



(In **Special Consultative Status** with the ECOSOC at **United Nations** since 2011)
Associate NGO Status with UN-DPI-NGO

Elderly-friendly budgetary provisions are need of the hour **- Agewell Foundation**

January 7th, 2023, New Delhi: Elderly-friendly budgetary provisions have become the need of the hour due to the ever-increasing gap between older people and the younger generation, the demanding lifestyle of older persons in view of a longer span in old age, and growing vulnerability in old age. Today, a large number of retired healthy old people need gainful engagement to remain active. On the other hand, the share of dependent elderly is also increasing significantly, who need healthcare and support.

As per the analysis of the latest data, collected by Agewell volunteers from **5000 older persons** spread across the country, **51% of older people said that Government should focus on schemes and programs for older persons, that can engage retired older people and utilize their experience, knowledge, and wisdom accordingly.** 45% of elderly respondents suggested that Government should prioritize healthcare and support systems for underprivileged and marginalized older persons. The survey was conducted by Agewell Foundation during the 1st week of January 2023.

During the survey, older persons also raised issues like training of digital technology for older persons, development of older persons and disabled-friendly infrastructure at public places like tourist/pilgrimage places, increase in old age pension, provision of caregivers and home-based healthcare services for needy elderly, etc.

On this occasion, Agewell Foundation appeals to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and other concerned stakeholders to consider the following recommendations/suggestions while finalizing the next budget;

Social Pension Schemes

- Under the social pension scheme, Old Age Pension should be revised according to prevailing inflation. The current share of the Central Government in the monthly old-age pension must be increased up to Rs. 3000/- per month for every eligible old person. The state government should also be advised to modify its share accordingly.
- Old Age Pension / Widow Pension / Disability Pension schemes should be reviewed every 2-3 years.

Financial security measures

- Increased rate of interest on Bank/Post Office/other deposit/investment schemes for Old People
- More relief in Income Tax specially for older people

GST Exemption on services and products, frequently used by the elderly, such as-

- Audit diapers (normal quality)
- Medicines, primarily for old age
- Healthcare equipment like wheelchairs, walkers, and other appliances used by disabled
- Hospitalization of elderly (70+) patients
- Mediclaim policies of older persons

AGEWELL FOUNDATION

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024 Phone No.: 011-29836486, 29840484
e-mail: agewellfoundation@gmail.com Website: www.agewellfoundation.org



(In **Special Consultative Status** with the ECOSOC at **United Nations** since 2011)
Associate NGO Status with UN-DPI-NGO

Skill Training & Retooling for Retired People

- For providing skill training and modern technological know-how to retired people to retool and empower them for gainful engagement in old age

Prime Minister's Self-Employment Scheme for the Retired and Senior Citizens

- The scheme should be initiated to tap the unexplored potential of older persons, who have experience, knowledge, wisdom, resources, time and above all zeal to work in old age to keep themselves engaged and connected with the mainstream.

Special Provisions For older persons In Government Schemes

- In all government schemes, the focus must also be on special provisions for the needs & rights of older persons while implementing the schemes/programs.
- Participation of older persons must be ensured in various processes of development/implementation/supervision/monitoring/evaluation of government schemes/programs.

Dedicated Healthcare and online counseling services

- Discounted Medclaim for life for old people
- Dedicated healthcare facilities must be set up across the country at the local level and Door-step healthcare services should be provided for all older persons (Preference must be given to elderly patients/ bedridden elderly / older persons, unable to walk/move/living alone or facing acute health disorders)
- Online counseling for all kinds of psychological/medical/financial/legal issues being faced by older persons

Provision for providing Nutri Kits to elderly from BPL families

- On monthly basis for ensuring proper and nutritional food items for the elderly with poor health conditions

Speaking about the survey findings, **Himanshu Rath, Founder Chairman, Agewell Foundation** said, *"Ensuring social and financial security in old age has become an uphill task for most of the elderly due to limited income/savings. They have a comparatively longer span of life in old age and most of them have to remain dependent on others for their various needs & requirements. Due to growing uncertainties in old age, older people are suffering a lot. Through elderly-friendly budgetary provisions, the government can make the lives of older persons more comfortable. Indeed, older persons need gainful engagement opportunities, participation in the mainstream, and better healthcare and support system in old age."*

For more info. Please contact –

Mob.: 9810030979, agewellfoundation@gmail.com or visit: www.agewellfoundation.org

AGEWELL FOUNDATION

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024 Phone No.: 011-29836486, 29840484
e-mail: agewellfoundation@gmail.com Website: www.agewellfoundation.org