

ELDERLY WOMEN ABUSE - A REASON TO MOVE TO OLD AGE HOMES OF COIMBATORE, TAMIL NADU

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Abstract

A descriptive study was conducted among 80 elderly women using convenient sampling technique at Sri Virhasharam old age home run by SNR Sons Charitable Trust and Home for the aged run by Missionaries of Charity, Puliakulam, Coimbatore, to identify the prevalence of elderly women abuse which makes them move to OAHS. The finding reveals that 70% of them were between 60 and, 70 years. Half of them had some form of assets and lived with their spouse previously, while 50% had married daughter, and 30% had sons. Eighty percent of them had one or more medical problems like Diabetes mellitus, Hypertension and mobility problems. Most of them expected help from their inmates and others in the OAHS. Elderly women move to old age home due to 60% of them relied on others for carrying out their activities of daily living. About 40% of them complained about the limitation of freedom and psychological abuse. "In 40% of the elderly women, the researcher had poor eye contact and withdrawn behavior". The major finding in the study was that many of the elderly women had married daughters; financial abuse was more than one or the other form of abuse.

Index Terms- *Elderly women, Abuse, old age homes*

Introduction

"Today, the old age homes are indispensable as they are needed to take care of the lonely and forsaken elderly in the evening of their lives. Whenever the family does not provide full protection and security to the aged, the society has to share the burden of looking after them. Nowadays, old age homes are established to take care of the old.

"However in recent times, as a result of the demographic transition, the rapid pace of industrialization and urbanization, the disintegration of joint family structures into nuclear ones, increasing participation of families in the non-agricultural labor force, the older people have become more vulnerable. The lack of familial support made elderly resort to old age homes run by private and or voluntary organizations for their care and support." (Gunasekaran 2008)

Review of Literature

A Study was carried out by Akbar et al.,(2014) aimed at identifying the reasons for elderly people living in old age homes in Northern India. The variables considered in the study were psychiatric morbidity, quality of life, and expectations of inmates of old age homes. Interview method was adopted to collect data among 174 elderly residents living in 14 different old age homes in Uttarpradesh, India. The factors identified were misbehavior of son, and daughters-in-laws were the most common reasons for residing in old age homes. Further, the author suggested the government and volunteer agencies should care and support the elderly by foreseeing the future of elderly since more elderly are opting for old age homes.

Lalan, (2014) "A sociological study of old persons residing in old age" Due to this they become homeless and may move to old age homes. This article is based on the various demands of old citizens. This article has been taken from an old age home of Delhi, which is working in the field of protection of old people rights to make clear the need for study. A study was conducted by Dubey et al.,(2011) in Jammu with a purposive sample of 30 participants each from two areas, i.e., old age home and family setup with the criteria of nonworking status and above 60 age

group. Interview and observation techniques were employed to collect data. The result revealed the social relationship of elderly women living in family differs significantly compared to women living in old age homes, and there is a fall in the overall efficiency, sociability, degree of involvement and hobbies among those who live in old age homes. Regular social interaction, expressions of feelings and support from the family exhibited better social relations among elders living in families. Further the attitude of youngsters is unsatisfactory towards old age people, specifically, those who are in old age homes concerning love, affection from the family members and respect rather they are considered as a burden. Another Cross-Sectional study conducted by Kumari (2015) on satisfaction and background profile of the elderly people living in old age homes located in Banaras and Lucknow. Purposive sample consist of 60 elderly women from old age homes was observed and interviewed. The result revealed that better satisfaction was reported by elderly women living in Lucknow than women from Banaras in respect to the facilities provided to them. But women from Banaras old age homes aspired for long life till death.

A study examined the prevalence of and factors related to mistreatment among 400 elderly individuals (65 years old and older) living in Chennai, India reveals that Chronic verbal abuse was the most common type of mistreatment, followed by financial abuse, and physical abuse and neglect (similar rates). Half of those who had been mistreated experienced more than one type of mistreatment. Except for financial abuse, a significantly greater number of women experienced verbal and physical abuse as well as neglect compared to men. Perpetrators of mistreatment were adult children, daughters-in-law, spouses, and sons-in-law. Victims tended to be more depressed and less satisfied with life than those elderly individuals who were not mistreated (Chokkanathan and Lee 2005)

Methodology

A descriptive study was conducted among 80 elderly people using convenient sampling technique, at Sri Virhasharam old age home run by SNR Sons Charitable Trust and Home for the aged run by Missionaries of Charity, Puliakulam, Coimbatore Section B is the EASI scale consists of 6 items, of which 5 items including, reliance on people, affiliation with the people, feel shamed or threatened, tried to force touched you in ways that you did not want, or hurt you physically were directly asked to the samples and the sixth item was assessed by the health care provider to identify the signs of abuse which includes poor eye contact, withdrawn nature, malnourishment, hygiene issues, cuts, bruises, inappropriate clothing, or medication compliance issues. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, and the results were interpreted.

Findings

The section A reveals that 70% of them were aged between 60 and 70 years, Most of them, (50%) had some form of assets and lived with their spouses previously, at present spouses were no more. 50% of elderly women had married daughter and in-laws, and 30% had sons and in-laws. Eighty percent of them had one or more medical problems like Diabetes mellitus Hypertension and mobility problems. Most of them expected help from their inmates and others in the OAHs.

The section B reveals that elderly women move to old age home due to 60% of them relied on others for carrying out their activities of daily living. About 40% of them complained about the limitation of freedom and psychological abuse, while 70% complained of financial abuse and none of them notified of physical abuse. In 40% of the elderly women had poor eye contact and withdrawn behavior. About 70 % of the elderly women complained about financial abuse and when noticed it was among the 30% of elderly women who lived with their son and daughter in law. Elderly women were complaining of restrictions for going out as they are in a position to take care of the house and household work as their son and daughter in laws were working. The major finding in the study was that many elderly women had married daughters; financial abuse was more than one or the other form of abuse.

Conclusion

Misbehaviors of children, financial crisis often lead to a feeling of ignorance and lack of emotional support in elderly women which often compel them to opt other places for living a problem-free life. And, in present scenario along with other reasons OAHs are being considered as

a better alternative to residing. There is a need to generate emotional support facilities in these homes and the government and voluntary agencies in India must make arrangements for institutional support and care for the elderly women.

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