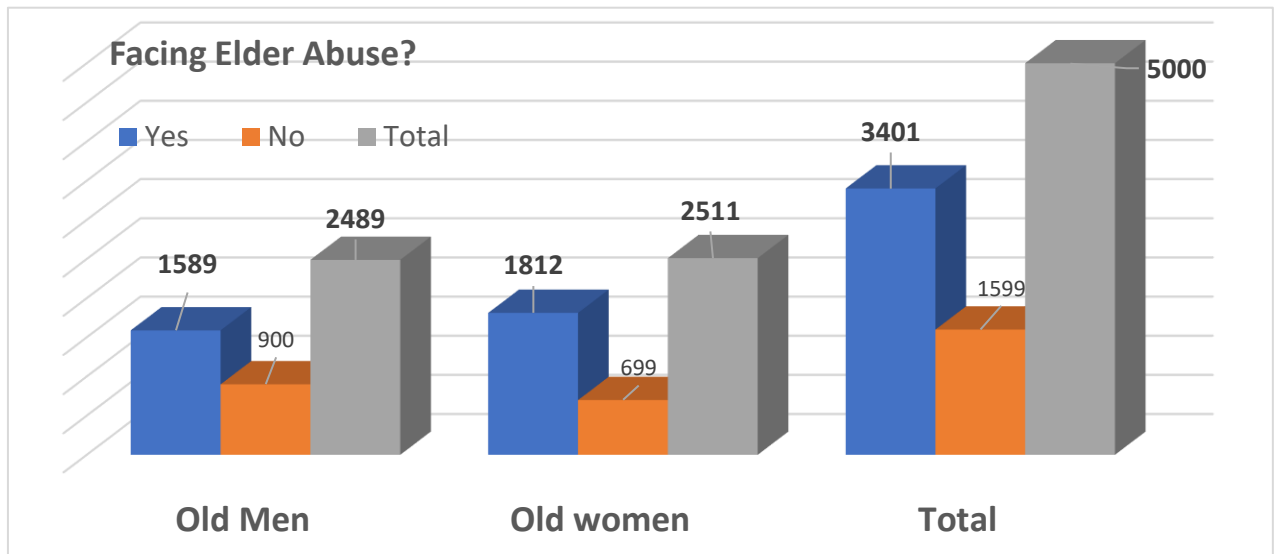


Old People are not Aware of their Human Rights – Agewell Foundation’s Survey

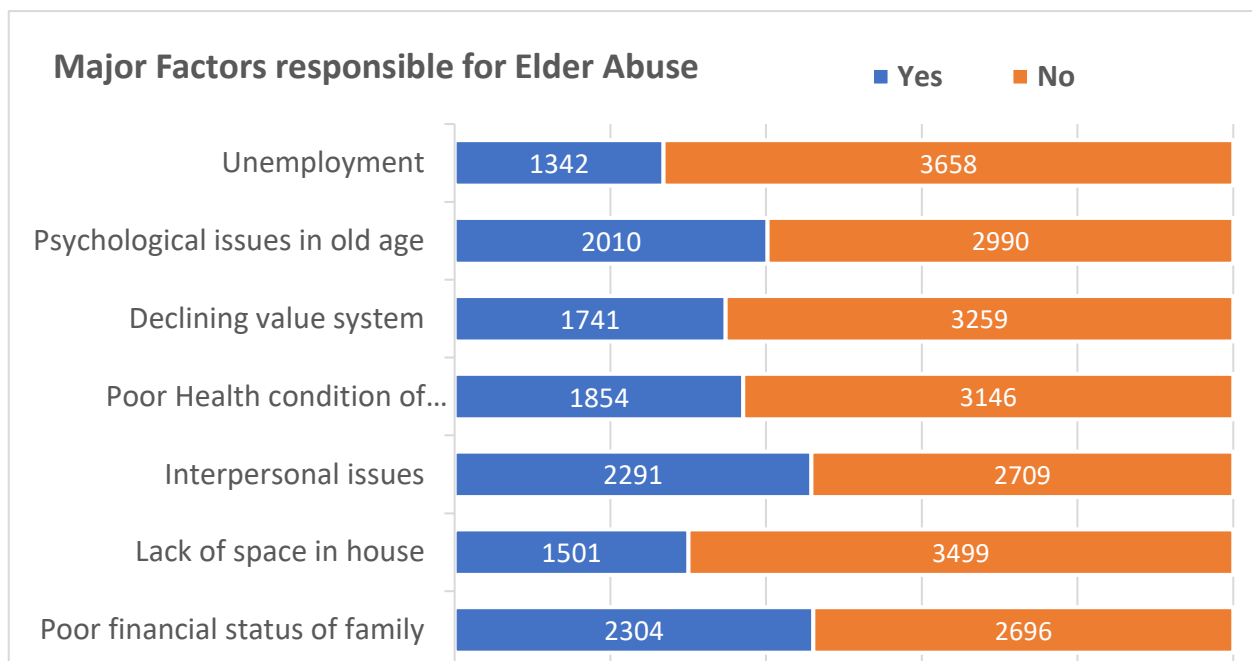
On the occasion of **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, 15th June 2023**, Agewell Foundation surveyed 5000 older persons on the status of elder abuse and awareness about human rights among old people in India. The survey was conducted during the first week of June 2023 through Agewell Foundation’s nationwide network of volunteers spread across the country.

- According to the Survey findings, **most old people (approximately 77% of respondents) are not aware of their Human Rights.**
- **Most old people do not protest when they start getting abused and gradually elder abuse becomes a pattern.** Old people, who depend on others for their needs in old age, are more prone to face elder abuse,
- **It has been observed that one of the most common reasons for rampant elder abuse is the old person’s fear of losing family members or support.** They fear that if they talk about mistreatment or harassment and/or report it, it will result in tension and stress in their life.
- **Old people are afraid of loneliness, isolation, and marginalization in old age and prefer to compromise with circumstances and face elder abuse.** Most of them ignore elder abuse for the sake of the well-being of their family members.
- It has been observed that **more than 2/3 elderly population is being harassed/ mistreated/ humiliated by their family members, children, relatives, or others.**



- During this exercise, **older women were found to be more prone to suffer elder abuse as they are comparatively more dependent on others for their needs, particularly financial and psychological needs.**

- **The survey indicates that** the poor financial status of the family, lack of space, interpersonal issues, chronic diseases of older persons, declining moral value system, unemployment, rising inflation, etc. are among the major factors responsible for elder abuse.



Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Himanshu Rath**, Founder Chairman, **Agewell Foundation** said, *"With ever-increasing elderly population, the growing popularity of nuclear families and widening intergenerational gaps, elder abuse has become a common phenomenon for most older people. We celebrate the occasion every year but do nothing for sensitizing the people about the human rights of older persons on the ground. Time has come, when all concerned stakeholders should join hands and focus on the issue for a better tomorrow for all."*

The study concludes that today, with ever-increasing incidences of known and hidden incidences of elder abuse, violation of human rights, and crime against the elderly, there is an urgent need to create greater awareness in society about the needs & rights of older persons, particularly among older persons and their family members, caregivers, relatives and friends.

Creating greater awareness, sensitizing the people about the emerging issue, and inculcating a sense of belonging towards elderly family members among younger children by bridging the intergenerational gap is the **way to "SAY NO TO ELDER ABUSE"**.

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