



CONTRIBUTION OF OLDER PEOPLE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**With special focus on
Impact of Covid-19 pandemic
on older people**

FEBRUARY 2022

Agewell Foundation
(In Special Consultative Status
with the ECOSOC at United
Nations since 2011)
-Associated NGO Status with
UN-DPI-NGO-

Agewell
www.agewellfoundation.org

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II
New Delhi-110024, India
agewellfoundation@gmail.com
www.agewellfoundation.org

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AGEWELL RESEARCH & ADVOCACY CENTRE
(For Needs & Rights of Older people)

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024, India. +91-11-29836486, 29840484
agewellfoundation@gmail.com www.agewellfoundation.org

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INTRODUCTION

CONTRIBUTION OF OLDER PERSONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

India has the second-largest population of older people (60+) in the world, with currently an estimated elderly population of 140 million+. They are expected to reach about 20% of the total population by the year 2051. Till a few years back, in India, issues concerning older persons were considered as peripheral issues only. But now keeping in view of this fastest-growing section of the society, the government at various levels has focused on issues concerning older people in its core agenda.



Financial status of older people

Several studies about the financial status of older people reveal that in India there are approximately 1/3rd of older people who have higher net-worth value, as they have earned money throughout their life and have inherited properties. Among them, most of them have well-settled children who support them financially as well and head their respective families. Therefore, older persons' contribution to overall family expenditure remains significant in majority of these households. On the other hand, 2/3rd of older people in India hardly have any

regular source of good income and most of them are dependent on their respective family members or government programs for all kinds of their needs in old age.

Due to changes in financial status and ever-increasing independence of older persons, particularly belonging to the middle, upper-middle and upper classes, their role in financial activities has also undergone significant change over the years. Today, they can be observed to be active consumers of various products and services and embarking on other financial activities. Still, there is a significant number of older persons, who face social, financial, and psychological problems due to the unusual poor-rich gap as well as urban/rural divide.

Preparing financially for longer lives and finding ways to reduce ageing-related disability have become today's priorities. Experience shows that it is critical to address challenges concerning old age sooner rather than later. Waiting significantly increases the costs and difficulties of addressing these challenges.



Gainful engagement in old age

Gainful re-employment is an area of great concern, for many older persons. They want it because they find themselves completely active but retired and financially compromised. Since they are mentally and physically fit to work for some more years in old age, they may participate in several productive activities and contribute to sustainable development.

In old age, people have to face a lot of hurdles in comparison to their younger age. They not only suffer due to declining health conditions with their growing years but also due to dependence on others for their healthcare, financial and social needs. In India majority of older persons are not able to contribute actively to sustainable development. However, if older persons in the age groups of 60-75 are provided with ample opportunities like skill training, digital literacy, gainful engagement, etc. they can contribute to sustainable development.

National Legal and policy framework for the right to work in old age:

According to Article 41 of the Constitution of India, the State shall, within the limits of economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want. Further, Article 46 says that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people including older persons and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

The National Policy for the Older Persons and subsequent laws, implemented for the welfare and empowerment of older persons keep a realistically achievable component. Educating the people about this new policy framework and legal provisions and creating awareness can ensure older persons' participation in sustainable development to a great extent.

To provide older persons with decent, active and healthy lives, policymakers need to take necessary steps to improve the well-being of older people. This issue is of high importance because people do not stop moving when they reach the age of sixty and, thereby, they need equal opportunities to participate in sustainable development.

ECONOMIC SECURITY IN OLD AGE

Despite the efforts by the Government of India to introduce new policies, older persons lack the security needed in old age and live with a low social status with increasing reports of financial deprivation, abandonment and humiliation.

In India majority of older persons face financial hardship in old age as most of them are not in a position to earn their livelihood. Their savings, if any, are not enough to meet their day-to-day expenses, particularly medical expenses. Many times, their family members and relatives exploit them due to their vulnerability. Many surveys suggest that in India more than 2/3rd population of the aged had to depend on others for their day-to-day maintenance and care. Gender-wise, the majority of elderly men are comparatively more economically independent.



Older persons facing financial crisis in India, usually belong to the middle, lower-middle or lower classes. This section of the elderly population had also suffered a lot of problems, particularly due to their miserable financial condition even in their younger age.

Only about 10% of older persons in India have a regular and adequate post-retirement age income. Further, 25-30% of others get insufficient benefits. And, about 60-65% of retired and old people get no retirement benefits at all.

Economic security in old age is directly linked with their financial independence. In rural areas, older persons hardly enjoy economic security in comparison to their counterparts living in urban or semi-urban areas of the country.

With the increasing nuclearization of the family system, particularly in the urban settings, more and more older persons tend to be choosing to live on their own and want to utilize their net-worth value to the maximum.



Older people, particularly those inhabiting urban and semi-urban areas have a higher level of awareness about their financial interests and rights. However, the financial rights and interests of older women and elderly men (75+) are often jeopardized by their family members, etc., particularly when they are widowed.

After retirement older persons don't want to remain completely jobless and seek gainful engagement. They often tend to start a new business or a gainful job. There are several ideas to get going for older persons in India that are not completely intended to make money but to enjoy working in old age. Retired older persons can take up these occupations as per their choice, expertise, knowledge, experience and interests.

Ensuring economic and social security in old age for its population is the major challenge before the Government of India that cannot be addressed only by making budgetary provisions from time to time. For overcoming such ever-growing challenges, the government must also focus on some out-of-the-box measures and devise continuing strategies.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON OLDER PEOPLE

Background

Covid-19 pandemic had emerged as a major cause of concern for every section of society. People were struggling to protect themselves from Coronavirus and its consequences on human life all over the world. Though the Covid-19 situation and related lockdown rules/restrictions had affected almost every human being, older persons were the most vulnerable so far as the Coronavirus threat and its impact were concerned.

Fast-changing socio-economic-demographic scenarios have worsened the situation. In our societies, the younger generation is over dependent on technology and prefers to lead a self-seeking life. Fast paced modern lifestyle and cut-throat competition and the lack of time spent as a family has robbed traditional family-values and warmth of family relationships. As a result, family members lead a more nuclear lifestyle and are unable to care/ value each other.

For decades in India the migration of population, urbanization and the prevalence of a nuclear family system has played a major role in widening the gap between generations. With the emergence of Covid-19, this intergenerational gap has only widened during the past couple of years.

Due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns people locked themselves inside their homes and many senior citizens had to remain isolated and deprived from family support. During this period, needless to say, everyone was distressed due to the fear of infection, lack of money, loss of jobs and frustration which adversely affected interpersonal relationships between the generations.

Due to Covid-19 phenomenon the generation gap has increased rapidly across the country and human rights of many older people are at stake owing to this emerging trend in the society.



Coronavirus has affected almost every older person. Due to uncontrolled surge in Covid-19 cases across the country and a huge burden on the healthcare system, older people were afraid of the Covid-19 consequences during the course of disease. During lockdowns and Covid-19 induced restrictions, social isolation or social distancing of the elderly was termed as serious public health concern due to their bio-psychosocial vulnerabilities, which was a major cause of loneliness, particularly for those who were living alone or forced to live alone without family support and care.

During the past couple of years, they had to face severe challenges such as;

- Anxiety / restlessness / depression
- Isolation / loneliness
- Neglect / Marginalization
- Lack of autonomy / psychological dependence
- Sleeplessness / fatigue, and chronic stress
- Addiction disorders – alcohol/smoking
- Fear of death / prolonged illness
- Loss of money due to Covid-19 treatment
- Nervousness / frustration / desperation

In most families, Older Persons were being treated as a cornerstone by their own family members, as they were no longer allowed to look after / interact with their grandchildren, no visitors were welcome and their involvement in daily household activities was shunned, terming them as potential threats to the health of the entire family. On the other hand, Older Persons were always concerned about the future of their children and grand-children. However, their concerns were hardly appreciated by their family members.

Older persons were not only prone to the severity and fatality of Covid-19 due to age, they were going through a very tough phase in their life and had to live under the shadow of constant fear of death / loss of family members / loss of jobs to earning family members due to Covid-19.

Older Persons with mental health disorders and disabilities were more vulnerable and were prone to exacerbations during such a crisis. Due to poor health conditions and a fast-decreasing immune system in old age, Older Persons were more prone to get infection, which leaves them neglected, even unattended in many cases.

Impact during the recent wave of Pandemic

During the rising cases of Omicron, the new and comparatively more infectious variant of Coronavirus, across the world including India had once again created an atmosphere of panic and fear in the country, particularly among older persons. At that juncture, when older persons started realizing that worst part of their life is over, economy is on track and started performing

their day-to-day activities as pre-covid life, ugly face of the pandemic in the form of Omicron had started haunting their life. They were not afraid of life-threatening consequences only but also lockdowns / restrictions on social life and services related to healthcare, finance, etc.

Major Concerns of Older Persons During Pandemic

In absence of adequate support mechanism in Old Age, in India most of the older persons were forced to live in underprivileged situations. Social isolation, loneliness and marginalization due to lockdown / restrictions had further deteriorated the situation of elderly. Their life had become compromised to a large extent during Covid phenomenon. Social distancing / isolation was impacting their mental well-being and increasing the risk of psychiatric disorders.

Destitution/ Alienation / Isolation

Marginalization/isolation or alienation in old age is among the most common issues that are affecting Older Persons constantly. Older Persons, who are still living with their sons/daughters and grand-children are also suffering from emotional alienation. Due to fast changing socio-economic scenario of the country, fast paced modern life style & rapid urbanization across the country younger generations hardly interact with their elderly family members. Popularity of nuclear family system has virtually crushed strong traditional bond between grand-children & grandmothers. Current Pandemic had further deteriorated the situation.



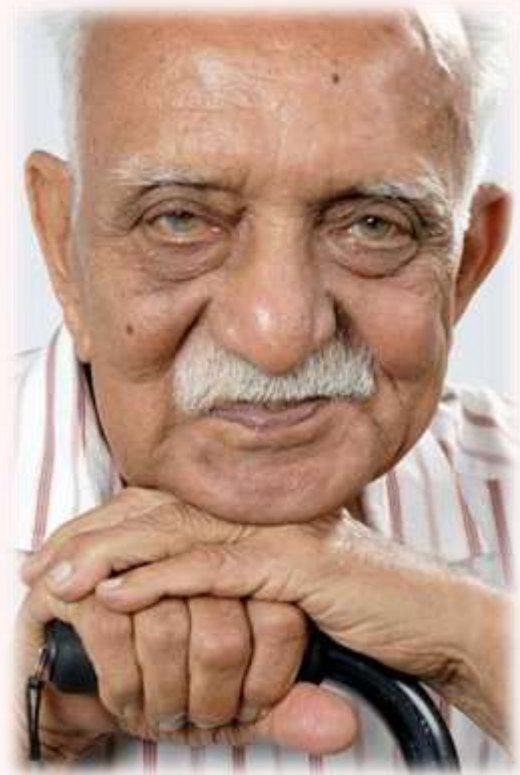
Emotional insecurity

In old age most of the Older Persons face family problems like uncomfortable relations with son & daughter-in-law, limited interaction with children, grand-children. Their daughters-in-law don't like their interference in family matters, children are busy with their jobs, and their husbands invariably have mood swings after retirement and mostly restrict their free movements. Since elderly have been emotionally attached to their near and dear ones throughout their life, in old age when they are not with them, they miss it a lot. During and after Pandemic most Older Persons were suffering from emotional issues.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this research endeavor is to assess the current situation of older persons and challenges before them through an in-depth qualitative study in order to examine their role and contribution in the sustainable development. To further explore and understand the realism, the following are a set of specific objectives that have been framed to undertake research about the impact of Covid-19 on the older persons in the study area:

- To assess the changing financial status of the older persons
- to undertake a socio-economic situational study of the elderly persons.
- To assess the human rights of older person
- To identify the fast-growing concerns of older persons.
- To assess the major challenges in old age.
- To enlist opinions and views of the older people on the fast-changing socio-economic scenario
- To enlist suggestions and recommendations for concerned stakeholders



Scope & Methodology of the Study

This study is an attempt to understand socio-economic dynamics, highlighting the patterns that emerge in relation to the contemporary economic and healthcare issues and challenges faced by the older persons. It has been endeavored to explore the relationship between contribution of older persons and their needs & expectations.

Area & Units of the Study

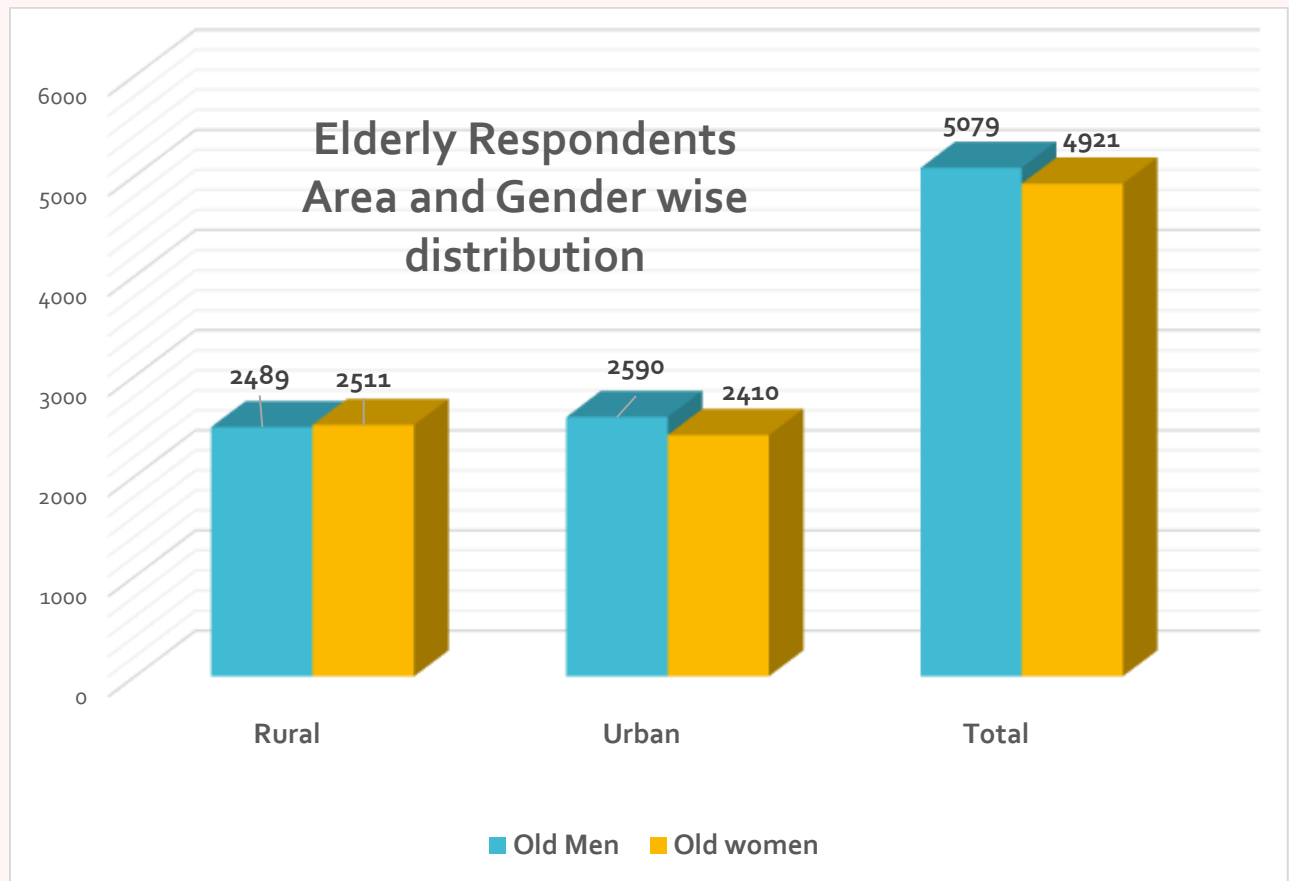
The entire country constituted area of the study. Therefore, rural and urban areas were selected for this study. All old people (60+) were taken as target group of the study. Out of about 140 million+ elderly persons, list of older persons who were willing to be part of the study was prepared.

As the literature review suggests the older people are faced with diverse issues, problems and challenges ranging from frailty to functional inadequacies; physical & health problems; social isolation & loneliness; neglect, economic insecurity etc. Therefore, while developing this list of respondents or the sampling frame the representation of this diversity was kept in mind so that vast variety of challenges are culled out from this research.

Sampling Method, Sample Size & Duration

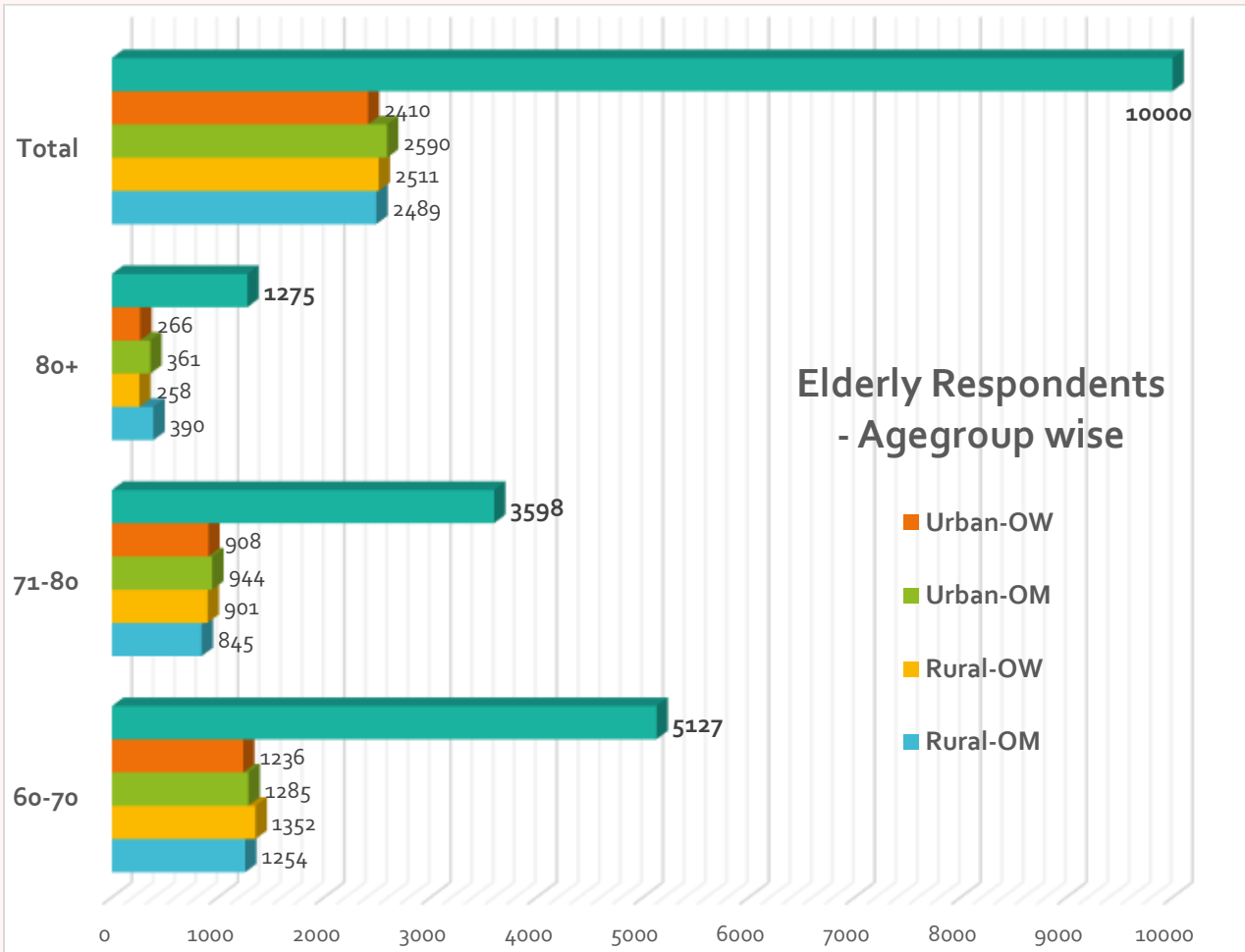
The respondents who comprised the sample for the study were selected on the basis of random sampling made on the basis of gender, community (rural-urban), age-group etc.

Sample Size: A total of 10000 respondents were studied by 500 volunteers across all the five regions of Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern and Central India. The survey was conducted during the month of January-February 2022.



Equal number of respondents was drawn from rural and urban areas. As for as gender wise composition of the sample is concerned, out of 10000 total respondents, 5079 respondents were older men and 4921 older women. However, the number of older women respondents from rural areas was comparatively higher (2511) as is depicted in the diagram.

Tools and techniques for data collection: Main emphasis was on qualitative information therefore; a more intuitive approach was adopted for the research so as to arrive at an understanding of the issue to cull out a pattern. The information was enriched with the help of focused group discussions and in-depth interviews



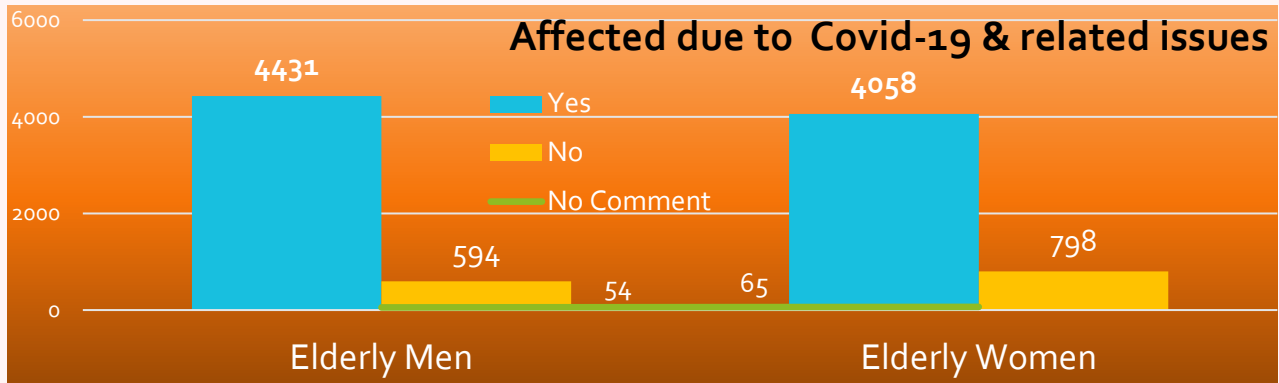
Out of 10000 subjects interviewed during the survey, 5127 respondents (51.3%) were found to be in the age group of 60-70 years, 3598 respondents (36%) were between 71-80 years and the remaining 12754 (12.8%) respondents comprised the oldest old group (81+ years).

Elderly respondents were divided into 4 categories on the bases of gender and community of the respondents. Each of the category, rural older men (24.9%), rural older women (25.11%), urban older men (25.9%) and urban older women (14.1%) consisted of nearly one fourth of the total subjects.

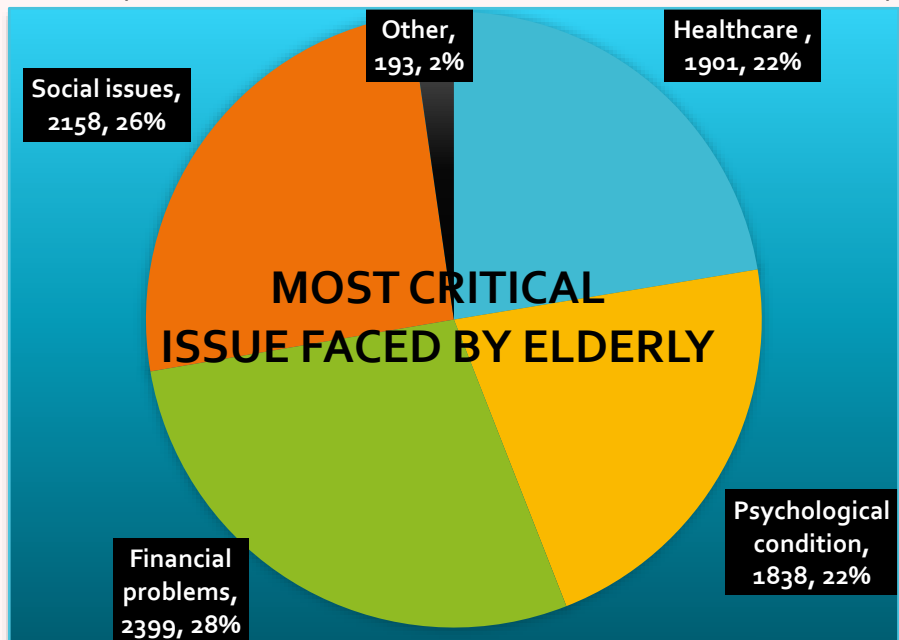
Major Findings of the Study

Effect of Covid-19 on Older People

- During the survey, 84.9% i.e. 8489 elderly persons admitted that they were facing or had to face Covid-19 situation and related issues. Among elderly men 87.2% among elderly women 82.5% elderly women were found affected due to Covid-19 situation.

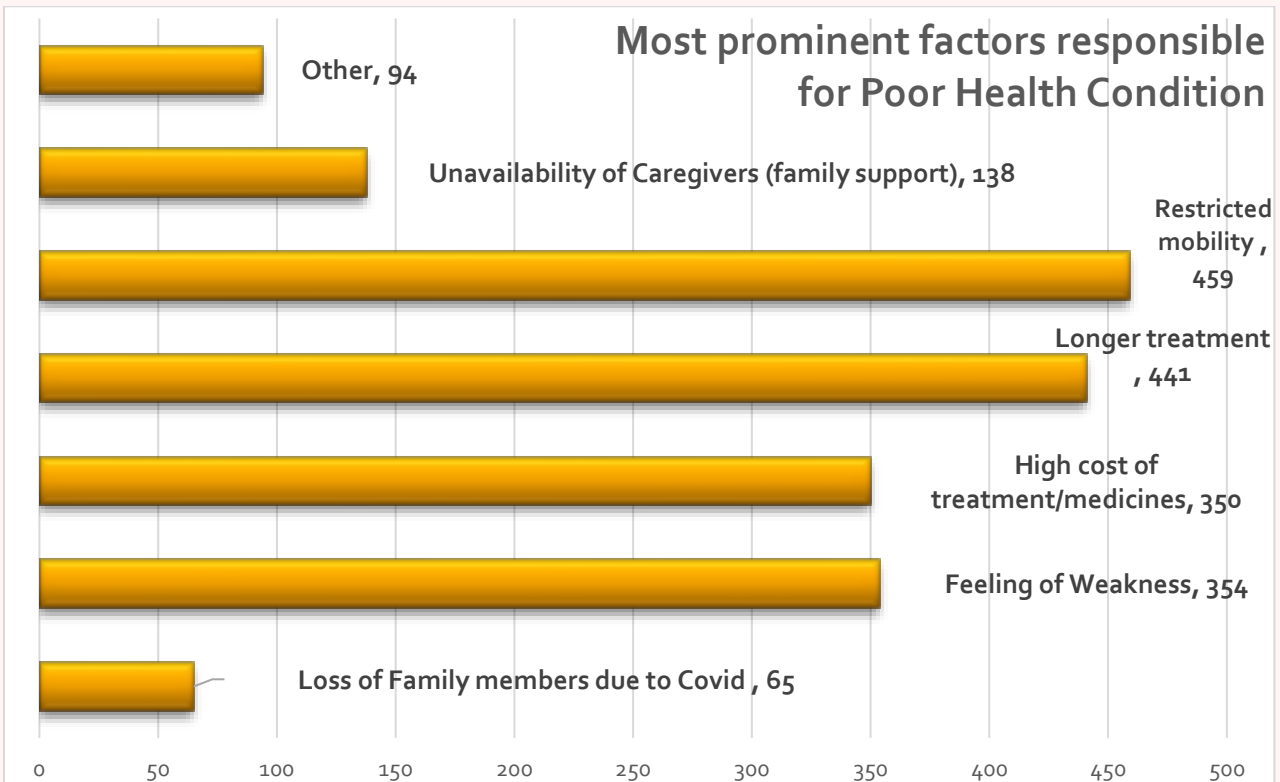


- Among affected (8489 elderly) financial issues were termed as most critical issues by 28.3% i.e. 2389 elderly while 25.4% i.e. 2158 elderly said that they found social issues more critical while 22.4% elderly respondents claimed that healthcare issues were critical for them and 21.7% respondents found psychological condition, 1838, 22% most critical issue faced by elderly.

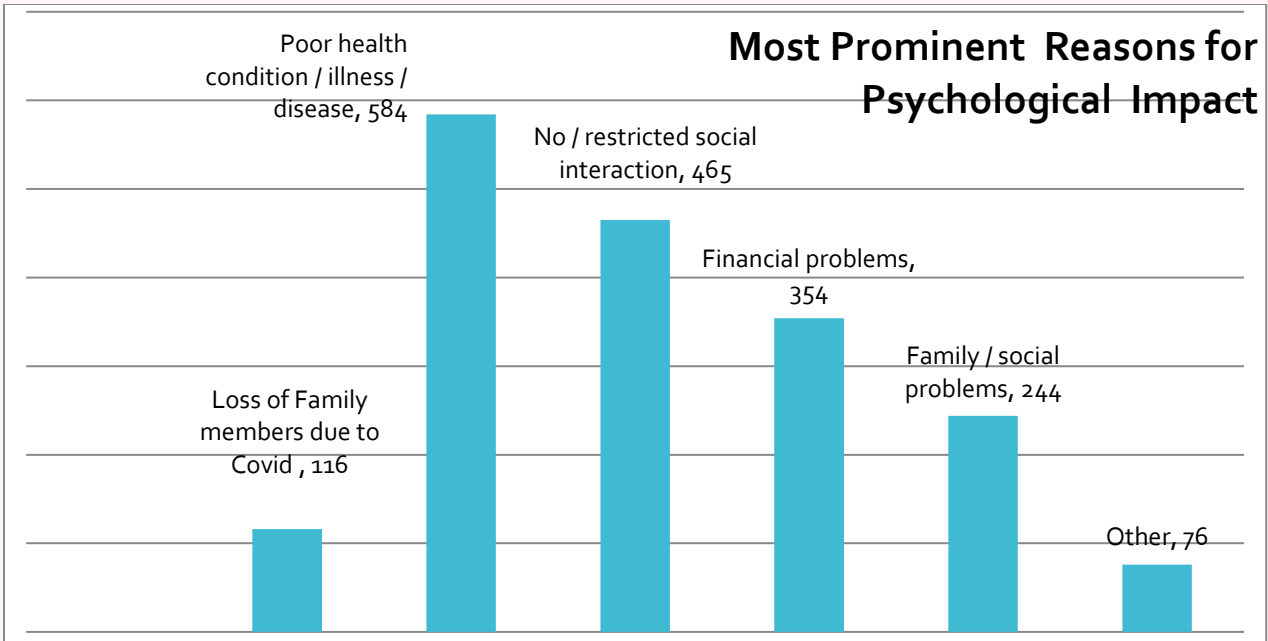


psychological condition more critical during this situation.

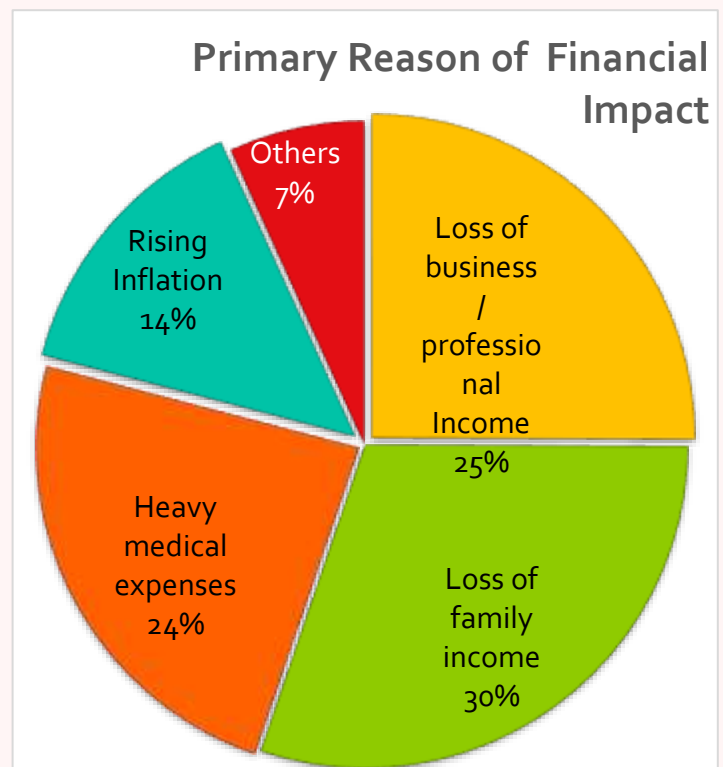
- Among elderly with medical issues (1901), 24.1% said that the most prominent factor responsible for their poor health condition was restricted mobility.
- 23.2% respondents said that treatment for a longer period of time was a major factor.
- 18.4% of affected elderly termed high cost of treatment and medicines as the most critical issue.
- 18.6% respondents said that weakness in old age was a major factor responsible for poor health.
- Among them 3.4% had lost their family members due to Covid-19 & they termed it the most critical factor for their poor health.
- 7.5% elderly said that due to unavailability of caregivers/family support they were in poor health condition.

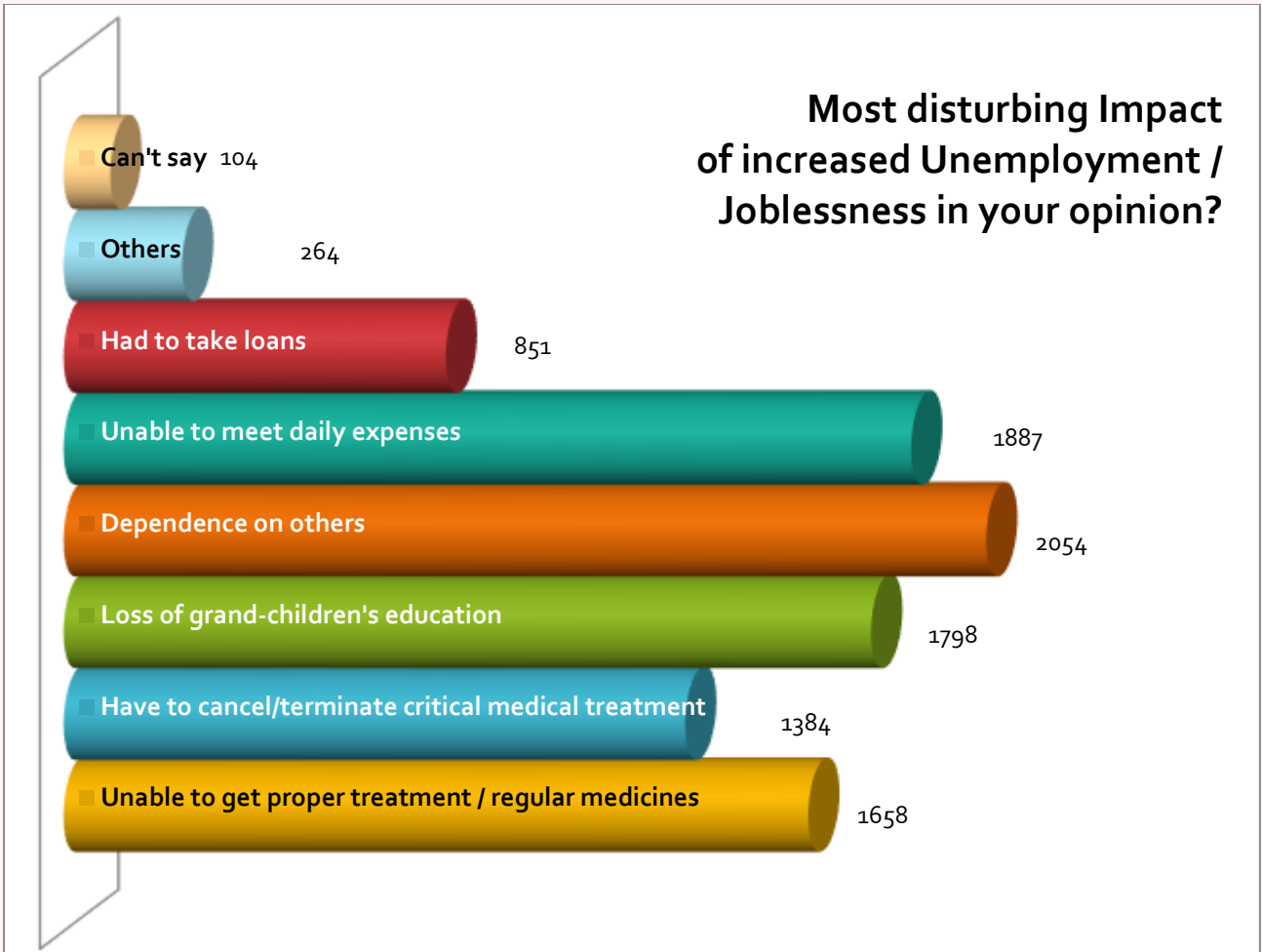


- 45.7% respondents termed sense of loneliness / isolation termed as the most prominent psychological issue followed by restlessness (27.8%).
- According to 31.8% elderly, disease and poor health was the most prominent reason for psychosocial impact, while 19.2% and 25.3% elderly respectively considered financial issues and restricted social interaction as the most prominent reason for that.

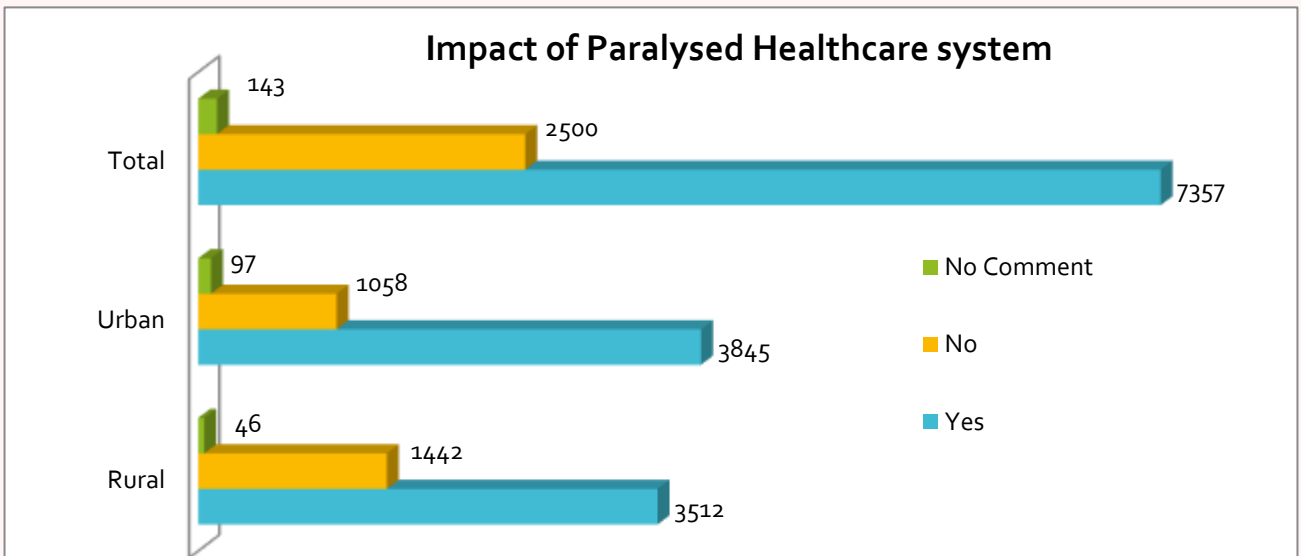


- Financial impact on the elderly was mainly due to loss of family income (30.2%), loss of business/professional income (25.1%), heavy medical expenses (23.8%) and rising inflation (14.1%).
- Most disturbing Impact of increased Unemployment / Joblessness was increased dependence on others as per the 25.3% elderly respondents. While 14.5% said that due to this they were unable to get proper treatment / regular medicines.
- 19.5% respondents said that their grand-children's education suffered due to joblessness. While 13.0% respondents reportedly claimed that they had to terminate/postpone their critical medical checkups. 9.4% elderly respondents claimed that they had to take loans due to pandemic.

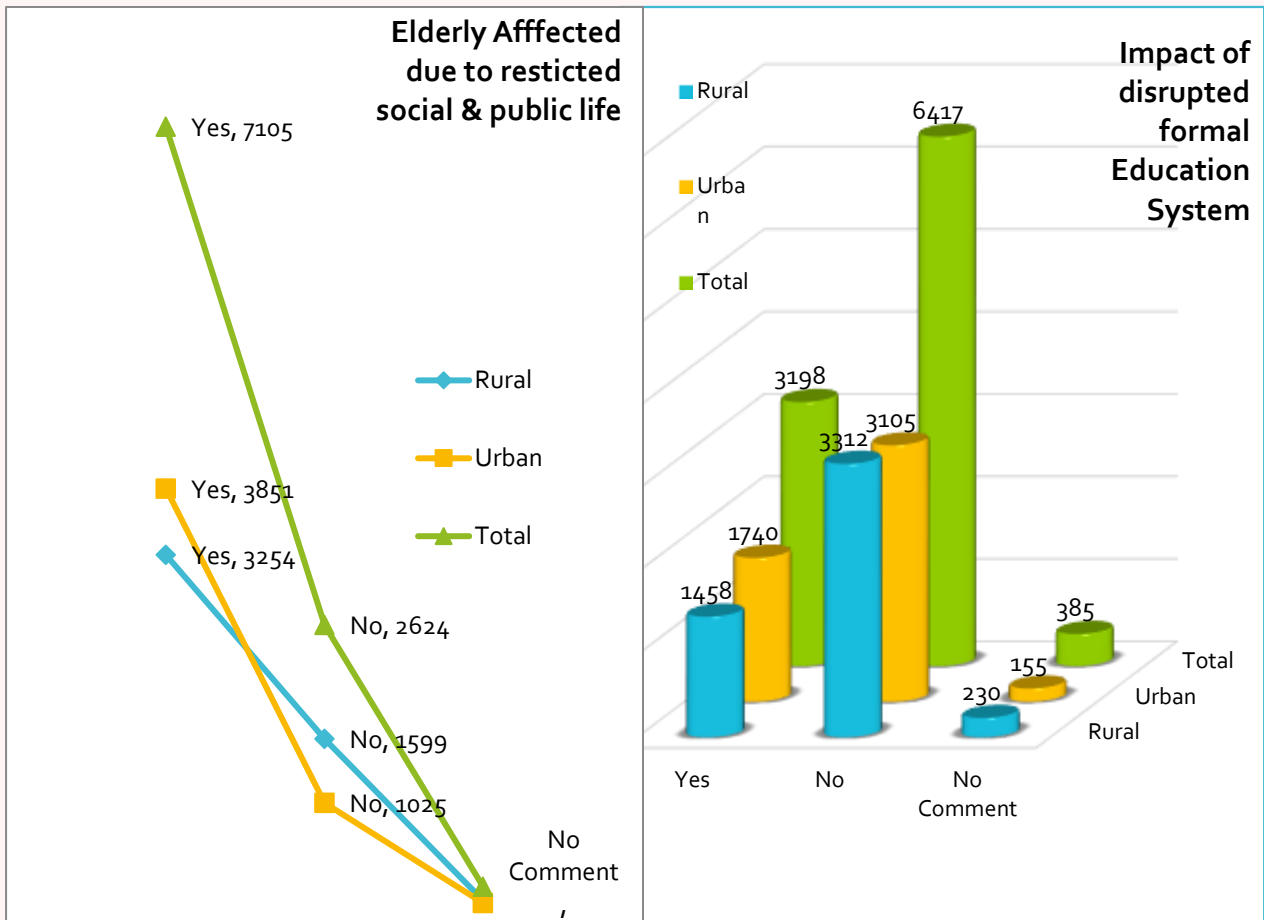




- Every 5th elderly respondent (19.5% elderly) their quality of life had been compromised due to rising inflation. 20.5% elderly also claimed that they had to compromise with unhealthy/unhygienic conditions due to rising prices.



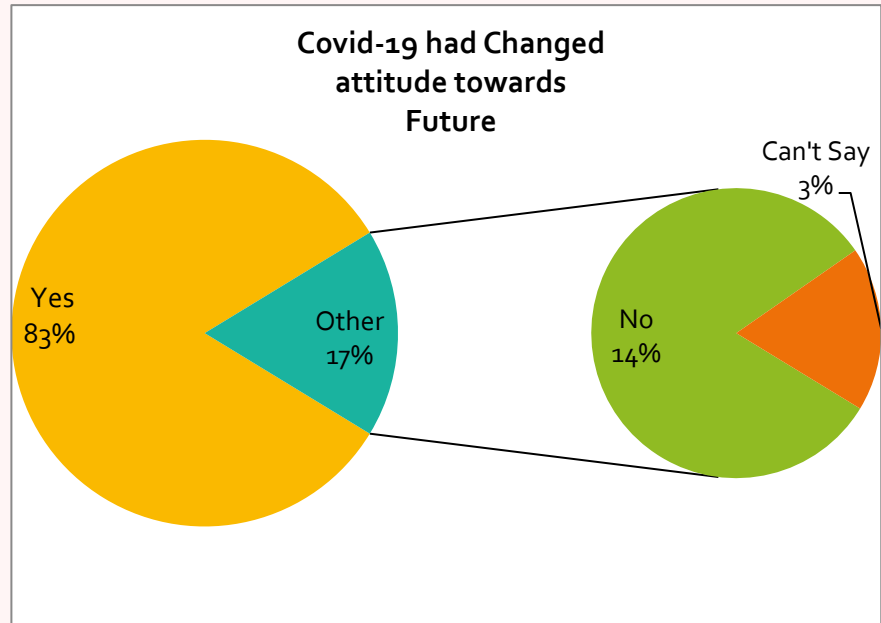
- 18.8% elderly claimed that they had lost their savings/investments due to inflation during Covid-19 situation. 13% elderly respondents said that they were unable to maintain their normal day-to-day life.
- 73.6% elderly i.e. 7357 respondents said that paralyzed healthcare system affected their life adversely.
- When asked about the disrupted formal education system, 32% elderly reportedly claimed that their life has also disturbed as their grand-children could not attend regular classes.



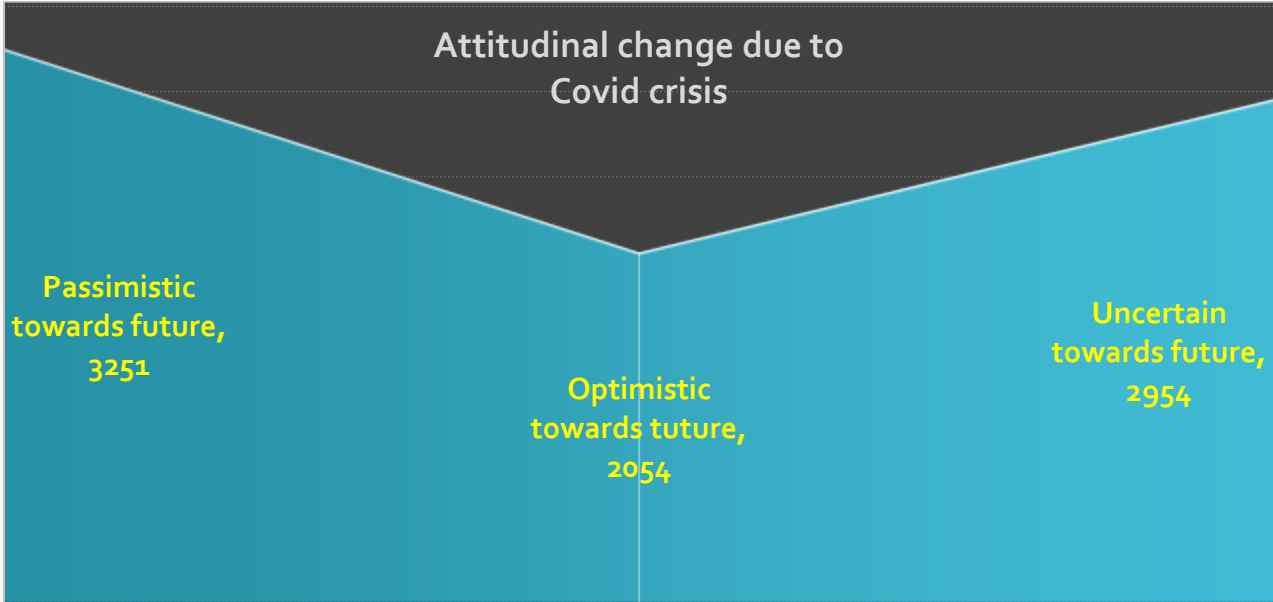
- 39.3% elderly said that the derailed public transport system has also affected their life very badly and 71.1% elderly claimed that restricted social and public life has affected their quality of life.

Attitudinal change towards older persons during Covid-19 phenomenon

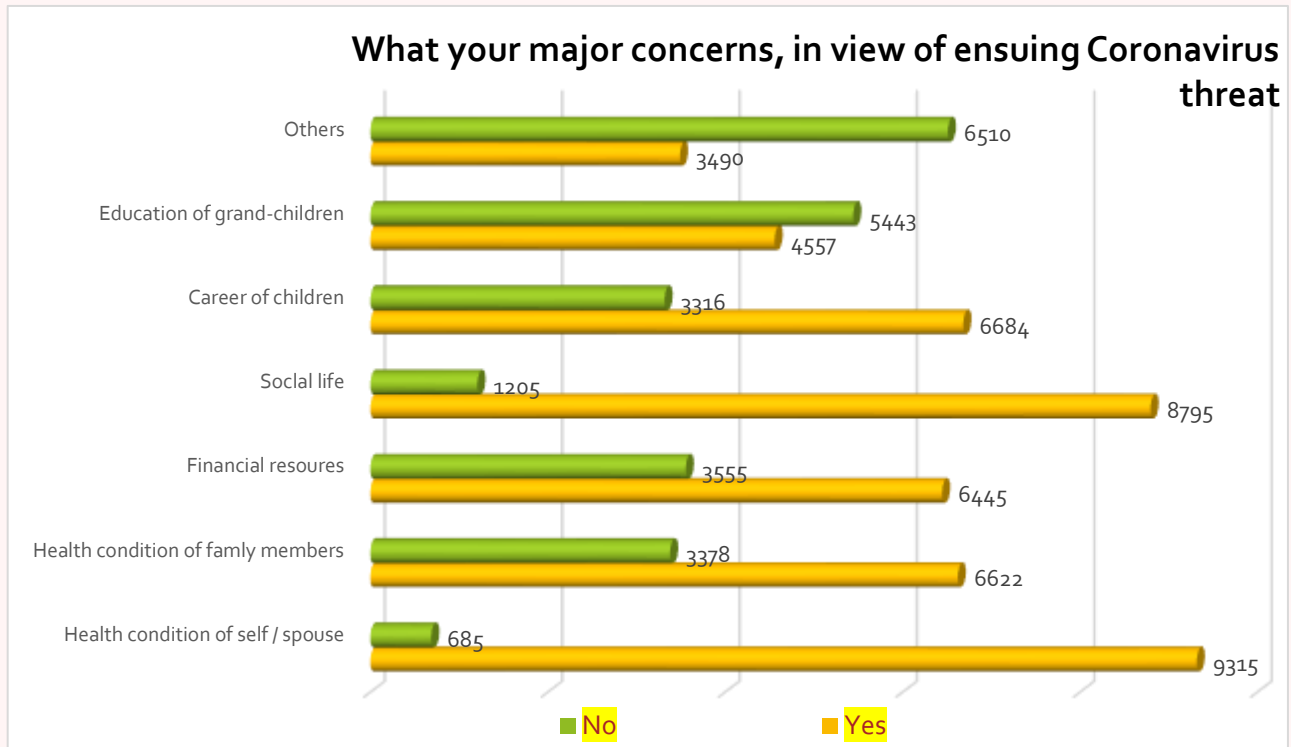
- When it was attempted to assess the attitudinal change in the lives of elderly, it was found that Covid-19 phenomenon had changed the attitude of more than 82.6% elderly. Among them 75.1% elderly reportedly said that due to Covid-19 threat,



they were not optimistic towards the future or were uncertain about the future.



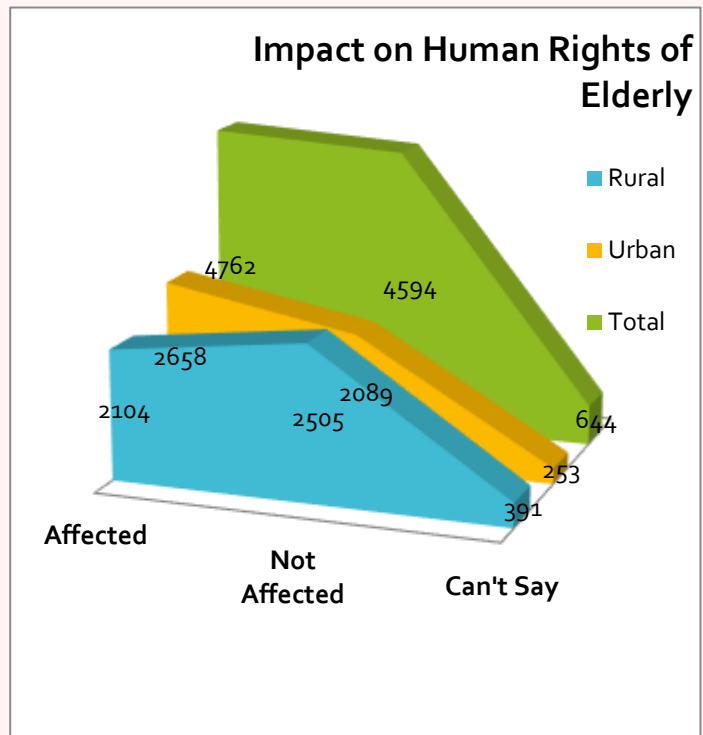
- In the current situation, 93.2% i.e. 9315 older persons admitted that their major concern was looking after the health condition of self/spouse. 66.2% elderly were also concerned for their family members.



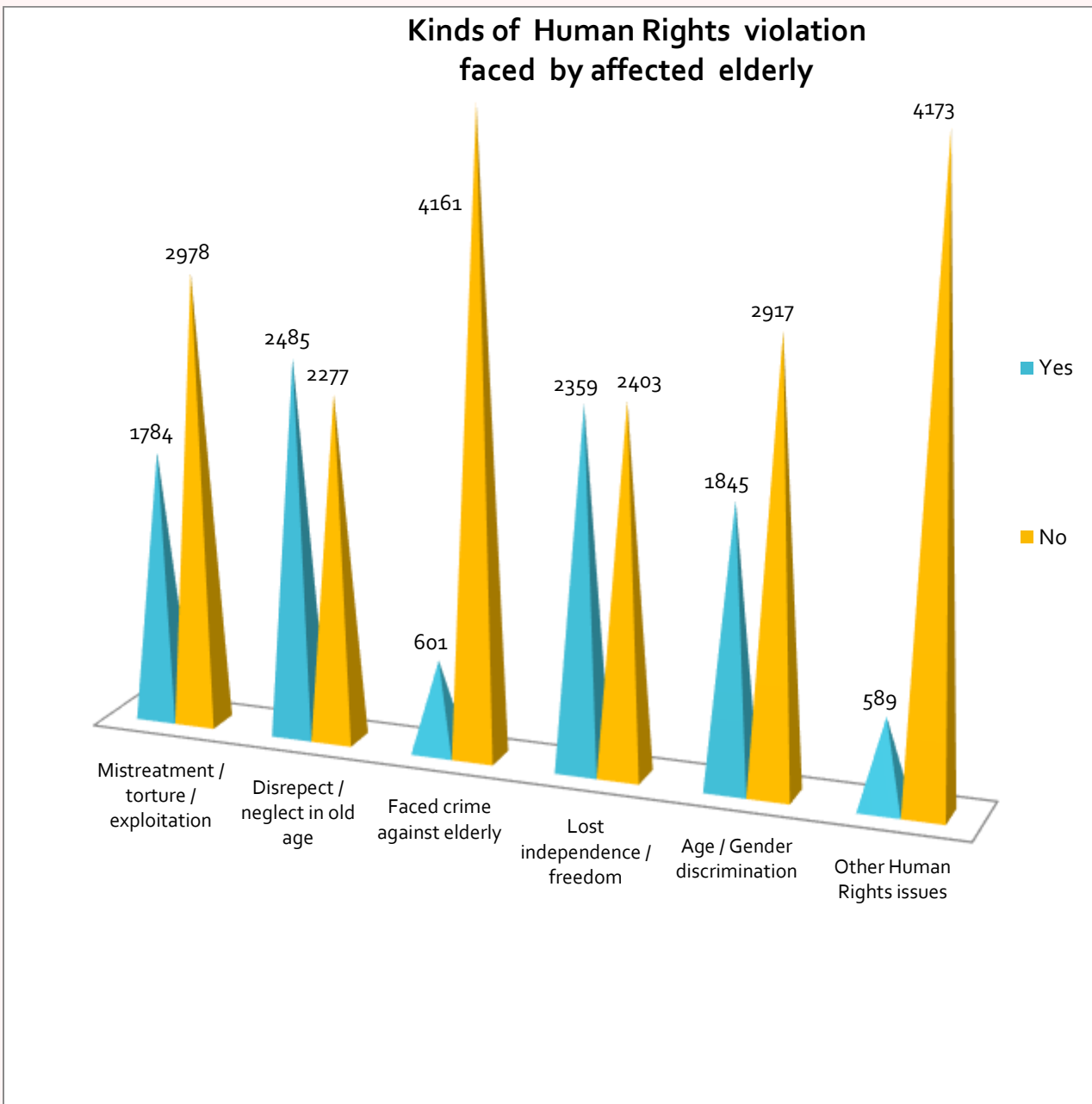
- 64.5% said that their major concern was maintaining financial resources. 88% elderly said that they were much worried about their social life while career of their children and education of grand-children were their major concerns, termed by 45% and 34% elderly respectively.

Impact of Covid-19 situation on Human Rights of the Older Persons

- Due to ever widening generation gap during Covid-19 phenomenon, Human Rights of older persons were also found violated as 47.6% elderly (42.1% rural and 53.2% urban elderly) realized that during Covid-19 situation their human rights were compromised remarkably.

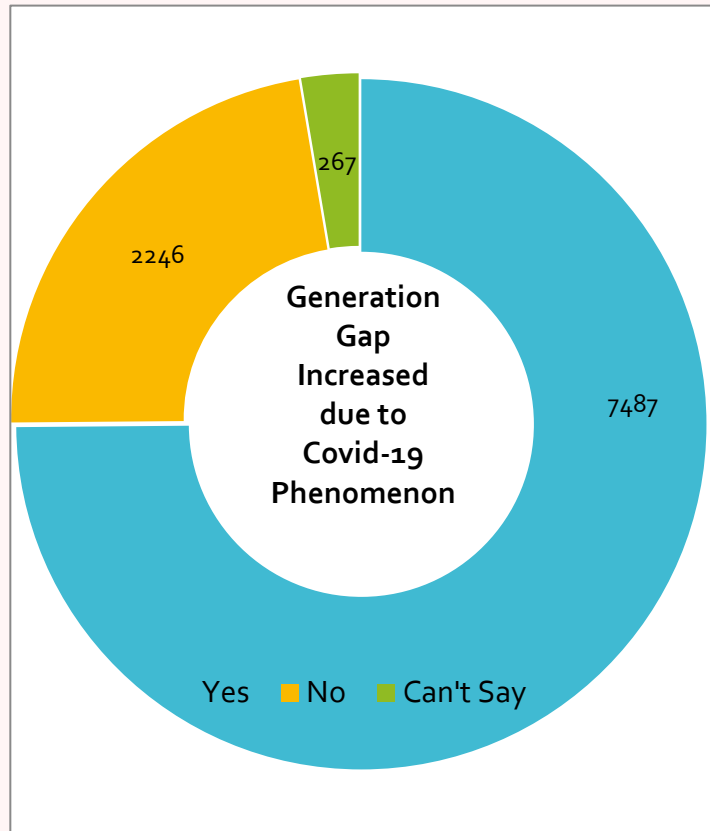


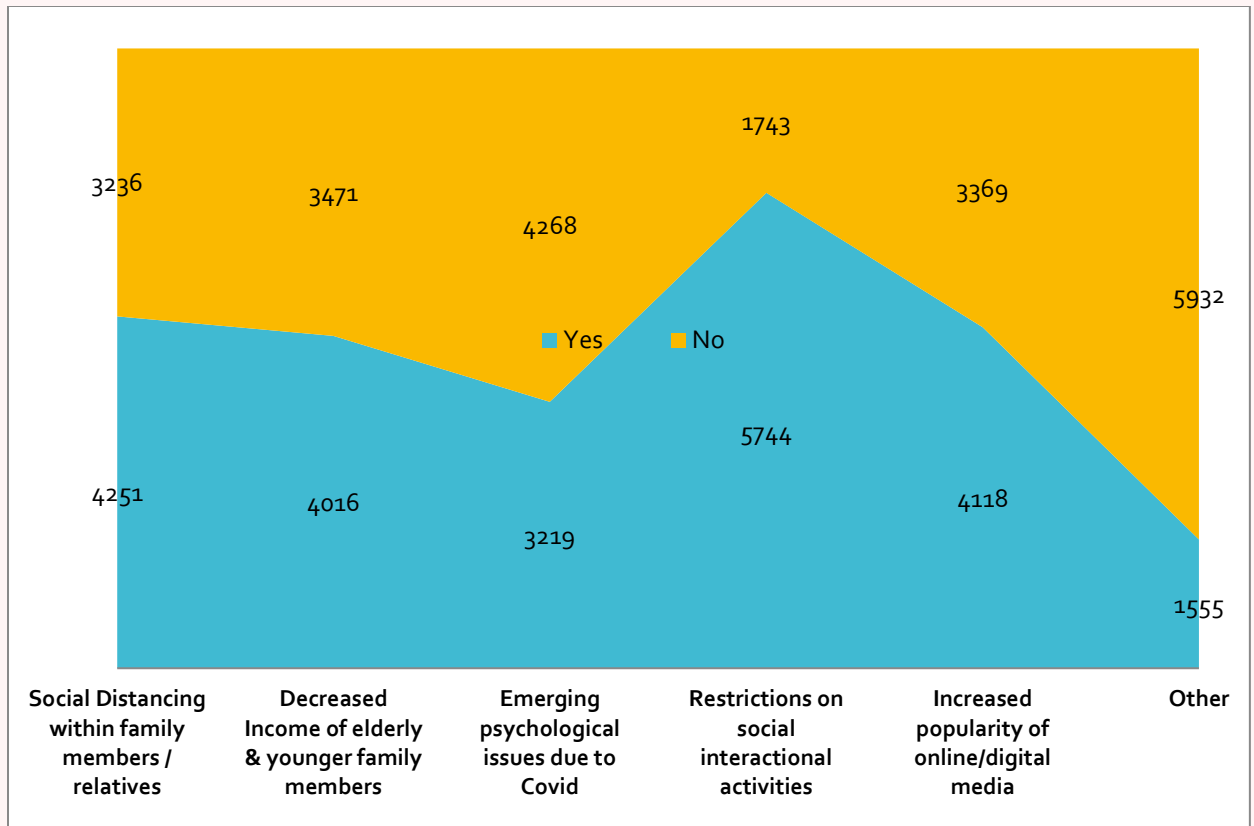
- Among this elderly, 37.5% elderly claimed that they had to face mistreatment/torture/exploitation while 52.2% said that disrespect / neglect in old age had become common during this period. 38.7% elderly claimed that had to face gender / age discrimination more often during the Covid crisis.
- 49.5% elderly reportedly lost independence /freedom due to Covid-19 situation, while 12.6% elderly claimed that they had to face crime due to changed situations due to Coronavirus.



Ever widening Generation Gap

- Among them 78.5% elderly complained that ever widening gap is responsible for this situation. According to them, Covid-19 pandemic had imposed many challenges before older people, from social isolation, financial penury, psychological issues to elder abuse and neglect.
- According to 74.9% elderly respondents (7487 out of 10000 elderly) claimed that the generation gap has widened due to overstretched spells of Coronavirus and related lockdowns / restrictions. 22.5% of respondents did not agree with this fact while 2.7% of the elderly said that they have no idea about it.
- During the survey, 76.7% elderly (5744 out of 7487 elderly) admitted that restrictions on social interactional activities was the main reason for widening generation gap.
- 56.8% elderly said that social distancing within family members / relatives was the main reason of generation gap, while 53.6 % elderly said that decreased income of elderly and younger family members was resulted in widening generation gap.





- According to 55% elderly respondents increased popularity of online / digital media like smartphones, etc. was main factor responsible for widening generation gap. 43% elderly opined that emerging psychological issues due to Covid-19 played significant role in increasing the gap between generations.



OBSERVATIONS

By the year 2050, India would have 1/5th population in the age group of 60+. Management of such a large section of retired and older people, who will have time, experience, and even resources, but no opportunities, maybe a huge challenge before the government of India.

Older persons must be given equal rights and opportunities in a non-discriminatory manner, so that their participation in the mainstream and contribution to sustainable development can be



ensured. The Government of India has initiated several schemes for exploring gainful engagement opportunities for retired and older persons, but these are only on the pilot project level.

In our country, majority of the older persons are not prepared for their old age, hence most of them have to depend on others for their various needs and requirements, particularly related to finance, health, social support, etc. Low or no income in old age, increased medical expenses, ever-increasing inflation and infirmity/disability make their life more complicated. Of late, sudden outbreak of Coronavirus has forced older people to live in more compromised

conditions. At this juncture, older people seek empathy from younger generations and appealed them to spend time with elderly, understand their problems and learn from them in order to prepare for their own better old age.

Due to pandemic and related lockdowns/restrictions the generation gap has increased in society, which was severely affecting older persons who were already suffering from marginalization, isolation and loneliness. Since there is no respite yet, older persons need constant assurance of support, help and all kinds of assistance in case of need at all levels.

A large number of older persons have suffered due to many ills of Covid-19 situation such as unemployment, paralyzed healthcare system, almost non-functional education system, derailed transport system, loss of business & industry, restrictions on social, religious & cultural freedom. It has not only affected day-to-day life of older persons but also affected their quality of life adversely.

During the interactions with the older people, it was observed that Covid-19 has impacted work at all fronts. This has resulted in reduced trade and business, economic slowdown, unemployment, ever increasing inflation and reduced income. In the beginning of the Pandemic, many households used their savings but by now most of those savings (in households) also seem to have evaporated. The helpless and marginalized older people were the worst affected, who believe in self-denial and silently suffer all indignity / humiliation / isolation.

Major problems being faced by older people during Covid-19 pandemic and induced lockdowns / restrictions include - health anxiety, sleeplessness, panic attacks, depression, unceasing stress, nightmares, fear of contracting Coronavirus, anxiety related to the uncertain future, etc. In addition, elderly seem to be much concerned about their human rights.



Representative Statements

" My life during lockdowns was just like hell. I had to postpone my treatment for almost a year. During this period, I had to face a lot of trauma, while living under constant fear of Coronavirus and life-threatening consequences. Due to restrictions on social and religious activities my social life was devastated remarkably."

- Ramesh Chandra Gupta, 71, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

" Younger generations express pity towards their older generations and find it rather awkward to empathize with them. However, older persons expect empathy from younger generations and in turn they like to share their experience and wisdom with them, so that they can prepare for their old age better."



- Deepankar Guha, 75, Mayur Vihar, Delhi

" Expectations of older people have increased over the years remarkably, particularly due to pandemic and related issues. While healthcare remains their basic need, they are also looking for financial and social security so that they can meet with their ever-increasing expenses in comparatively longer old age."

- Bhaskar Gaytonde, 66, Mumbai, Maharashtra

" Best advice for younger generations is to spend time with elderly and understand their problems, which will not only help their elderly family members lead a comfortable life but also certainly help younger people in preparing for their own old age."

- Reema Juneja, 78, Ludhiana, Punjab

" I have lost my parents due to sudden attack of Covid-19 in May 2021. The incident left us completely devastated. In addition to psychological issues, my entire family have been suffering from financial crisis since then. We had lost lot of money on their treatment and with jobless children in the family we are found it very tough to meet our daily expenses."

- Mohd. Iqbal Ansari, 62, Kolkata, West Bengal

Recommendations

To address the ever-growing challenges pertaining to issues concerning older people, governments at all levels, need to modify their old age-related policies, schemes and retirement rules and make them older persons friendly. In order to ensure equal rights & opportunities for older people, currently, there is an urgent need to take these steps;

- Develop, formulate and implement requisite policy programs for the elderly population
- Study various aspects of older persons and initiate social, economic and health policy debate about aging
- Promote self-help groups of older persons
- Explore gainful engagement creating opportunities for retired older people
- Tap untapped/unutilized resources of older persons (time, experience, knowledge, financial resources, and wisdom as well)
- Create older persons friendly environment in the country in order to facilitate their participation in sustainable development and appreciate their contribution

In order to ensure older persons' economic security, the following initiatives must be adopted at a larger scale as better practices;

- Pre- and post-retirement training programs for older persons to provide the soft skills, digital literacy, communication and other training for skill enhancement.
- Employment Exchanges for Old and Retired People at national level
- Job Fairs for Senior citizens & retired people
- Provisions for encouraging employment of retired elderly in the unorganized service sector by initiating incentives schemes.



- Promotion of anti-age discriminatory practices in the labor market
- Self-employment opportunities to retired older people

To ensure social security for people in old age, concerned stakeholders need to focus on:

- Maximum coverage under existing and/or new income and social security schemes
- Medical as well as life insurance till the end of life to provide medical and financial security in old age
- Positive environment for financial planning from the younger age, so that they can earn ensured income in old age
- Spreading awareness about economic and social security schemes and provisions beneficial to them in old age, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas
- Old age pension amount should be benchmarked to the increasing cost of living
- Provisions for tax incentives for people who are looking after dependent senior citizens
- Financial incentive for setting up a network of Caregivers for Older Persons at block-level to look after older persons living alone
- Special training programs for public health practitioners, mental health providers, health care professionals and volunteers for providing better and effective care to older people.



To protect human rights of older persons, following steps need to be taken up;

- To bridge the gap between generations by promoting and conducting inter-generational bonding programs.
- To protect elderly from violence, abuse, neglect and social isolation
- To create better awareness about Human Rights of Old People across the country.
- To improve overall attitude toward older people living with mental / psychological disorders.
- To organize recreational / entertainment activities for older persons through social / electronic media and encourage their participation





Agewell Foundation

*Agewell Foundation is a not-for-profit NGO which has been working for the welfare and empowerment of older persons of India since 1999. Agewell interacts with over 25000 older persons on daily basis through its volunteers' nationwide network. Recognizing the work being done by Agewell Foundation ECOSOC has granted **Special Consultative Status** to Agewell Foundation at **United Nations** in 2011. It is associated with Department of Public Information, United Nations (**UN-DPI-NGO**). Agewell Foundation is currently associated with Working Group on Awareness and Capacity Building for Senior Citizens, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment; Sub-Group on Elderly Care, under NITI Aayog's CSOs Standing Committee and Committee of Experts on "impact of COVID-19 pandemic on human rights and future response", National Human Rights Commission.*

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*(In association with **UN-DPI**)*

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024, India agewellfoundation@gmail.com

www.agewellfoundation.org

