



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

STATUS OF OLDER WOMEN IN INDIA

Study Conducted by
Agewell Research & Advocacy Centre (for Needs & Rights of Older People)



March 2024

AGEWELL FOUNDATION

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024 Phone No.: 011-29836486, 29840484
e-mail: agewellfoundation@gmail.com Website: www.agewellfoundation.org
(Contributions to Agewell Foundation are tax exempted under 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.)
FCRA No.231660163

STATUS OF OLDER WOMEN IN INDIA

A Study Conducted by

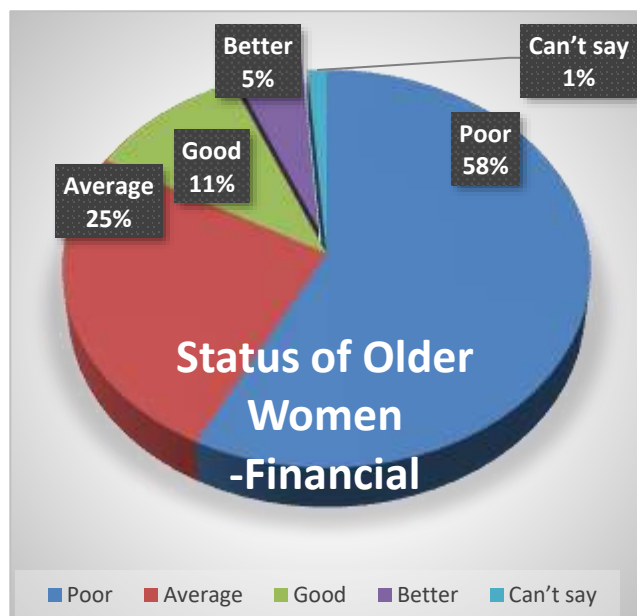
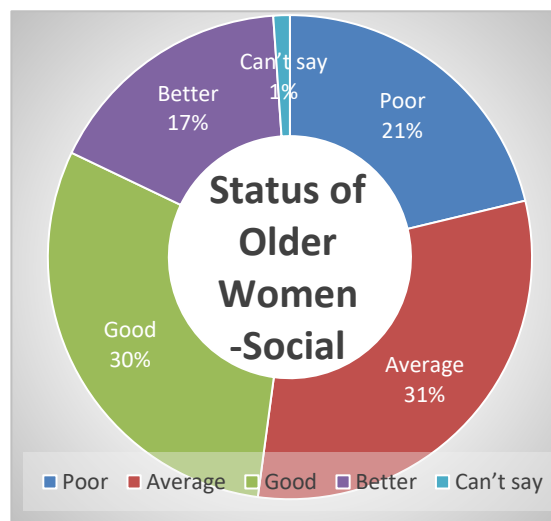
Agewell Foundation

March 2024

On the occasion of **International Women's Day 2024**, Agewell Foundation conducted a study on status of older women in India. It was based on day-to-day interactions of Agewell volunteers spread across the country with older women during the past 1 year. For the study, data from 10000 elderly women respondents from across the country were compiled and analyzed.

Major findings of the study are as under;

- According to the study, 21.25% of respondents claimed that their social status is poor, 30.87% said their social status can be termed as average, almost 30% of women admitted that their social status is good and 16.8% termed that they enjoy better social status.



- According to the study, 57.7% of elderly women (5765 out of 10000) claimed that their financial status is poor, 25.5% of elderly women said that their financial status can be termed as average, while 15.6% admitted that their financial status is good/Better.

- When asked about their health condition in old age, 29.5% of elderly women said that their health status is poor and another 29% of elderly claimed that their current health condition is average.

Almost 40% elderly women respondents said that their current health condition can be termed as good or better.

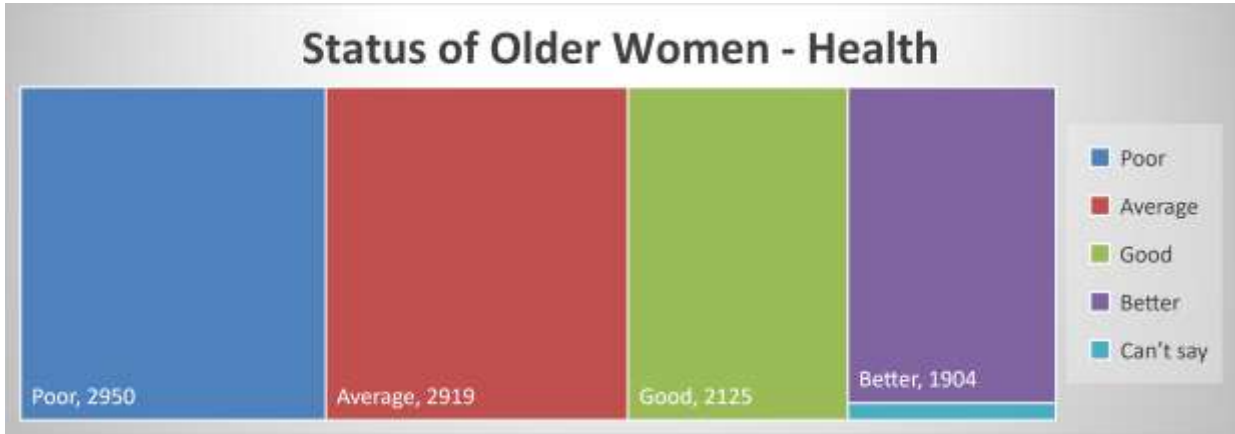
AGEWELL FOUNDATION

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024 Phone No.: 011-29836486, 29840484

e-mail: agewellfoundation@gmail.com Website: www.agewellfoundation.org

(Contributions to Agewell Foundation are tax exempted under 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.)

FCRA No.231660163

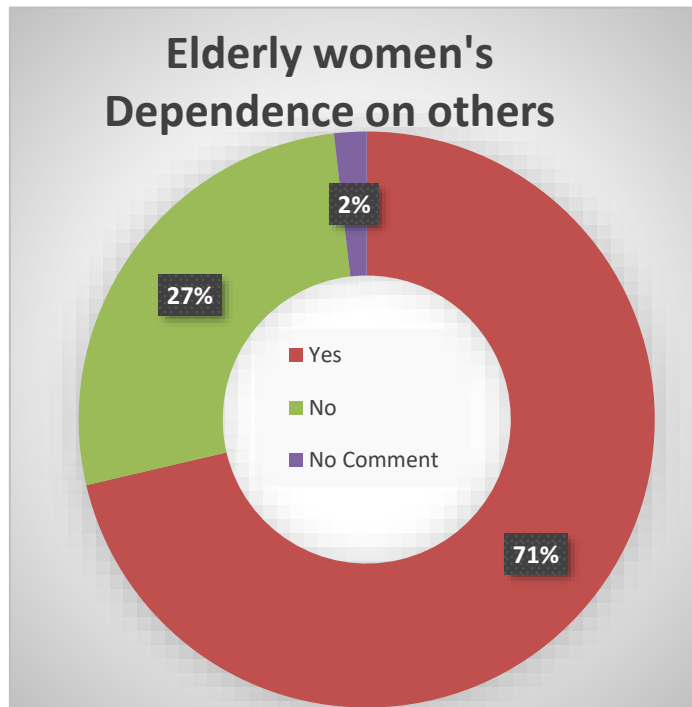


- it has been observed that most older women have to depend on others for almost 30-40 years in old age. In our society, most elderly women are forced to lead a faceless, voiceless and compromised life.

- During this period, 71.3% of elderly women are found dependent on others for their needs and requirements like food, clothes, shelter, medicines, healthcare, etc.*

- Among 10000 elderly women more than a half of elderly women respondents i.e. almost 51% women claimed that they are being marginalized or isolated in old age.

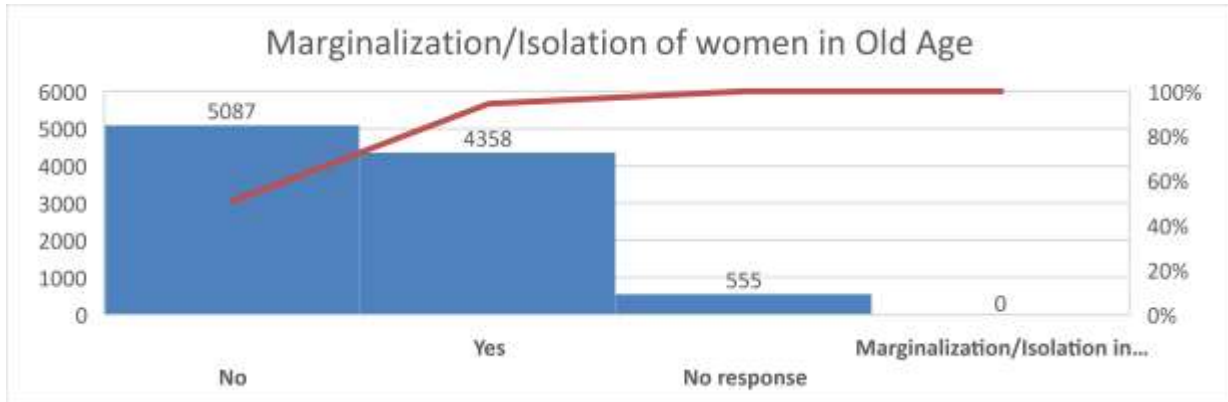
- 43.9% of elderly women respondents denied that they are marginalized or isolated in their families/society.



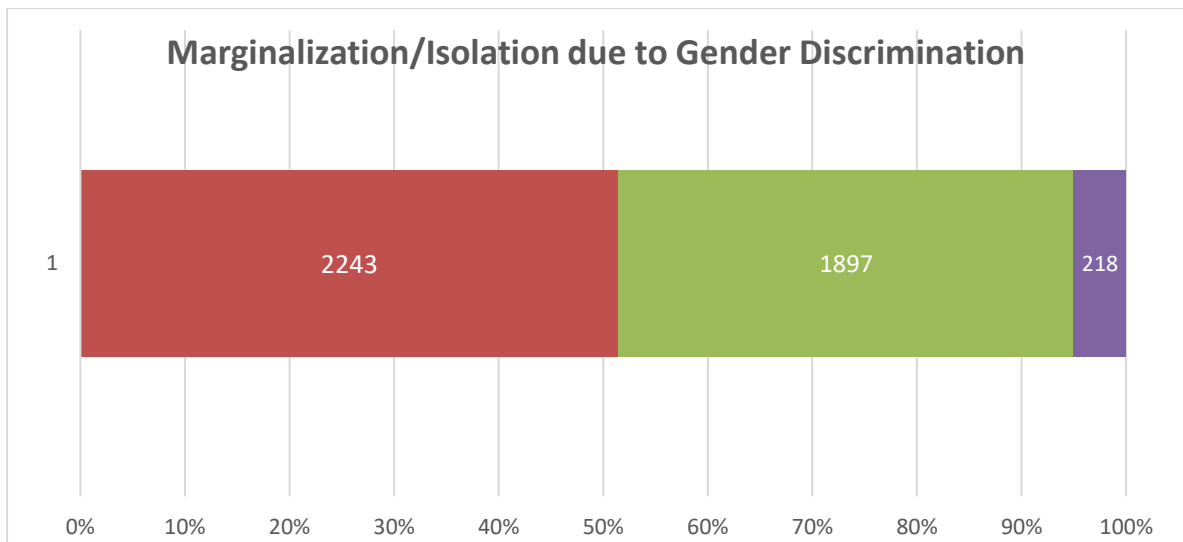
AGEWELL FOUNDATION



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



- As per the analysis of the data compiled for the study, 51.5% of elderly women have to face marginalization/isolation due to gender discrimination only.



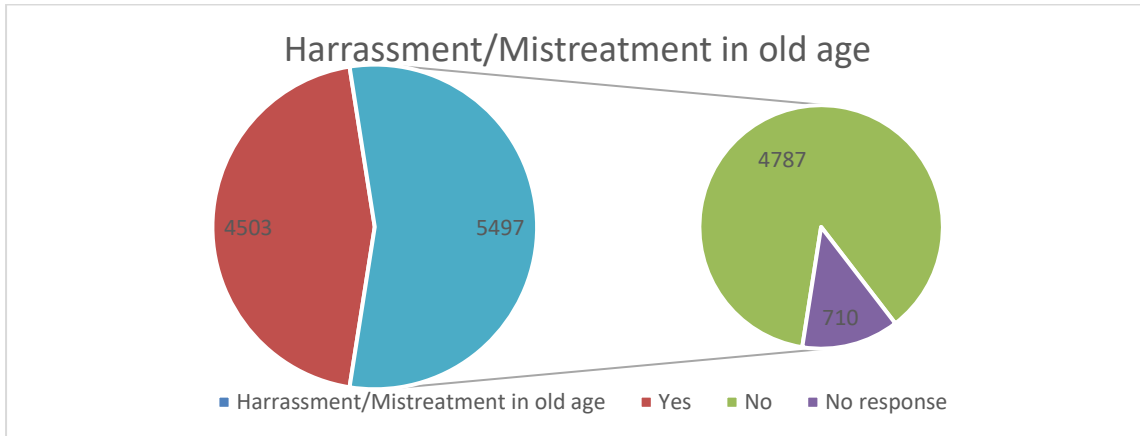
- More than 45% of elderly women reportedly accepted that they were being harassed/mistreated by their family members / Children / close relatives and friends.
- 19% of elderly women respondents said that they are being mistreated or harassed but not due to gender discrimination.
- Almost 2% of respondents express their inability to speak about the cause of the mistreatment/isolation.

AGEWELL FOUNDATION

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024 Phone No.: 011-29836486, 29840484
e-mail: agewellfoundation@gmail.com Website: www.agewellfoundation.org
(Contributions to Agewell Foundation are tax exempted under 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.)
FCRA No.231660163

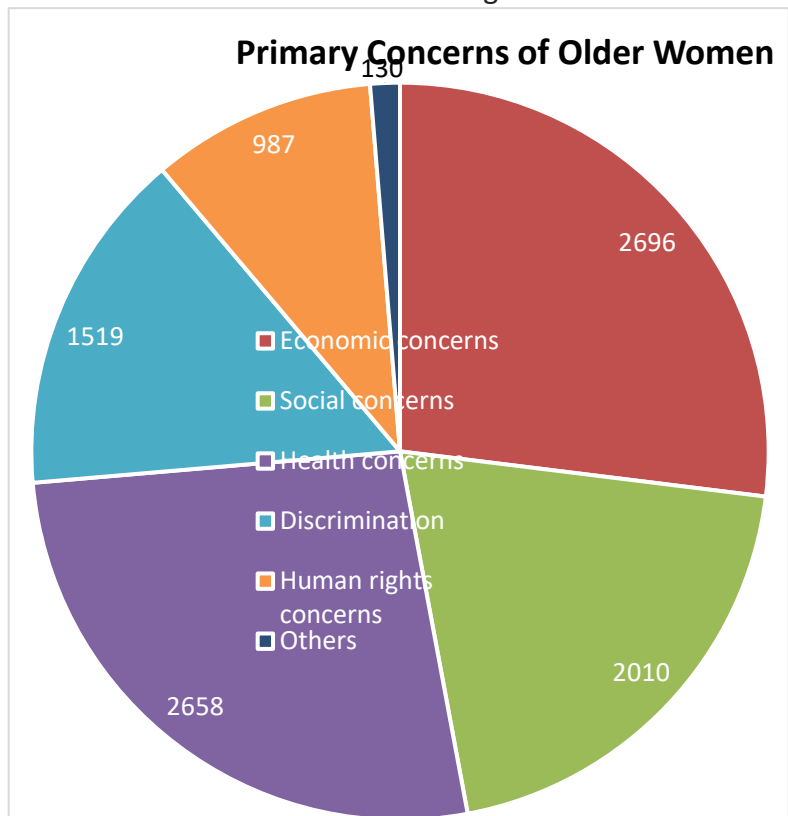


(In Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC at United Nations since 2011)
Associate NGO Status with UN-DPI-NGO



- During the study it was also attempted to know about primary concerns of older women in the country.
- As per the data compiled during the past year, it was found that economic concerns are the most prominent primary issue that older women have to face in old age.

- 26.9% of elderly women termed health concerns as their most prominent primary issue in old age.
- 20.1% of elderly women respondents claimed that they are facing social/family-related issues more prominently.
- 15.2% of women said they face acute discrimination in old age due to various reasons, like age, gender, poor health condition, etc. which is their primary concern in old age.
- During the study when it also tried to assess the recognition of older women's role and

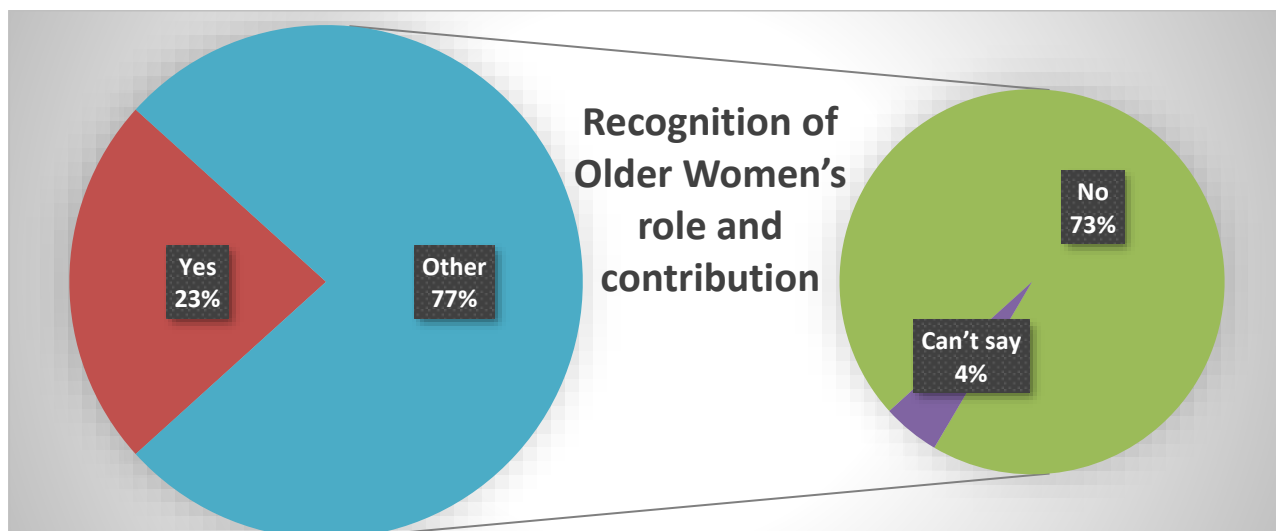


AGEWELL FOUNDATION

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024 Phone No.: 011-29836486, 29840484
e-mail: agewellfoundation@gmail.com Website: www.agewellfoundation.org
(Contributions to Agewell Foundation are tax exempted under 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.)
FCRA No.231660163

contribution, it was found that only 23.4% of elderly women respondents agreed that their role is recognized in their respective family/society.

- 72.9% of elderly women accepted that their role is never appreciated/recognized by their family members and others.



During the study, it was observed issues concerning older women hardly ever come into the mainstream discussion and often are overlooked by all. Ignoring issues concerning old women makes them more vulnerable and even a soft target for anti-social elements.

In India, most older women are not aware of their basic rights due to illiteracy and ignorance. In old age, they are more vulnerable as they face not only age discrimination but also gender discrimination.

The study concludes that there is an urgent need to create awareness about the needs and rights of older women at all levels i.e. individual, family, and society. Ageism, age discrimination, and elder abuse are pressing issues that demand our immediate attention in India. Combatting these problems requires a multi-pronged approach

Agewell Foundation recommends addressing the issues concerning elderly women and paving the way for an inclusive and fair society for all.

AGEWELL FOUNDATION

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024 Phone No.: 011-29836486, 29840484

e-mail: agewellfoundation@gmail.com Website: www.agewellfoundation.org

(Contributions to Agewell Foundation are tax exempted under 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.)

FCRA No.231660163



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

Agewell Foundation

Agewell Foundation is a not-for-profit NGO that 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 granted Special Consultative Status to Agewell Foundation at United Nations in 2011. It is associated with the Department of Public Information, United Nations (UN-DPI-NGO). Agewell Foundation is currently associated with the 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.



AGEWELL FOUNDATION

M-8A, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024 Phone No.: 011-29836486, 29840484
e-mail: agewellfoundation@gmail.com Website: www.agewellfoundation.org
(Contributions to Agewell Foundation are tax exempted under 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.)
FCRA No.231660163