy & Water and Older Persons and ensuring their active participation in the campaign Booklet-cum-Notebooks, stickers, etc. were distributed among school children. Posters with thought provoking slogans, useful tips on energy & water conservation, interesting and eye-opening facts, etc. along with participation form were included in the campaign Booklet-cum-Note Book. At the same time school teachers were trained through teachers' workshops and training camps about the campaign so that they can properly motivate school children.

To make the campaign more effective an interactive campaign Website: www.rec-agewell-iamresponsible.org was also designed.

HOLISTIC HEALTHCARE OF DESTITUTE ELDERLY

Agewell Foundation initiated a healthcare campaign in slums of Delhi to ensure no destitute and old person is deprived of holistic healthcare during the year with financial support from Irish Aid, Embassy of Ireland.

Under the campaign, Agewell Foundation identified needy & helpless older persons in 5 selected slum clusters of Delhi and provide them with required relief material ie. Walkers, Walking sticks, Adult Diapers, Spectacle frames, medicines, Bed Pans, etc.. For identifying beneficiaries from across 5 slum clusters Delhi, Agewell Foundation deputed a team of 20 dedicated volunteers to visit slums of the project area. Simultaneously, Agewell volunteers' network also activated for this purpose.

Slums covered under the project are as under;

- Kusumpur Pahari Block-B Vasant Vihar, South-West Delhi
- Indira Kalyan Vihar Okhla Industrial Area Phase-I, Site-II, South Delhi

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- Sanjay Colony Okhla Phase-II, South Delhi
- Janta Mazdoor Camp Zafrabad Part-I, North East Delhi
- Janta Jeewan Tigri Part-I, South Delhi

Agewell Foundation has benefitted 3400 needy & destitute elderly upto 31st March 2013.

VOLUNTARY NETWORK FOR OLD AGE HEALTHCARE

(Slums of Delhi & NCR)

With the slogan “**Learn from your symptoms and seek Low Cost Medical intervention**” Agewell Foundation conducted a healthcare project in collaboration with Ford Foundation in Delhi & NCR

Special features of the project;

- Voluntary Network Teams for Old Age Healthcare to create healthcare awareness in slum areas of Delhi & NCR
- Empower older persons to get proper low-cost or free of cost treatment, medicines, medical accessories for their diseases
- Over 30000 older persons living in slums of Delhi & NCR were assisted under the project.

AGEWELL EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE FOR OLDER PERSONS

- An Intergenerational Initiative, as a gainful engagement for retired old persons
- To provide community involvement and to pursue opportunities for complete development of their potential
- Implemented Home Tutors & Easy Accounts scheme (Eklavya) in Delhi

Agewell Employment Exchange for Older Persons had received 3600 calls/visits from older persons during the year 2012-2013. Responses received from older persons were further categorised as per the following;

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Administration/Secretarial jobs | • Teaching/Tuition jobs |
| • Consultancy/Counseling jobs | • Research/ training jobs |
| • Accounts jobs | • Others jobs |

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AGEWELL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP SCHEME FOR OLDER PERSONS

Agewell Family Membership Scheme aims at providing family support to those Older Persons, who are living alone in Delhi. The Foundation has a team of trained counsellors.

Trained counsellors of Agewell Foundation provide following services as and when required by Agewell Family Members;

- A companion who will spend time with them, heal the loneliness as they grow even older
- Medical support in the form of consultations, medicines and people on whom they can depend in case of an emergency
- Someone who will look after their security concerns and protect their property
- Expert guidance in legal and financial matters
- General assistance such as paying their bills on time, being their escort & taking care of their chores

AGEWELL HELPLINE FOR OLDER PERSONS - AHMEDABAD & BHUJ

Agewell Foundation has set up Two Helplines for older persons in Ahmedabad and Bhuj - particularly for displaced, distressed and disturbed in 2001.

Objective and methodology of the Agewell Helplines:

- Helpline counters to identify and assist the needy. Understand their specific requirements, immediate as well as in long term.
- Assist them in identifying and availing best possible offerings as per their needs from all other voluntary organizations, NGOs, Govt. bodies and international organizations.
- Counsel them. Help them re-build themselves. Rekindle the self-confidence.
- Assess impact of disaster on individual life and families.
- Organise counselling and community participation activities
- Organise help, orthopaedic assistance and treatment.

These Helplines also work as a bridge between the assistance seekers and the assistance providers.

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AGEWELL - VOLUNTEERS/SOCIAL WORKERS
LOCAL NETWORK

Agewell Foundation has a local network of volunteers / social workers from all walks of the life. The network provides its services to older persons in and around Delhi.

Agewell volunteers are available for counselling services for general, medical, legal and financial problems; for interaction with Older Persons; for companionship for Older Persons, living alone.

Volunteers registered with Agewell include well-educated people, retired persons, working people, social workers, college students etc.



Nationwide Voluntary Action Network

Presently Aadhar has been conducting successfully the following activities in the country;

ACTIVITY –I Looking after the Grievances of Older Persons

Representations received by Nationwide network of Volunteers/Associates

(During the period from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013)

<i>Sl</i>	<i>Category of representations received from older persons and others</i>	<i>Nos. of Visits/ Letters/ Calls</i>
1.	Social problems / Family related Problems	204512
2.	Financial (Pension, Investment, etc.)	102514
3.	Medical/Health related problems	140125
4.	Legal / Property related Problems	113659
5.	Residential, Old Age Homes	88547
6.	General Information, etc.	156251
	Total	805608

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Older persons benefited through Self-help Group Activities guided by Agewell Volunteers/Associates (During the period from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013)

1.	Reported Self-help Groups/Assignment running	321
2.	Older persons placed/benefited	4012

ACTIVITY –II Nationwide District-level Voluntary Action Network

In the process of setting up nationwide network of Voluntary Action Groups in the country to provide for the older persons, Aadhar had contacted Non-governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations and individuals including social activists, chartered accountants, district collectors, chief medical superintendents, superintendent of police, chairman of bar associations, head post masters etc. for identification of socially committed individuals & organisations.

As on 31st March 2013, over 7000 Primary Agewell Volunteers & over 75000 Secondary volunteers spread across 6200 districts of the country were successfully working voluntarily for the welfare of older persons locally.

SAHYOG

PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA CENTRE FOR AGED

It is proposed to set up a state of art “SAHYOG” (Psychological Trauma Centre For Aged) with qualified psychiatrist, doctors and counsellors.

They would not only assist the older persons in getting over their trauma, they would also refer them to the concerned specialists if need be.

The trauma centre would receive individuals directly as well as through referrals from other doctors and hospitals etc.

AGEWELL - SHARE A SMILE WITH YOUR ELDERS

A SCHOOL CONTACT PROGRAMME

Agewell Foundation has embarked upon an ambitious social contact programme of reaching out to over half a million school children in Delhi in a bid to set off a feeling of acceptance and affection for the elders. Children without grandparents will be encouraged to meet up with and share a little cheer with the elderly persons in

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their neighbourhood. The programme will involve the school authorities, teachers and parents as well via the children.

Children could set an example to their parents by their behaviour and eventually bring them closer not just to the elders of their family but to the elders of society in general.

Important International Developments during the year

**Presentation by Agewell Foundation – India
for 2012 ECOSOC High Level Segment on**

***“Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to
eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable
economic growth at all levels for achieving the MDGs”***
(2-9 July 2012 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York)

Oral Presentation

Respected President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the years we at **Agewell Foundation** in India have realized that the right to work assuring both the income security and dignity should be available to all who are capable of working. Large part of the world, even in 2012 remain dominated by manual labour. This is low income occupation and poverty persists for a majority of the people. While looking at employment and decent work in the context of both rights and employability, we invite governments to factor in the issue of AGE. Most countries in the world today are experiencing a gradual demographic transition from younger to older in their population pyramid. This is the time to project value that we all place on Ageing as a continuing resource.

Changes in economic policy and shifts in both public and private sector demands, challenge a workforce whose existing skills and capabilities may be losing value. In today's world re-tooling opportunities are not available to everyone and even change of work does not guarantee a 'decent' work alternative. Most people in the world have to settle for whatever they can get. In today's scenario where material resources are not assured, can the older worker be the 'part' of the resource rather than be regarded as a liability or a welfare recipient?

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Among those driven to compromise is the older generation of workers. Their foothold in inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth is precarious, with both age and out-paced skills going against them.

Pledged to inclusive social and economic justice for all, most of the world is shifting towards liberalization, and the private sector – industry and commerce – operates in a market it increasingly controls.... Still a larger proportion of people remain poor, with work and income security at a subsistence level. With most old people seeking income security and viable occupation in the unorganized sector, the essential question may not be retention but redesigned utilization. Developing countries must pursue this possibility as an investment doorway, not as ‘kindness’

Billions in the world today are working with very poor returns, and the worst-off, with the least bargaining capacity, are ageing workers

In bypassing the continuing potential of older workers, nations may be losing an available resource. There is a need for both realism and creativity in national strategy for productive employment. India and other countries should be encouraged to consult the very generation that is silently witnessing a period it could actually enrich.

Thank you very much.

www.agewellfoundation.org +91 98100 30979 Himanshu Rath : - Founder – Agewell

Written Presentation

Agewell Foundation Presentation (India) For 2012 ECOSOC High Level Segment on

“Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the MDGs”

The right to work –assuring both income security and dignity – should be available to all who are capable of working. India in 2012 remains dominated by manual labour, with agricultural labour preponderant. This is a low-income occupation, and poverty persists for a majority of the people.

Changes in economic policy and shifts in both public and private sector demands challenge a workforce whose existing skills and capabilities may be losing value. Re-tooling opportunity is not available to everyone; change of work does not guarantee a ‘decent’ work alternative. Many in India have to settle for whatever they can get.

Among those driven to compromise is the older generation of workers. Their foothold in inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth is precarious, with both age and out-paced skills going against them. Where the village shoemaker was valued for locally handmade leather footwear, the

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plastic or rubber sandal now prevails. What is the re-tooling potential? The issue is not of productive capacities per se, but of their market relevance, even in their home base.

Can mere employment raise productive capacity? India's flagship employment assurance scheme under the Minimum National Rural Employment Guarantee Act targets the rural workforce, offering 100 days of low-skill employment annually to people in their native location. This leaves 265 days a year income-insecure. It also does little to change or upgrade skills.

Pledged to inclusive social and economic justice for all, India has shifted towards liberalization, and the private sector – industry and commerce – operates in a market it increasingly controls. A large proportion of the people remain poor, with work and income security at a subsistence level. Despite 11 five-year national development plans, extensive unemployment, and 'under-employment' persist; the neediest lack the abilities now in demand. A shortage of 'decent' work for the most vulnerable is predictable fallout of this situation. India should be encouraged to revisit the aim of equitable job security.

Of millions in India working at demeaning tasks for poor returns, the worst-off, with the least bargaining capacity, are child workers and aging workers. Children -- under-age for employment -- should be safeguarded against labour. The old get classified as over-age while they still have much to offer and contribute. They should be safeguarded against being discarded.

The current age profile of vulnerable workers in India needs investigation. Official estimates put child workers at 11 million; other projections are higher. Children, being 40% of everyone in India, vastly outnumber the old. Of India's 100 million aged over 60 years, 65% have 'no source of income.' Official data puts workers aged above 60 at 28 million. So most of the old are without work, and indigent, even if they are capable of working. They deserve a better deal.

In bypassing the continuing potential of older workers, nations may be losing an available resource. There is need for both realism and creativity in national strategy for productive employment. India and other countries should be encouraged to consult the very generation that is silently witnessing a period it could enrich.

**Panelist at the Third Session of the Open-ended Working Group on
Strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons**
(21 to 24 August 2012 at the United Nations North Lawn Building (NLB)
in New York)

**Association with United Nations DPI-NGO
(Department of Public Information – Non-Government Organizations)
from 20 December 2012**

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RECOGNITION

INTERNATIONAL

- Recommended **Special Consultative Status** with **ECOSOC** at **United Nations**
- **Association with United Nations DPI-NGO (Department of Public Information – Non-Government Organizations)**
- International association & alliance with **Ford Foundation, Global Action on Ageing, Association of American Retired People (AARP), USA, etc.**

NATIONAL

By Planning Commission, Govt. of India

- Member of Steering Committee & Working Group of XIIth Five-Year-Plan, Planning Commission, Govt. of India
- Member of the working group on Reforming the Social Deviants and Caring the Other Disadvantaged for XIth Five-year-plan
- Member of the working group on Reforming the Social Deviants and Caring the Other Disadvantaged for Xth Five-year-plan

By Government of India

- To represent Indian delegation to Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, Spain in 2002
- To represent Indian delegation to international Workshop on Ageing, Tokyo in 2000

By Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

- Commissioned as the Secretariat of National Council for Older Persons in 1999
- Member of the Consultative group on Social Justice & Empowerment

By Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.

- Member of Council of National Literacy Mission Authority

STATE LEVEL

Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

- Member of State Level Committee for Senior Citizens

By Department of Social Welfare

- Member of Draft Committee for State Policy on senior citizens

NON-GOVERNMENT SECTOR

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- Awarded with Shri Chunnilal Jindal Memorial Trust Award for Social Service in 2012
- Represented NGOs working for the welfare of older persons at Aamir Khan's TV Serial on Social issues "**Satyamev Jayate**"
- Awarded with Vijaya Gujaral Award in 2001 for outstanding contribution for extending a helping hand to the senior citizens and their families

PROPOSED PROJECTS

- Agewell interaction centre for older persons
- Suraksha - older persons and threat of HIV/AIDS
- Destination pilgrimage for older persons
- Medical tourism for older persons from abroad
- Agewell monitoring & evaluation centre
- Old age and disability – an outreach initiative
- Older persons as social communicators
- Comfortable old age - training modules for older persons
- Older persons in prison and asylums – an assessment study
- Linkage between adolescents and older persons

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