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# Comprehensive Study of Protective Measures in Indian Acts against Senior Citizen Violence

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## ABSTRACT

*Abuse against Senior Citizens is a universal issue and most of the governments are in the process of prevention of all kinds of those activities and protection of elderly rights. India is no exception to this. Right from ancient times, rulers as well as law makers had been tackling these issues as effectively as possible. In modern India too, the Constitution Of India, Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code , Senior Citizen act 2007, National Policy of Older Persons, 1999 were promulgated for protection of elderly And many welfare schemes are being implemented by Central and state governments in India presently. The types of violence are physical, mental, financial and social harassments. Many times, these harassments are not reported due to ignorance and lack of knowledge or lack of support system to the elderly. Even reported incidents sometimes are not being treated seriously as ought to be. This paper is a comprehensive study of all protective measure in a single nut shell and could be a ready reference for all the stakeholders in their relevant domains.*

**Keywords:** Senior citizens, Protective measures, Indian laws.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Government of India had adopted „National Policy on Older Persons“ in January, 1999. The policy defines „senior citizen“ or „elderly“ as a person who is of age 60 years or above.

With the advent of industrialization, globalization and economic liberalization, the individuals are getting familiar with innovative and modern techniques and methods. The youth is occupied with enhancing their career opportunities, middle aged people are engaged in jobs and earning their livelihoods and the aged individuals are leading retired lives. They either get occupied in some kind of honorary work, or manage the household chores through obtaining assistance from

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the caregivers or they follow their daily routine. The individuals are gaining more mobility and joint family system is being disintegrated into the emergence of nuclear family system. The aged people are experiencing changes in their social lives. In India, there has been an increase in the number of older persons. The aged people within the country are being provided various facilities and senior citizen benefits. These are beneficial and render a significant contribution in providing them support, especially when they are living by themselves.

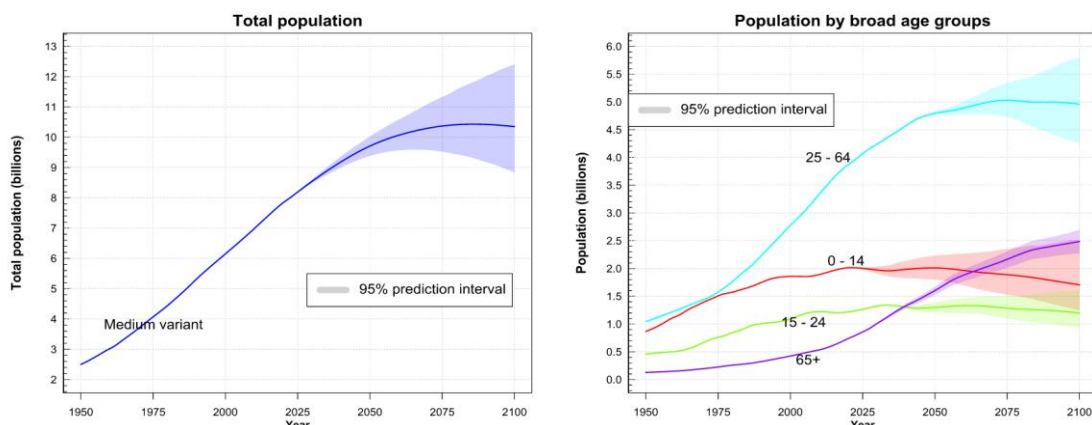
In the present world, individuals, belonging to marginalized, deprived and socioeconomically backward sections of the society aspire to earn better career opportunities and sustain their living conditions. The individuals migrate from rural areas to urban areas in search for better livelihoods opportunities, leaving their elderly parents. When individuals live separately from their elderly parents, they may communicate with them and make regular visits. On the other hand, there are cases of individuals, who do not look after their parents

and mainly focus upon enhancing their own livelihoods opportunities. The levels of savings and investments are the determinants of growth of the modern sector and, hence, the generation of employment as well as the process of urbanization. The development of industrialization has led to migration of individuals to other places, primarily in search for employment opportunities (Chapter VI, n.d.). The aged people in India, experience various types of problems. These are social, economic, psychological, health, crime and violence, abuse and other miscellaneous problems.

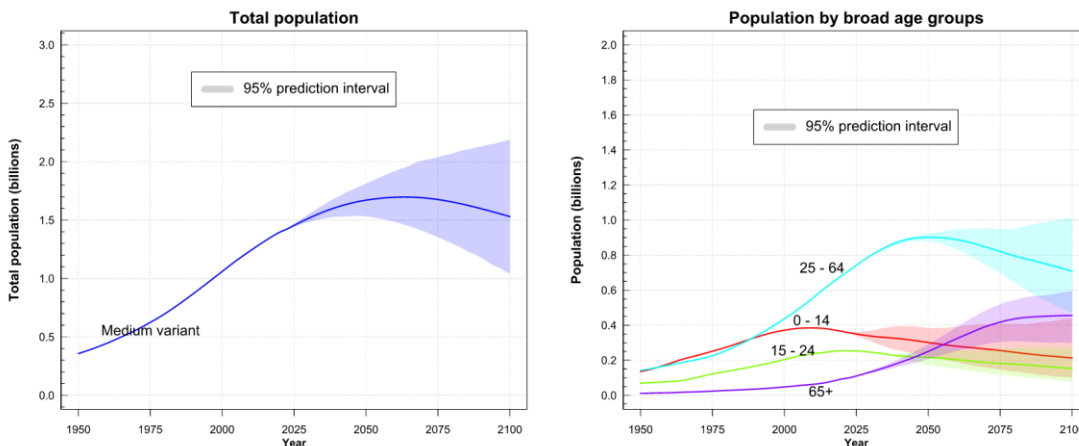
## II. WORLD TOTAL POPULATION

As per 2011 Census, Senior Citizens (people aged 60 years and above) are 10.38 Crore in the country.

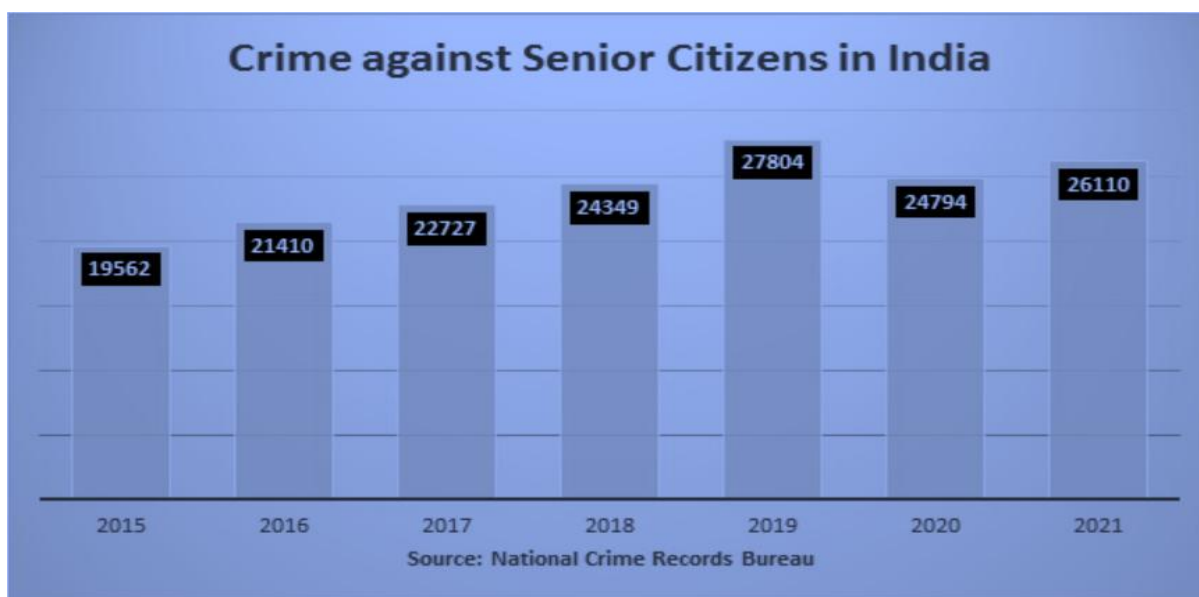
As per U N Population Fund and HelpAge India the No of elderly persons are expected to grow to 173 million by 2026.

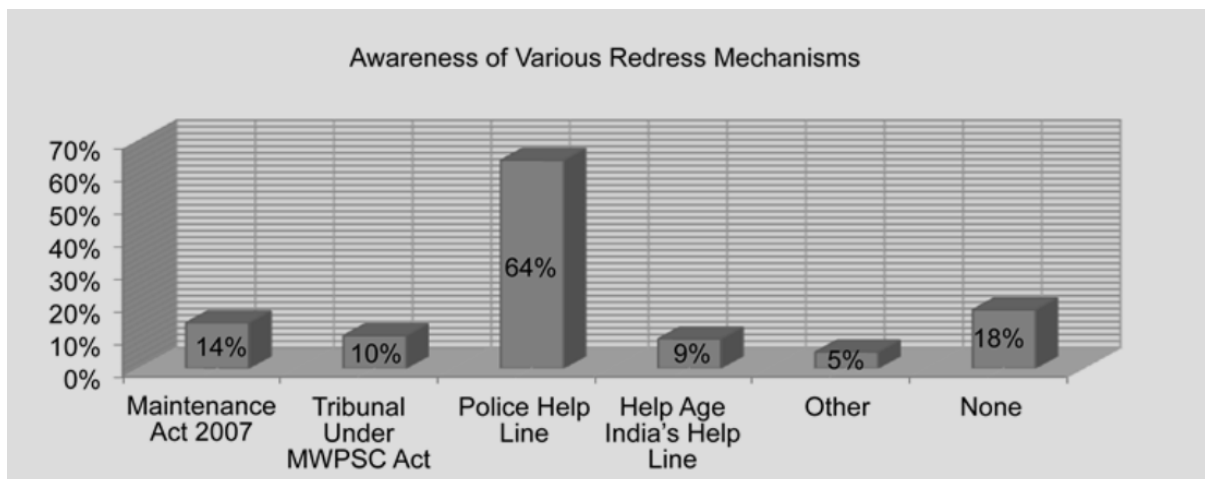
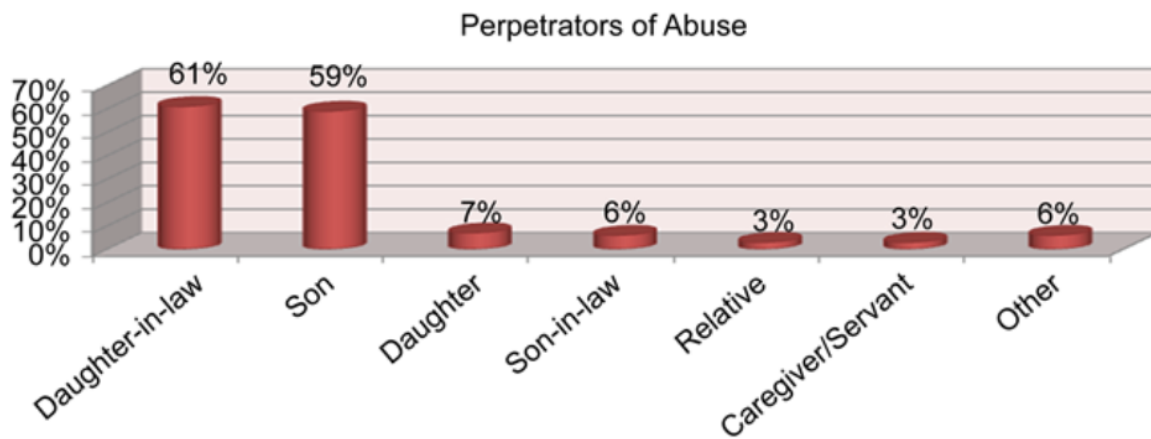
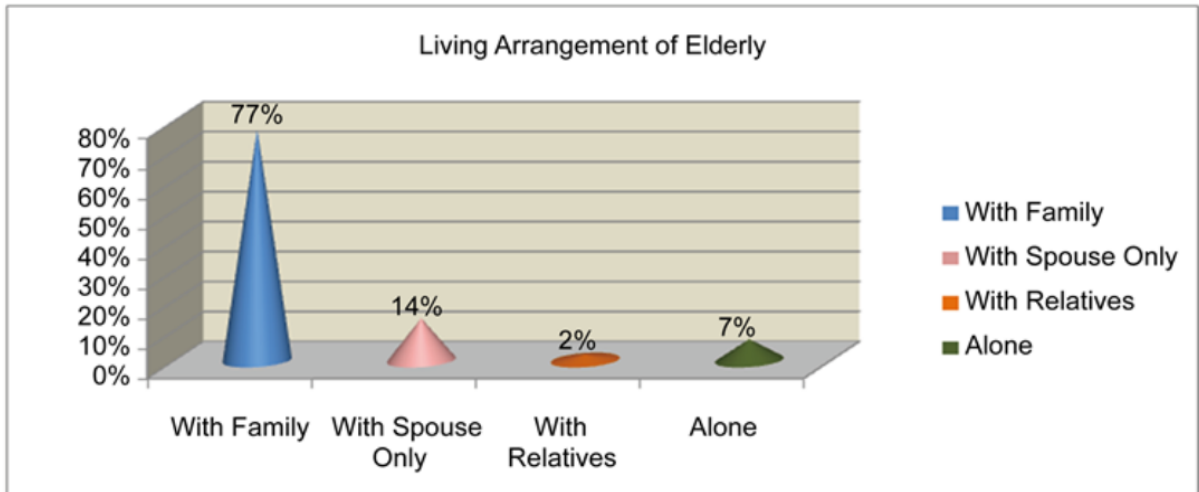


**(A) Indian Population**



Year	Projected Senior Citizens Population (Crore)		
	Persons	Male	Female
2006	8.36	4.07	4.28
2011	9.85	4.81	5.03
2016	11.81	5.81	5.99
2021	14.32	7.06	7.26
2026	17.32	8.46	8.86





### III. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL, HEALTH, CRIME AND VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROBLEMS

#### (A) Social Problems

The position and status of the aged individuals have been undermined by transformations in the cultures, values and overall living conditions of the individuals. In the present existence,

technology has gained grounds and individuals belonging to all age groups, categories and backgrounds are making use of technology in carrying out their tasks and functions. The elderly individuals are not usually aware of usage of technology, they may just speak on the phone, watch television or listen to music and religious beliefs on radio or on their mobile phones. This indicates that they are usually unaware of how to perform various tasks and functions through the usage of technology. When aged people are unaware of usage of technology, they may encounter problems in communicating with people at distant places by sending messages, pictures and videos. Unawareness in terms of technology is one of the factors that impedes socialization of the aged people.

When individuals belonging to rural communities, migrate to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities, they usually leave their parents. There are number of reasons for this, the living accommodation in urban areas is expensive, and the rent is unaffordable for them. When individuals get engaged in full time jobs, then taking care of the needs and requirements of the elderly usually becomes a problem for them. The aged people may experience problems in adjusting to social life of the cities. They usually feel apprehensive in going to nearby marketplaces and obtain assistance from their family members. The complexities of modern life and living conditions undermine the traditional values and beliefs of the aged people. They have their own traditional beliefs and viewpoints, which normally are not believed by the youth and the middle-aged people, as they are accustomed to modern values and beliefs. Hence, in this manner, the knowledge and beliefs of the aged people gets devalued (Chapter VI, n.d.).

Research has indicated that when individuals reach the age of 60 years, they are unable to realize that they have now reached old age. This means that individuals are not completely prepared for old age (Singh, 2015). When they have their family members around, relatives and a good social circle of friends, then it is likely that they may feel secure and supportive. On the other hand, there are aged people, who are above 80 years of age and live alone. do not have family members around and are primarily dependent upon their caregivers. In these cases, aged people experience social problems. They do not take pleasure in going out into the social circle. In case, celebrations or ceremonies are organized among their relatives, friends or neighbours, they do not enjoy going. Hence, when aged people get accustomed to isolation, they experience social problems. In order to alleviate social problems, it is vital for the individuals to form a good circle of friends and interact with relatives, friends, caregivers and neighbours.

**(B) Economic Problems**

Economic problems are experienced by the aged people, belonging to deprived, marginalized and socio-economically backward sections of the society. When the individuals are engaged in minority jobs, when their income is meagre and is not enough to meet their needs and requirements, then the individuals experience economic problems. Social security and financial security of the aged people is of utmost significance (Chapter VI, n.d.). In India, majority of the aged people experience financial problems as they are not in a position to earn their livelihoods. When their savings are not enough to meet the medical expenses and other household responsibilities, then they experience financial problems. When they possess finances and wealth, then usually they are exploited by their family members. In India, more than 65 percent of the aged people are dependent upon others for their daily life activities and responsibilities. The aged women, who are independent accounted for less than 20 percent, whereas men were independent to a major extent (Financial Status of Older People in India, 2011).

The financial status of the aged people is directly connected with their financial independence. With the disintegration of the joint family system and the emergence of nuclear family system, the aged people prefer to live by themselves and manage all their finances. The younger individuals are having increasing academic and professional pursuits and due to this, the elderly are connected with them to a lesser extent. The individuals, who have accumulated wealth with their hard work have acquired net-worth, and value in terms of the money matters. The economic problems among the aged people have taken place due to fast changing socio-economic conditions, ongoing open market policies, and liberalization of economy (Financial Status of Older People in India, 2011). When individuals have been engaged in well paid jobs and professions, then they do not experience financial problems. On the other hand, financial problems of the individuals have been severe, when they have been unable to make savings for old age. The major economic problem that aged people have experienced is that of exploitation. There have been cases of family members and relatives, who keep a watch on the finances that they possess. In a direct as well as in an indirect manner, they make an attempt to take money from them. When individuals are unable to find good employment opportunities or aspire to seek admission in a reputed educational institution for the pursuance of higher studies, they exploit the elderly family members and take money from them for their own benefit. The other problems that aged people experience in terms of finances is robbery and theft. When outside the home, individuals feel, a person is living alone and possesses sufficient wealth, they even get subjected to violent and criminal acts.

Various areas that cause economic problems for the aged people have been stated as follows:

### **1. Medical and Health Care –**

With aging, individuals experience health problems and illnesses. They need regular medical check-ups, they are required to take their medicines and in case of other health problems are even required to undergo medical treatment. Medical and health care are regarded as areas that need finances. In some cases, medical treatment is quite expensive and individuals need to spend money. When they are wealthy, they do not face any problems, on the other hand, when they are not financially strong, then they experience problems.

### **2. Court Cases**

Court cases are regarded as aspects that require spending of money to a large extent. When individuals are involved in certain disputes or court cases, they feel stressed and economic problems. Research has indicated that aged people usually feel disturbed mainly due to legal matters and the cases pending in various courts. Education of Children – There are aged people, who have to take care of the needs and requirements of their grandchildren, especially when their parents are not around. Education of children is regarded as a crucial area. Every parent or grandparent wants his child to acquire good education and aspires to get him enrolled in good educational institutions. Reputed educational institutions are expensive. When individuals are not financially strong, then they experience problems in making provision of good quality education for their children or grandchildren. When good educational institutions are not available in the region, where they are residing, then economic problems prove to be impediments within the course of sending them to other cities to acquire education.

### **3. Management of Household**

The management of the household is a difficult task. There are numerous areas that need to be taken into consideration, these include, cleaning, washing, preparation of meals, gardening, taking care of electricity, water and other civic amenities and so forth. These tasks demand manual labour as well as finances. The elderly individuals are usually unable to carry out the household chores on their own and need to hire helpers and caregivers. When they are financially strong, they will be able to pay their salaries. On the other hand, when they experience economic problems, they will be unable to hire helpers and need to formulate measures to manage the household chores on their own.

#### **(C) Social Causes**

When the aged people are living alone, then usually they get engaged in some social work. Social work keeps them occupied and eliminate the feelings of loneliness. The social work is carried out by the individuals on the basis of the fields and professions that they have been



engaged in. For instance, if they have done teaching, they may provide coaching classes to the children, belonging to deprived and economically weaker sections of the society. The feelings of kindness and generosity enables the individuals to help others. In helping others, in giving others something, it is vital to be financially strong. When aged people are economically secure, they may make donations to the underprivileged children in the form of books, stationary items, bags, clothes, food items etc. On the other hand, economic problems prove to be impediments within the course of implementation of certain social causes.

#### **(D) Other Causes**

Aged people usually possess strong religious beliefs and take pleasure in making visits to religious places. When they do not experience any economic problems and feel financially secure, they may plan their visits to religious places, even to other cities. On the other hand, when they experience economic problems, they are unable to plan visits to other places. In such cases, they usually visit temples that are located nearby their homes. Means of transportation, diet and nutrition, equipment, tools and other materials that they need to use can be purchased, only when a person is financially secure. On the other hand, economic problems prove to be the major impediments within the course of sustenance of living conditions.

Financial security of the aged people is proposed by tax benefits and higher rates of interest on the deposits for the senior citizens. Other measures that have been formulated include, promotion of long-term savings in rural and urban areas, increased coverage and revision of old age pension schemes for the aged people, who are residing in the conditions of poverty and backwardness. Pension, provident fund, gratuity and other retirement benefits are various sources that make provision of financial security to the elderly individuals. The services of the social workers are utilized in making provision of employment opportunities for the elderly individuals. They have to ensure that the employment opportunities should be such that can be appropriately carried out by these individuals. The main objective of getting engaged in employment opportunities for the elderly is to alleviate the feeling of loneliness, helping them in remaining occupied and generating a source of income, so that they are able to easily meet their needs and requirements (Chapter 7, n.d.).

#### **(E) Psychological Problems**

An individual lives in a society. Within the society, he has certain roles and functions to perform. The performance of roles and functions are primarily based upon his occupation. For instance, if he is a teacher, he will teach individuals and contribute towards their effective growth and development. If he is a medical doctor, he would get involved in making provision

of medical treatment to the individuals and so forth. With aging, the individuals generate awareness in terms of values, norms and principles, which they impart to their family as well as the community members. The aged people have the major task of adequately guiding the individuals towards the right direction. Hence, they have an important role to perform towards the progression of their family and society. The psychological problems among the aged people emerge from loneliness, isolation, powerlessness and meaninglessness. When they live in isolation, when they are not acknowledged by the other individuals, and when their contributions or functions have not proved to be meaningful and beneficial to the individuals, then they experience psychological problems. The different types of psychological problems have been stated as follows: (Kourkouta, Iliadis, & Monois, 2015).

### **1. Dementia**

Dementia is referred to more than a mere memory impairment. The five percent of the population, who is above 65 years of age experience this problem. The individuals experience this problem, depict the symptoms of short-term memory loss, word finding difficulty, capability problems, difficulty in handling complex daily routine tasks, apathy, irritability, apraxia, loss of speech intelligibility, loss of ability to walk and physical irritability. The main problems are identified in the consciousness, orientation, memory, thinking, attention and behaviour. When a person reaches the age of 70 years, he usually experiences a decline in vocabulary and usage of words. He experiences problems in getting engaged into lengthy conversations with others. In some cases, this problem imposes detrimental effects upon the individuals. Whereas, there have been cases, when elderly individuals have not experienced any major disadvantages. This is primarily due to, when they have support and assistance available from others.

### **2. Depression –**

The elderly individuals do feel despondent and downhearted at times. But when these feelings remain within them for a long period, then it is referred to as depression. Among the aged people, depression is more prevalent as compared to the youth and the middle-aged people. When the elderly people feel depressed, they normally develop a pessimistic outlook towards life. They prefer to remain in isolation and do not take pleasure in communicating with the other individuals. They normally keep to themselves and lose interest in the performance of other activities and functions. These include, physical activities, watching television, going out into the social circle and so forth. The living environmental conditions and the biological functions are the major causes of depression.

Individuals do put into practice the measures that are needed to curb depression. Family members, caregivers, and other community members help these individuals in alleviating the feelings of depression and lead an efficient life.

### **3. Social Exclusion**

Social exclusion is referred to the problem that the aged people experience as a result of loss of job opportunities, absence of family members, relatives, and friends. In other words, when they do not have anyone to interact with, they experience social exclusion. Social exclusion gives rise to psychological as well as health problems. It is vital to implement the measures that are needed to eliminate social exclusion. Hence, for this purpose, aged people get enrolled into educational institutions, training centres, and seek certain benefits due to their aging. In the present existence, within the country, there have been establishment of adult education centres, health care centres, medical facilities, social security, pension, and micro-finance for the aged people. The aged people, when feel that due to their illness, health problems, inability to communicate and so forth, would not be able to interact with others or get involved in a social gathering, then they form the feelings of social exclusion.

### **4. Anxiety and Phobias**

Anxiety and phobia due to some factors also adds to psychological problems among the aged people. Stress is one of the factors that shows both psychological and physical signs and symptoms. When individuals feel stressed regarding something, then it is likely that they feel anxious and apprehensive. These may arise due to number of factors. For instance, when they are experiencing health problems and illnesses, they may feel anxious in making a visit to the medical and health care centre and may require assistance. When they have to visit a temple or a religious place, then they may need company from others, as crowded places may make them feel apprehensive. Other tasks and functions that make elderly people anxious include, making visits to market places, carrying out banking transactions and so forth. These may take place, especially when they are not familiar with the region.

### **5. Loneliness**

Loneliness is referred to the chronic and distressful state that impedes the mind-sets of the individuals. It imposes detrimental effects for the physical as well as psychological health of the individuals. The aged people look for ways to eliminate the feelings of loneliness. When they have family members around, they try to establish close relationships with their children and grandchildren, so that they provide them support and assistance. When family members are living at a distance, then they want them to make regular visits to them. On the other hand, when

they do not have family members, they establish good terms and relationships with their caregivers and create a social circle. One may be introvert or less interactive in nature, but loneliness is regarded as a severe problem, which needs to get alleviated in every possible manner.

#### 6. Role of the Family –

The role of the family is regarded as imperative in taking care of the needs and requirements of their aged family members. They provide all kinds of support and assistance, which can help the aged people in alleviating their problems. When the family members are compassionate, caring and thoughtful, they not only provide aged people moral and emotional support, but also take care of their financial requirements, health care, security and listen to their problems and grievances and provide effectual solutions to them. When they experience illnesses or health problems, which are common as the person ages, then support of family members is vital. With caring family members, the elderly people not only feel contented and pleased, but remain free from all kinds of problems to a major extent. They take pleasure, when their grandchildren communicate to them regarding their school experiences, planning a visit to a religious place gives them pleasure along with family and so forth.

#### 7. Health Problems

As the individual ages, health problems among them are common. There are various kinds of health problems experienced by the aged people. These include, visual impairments, hearing impairments, speech impairments, decline in word usage and vocabulary, pain in the joints, high or low blood pressure, and other illnesses. Older individuals may live longer but they may get prone to illnesses and diseases. World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. It is not merely absence of a disease. Health is considered more important for the aged people, as they are the ones, who primarily experience a decline in the health conditions in old age. The Constitution of India envisages the establishment of a new social order based on equality, freedom, justice and dignity of the individual. It aims at the elimination of poverty, ignorance and ill-health and directs the State to increase education, nutrition levels and standards of living among individuals. Bringing about improvements in the health care is regarded as one of the primary duties. The maintenance of the health and strength of the workers, men, women, children and the aged people is implemented, when they are provided with opportunities and facilities to enhance their living conditions in a well-organized manner (Chapter VI, n.d.).

The health of the aged people gets affected by primarily two factors. These are due to the

environmental conditions and biological conditions. When environmental conditions are taken into consideration, both home as well as outside the home influence their health. Within the home, when any kinds of conflicts and disputes takes place between individuals, then aged people in some cases feel stressful and they have an effect upon their health. These conditions usually affect the mind-sets of the individuals. As a result, they may not consume their proper diet and nutrition, may not obtain adequate sleep and as a result, they experience a decline in their health conditions. The biological conditions that have an impact upon the health of the individuals includes, visual impairments, hearing impairments, pain in the joints, nervous disorders, weakness, heart complaints, asthma, tuberculosis, skin diseases, and so forth. Women usually report more health problems as compared to men (Balamurugan, & Ramathirtham, 2012).

Not only in India, but in other countries of the world as well, aging of the population is on the rise. Progression in the health care and medical facilities, improvement in the living conditions and the general quality of life and operative measures of birth control could be attributed to the emerging global phenomenon. The population is stated to be aging, in which the proportion of the aged people is said to increase. India is passing through technological, social, cultural and demographic transition. The individuals began to realize that health is important and they need to implement appropriate measures to take care of their health care requirements. With the improvement in health care facilities, the individuals are able to meet their health care requirements appropriately. Eventually, there has been a decline in the mortality rate due to an increase in life expectancy, which ultimately leads to an increase in the population of the aged people (Balamurugan, & Ramathirtham, 2012).

The aged people, who are above the age of 60 years and are living below the poverty line, account for seven to eight percent of the population. The aged people in the unorganized sector like the agricultural labourers, casual workers or landless labourers have to look after their family and household responsibilities and financial problems are the major causes of barriers within the course of achievement of their desired objectives. Aged people need assistance and support from their family members and caregivers in taking care of their health conditions. When they receive support and assistance, they are able to maintain good health and live longer. On the other hand, when they are lonely and lack the support and assistance, then they are unable to meet their health care requirements in an appropriate manner (Balamurugan, & Ramathirtham, 2012).

The main factors that lead to health problems among the aged people have been stated as follows:

### **1. Neglect**

– When aged people are not acknowledged, when they are not communicated in an appropriate manner by the other family members, when their caregivers regard them as a burden and do not take proper care of them, then they feel neglected. Neglect by others, especially family members cause despondency and depression among the individuals and as a result, it has an impact upon their health. In order to maintain good health, it is vital to form a social circle, comprising of relatives and friends. It is vital for the aged people to get engaged into effective communication with others in order to lead a healthy life.

### **2. Financial Problems**

– Aged people are required to take medicines and obtain regular medical check-ups. When they are financially strong, they do not experience any problems and are able to meet their expenses appropriately. On the other hand, financial problems experienced by the individuals, leads to deprived health conditions. The reason being, in case of illnesses and diseases, they are unable to obtain medical treatment or even medicines. Hence, to maintain good health, these individuals either prefer to obtain free medical checkups or if they are engaged in jobs, then medical assistance and other benefits is provided to them by their employers. There have been establishment of organizations that provide health care and medical facilities to individuals belonging to deprived and economically backward sections of the society.

### **3. Inappropriate Dietary Intake**

– For the aged people, it is vital to consume adequate diet. Healthy and a nutritious diet should comprise of carbohydrates, minerals, proteins, vitamins, and fats. It is essential for the individuals to consume minerals such as, iron, potassium, calcium etc. It is essential to obtain the required nutrition in order to prevent any kinds of deficiencies. Inappropriate dietary intake is regarded as one of the apparent causes of health problems and illnesses among the aged. When they will not obtain the proper nutritional requirements, then it is likely that they will not be able to meet their health care requirements in an appropriate manner. A proper diet should comprise of milk, fruits, vegetables, cereals and bread.

### **4. Accidents**

– Accidents are regarded as aspects that affects the health of the individuals. Accidents may be major or minor. They may affect the health of the individuals either permanently or temporarily. For instance, if a person has been prone to an accident and experiences difficulty in walking, then his problem may be temporary or permanent. Minor accidents may affect the health of the individuals usually on a temporary basis. When aged people get adapted to some kinds of

accidents; it usually has an impact upon their mind-sets.

Hence, it is vital for them to take precautions, when going out of their homes. Use of walking sticks, spectacles and other devices, such as hearing aids are essential, especially when individuals experience hearing impairments. Lack of these devices may cause accidents.

**Physical Activities** – It has been found out that aged men and women usually go to parks every morning to get engaged in physical activities and meet their friends. They perform activities, such as yoga and meditation, walk, and socialize with individuals. Physical activities and meeting friends in the morning is regarded as an important aspect in the maintenance of good health of the aged people. When aged people are not ambulatory and use wheel chairs, then they make visits to parks and other places along with their family members or caregivers. On the other hand, when the individuals do not go for morning walks, or get engaged in any kinds of physical activities and stays at home, then they usually experiences depression and it has a negative impact upon their health conditions.

**Other Problems** – For the aged people, it is vital that they should perform the activities of daily living in an appropriate manner. They need to wear proper attire in accordance to the weather conditions. Particularly, in the winter season, they need to keep themselves covered with woollen clothes. Especially when they are going out of the house, it is vital that they should put on proper woollen garments in order to prevent themselves from cold. Stress and tension are regarded as aspects that affect the health conditions of the individuals. High blood pressure is a major problem that takes place due to stress. On the other hand, when elderly individuals get subjected to crime and violence, then it has a severe impact upon their health conditions. They may even get hospitalized and need medical treatment.

#### **IV. PROTECTIVE MEASURES & SCHEMES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN INDIA**

- Senior Citizen Saving Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- Atal Pension Yojana
- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana
- National Pension Scheme
- Senior Citizen Fixed Deposits
- Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana
- National Social Assistance Programme

- The Maintenance & Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens Act, 2007
- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana
- Integrated Programme For Older Persons
- Varistha Mediciclaim Policy
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

#### **(A) UNO & Rights of Older Persons**

The United Nations Principles for Older Persons were adopted by the UN General Assembly (Resolution 46/91) on 16 December 1991.

There are 18 principles, which can be grouped under five themes: independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity.

#### **(B) Constitutional Provisions**

Article 41 of the Constitution provides that the State shall, within the limits of its 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.

#### **(C) The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents And Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2017**

(a) Right to life with Dignity and Non-Discrimination: No senior citizen shall be denied the right to equality guaranteed by article 15 of the Constitution and be discriminated against on the ground of his age creating any social or economic disability; Right to Legal Aid, Right to Individual Autonomy & Right to Healthcare: Every senior citizen as a part of their right to life guaranteed by article 21 of the Constitution

#### **(D) The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, & (amendment) bill, 2017**

Parliament enacted an act to provide financial security, welfare and protection to senior citizens. This landmark legislation was initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

#### **(E) The Indian Penal Code, 1860**

Section 506 for criminal intimidation : Any person harassing senior citizens can be brought under this section.



Section 294 If any person is very abusive or utters or recites obscene words and mentally tortures senior citizens, - Can be brought under this act.

#### **(F) National Council for Older Persons**

The National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) was constituted in 1999 under the Chairpersonship of the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment. The NCOP is the highest body to advise the Government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the aged. The Council was re-constituted in 2005 with members comprising Central and State Governments representatives, representatives of NGOs, Citizen's Groups, retired person's associations, and experts in the field of Law, Social Welfare, and Medicine.

#### **(G) Inter-Ministerial Committee on Older Persons**

An Inter-Ministerial Committee on Older Persons comprising twenty-two Ministries/ Departments, and headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is another coordination mechanism in implementation of the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP). Action Plan on ageing issues for implementation by various Ministries/Departments concerned is considered from time to time by the Committee.

#### **(H) Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007**

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted in December 2007 to ensure need-based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare. The Act provides for:

- Maintenance of Parents/ senior citizens by children/ relatives made obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals
- Revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of negligence by relatives
- Penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens
- Establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens
- Adequate medical facilities and security for Senior Citizens

#### **(I) Initiatives by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

The Ministry of Social Justice had constituted the National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) on 11 January 1999 in which a representative from National Human Rights Commission was inducted as a member. In its meeting held on 8 March, 2002, the Commission noted the details of the implementation of the Old Age Pension Scheme by the Central and the State Governments and appointed Shri K. B. Saxena, IAS (Retd.), former Advisor, Planning

Commission for an in-depth study and recommendations. Shri Saxena submitted his report to the Government and the same was published by NHRC in October 2007. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment reconstituted the Council on 1 August 2005, which presently, has 15 official members and 33 non-official members.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

Though the Violence against Senior Citizen is a Universal phenomenon, and several Laws & Protective Measures are in place across the globe, they are not being effectively implemented. Whereas Legislative and other relevant agencies are constantly vigilant to assist and improve the conditions of Senior Citizens. Along with Government, private and NGOs are also working for the causes of elders. Media is also playing a crucial role through articles, news, and stories. Society needs to realize that all Young will be Senior Citizen in Future and any sort of violence against their own elderly is highest misdeed in their LIFE

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