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Elder abuse: A social problem faced by elders in old age home

Santosh Kumari and Dr. Kavita Dua

Abstract

Elder abuse would be defined as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of apposite action, occurring within any relationship where there is an anticipation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older entity there are so many issues of ageing. The widespread abusers of elders are the family members as well as the care givers of institutions like old age homes, clinics etc. The study was conducted in Haryana state. For the purpose of study 20 old age homes, ten free and ten paid homes, were selected randomly. This study gives a blemish beam on the issue of elder abuse in the old age home.

Keywords: Elder abuse, Old Age Home, paid home, free home

Introduction

The occurrence of elder abuse is a universal social concern which affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world, and an issue which deserves the concentration of the international community. The June 15th is being observed as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It indicates that the elders are susceptible and subjected to various forms of abuses in day-to-day life. India is growing old. Old Age has never been a problem for India where a value based, joint family system is theoretical to succeed. Indian culture is routinely respectful and compassionate of elders. With that background, elder abuse has never been considered as a problem in India. The so called joint families and extended families are disturbed due to various factors which questions the peaceful coexistence of elders with young generation. The changing life styles and generation gap leads to segregation and uncertainty among the grey population. The study of Help Age India revealed that More than one-fifth of the elderly across India (23%) veteran abuse. Elder abuse would be defined as a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person. Elder abuse can take various forms such as psychological, physical or emotional, sexual and financial abuse. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect (UNO). Elder abuse is a contravention of human rights and a significant cause of illness, injury, loss of efficiency, segregation and despair (WHO). Elder abuse, also called exploitation or maltreatment, is harmful behavior directed towards older persons by informal or formal caregivers who the older person loves, or trusts or on whom they depend for assistance. The destructive behavior can cause physical, psychological and material injury to the older person resulting in gratuitous distress, suffering and sometimes death.

Objectives

1. To find out the sparking incidents this forced them towards old from family.
2. To know the occurrence of elder abuse in the pre and post admission into old age homes.
3. To find out the various kind of elder abuses at old age homes.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Haryana state. For the purpose of study 20 old age homes, ten free and ten paid homes, were selected randomly. From each of the home not less than fifteen percentages of inmates were randomly selected. The totals of selected respondents were 400. Interview schedule supplemented by Observations, Focus Group Discussion and Case Studies are adopted as tools for primary data collection. In addition secondary data from the proceedings, published data and officials of the home will be collected.

Results and Discussion

The table 1 revealed the flash turning point to leave immediately from the family setup and seek admission into the home. The observation indicated that the most of the respondents experienced some form of elder abuses in their life. Out of 400 inmates, just below the one third (34.25 per cent) of the inmates replied that the acts and behavior of their care givers mottled their self-respect. The inmates felt that they were abandoned and considered as waste not wealth. There was a saturation point. They decided to leave when it gone beyond this point. The WHO reported that around 8 to 10% of elderly people have experienced some form of mistreatment at home. The relationship between in-laws is always bone of argument. The talented breed of abuse is the daughter-in-law abusing elderly in-law (Promilla kapur, 1997) [3]. It was stated that 17.75% said the indiscriminate verbal abuses of daughters-in-law create unbearable pain. It was the form of emotional abuse of the elders. With darkness heart, they left their house. On the other hand, in order to help the

family from the command of economic hardship, 16.5 per cent come of your own accord to join old age homes. The study shows that poverty was the one of the prime factors which forced the elders to seek place of safety in old age homes. The verbal abuse of son constitutes 9.75 per cent. 8 per cent reports that ill health is the contributory factor which had driven the inmates towards the home. The care givers, as per inmates' view, were not able to bear the cost as well as other nuisance such bad odor and disturbance to grand children. It is also observed that the miniscule of (6.5%) intimates that they were displeased by offering food with verbal abuse by the care givers. On account of the migration of their caregivers to other states and aboard, another miniscule section (5.5 per cent) of the inmates attributes the lack of security to live in the separate house force towards the old age home. It is understood that the most of the respondents (34.25 per cent) attributes ruination self respect turn them to old age homes.

Table 1: The flash incidents this forced them towards old age home from family.

Sr. no.	Category	Free home		Paid home		Total
		Men	Women	Men	Women	
1.	Tarnishing self-respect	16(28.07)	56(39.16)	34(53.97)	31(22.63)	137(34.25)
2	Verbal abuse of son	9(15.79)	16(11.19)	4(6.35)	10(7.29)	39(9.75)
3	Verbal abuse of daughters-in-law	10(17.54)	33(23.08)	9(14.28)	19(13.87)	71(17.75)
4	Physical abuse of in-laws	3(05.26)	-	-	4(02.92)	7(01.75)
5	Offering food with verbal abuse	11(19.30)	15(10.49)	-	-	26(06.50)
6	To help the family	8(14.04)	19(13.29)	-	39(28.47)	66(16.50)
7	Health conditions	-	4(02.79)	7(11.11)	21(15.33)	32(8.3)
8	No Security	-	-	9(14.29)	13(9.49)	22(5.5)
		57(100)	143(100)	63(100)	137(100)	400(100)

Nature of elder abuse at old age homes

The table 2 indicates the nature of elder abuses at home. Elder abuse is taken place directly or indirectly at family, old age homes and community. The present study highlights that the majority of (78.25%) inmates are not experiencing any abuses followed by verbal abuse (16 %), financial abuse (5%) and physical abuse (0.75 %). Anita Nain M, *et al.* (2009) [1] stated that institutionalized elders were abused and were facing hardships. They reiterate that the prevalence of physical abuse of elders in the old age home was 1.5% (95% CI of 0.2 to

3.2), psychological abuse was 11.4% (95% CI of 7.0 to 15.8) and financial abuse was 0.5% (95% CI of 0.5 to 1.5). In free homes, it was pragmatic that the elders who received old age pensions were asked to render the money to old age homes in order to support the administration financially. It was interesting to note that there was a intentional contribution of old age pension by elders to the home administration. They maintained that when family failed to looked after, the old age homes were the last resort for them. So there was no problem to contribute the old age pensions, the respondents reiterated.

Table 2: Nature of elder abuse at old age homes

Sr. No.	Nature of Abuses	Free Home		Paid Home		Total
		Men	women	Men	women	
1.	Physical abuse	2(3.51)	1(00.70)	-	-	3 (0.75)
2.	Financial abuse	5(8.77)	8 (5.59)	4 (6.35)	3 (2.19)	20(05.00)
3.	Verbal abuse	20(35.09)	25(17.48)	6 (9.52)	13(9.49)	64(16.00)
4.	Not experiencing any abuse	30(52.63)	109(76.22)	53(84.13)	121(88.32)	313(78.25)
	TOTAL	57(100)	143(100)	63(100)	137(100)	400(100)

Conclusion

The Indian culture is without human intervention provides great worship to the elders. But the Indian society is in transition period in which the treasured values are being windswept. The materialistic attitude of an individual made the ageing as social issues. The prevalence of elder abuses is being pragmatic in the family setup as well as at old age homes of paid and free kinds. The study discovered that the elders were subjected to various forms of elder abuses during pre and post admission at old age homes. It was pragmatic that most of the elders at old age homes said that they were

not undergoing any abuses because when family waned in it accountability to take care them but institutionalized old age home gave a warm welcome. They reiterated that ethics was the god. The inculcation of values alone solution to the social issues.

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