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CASE STUDY ON ELDER ABUSE IN INDIA: AN ABHORRENT FACE OF SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT:

Elder abuse is a serious problem that exists all over the country. Millions of people are the victims of elder abuse each year in the whole world. In maximum cases the elder abuse are unnoticed and ignored consciously. It's now has become as a social disease in our country perhaps all over the world. The most common place in which abuse occurs is the home. Elders are abused by own children, siblings, other relatives, or other individuals from neighbours even by the spouses. The present descriptive study has focused on some real cases of elder abuse throughout India with the help of news paper reports.

KEYWORDS: Ageing, Older adults, Elder abuse, Perpetrator

OBJECTIVES:

Objectives of the study are:

1. To conceptualize about Elder abuse
2. To know the information about demographic data of elder abuse
3. To describe the painful status of older adults in Modern society
4. To focus on some real case regarding elder abuse
5. To analyse the news paper report on elder abuse

INTRODUCTION :

Old age means reduced physical ability, declining mental ability, the general giving up of role playing in socioeconomic activities, and a shift in economic status moving from economic independence upon other's for support. Old age is called "dark" not because the light

fails to shine but because people refuse to see it (Gowri 2003). U.S. Bureau of the Census (1993) provides three subcategories of the older population: The young-old (65-74 years), the middle-old (75-84 years), the old-old (85 and above). Globally, the number of cases of elder abuse is projected to increase as many countries have rapidly ageing populations whose needs may not be fully met due to resource constraints. It is predicted that by the year 2050, the global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion, with the vast majority of older people living in low- and middle-income countries. If the proportion of elder abuse victims remains constant, the number of victims will increase rapidly due to population ageing, growing to 320 million victims by 2050 (Elder Abuse-WHO).

All over the world, more or less all the country are obsessed with the male child, but it is truly ironical that sons are the primary perpetrators of elderly abuse. According to the 15th June, 2018- Times of India report on elder abuse surveyed by Help Age India we face lots of hard truth about the distressful life of older adults. Description of the types of elder abuse shows a very highest rate for Disrespect-56%, and then comes verbal abuse-49%, then gradually neglect-34%, economic exploitation-22%, beating or slapping-12%, unwelcome or forcible sexual contact-1%. Reporting of abuse is another important matter that is helpful for mass

awareness. But 82% did not report the matter. 52% do not report to keep confidentiality of family, 34% do not know how to deal with the problem, 14% do not report due to lack of confidence in ability of person or agency to solve the problem. Ineffectiveness of available channels of reporting and redress is a cause for which reason 10% people do not report the abuse and for fear of retaliation 11% older people stay silent. If we concentrate over the perpetrators, we will be alarmed. Report says son (52%) is the main perpetrator here and it is following by 34% daughter-in-law, 14% spouse or partner, 6% own daughter, 6% grandchild, 1% parent, 1% caregiver or servant and lastly 3% son-in-law who are in very close relation. Elder abuse is most rampant in five states of India-they are gradually like this, Mangalore-47%, Ahmedabad-46%, Bhopal-39%, Amritsar-35% and Delhi-33%. Elder abuse happens with some small extent in five cities, estimated by Help Age India. Cities with least incidences of elder abuse are Jammu-12%, Mumbai-13%, Vizag-13%, Kochi-15% and Guwahati-17%. Over all national average of elder abuse is estimated 25%.



METHODOLOGY:

This paper is descriptive in nature. An attempt is made to analyze the case of elder abuse in India. The study is based on the secondary sources according to the need of the study. The data about the elder abuse in India are collected from news papers, government websites, reports, books, journals, magazines, internet sources etc.

Description of Case study:

Case: 1. Daughter-in-law attacks Mother-in-law, Police Case Registered Times of India, Sajimon P S, 13rd January, 2017, 11:08 IST

In 2017 Alapuzzha has shown a cruel example of elder abuse and the case was registered by the local police station. A 75 years old widow woman, Gowrikutty was brutally attacked by her daughter-in-law, Babitha. The injury was so serious that the old woman had to admit to the Alapuzzha Medical College Hospital. Her left hand and legs have suffered severe fractures from attack; her right ears and cheek were swollen after the accused slapped her face. The grand child of Gowrikutty had shot the video of attack on the mobile phone and had hand over it through mother, Nirmala Mohanan, daughter of the older woman to Times of India news reporter. Nirmala said that "she had been physically and mentally torturing my mother for the past two years after the ownership of the home and land had been changed in Babitha's name". Nirmala then decided to keep her mother to her own house for safety.

Case: 2. 'Police chief's son arrested after attack on 71-yr-old' The Chronicle, by Seniors News, 9th August, 2018, 2.47 pm

In California a 71 year old Sikh man was brutally attacked by two teenage boys on open road in a morning, from which the attacker boy was the son of an American police chief. He was also arrested by the police with charge of attempt to robbery, elder abuse and assault with a deadly weapon. CCTV footage captured the scene of torture. Sahbit Singh Natt, was doing morning walk alone. Suddenly the two boys and the old man were facing each other. After exchange of some words the old man tried to escape on his own way, but causelessly he was kicked to the ground again and again by the boy. Being a

father the Union City Police Chief McAllister repented very much and he revealed his sorrow on the Facebook page.

Case: 3. Mother beaten with a stick, son arrested by police seeing live video (Maake lathipeta, video dekhe greftar chhele)

Anandabajar Patrika, Bengali Daily News Paper, Kolkata Supplement, 10/08/2018

A young girl Pratyasha Ray Chowdhury, the neighbour of victim Shantiprobha Deb took a video of beaten mother by her son Vuluprasad Deb and posted it on facebook. When the video became viral then the police of Nimta Police station arrested the son. The video showed Vuluprasad was beating his 82 years old mother with a stick and ruled repeatedly. The mother Shantiprobha Devi tried to clean the floor during she was beaten. Shantiprobha Devi had her own house at Kalyani Expressway. But she had to sale the property for the development of Government road extension. The money from that sold property was divided into two parts to her two sons equally. The first son Bikash Deb got the service after his father's death and he lived at other place. The victim stayed with his second son Vuluprasad of 52 years old, who was an unemployed. The family was managed by her mother's pension. In spite of old age the mother cooked daily till afternoon because her son went for marketing at noon. No day food was given in night to the mother. Often the neighbours heard abusive languages loudly and saw the scene of torture. They tried to protest but in return they were also reproached by Vuluprasad. Police arrested him after seeing the video and took in custody of court, but he became free with the help of bail in between two days. Very ridiculous picture of our society!!



(Case: 3, Photograph collected from Anandabajar Patrika, 10/08/2018)

Case: 4. WB: Elderly Mother Left on Street with Few Clothes and Parched Rice as Couple Goes on Trip

The Logical Indian Crew, West Bengal, September 19th, 2018, 6:51PM

A very shocking news of elder neglect published in **Ei Samay**, and **Times of India** that displaces our traditional human values of elder care. A 70 years old elderly mother, Rashmani Bhattacharya was found lonely and crying on the streets of Kalianibas in West Bengal' Barrackpore area. She was left with some packets of parched rice and clothes by her youngest son Ratan and his wife, when they were busy in vacationing at 10 days Assam trip. In spite of being the private school teacher they are so indifferent about the caring of their mother that they did not think twice to leave the older member on the open street alone. Rashmani Devi was a widow and her other two children do not care for her. She admitted to her neighbours with tears that this was not the first instance of neglect, she had to face. She was often tortured by her son and daughter in law. According to the report of Ei Samay she was once locked out of the house when it was terribly cold outside, and when it is intolerably hot, lights and fans were forcefully switched off in her room. But the old mother never opened her mouth fearing that her son's reputation would be damaged. The local councillor handled the case with the help of police.

CONCLUSION:

In today's time the tradition of joint family in the culture of Indian society is disappearing slowly, which was based on love, affection and tradition. People have started in believing in "Nuclear Family" rather than combined or joint. It has made them to live with their own family including only husband, wife and their children. Above case studies show a large percentage of elder abuse causes stem from the elderly individual's family. In many cases family members are the perpetrators of physical, emotional, sexual, or financial abuse. These instances are especially true in residential care, when the elderly are treated in home settings. This is really a dark phase of life when parents face their own son and daughter-in-law both as true perpetrators for their abuse. In some societies the elder person may be viewed as a burden. Where it is normal trend in family there it gradually becomes as a family culture and the elder abuse happens like a trend. Exploitation or misuse or concealment of funds, property or assets belonging to elderly adults is the main causal factor of large amounts of elder abuse. In spite of that many old people cannot bring themselves to take away from home to old age home or to stay separate. They explain that even more than their economic dependence, it is their emotional dependence on their children, and most of all love for their grandchildren that binds them to their sons' homes, even if they suffer abuse and neglect.

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