

Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly in India

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Editors

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 Springer

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Foreword

Abuse and neglect of the elderly is an emerging concern across many countries, which have grave human rights implications. The book highlights different aspects of this problem, suggesting means of preventing the social ills. The book uses data from a number of population-based studies to describe the different dimensions of elder abuse and neglect among different groups and sections in society. The book also provides a background of socio-demographic characteristics to help understand some of the key reasons that perpetuate this problem. It is a very relevant contribution to understand the context in which elder abuse and neglect in India occurs and it also contrasts the knowledge with global experiences. The book covers current perspectives on elder abuse and neglect, at the household level, among widows and among those residing in institutions. It covers rural and urban areas in different states of India, some of which have populations with a high proportion of older people. One of the relevant features of the book is presenting data which has not been discussed in such detail before, which will be useful for policy and programming for the well-being of the elderly population in India.

I am sure that this book will be of immense interest to researchers, academicians, policy makers, civil society members, universities, research institutes, elder people and the public at large. The book will also serve as a good reference material for the courses in social gerontology, sociology, social work at graduation and post-graduation and higher levels at universities.

I place on record my sincere appreciation to the editors of this book for their valuable contribution.

New Delhi, India
February 2017

Diego Palacios
Representative UNFPA India

Acknowledgements

The idea for this volume arose from the success of the sessions on elder abuse and neglect at the 17th Biennial Conference of Association of Gerontology, India and the International Conference on Engaging and Empowering the Elderly held at the Centre for Development Studies in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India (15–16 September 2014). The then President of the Association of Gerontology, India, Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan (one of this book's editors) very encouragingly put forward the idea of this publication to the other editor (Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass, who holds the Asia Chair of the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse and was a participant in the elder abuse sessions of the conference) to jointly approach the subject in book form through the works of experts in the field. Some of these experts had participated in the sessions on abuse at the above-stated conference, and others who had long worked on the topic. We are thankful that with our joint efforts we could conceptualize the issue and bring forth an intellectual discourse on the topic which has emerged as a growing concern requiring theoretical understanding and empirical deliberations not only in India but also abroad.

As editors, we would like to thank all the contributors to this volume for sharing their ideas and insights in this book. We are extremely grateful to some of our friends and colleagues in India and a few from abroad, all experts in the field of elder abuse and neglect, who agreed without any hesitation or questioning to contribute to this special publication. We are indebted to all of them: A.M. Khan, Ajay Bailey, Anindita Datta, Anupama Datta, Asha Banu Soletti, Ashish Goel, Astha Koolwal, D. Jamuna, Daliya Sebastian, Muthuvenkatachalam Srinivasan, Nidhi Gupta, Nishesh Jain, P.N.N. Nikhil, Pankhuri Bhatia, Renu A. Varughese, Ruchika Kuba, S. Siva Raju, Sangeeta Kumari Gupta, Sandhya Gupta, Selim Jahangir, T.V. Sekher and U.R. Arya. We are also grateful to Diego Palacios, Representative, UNFPA India for writing the Preface and extending his support.

It has been a pleasure working on this volume with Shinijini Chatterji, editor at Springer. She has guided and nurtured this volume from its beginning, when she willingly accepted the concept, right through to its completion and publication.

We would also like to thank Praveen Kumar and Priya Vyas from Springer for their association and assistance with the book.

We are grateful for the opportunity to bring out this book and hope it will be of interest to a wide section of the population including professionals, researchers, practitioners, policymakers and the lay public, and particularly those interested in elder abuse and neglect.

Finally, we would like to thank our families for their support and cooperation while we worked on this book.

Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass
Dr. S. Irudaya Rajan

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	Mala Kapur Shankardass and S. Irudaya Rajan	
2	Perspectives on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly in India	19
	Mala Kapur Shankardass	
3	Theorizing Elder Abuse in the Indian Context	29
	A.M. Khan and Nasir Ahmad Bhat	
4	Family Violence: Reflections on Elder Abuse in India	45
	Anupama Datta	
5	Anatomy of Elder Abuse in the Indian Context	65
	Renu A. Varughese and D. Jamuna	
6	Invisible Suffering of Elderly People Among Families in Kerala: Neglect and Abuse	79
	S. Irudaya Rajan and U.R. Arya	
7	Elder Abuse in Maharashtra: Extent, Forms, and Policy and Programmatic Implications	91
	S. Siva Raju and Nidhi Gupta	
8	Prevalence of Mistreatment of Older Persons and Their Associated Psychological Distress in a Selected Population of North India	113
	Muthuvenkatachalam Srinivasan and Sandhya Gupta	
9	Are Elderly Widows More Vulnerable to Abuse and Violence? Findings from Jharkhand, India	139
	Sangeeta Kumari Gupta and T.V. Sekher	
10	Are Elderly People Safe in Their Own Households? New Evidence from Seven States of India	157
	Daliya Sebastian and T.V. Sekher	

11 Contextualizing Elder Abuse and Neglect in Institutional and Home Settings: Case Studies from India	175
Selim Jahangir, P.N.N. Nikhil, Ajay Bailey and Anindita Datta	
12 Elder Abuse in HIV-Positive People.	189
Ashish Goel, Astha Koolwal and Nishesh Jain	
13 Creating Conducive Spaces for Elder Abuse Interventions: Perceptions of Health-Care Professionals	201
Asha Banu Soletti and Pankhuri Bhatia	
14 Prevention and Management of Elder Abuse	217
Ruchika Kuba	

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About the Editors

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She was a panelist at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, where a UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) book was released with her chapter on 'Voices of Older People in India'. She was part of the Technical Expert Group for the International Plan on Ageing and was involved in developing the Research Agenda on Ageing for the UN Programme on Ageing. She was invited by the Spanish government to review the implementation of the Madrid International Plan on Ageing in 2005. From 2004 to 2007 she was a consultant with the UN Population Fund Country Support Team (UNFPA CST) for the project 'Ageing in Asia'. In 2007 she developed a Strategy Paper on Ageing for the UNFPA, and in 2008 she served as an advisor to the World Health Organization South East Asia Regional Office's Healthy Ageing programme. Dr. Shankardass has served as a consultant to the International Institute of Ageing Studies, Malta; Colombo Plan, Sri Lanka; and Asia Training Centre on Ageing, Thailand. She was involved with the formulation of the National Policy for Older Persons in India, and is a member of the Core Group on Protection and Welfare of Elderly Persons, created by the National Human Rights Commission.

She publishes in reputed journals, magazines, newspapers and books. She authored the book *Growing Old in India: Voices Reveal and Statistics Speak*. She is Asia representative of the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and Member of the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Adult Protection* and the *Polish Social Gerontology Journal*.

S. Irudaya Rajan is Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Currently, he is the President of the Association of Gerontology (AGI, India) as well as Kerala Economic Association (KEA). He has three decades of research experience and has published extensively in national and international journals on social, economic, health and demographic facets of population ageing. He is the lead author of the book *India's Elderly: Burden or Challenge?* (1999) and has edited the books *Social Security for the Elderly: Experiences from South Asia* (2008) and *Elderly Care in India: Societal and State Responses* (Springer, 2017). He

developed the first longitudinal Ageing Survey in Kerala (India) in 2004; repeated every three years, it completed its fifth wave in 2016 and will enter its sixth in 2019. The second longitudinal Ageing Survey in Kerala started in 2013, completed its second wave in 2016 and will enter its third wave in 2019.

Professor Rajan has been involved in several projects on ageing funded by the UN, UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), World Bank (WB), International Labour Organization (ILO), HelpAge International, South Asian Network of Economic Institutes, Indo-Dutch Programme on Alternatives in Development (IDPAD), Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and International Development Research Centre. He has also undertaken considerable research on international migration and is the editor of two series—India Migration Report and South Asia Migration report—as well as being Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Migration and Development*.

Contributors

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Pankhuri Bhatia graduated from Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi in 2005 and over the next four years completed her Masters in English Literature and M.Phil. in English Language Teaching. After teaching for about a year, she went on to do her second Masters from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. In 2016, she graduated from TISS, Mumbai with a Master’s in Social Work (specialization in mental health). At TISS, she was awarded as the best student in M.A. in social work (Mental Health) and was also adjudged as the best student in Field Work. She went to Gothenburg University, Sweden as part of a Student Exchange programme and passed with distinction there.

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Nidhi Gupta is a versatile public health professional and works as faculty at the Centre for Population, Health and Development, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, (TISS), Mumbai. She is coordinating the United Nations Population Fund project on ageing in India, at TISS. Besides her active engagement in teaching, health and social research, she has rich clinical experience. She visited Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim to conduct a research study on models of social and healthcare for older adults in Norway. She has presented/published several research papers on issues related to ageing and health, reproductive health and health systems in various international and national conferences/peer-reviewed journals. She is a reviewer for various peer-reviewed journals. She is a recipient of various fellowships and awards such as Linnaeus-Palme Exchange International Exchange Programme at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden and UGC-SRF, Government of India during doctoral work, Population Association of America (PAA), travel award to present her paper at the 2016 Annual Meeting, Washington. Her research interests include ageing and health,

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Sandhya Gupta has a Ph.D. (Geriatric Care Services) and M.Sc. (Psychiatric Nursing), and has worked as faculty at the College of Nursing, AIIMS, New Delhi for 36 years. She is a Ph.D. guide. She is a master trainer in counselling, in HIV/AIDS, for substance use disorders and for mental health nursing. She has been decorated with the President's gold medal, Prashasthi award, WHO fellowship to Australia, Fellow of Indian society of psychiatric nurses and Best Research Work Award of AIIMSONIANS of America. She has the honour of being a member of the expert advisory committee for the National Mental Health Programme, Mental Health Bill, on Old-Age Homes. She has written books on substance use disorders, modules for care of older persons, counselling for HIV care, psychosocial care and disaster preparedness; and written chapters on geriatric nursing, palliative care for elderly, etc. She is Chief Editor of the *Indian Journal of Psychiatric Nursing*. She has had more than 55 articles in scientific journals.

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