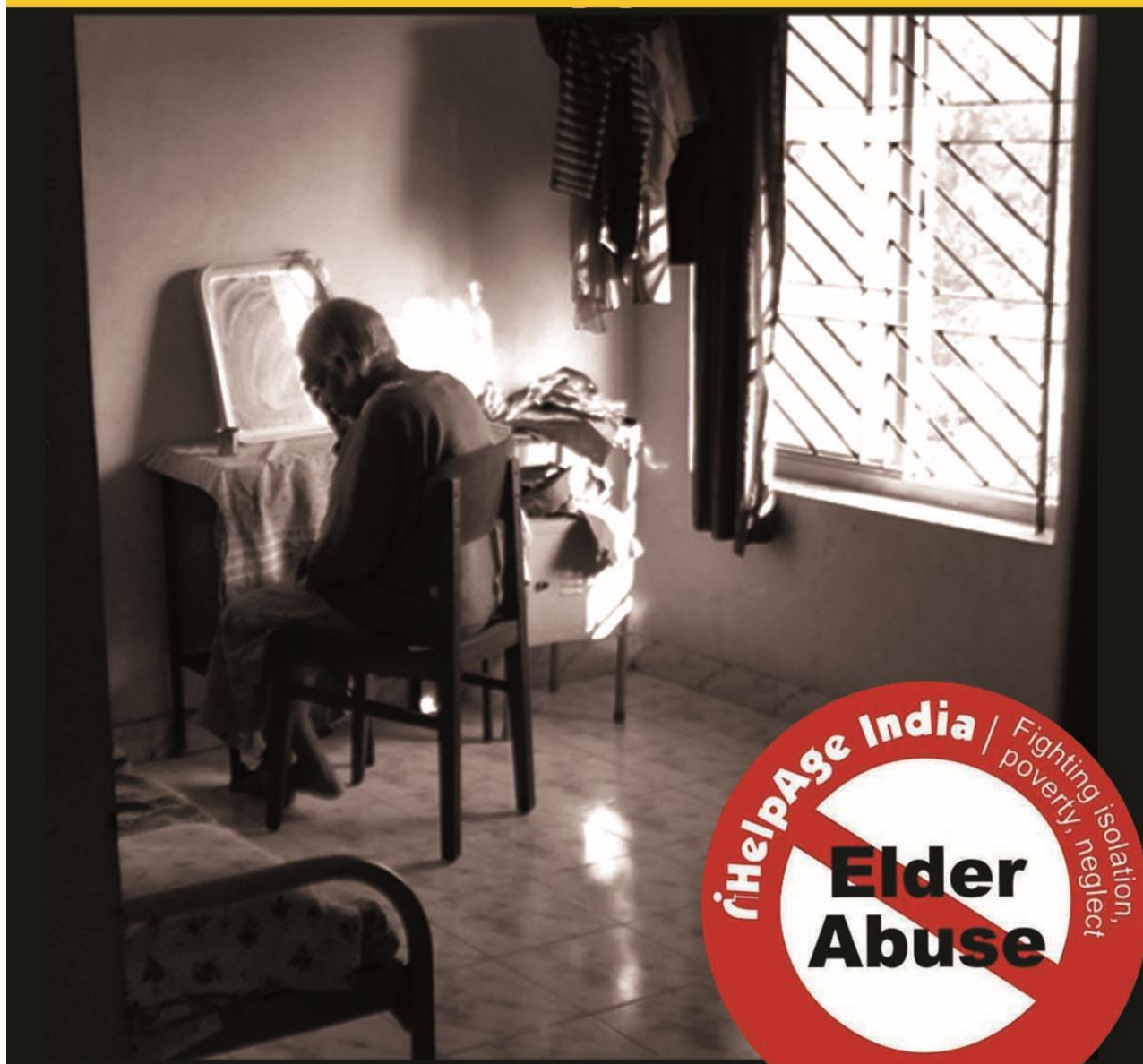


Elder Abuse in India (2014)

a HelpAge India report



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Today there are 100 million Elderly in India. This figure is likely to increase to 324 million, constituting 20 % of the total population, by 2050. This exponential rate of increase is leading to changes in the family structure and societal attitudes.

HelpAge India has carried out research on Elder Abuse for the last 3 years to highlight the growing concern about the wellbeing of the older persons in Family, which traditionally has played the role of protection and care giving. This concern about abuse also emanates from the experience of the organization in dealing with cases of isolation, neglect and downright violence reported to its helplines working across the country.

All general assumptions on Elder Abuse i.e. it does not exist in India and is a Western phenomenon and that it is a metro centric phenomenon which does not exist in small towns and does not occur in the educated middle-class strata, have been proven wrong. **The most common assumption that in old age the Son would be the main caregiver has been completely shattered. The Son along with the Daughter-in-law is increasingly turning abuser. Surprisingly there is an emerging trend of the Daughter also turning abuser.**

This year the survey was conducted in 12 cities, 6 Tier I & 6 Tier II cities. **There has been a marked increase in the percentage of elders who reported experiencing abuse from 23% in the previous year to 50%.** There is a minor difference of 4% between Tier I & Tier II cities. Within the Tier II, Nagpur reported the highest incidence of Elder Abuse at 85% as against 75% in Bengaluru within Tier I cities.

Verbal Abuse, Disrespect and Neglect continue to be the three major types of abuse. Economic & Emotional dependence of the victim on the abuser has been cited as the major reasons for Abuse. **Strangely, Economic dependence of the Abuser on the victim is also cited as a major reason.**

Even today, **one in five Elder is unaware of any currently available redressal mechanisms.** While majority of victims aware of the Police Helplines, a miniscule minority approach them.

SALIENT FINDINGS

- Half of the elderly (50%) reportedly experiencing abuse. 48% males and 53% females reported personal experience of abuse.
- In 2014 the % of elders abused went up drastically from 23% in the previous year to 50%.
- Within the Tier I cities surveyed, Delhi ranks the lowest (22%) with Bengaluru at highest (75%). In the Tier II cities Kanpur is lowest (13%) and Nagpur is the highest (85%).
- Verbal Abuse (41%), Disrespect (33%) and Neglect (29%) are ranked as the most common types of abuse experienced by the elderly. These three types of abuse are also the same as cited in previous years and also are in consonance with the general perception among elderly.
- Elders across cities were asked about the abusers within their family. The Daughter-in-law (61%) and Son (59%) emerged as the topmost perpetrators. This is a trend that is continuing from the previous years. Not surprisingly, 77% of those surveyed, live with their families.
- The elder victims cite that the primary reasons underlying their abuse are: emotional dependence on the abuser (46%), economic dependence on the abuser (45%) and changing ethos (38%).
- 46% reported facing abuse for 3-5 years, while 25% reported 1-2 years. Sadly, 4% of the elderly reported to be facing abuse for more than 15 years. This year the number of people who are admitting to suffer abuse for 3-5 years has jumped to 46% as against 28% the previous years.
- While abuse has gone up, unfortunately still 41% of those abused, did not report the matter to anyone. “*Maintaining confidentiality of the family matter*” is cited to be the major reason behind not reporting abuse (59%).
- An interesting observation about the Reasons for Not Reporting abuse, is that in Metro cities there is marked ‘lack of confidence in the any person or agency to deal with the problem’ and also there seems to be a general feeling of “did not know how to deal with the abuse”. However “Fear of retaliation” appears in 3 out of 6 Tier II cities, unlike the Tier I cities.
- Probably the only positive aspect which emerges is that more number of people are reporting abuse, 59% in 2014 as against 30% the previous year.
- All elders surveyed seemed most aware of the police helpline at 67%. In the case of victims the awareness level continues to be high at 64% but only 12% approached the police.
- Elder awareness of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 has marginally increased from 11% to 19%. However, still only 14% of the victims are aware of the Act.
- Nationally, the effective mechanisms perceived by all elderly to deal with Elder Abuse include “increasing economic independence of the abused (30%)”, “sensitizing children and strengthening inter-generational bonding (21%)” and “developing Self-Help-Groups of Older Persons to provide assistance and intervention (14%).”
- However many victims both in Tier I & Tier II cities pointed out “Developing an effective legal reporting & redressal system” is an important step for effectively dealing with Elder Abuse.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

India has around 100 million elderly at present and the number is expected to increase to 324 million, constituting 20 % of the total population, by 2050¹.

As a result of the current ageing scenario, there is pressure on all aspects of care for the older persons namely, financial, health and shelter. With older people living longer, the households are getting smaller and congested, causing stress in joint and extended families. Even where they are co-residing, marginalization, isolation and insecurity is felt among the older persons due to the generation gap and change in lifestyles. Increase in lifespan also results in chronic functional disabilities creating a need for assistance required by the older person to manage simple chores as the activities of daily living, which too increases on the family.

HelpAge India is continuously working on issues related to elderly population. Elder Abuse is one of the focus areas. For the past few years Elder Abuse surveys have been conducted to understand the nature, extent and depth of abuse.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

Study Objectives

The objectives of Study are to:

- Identify symptoms of Elder Abuse.
- Find out its existence and reasons for the same.
- Understand the personal experience of abuse, types of abuse, the details of the abuser, and reasons for abuse, reporting and redressed mechanisms.
- Perceptions of Elderly regarding existence of abuse, type and reasons for such abuse in society.
- Elder awareness of available intervention mechanisms.

¹http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-10-01/news/34198051_1_centenarians-elder-persons-india-and-china

1.3 STUDY DETAILS

Target Groups

The target group for the study comprised male and female elderly people of age 60 years and above, from all 12 cities across eight states.

Research Techniques

The technique and coverage details for the study are given below:

Quantitative Survey

A sample of 100 elders per city was taken, with equal representation of males and females. A structured questionnaire was used with close ended questions only.

Qualitative Study

In Depth Interviews (IDIs) were carried out among the elderly people. In each city, 6 IDIs were conducted, with a total coverage of 72 across the 12 cities. Purpose of the IDIs was to substantiate the findings of the quantitative survey with more in-depth responses.

Table 1.3a List of Cities Covered

Sr. No.	State	Town
1	Karnataka	Bengaluru
2	Karnataka	Mangalore
3	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
4	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
5	Delhi	Delhi
6	Assam	Guwahati
7	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
8	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
9	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
10	West Bengal	Kolkata
11	Maharashtra	Mumbai
12	Maharashtra	Nagpur

Sampling Approach

10 localities were selected by systematic sampling with a random start. The first locality was selected using a random number and then the second one after adding the interval and so on.

In each locality, 10 interviews - 5 men and 5 women- were carried out. The five men were selected following the right hand rule of field movement from a landmark / starting point e.g. school, temple, or some shop (any structure that is not a household) and five women were selected using the left hand rule. In case of more than one eligible elderly in a household, the choice was made on the basis of availability and the youngest elderly above 60 years.

CHAPTER 2

PROFILE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE

2.1 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This section provides the demographic profile of the elderly in terms of age, gender, marital status, living arrangement, and ownership of house, educational status and occupation.

Age Distribution

79% of the respondents are in the age group of 60 – 69 years i.e. Young-Old and 21 % are in the age group of 70–79 years i.e. Old-Old. The mean age of the elderly is 67 years for men and 66 years for women.

Fig 2.1a Age Distribution of Elderly (%)

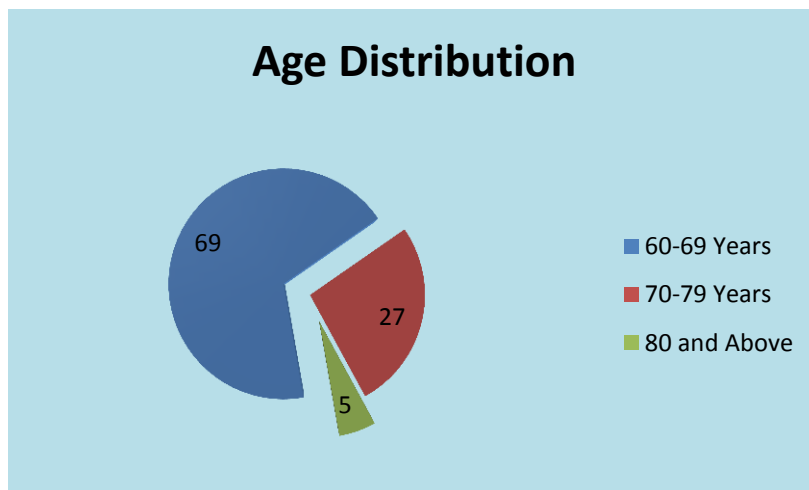


Fig 2.1b Age Distribution of Female Elderly (%)

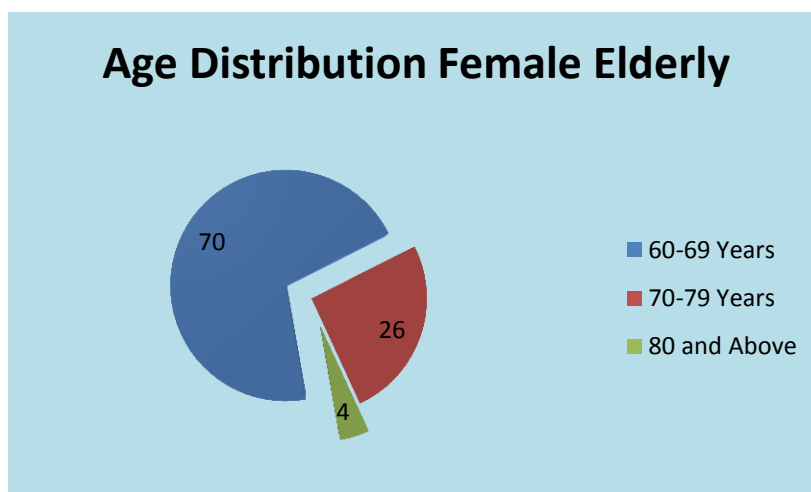
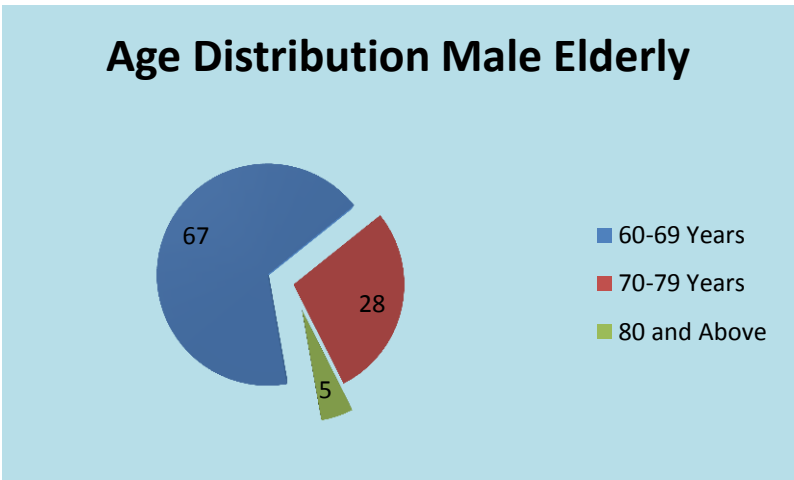


Fig 2.1c Age Distribution of Male Elderly (%)



Marital Status

Around 61% of the elderly are currently married and living with their spouse, 28 % are widows and 9% are widowers. Percentage of currently married elders is higher among males than females, 79% vs. 43%. Percentage of widows is more than that of widowers. *See fig. 2.1d-f for details.*

Fig 2.1d Distribution of Elderly by Marital Status (%)

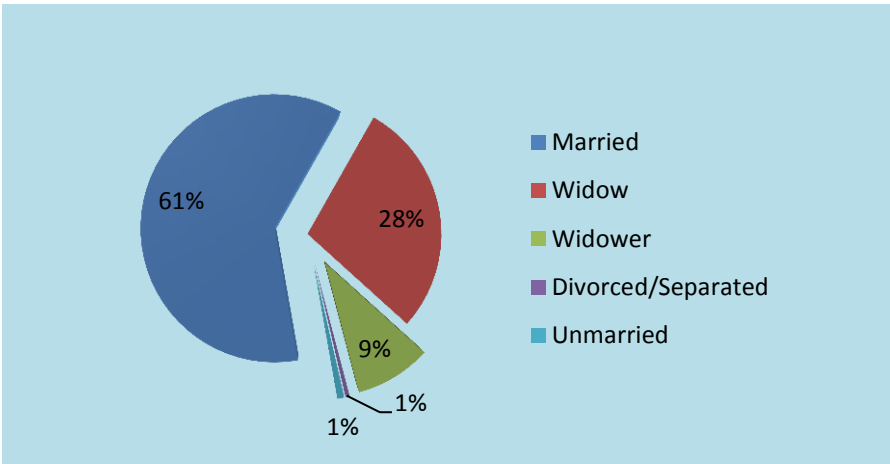


Fig 2.1e Distribution of Female Elderly by Marital Status (%)

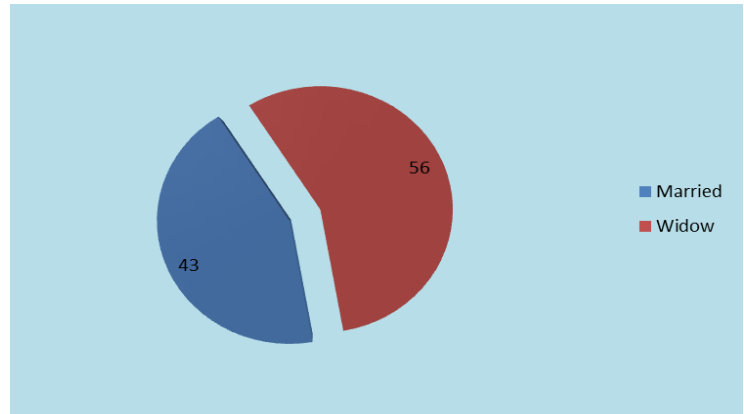
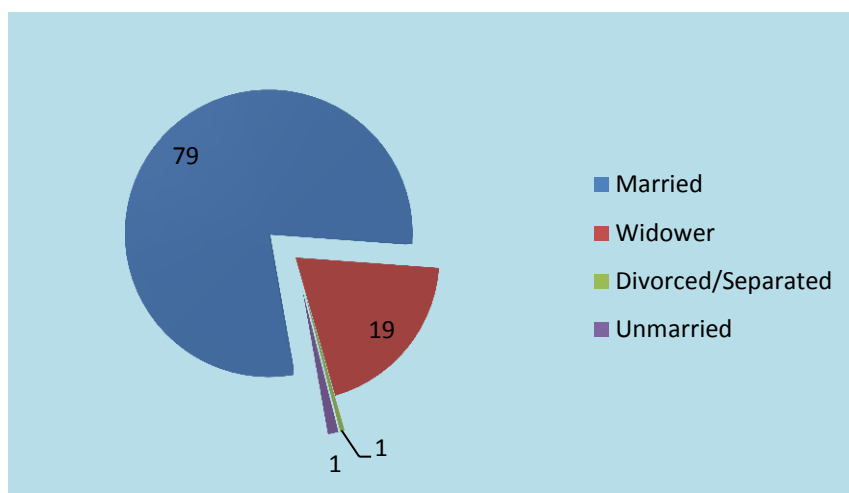


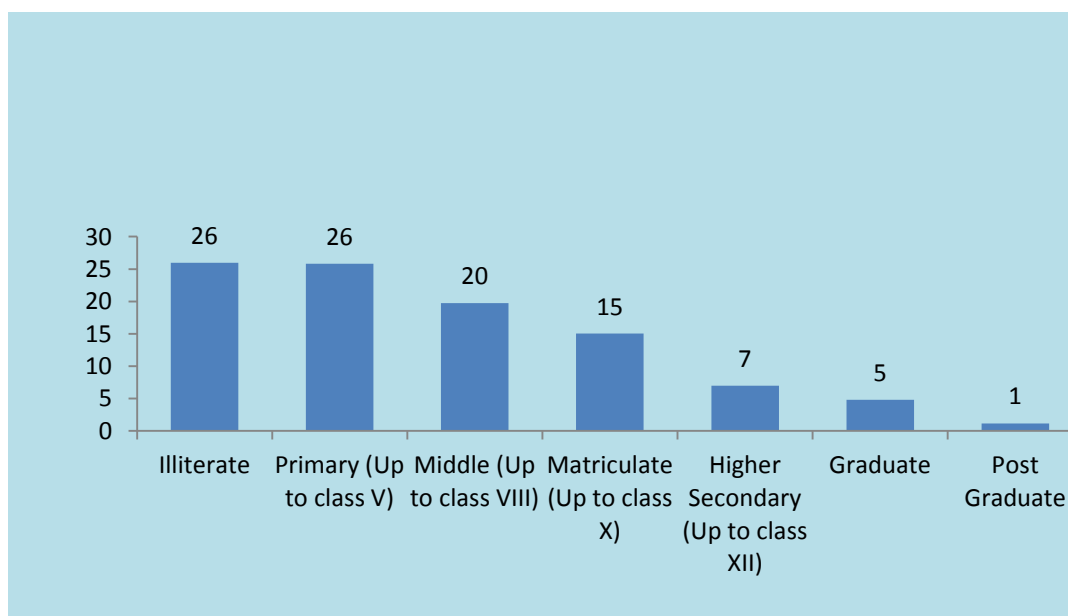
Fig 2.1f Distribution of Male Elderly by Marital Status (%)



Educational Status

About 26% of the elderly are illiterates, 5% are graduates and 1% is post graduates. Around 26% had up to primary education, 20% had middle education and 15% completed secondary education while 11% completed higher secondary education. Literacy rate is higher among males.

Fig 2.1g Distribution of Elderly by Educational Qualification (%)



38% female respondents are illiterate as against 14% of males, except in the category of post graduates, in all other categories men fare better than women in education.

Fig 2.1h Distribution of Female Elderly by Educational Qualification (%)

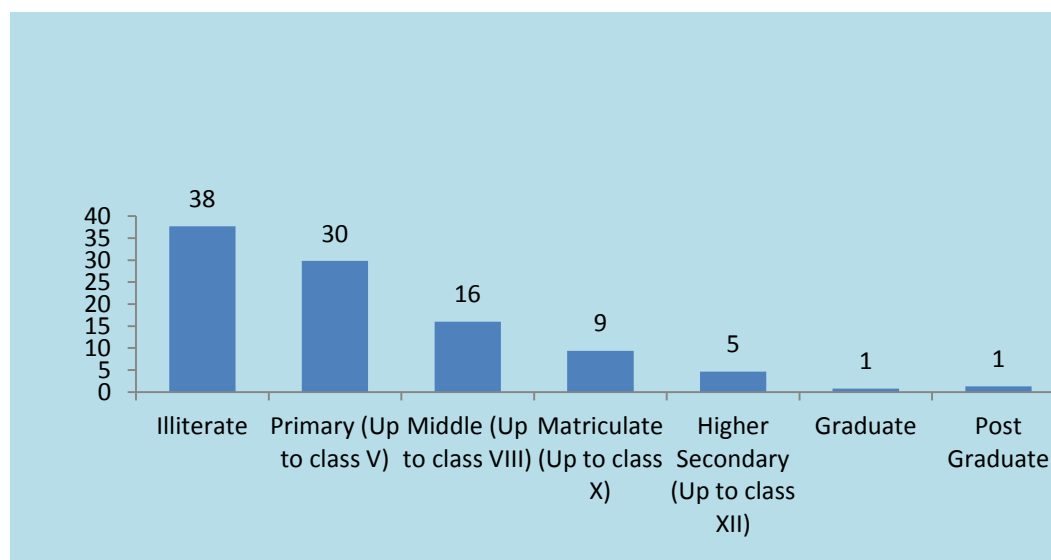
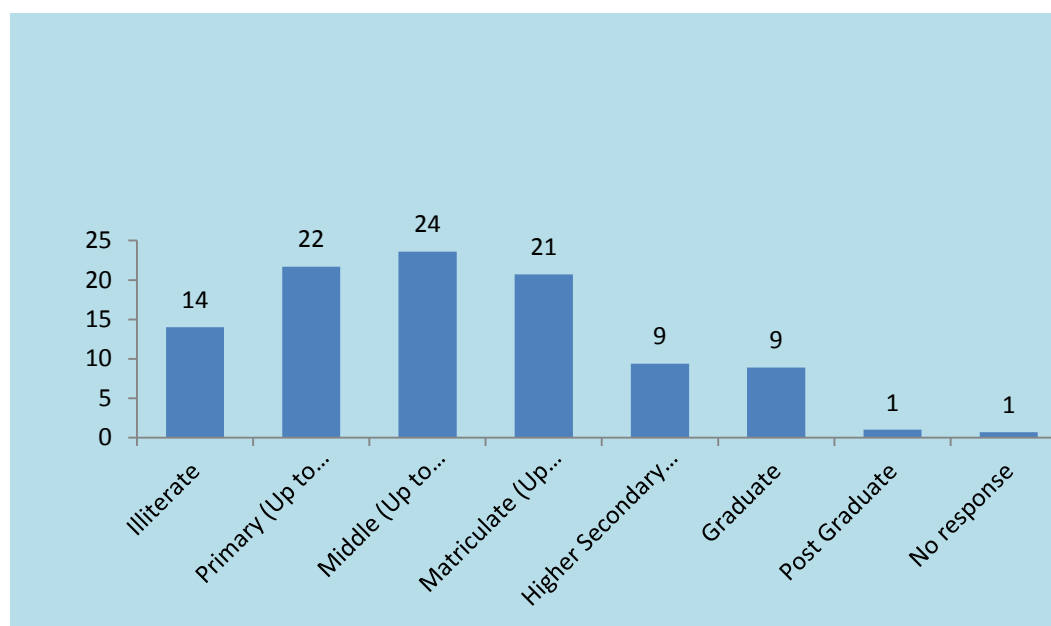


Fig 2.1i Distribution of Male Elderly by Educational Qualification (%)



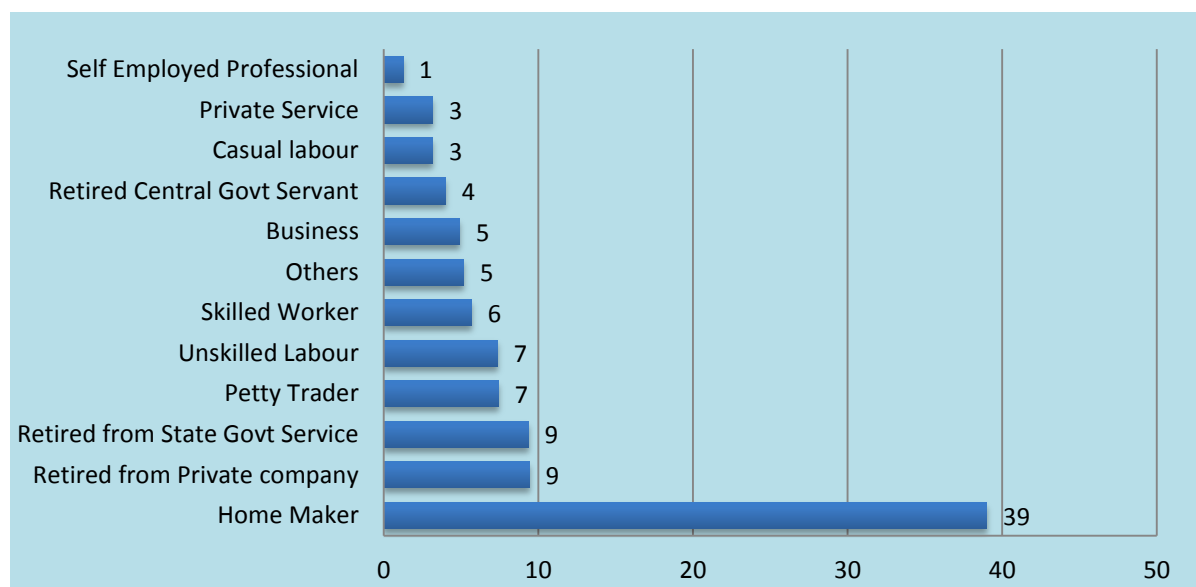
2.2 ECONOMIC PROFILE

This section provides the economic profile of the elderly in terms of occupation.

Occupation of Elderly

About 39% elderly are Home makers, 13% are retired from state or central Govt. service, 9% retired from private companies and 13% are skilled /unskilled workers, while 3% are casual labour.

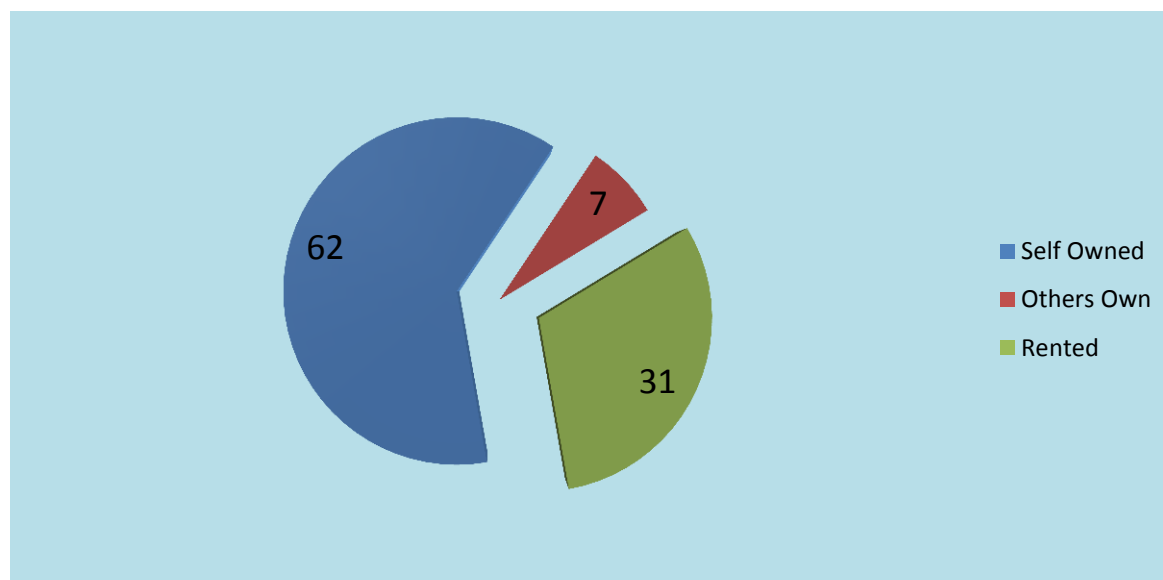
Fig 2.2a Distribution of Elderly by Occupation (%)



Ownership of House

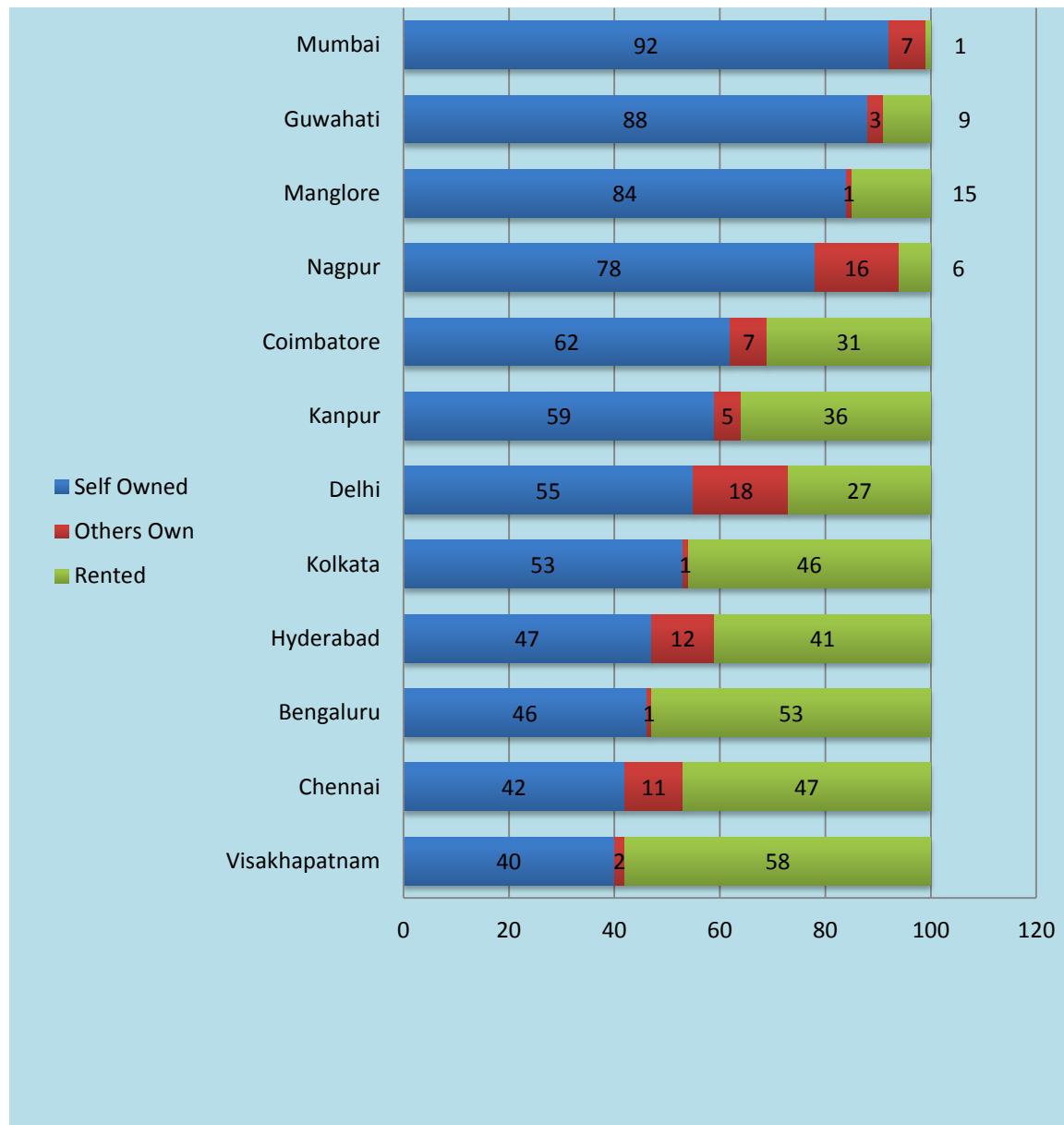
Around 62% of the elders reported that they own their house, 31% reported that the house they resided in currently is on rent, and 7% of the elderly reported that their current residence is owned by others.

Fig 2.2b Distribution of Elderly by Ownership of House (%)



Mumbai has the highest proportion of elderly with self-owned houses (92%), followed by Guwahati at 88% and Mangalore at 84%. The rate of abuse in these cities is also relatively higher. *For details see Fig.2.2c.*

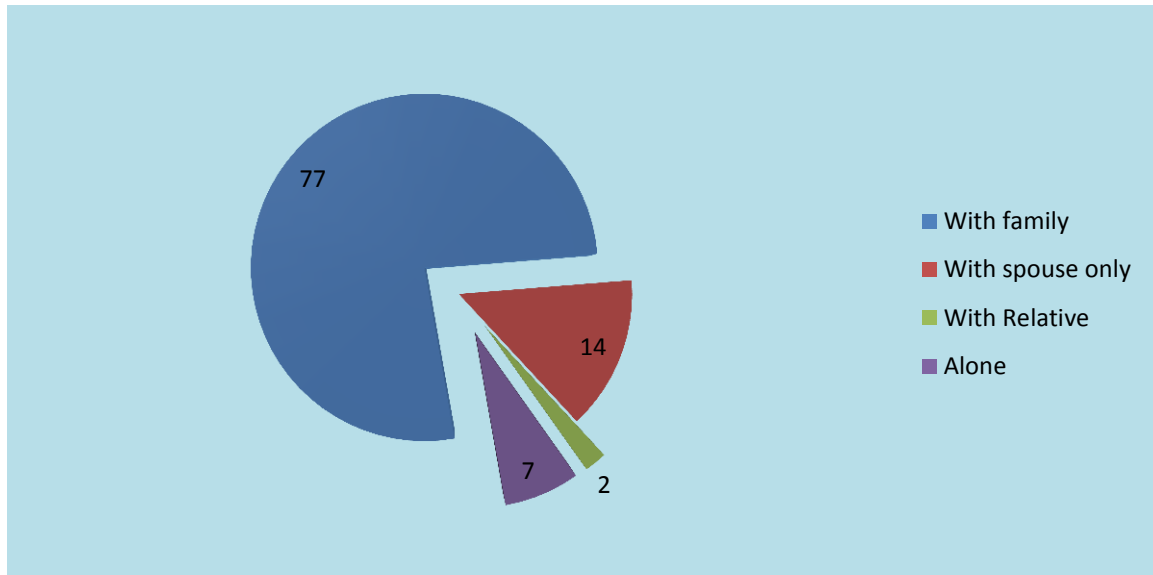
Fig 2.2c Distribution of Elderly by Ownership of house - Citywise (%)



Current Living Arrangement

77% of the elderly live with their family as compared to 14% who live with their spouse. On the other hand, 7% reported to be staying alone.

Fig 2.2d Living Arrangement of Elderly - National (%)



Visakhapatnam recorded the highest proportion of the elderly living with family (90%) and the rate of abuse is above the national average. However, in Madurai, where 23% of elderly are living alone, still the rate of abuse is higher than the national average.

CHAPTER 3

PERCEPTIONS OF ABUSE IN SOCIETY

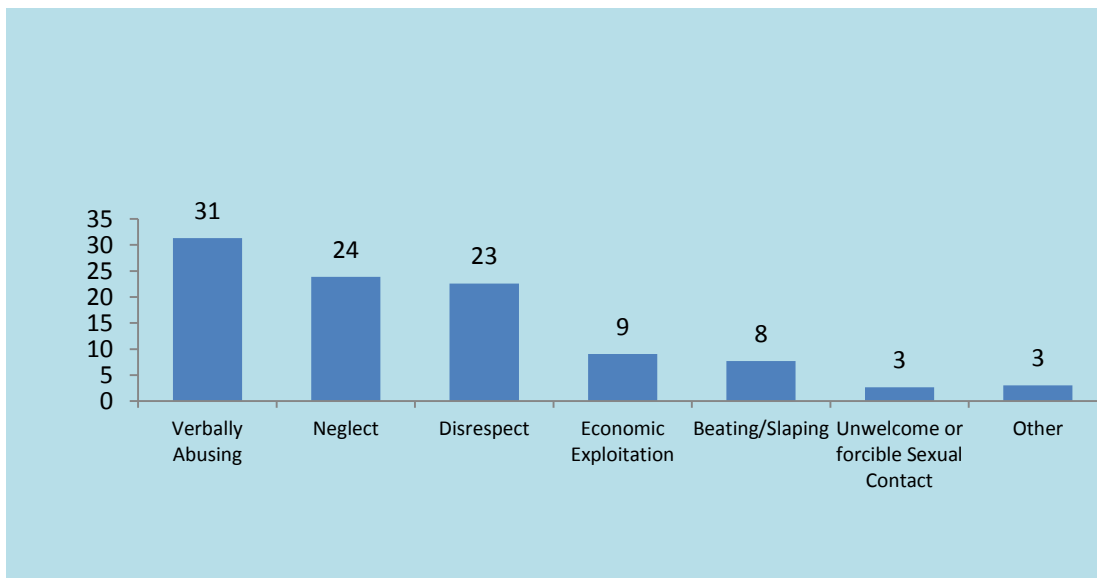
3.1 PERCEPTIONS OF ABUSE AND ITS PREVALENCE

This chapter deals with the Perceptions of elderly on Elder Abuse, the prevalence of different forms of Elder Abuse in society and its extent:- possible reasons of abuse, awareness of redressal mechanisms and effective measures to deal with this menace.

Understanding of Abuse

Most elderly associated Elder Abuse with Disrespect, Verbal abuse And Neglect. Verbal abuse ranked the highest, followed by Neglect and Disrespect at number two and three respectively.

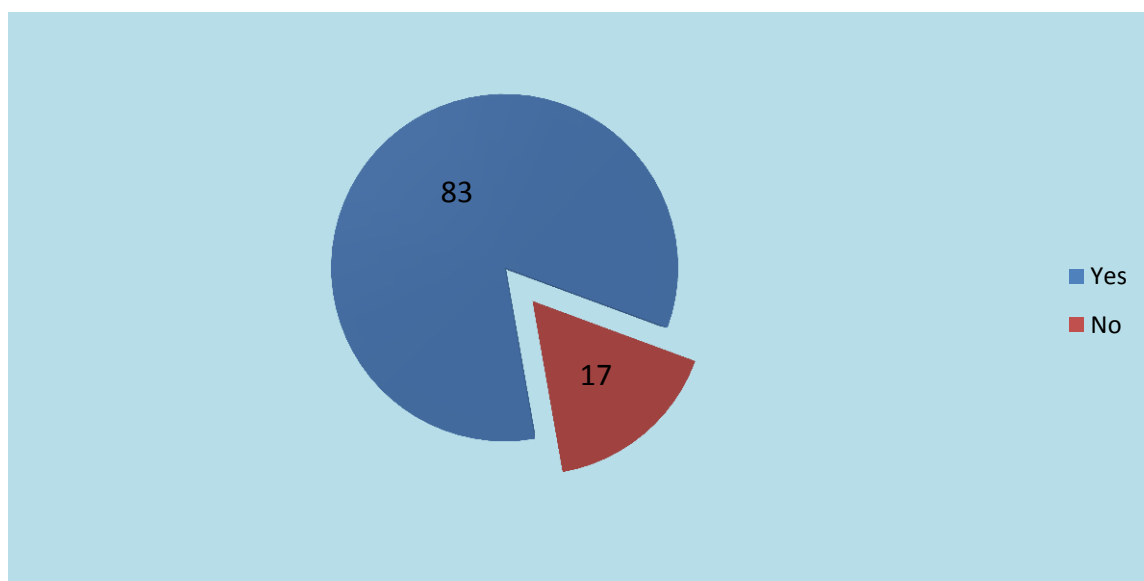
Fig 3.1a Perceptions of Elderly about Abuse - National (%)



Perceptions on Prevalence of Elder Abuse in Society and its Extent

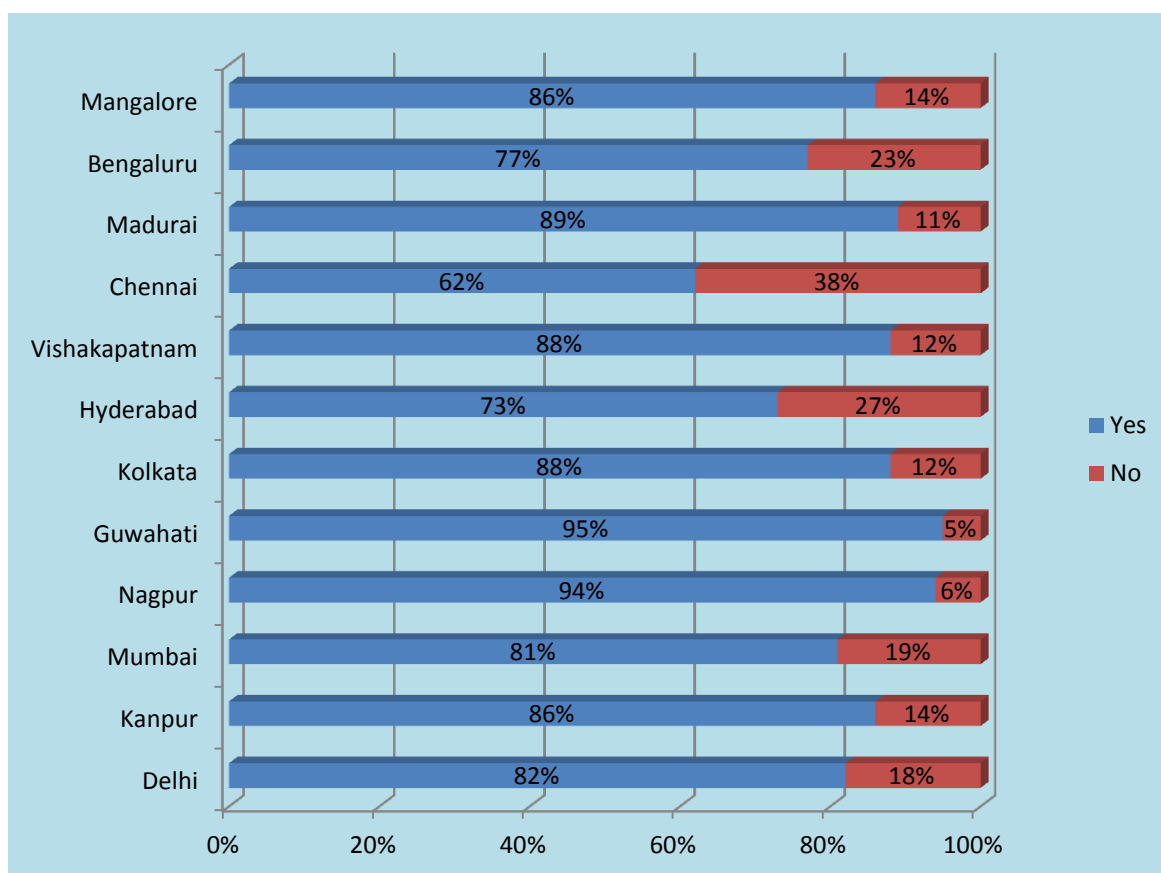
When asked whether they agree that Elder Abuse is prevalent in the society, 83% of the elderly replied in affirmative, whereas 17% of elderly felt that it does not exist. Out of those who opined that Elder Abuse is prevalent in the society, 34% think that the prevalence is high, while 56% think that it is moderately prevalent and 10% think it has low prevalence.

Fig 3.1b Prevalence of Elder Abuse in Society - National (%)



The perception whether Elder Abuse prevails or not, is higher in all Tier II cities surveyed than the Tier I cities.

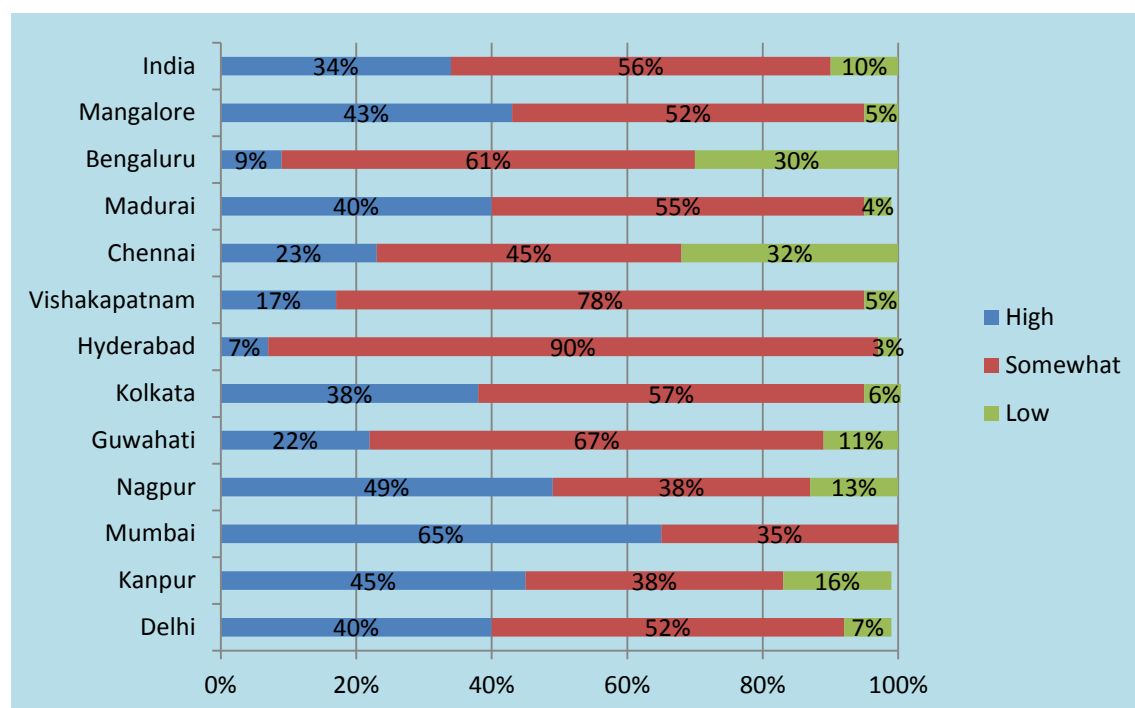
Fig 3.1c Perceptions about prevalence of Elder Abuse - Citywise (%)



While the national average on Perceptions on Extent of Elder Abuse as 'High' is 34%, Mumbai rates it as 65%.

Interestingly, Kolkata & Bengaluru have the highest 'Actual Incidence' of Elder Abuse at 60% and 75% as against the 'Perceived' 'High' extent of Elder Abuse at only 38% and 9%. Further, Hyderabad rates at 9% for 'Perceived' 'High' extent of Elder Abuse as against 'Actual' Incidence of Abuse at 40%.

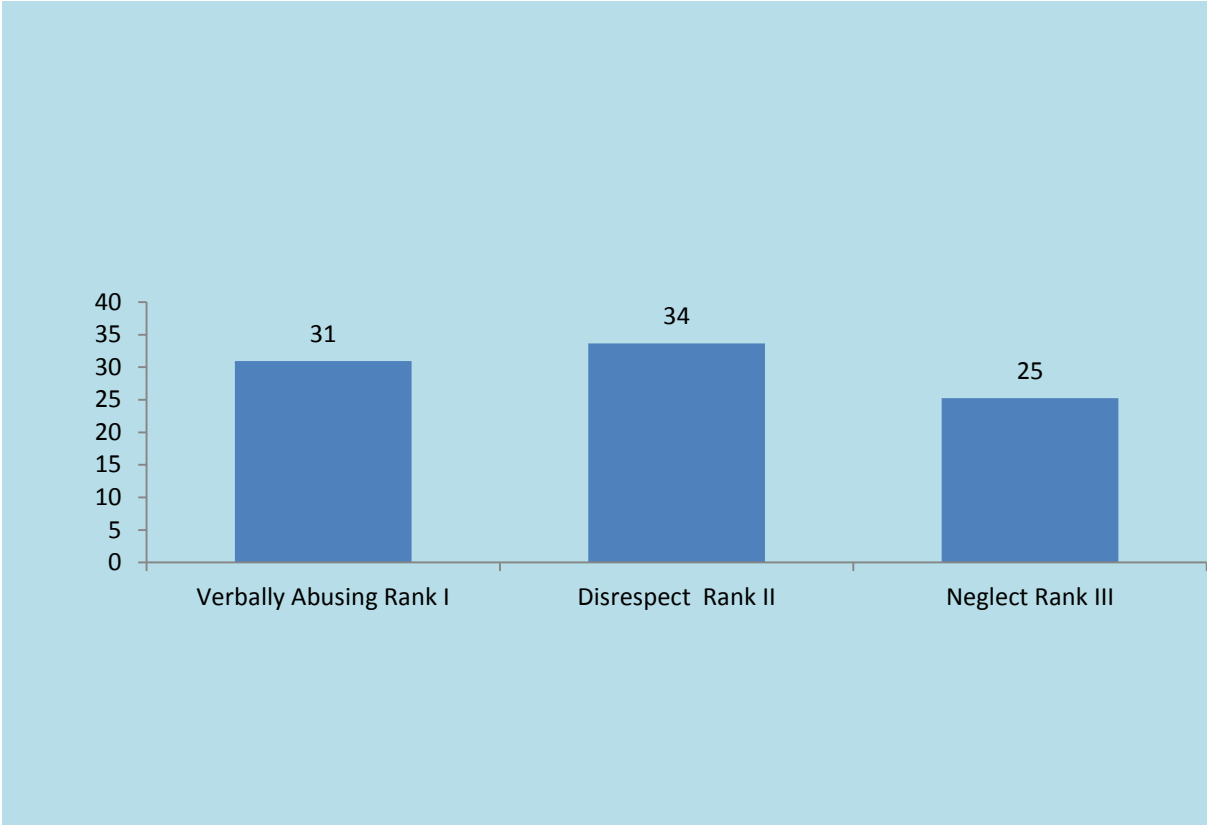
Fig 3.1d Perceptions on Extent of Elder Abuse - Citywise (%)



3.2 PERCEPTIONS OF DIFFERENT TYPESOF ABUSE

Verbal Abuse, Disrespect and Neglect are perceived to be the most common Types of abuse prevalent in society by the elderly. These three types of abuse are also the same as cited in previous years.

Fig 3.2a Perception of Different Types of abuse – National (%)



Only Bengaluru and Chennai mention ‘Economic Exploitation’ in the type of Abuse cited apart from the three common types mentioned above.

Fig 3.2b Perception of Types of abuse – Citywise (Tier I) %

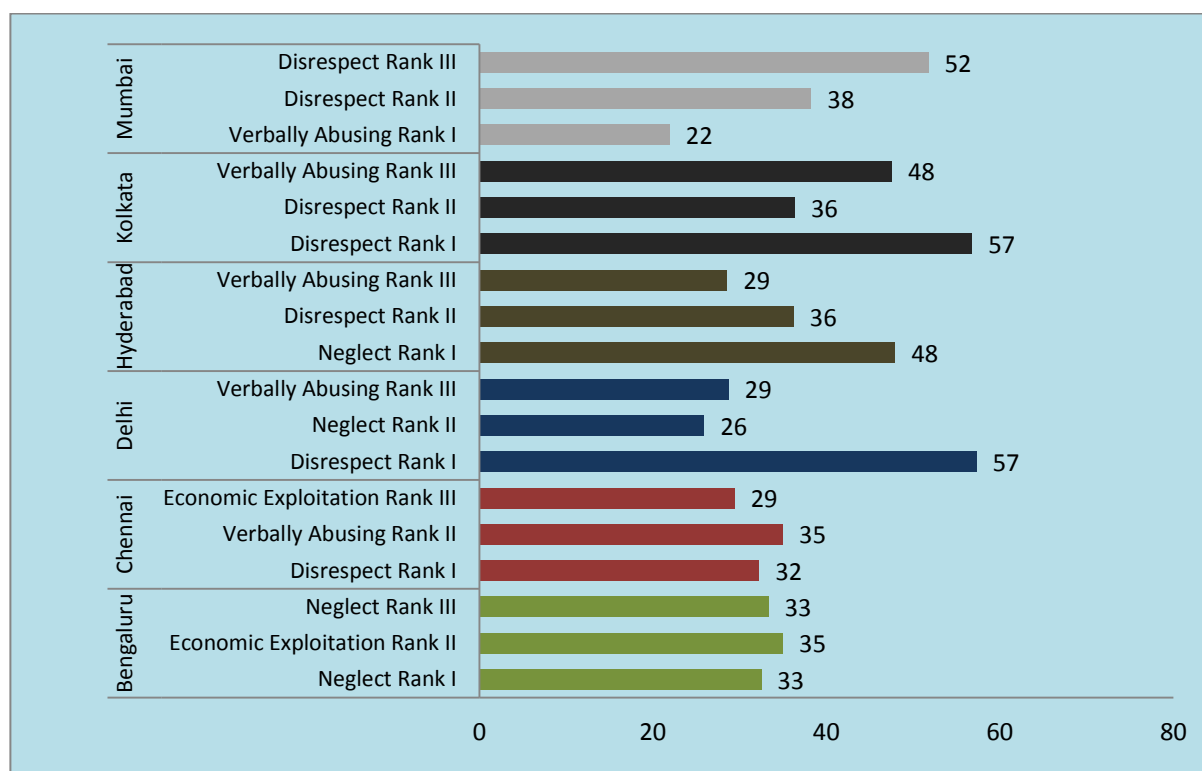
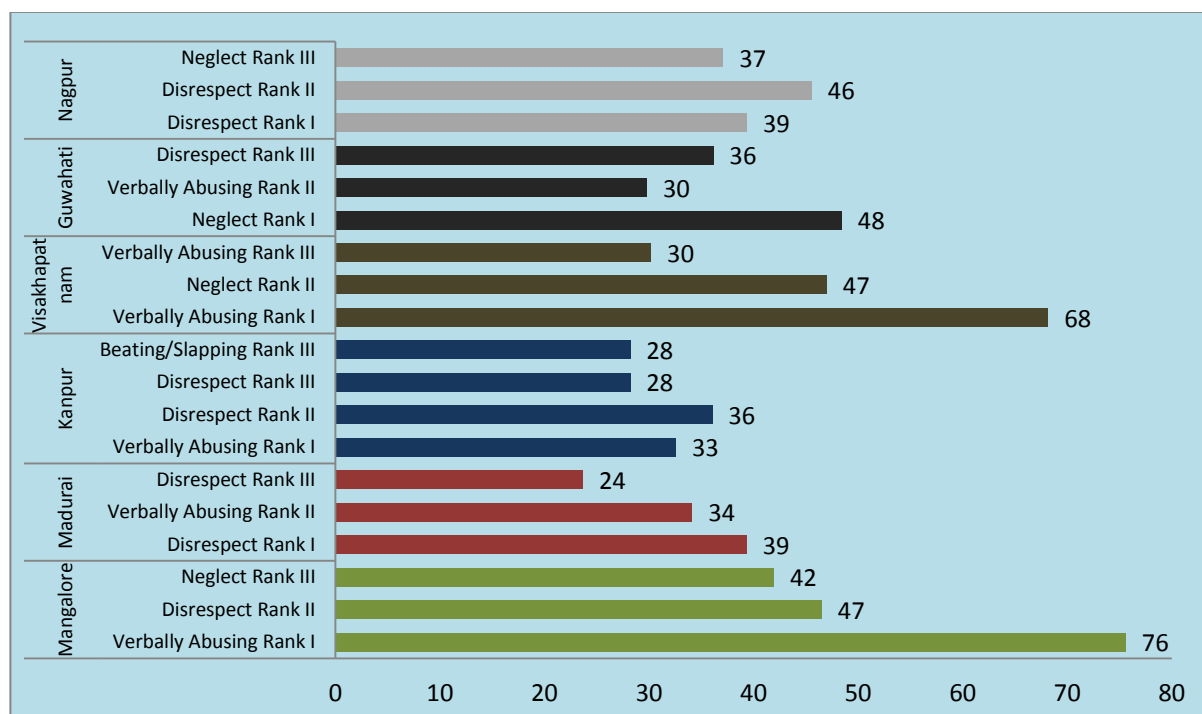


Fig 3.2c Perception of Types of abuse – Citywise (Tier II) %



According to the elderly, Verbal abuse (32%) is the highest form of abuse followed by Disrespect (27%) and Neglect (22%). In Kanpur, Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Chennai and Madurai higher percentage of elderly reported beating/slapping as a prevalent form of abuse. Economic exploitation was reported by many as a prevalent form of abuse in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Chennai and Bengaluru.

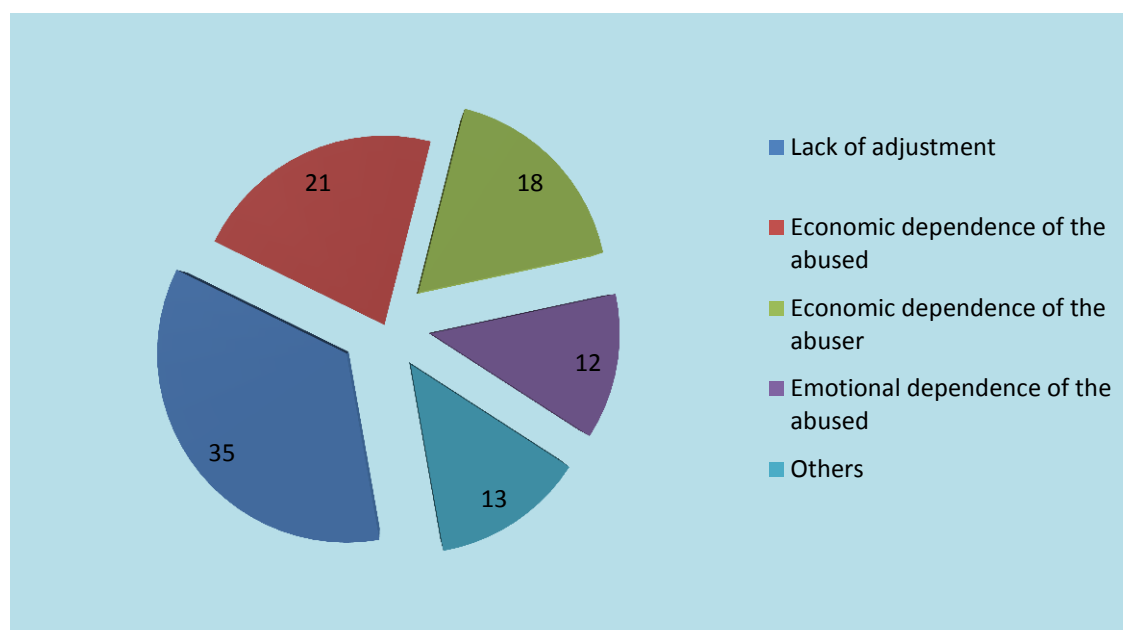
3.3 PERCEIVED REASONS FOR ABUSE

This section deals with the perceptions of the elderly about the reasons behind Elder Abuse in society.

Reasons for Abuse

‘Lack of adjustment’ (35%) emerges as the major reason for prevalence of Elder Abuse followed by ‘economic dependence of the abused’ (21%) and ‘economic dependence of the abuser’ (18%).

Fig 3.3a Perceived reasons for abuse – National (%)



**Others include increasing longevity and care giver's stress*

Contrary to popular belief, ‘Economic Dependence of Abuser’, is perceived as an important Reason for Elder Abuse in society.

- Rank I – Mumbai, Kanpur, Guwahati
- Rank II – Bengaluru, Chennai, Mangalore
- Rank III – Madurai

The most expected reason that is ‘Economic Dependence of the Abused’, did not rank high across cities

- Rank I – Delhi, Nagpur
- Rank II – Mumbai, Kanpur, Madurai
- Rank III – Hyderabad

However, ‘Lack of Adjustment’, seemed to be the common refrain across cities

- Rank I - Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Vishakapatnam, Madurai, Mangalore
- Rank II – Kolkata, Nagpur, Guwahati
- Rank III – Delhi, Kanpur

Fig. 3.3b Perceived reasons for abuse - Tier I (%)

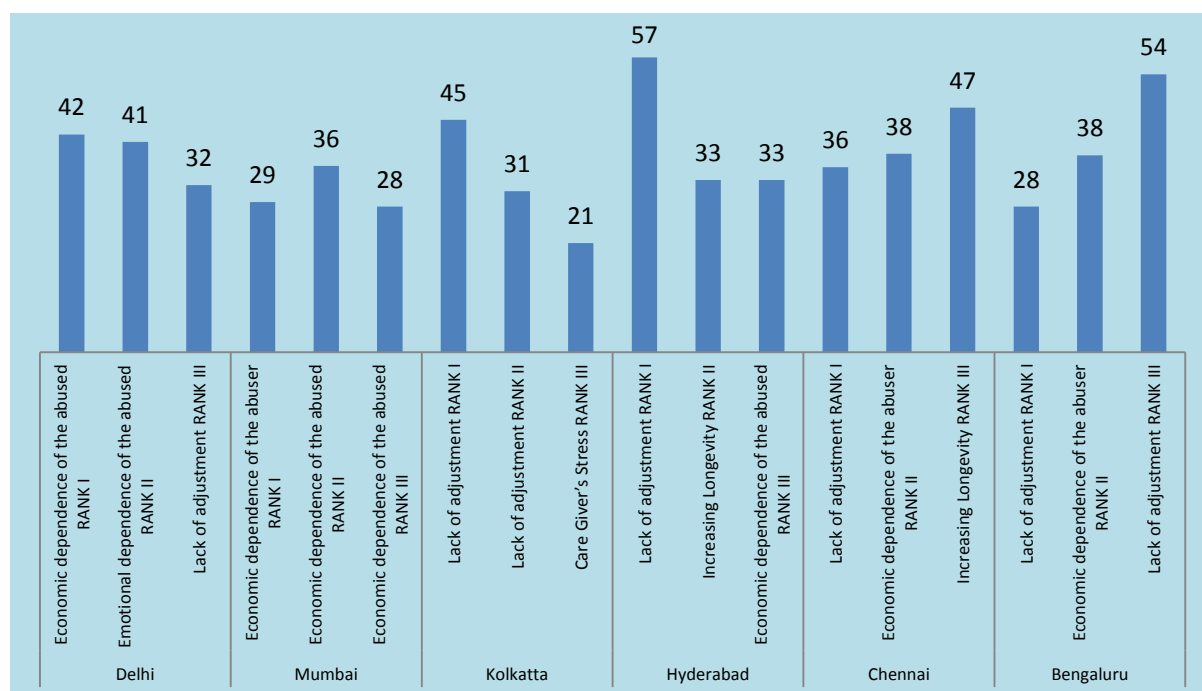
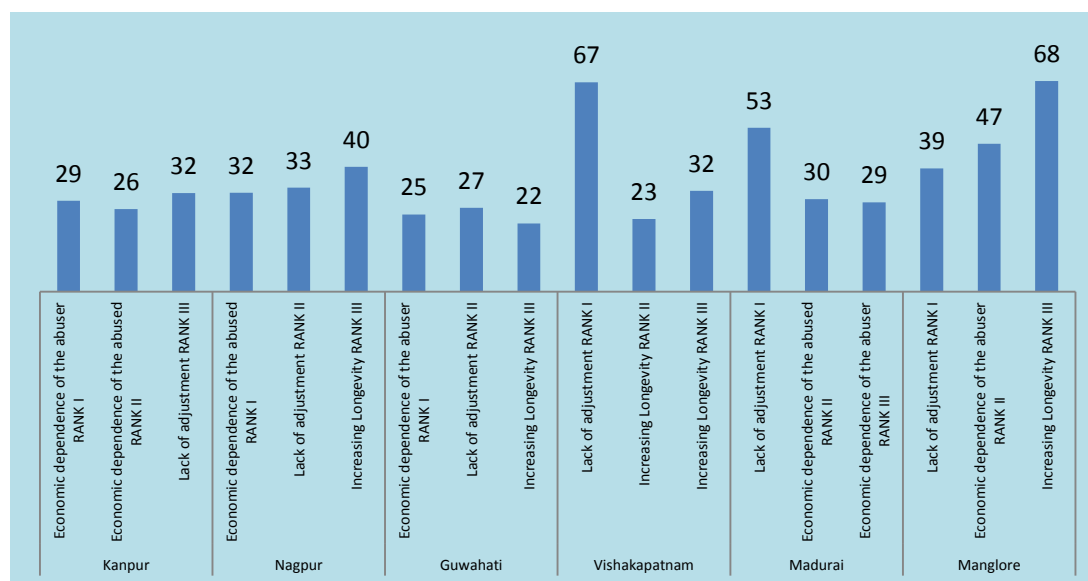


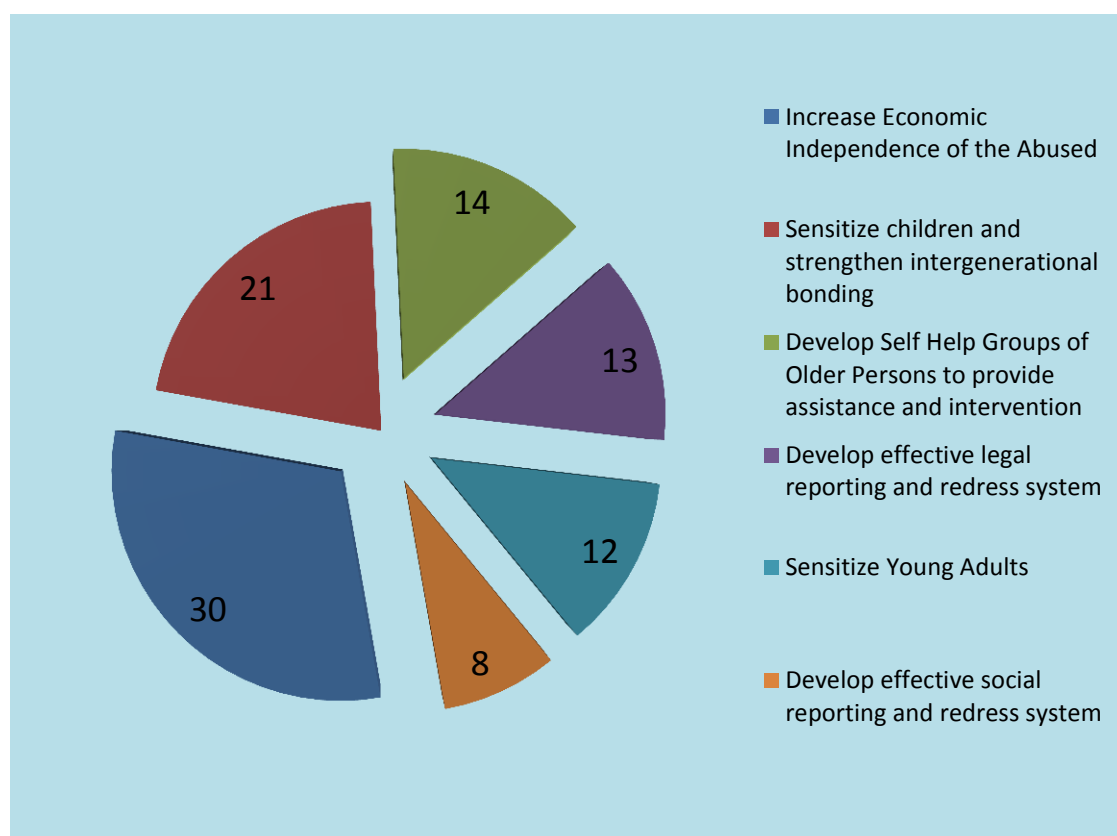
Fig 3.3c Perceived reasons for abuse - Tier II (%)



3.4 PERCEPTION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH ABUSE IN SOCIETY

When asked about the measures to be adopted to deal with Elder Abuse, the elders suggested: ‘increase economic independence of the abused’ (30%), ‘Sensitize children and strengthen intergenerational bonding’ (21%) and ‘Develop Self- Help-Groups of Older Persons to provide assistance and intervention’ (14%) as the most desirable solutions.

Fig 3.4a Perception of Effective measures to Deal with Elder Abuse -National (%)



It is inferred from Fig 3.4b & 3.4c that, in Tier I, except Chennai all cities mention developing ‘Effective legal reporting & redressal systems’ as one of the desirable steps to be taken. In Tier II, Guwahati, Kanpur & Madurai also express the same view.

Fig.3.4b Perception of Effective measures to Deal with Elder Abuse - Tier I (%)

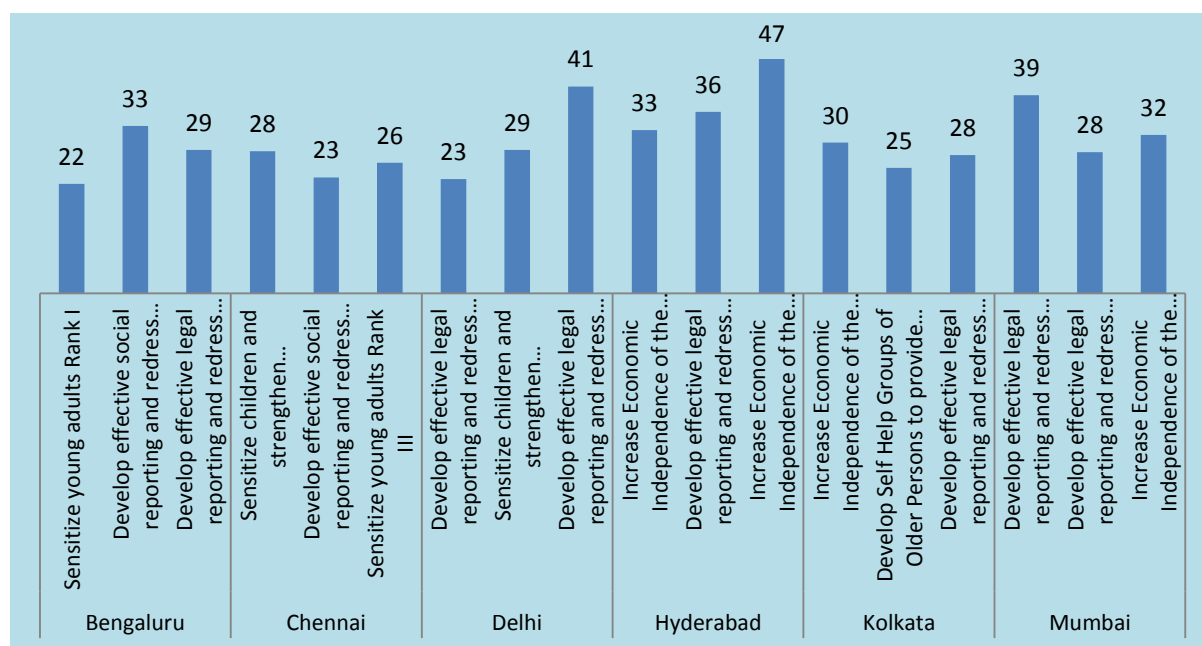
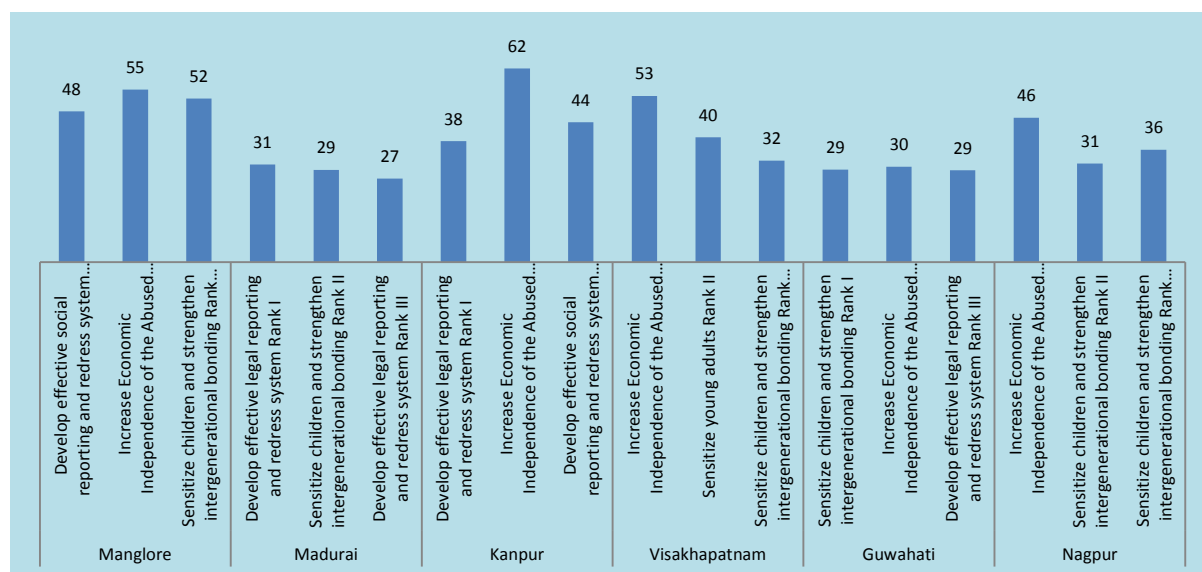


Fig.3.4c Perception of Effective measures to Deal with Elder Abuse - Tier II (%)

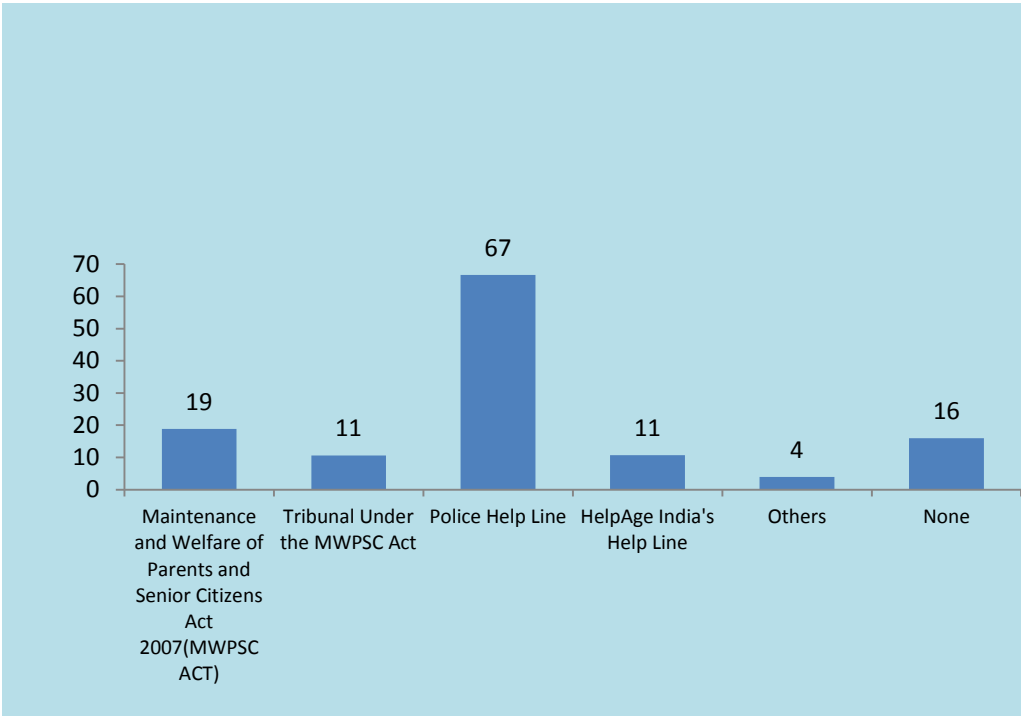


3.5 AWARENESS ABOUT REDRESSAL MECHANISMS

This section deals with the awareness of different redressal mechanisms for Elder Abuse.

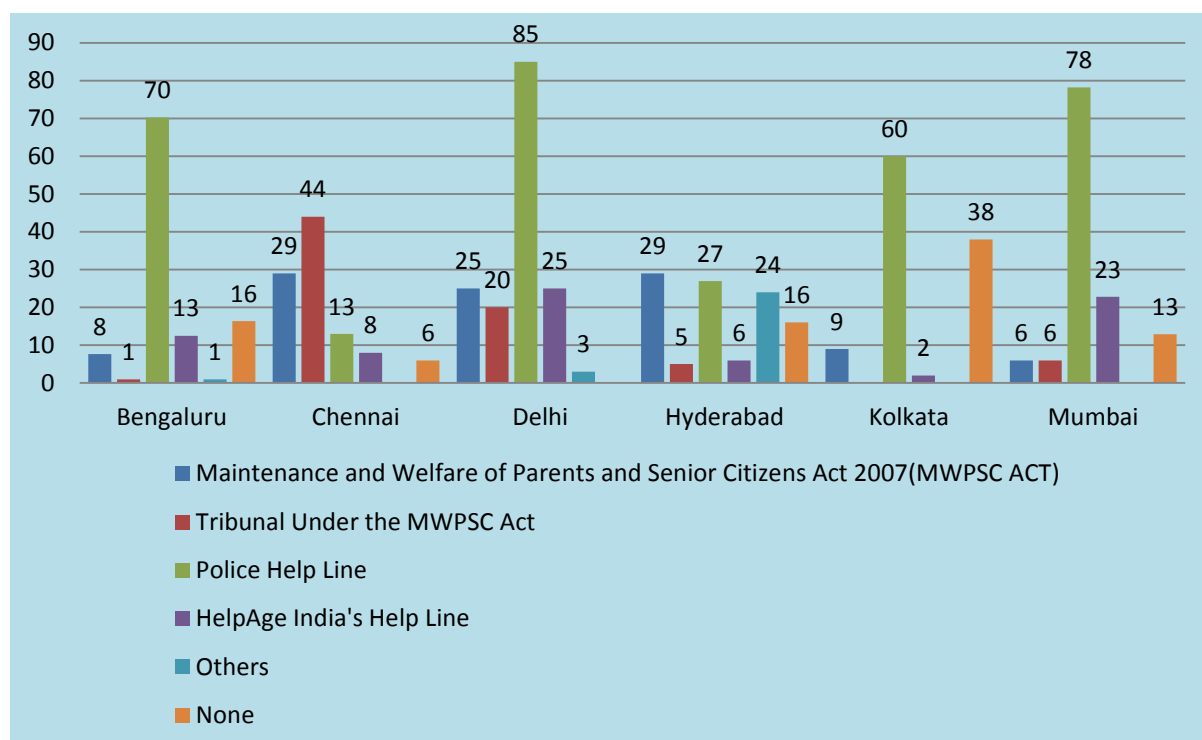
Awareness of Police Helpline (67%) is the highest, followed by some awareness of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 (MWPSC) 19 %. Mumbai, Nagpur, Guwahati and Vishakhapatnam recorded higher awareness of the Police Helpline. Hyderabad, Kanpur and Delhi have higher awareness about the MWPSC Act 2007.

Fig 3.5a Awareness about Redressal Mechanisms - National (%)



Awareness about Police Helplines is generally high across all cities, but are exceptionally high in Delhi & Mumbai of the Tier 1 cities and amongst Tier II cities it is Guwahati, Kanpur & Vishakhapatnam.

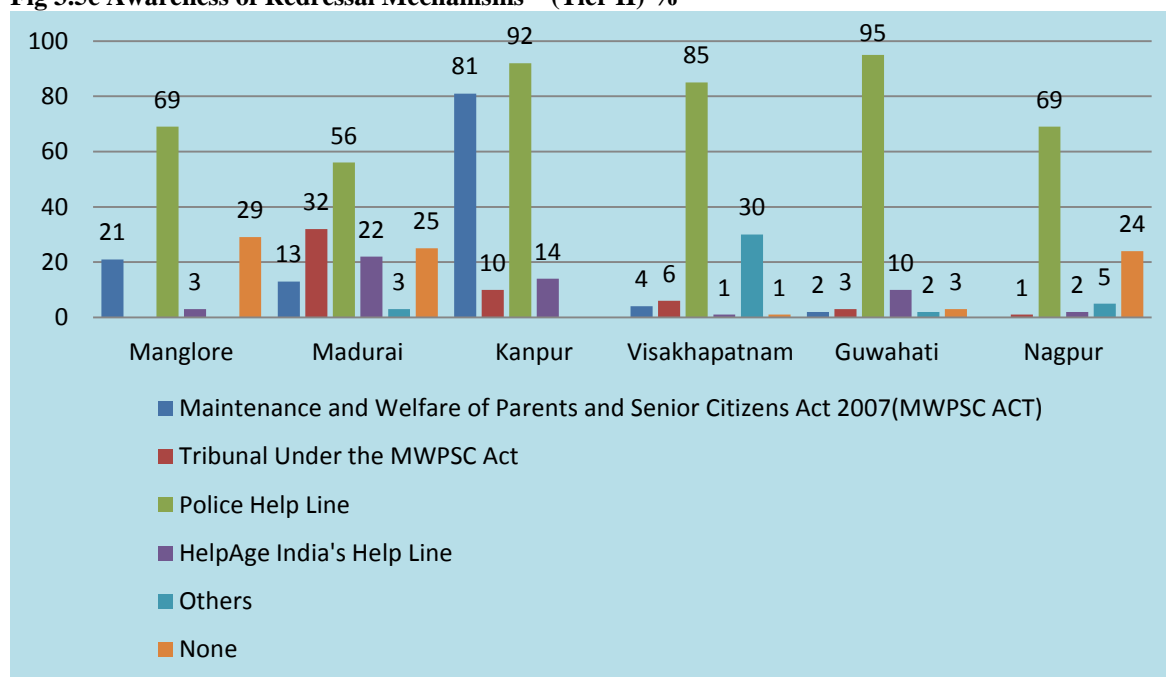
Fig 3.5b Awareness of Redressal Mechanisms – (Tier I) %



Awareness of the Maintenance Act is low across all cities, but lower in the Tier II cities. Within this, the values are comparatively higher in Hyderabad, Chennai & Delhi in Tier I and Kanpur & Mangalore in Tier II cities.

In Mumbai & Bengaluru amongst Tier I cities awareness about the Maintenance Act is very low and in Tier II cities there is virtually no awareness in Nagpur.

Fig 3.5c Awareness of Redressal Mechanisms – (Tier II) %



CHAPTER 4

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF ABUSE

4.1 PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF ABUSE

Experience of Elder Abuse

Across the cities, 50% of the elders admitted to having personally experienced abuse, though 83% of all elders surveyed, are of the view that it is prevalent in society.

The above stated 50% is a quantum jump from last year's average of 23% of admission of personal experience of abuse. A higher percentage of females (53%) reported abuse, as against males (48%).

Fig 4.1a Experience of Abuse among Elderly- National (%)

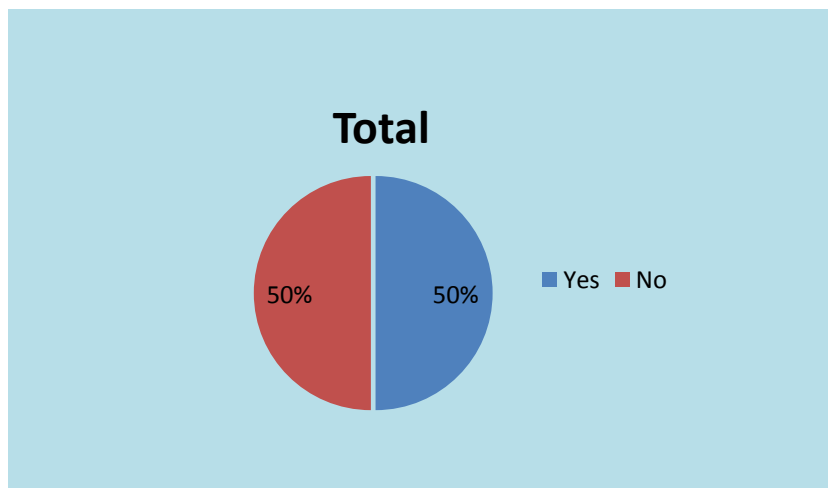


Fig 4.1b Experience of Abuse among Elderly - National (Year wise) %

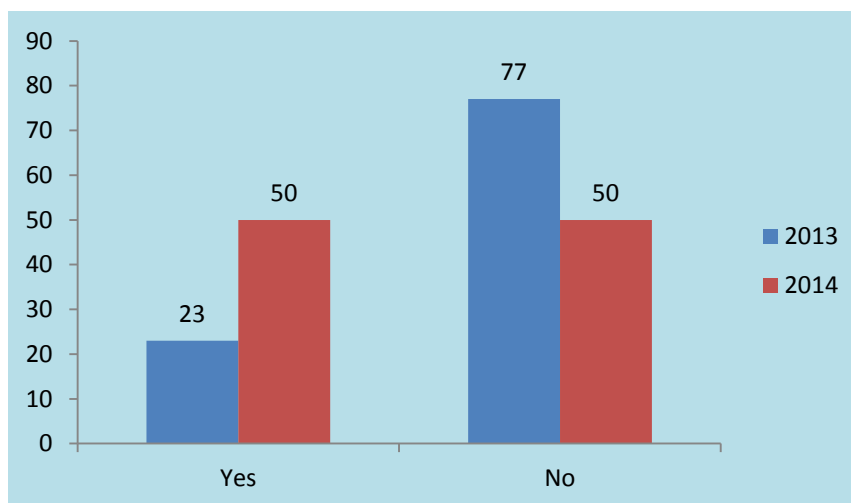


Fig 4.1c Abuse Experienced by Female Elderly (%)

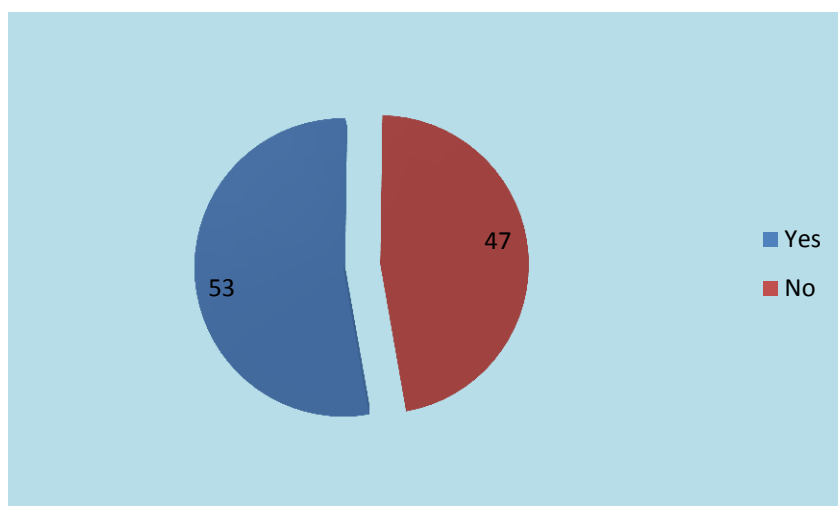


Fig 4.1d Abuse Experienced by Male Elderly in (%)

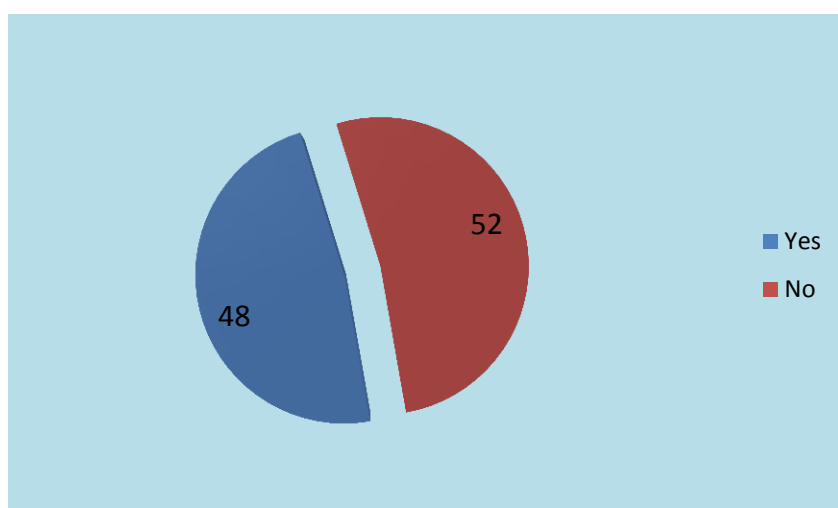
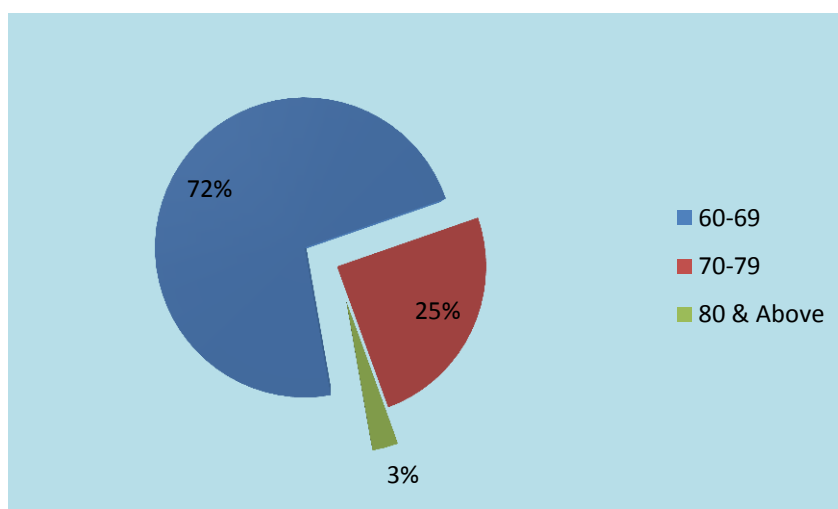


Fig. 4.1e Age Disaggregation –National (%)



About 72% of those who experienced abuse belong to the age group 60-69 years while 25% belong to age group 70-79 years. Facing abuse was reported more by females (53%) than males (48%).

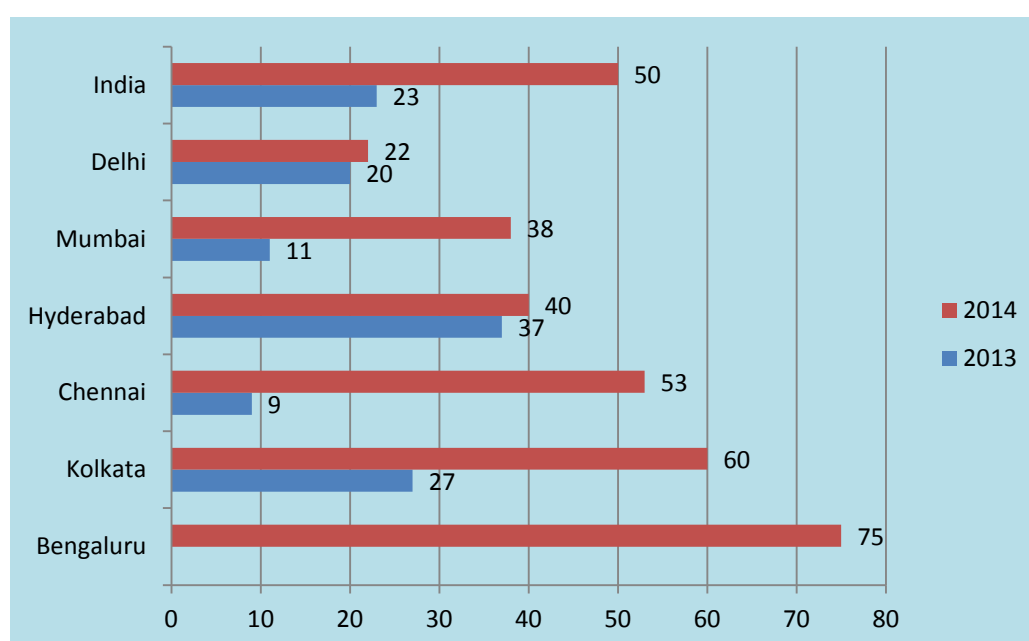
Abuse experienced Citywise

The actual experience of abuse is higher (50%) as opposed to the perception of 'High' prevalence of abuse at 34%.

Interestingly, Kolkata & Bengaluru have the highest 'Actual 'Incidence' of Elder Abuse at 60% and 75% as against the 'Perceived' 'High' extent of Elder Abuse at only 38% and 9%. Further, Hyderabad rates at 9% for 'Perceived' 'High' extent of Elder Abuse as against 'Actual' Incidence of Abuse at 40%.

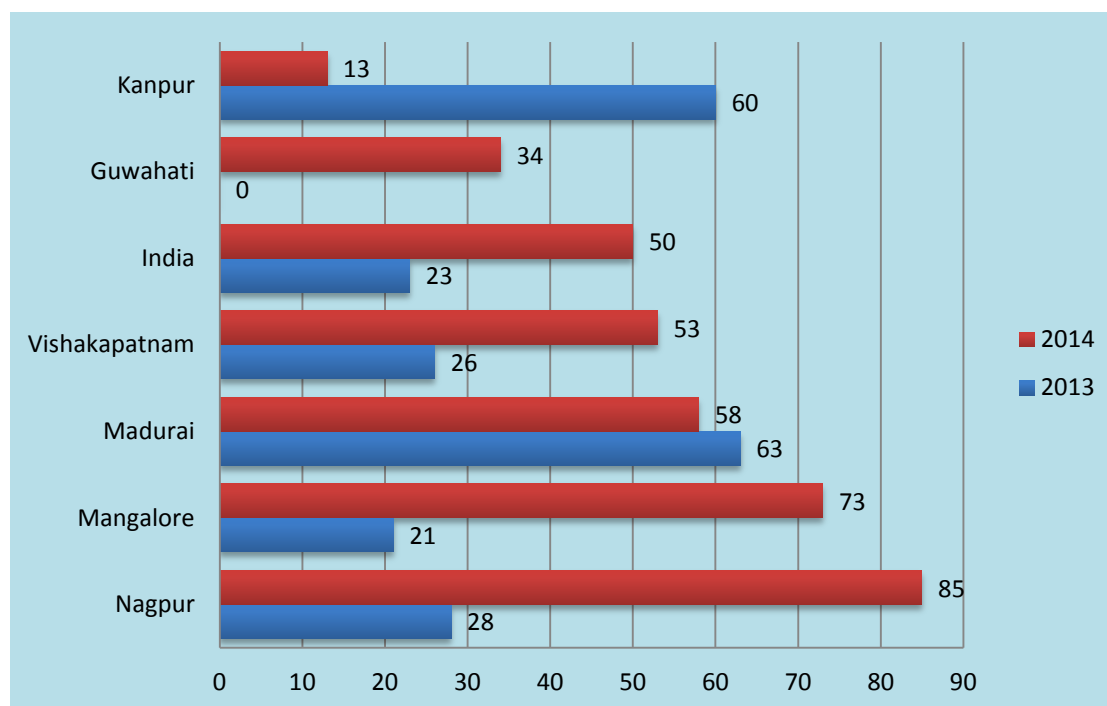
Bengaluru has the highest percentage of Elder Abuse amongst Tier I cities at 75%, Kolkata 60 % and the least case of abuse is reported from Delhi with just 22 % of elderly facing abuse.

Fig 4.1f Personal Experience of Abuse -Yearwise (Tier I) %



Nagpur has the highest prevalence of Elder Abuse (85%) followed by Mangalore (73%). Kanpur recorded the lowest experience of Elder Abuse (13%).

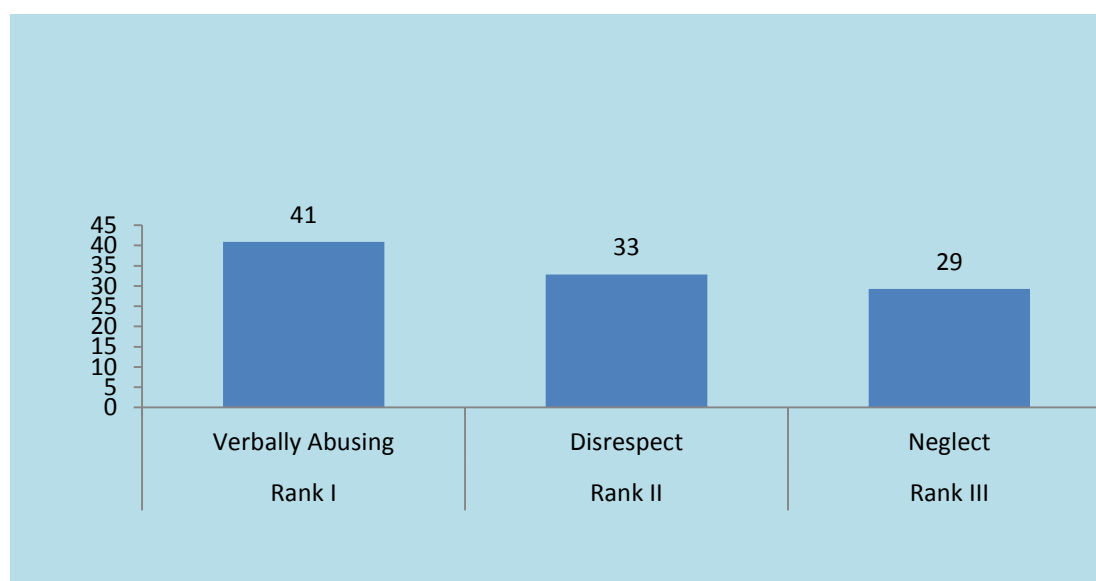
Fig 4.1g Personal Experience of Abuse -Yearwise (Tier II) %



4.2 TYPE OF ABUSE

Across the cities, Verbal Abuse (41 %), Disrespect (33%) and Neglect (29%) were the major types of abuse faced by the elderly. The top most percentage of each rank was represented to give the most ranked responses.

Fig 4.2a Different Types of Abuse Faced by Elderly (%)



*The total percentage is more than 100 because of multiple responses

Among the elderly who were abused, 34% from Kolkata faced Disrespect, while in Guwahati and Visakhapatnam 38% and 49% respectively faced Verbal Abuse and 26% from Hyderabad faced Neglect.

Fig 4.2b Types of abuse - Tier I (%)

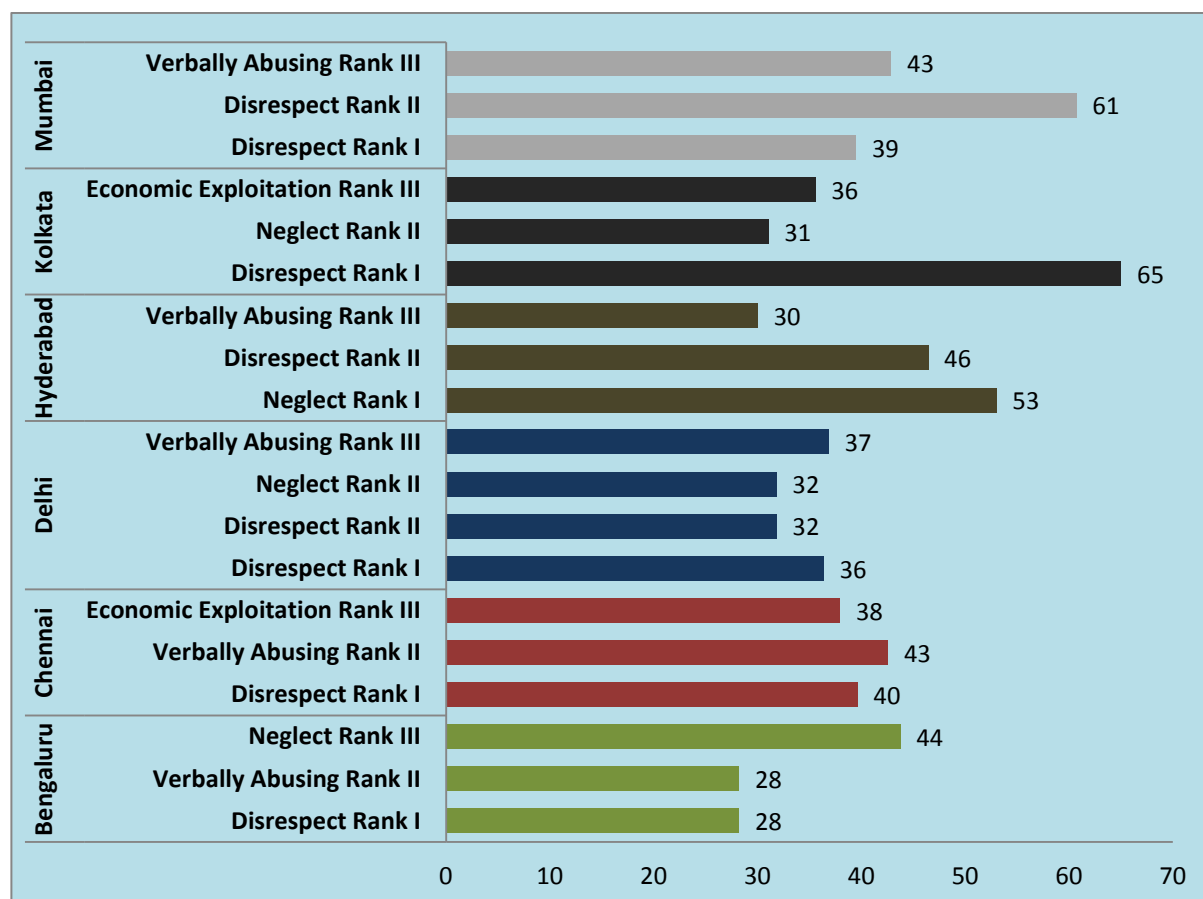
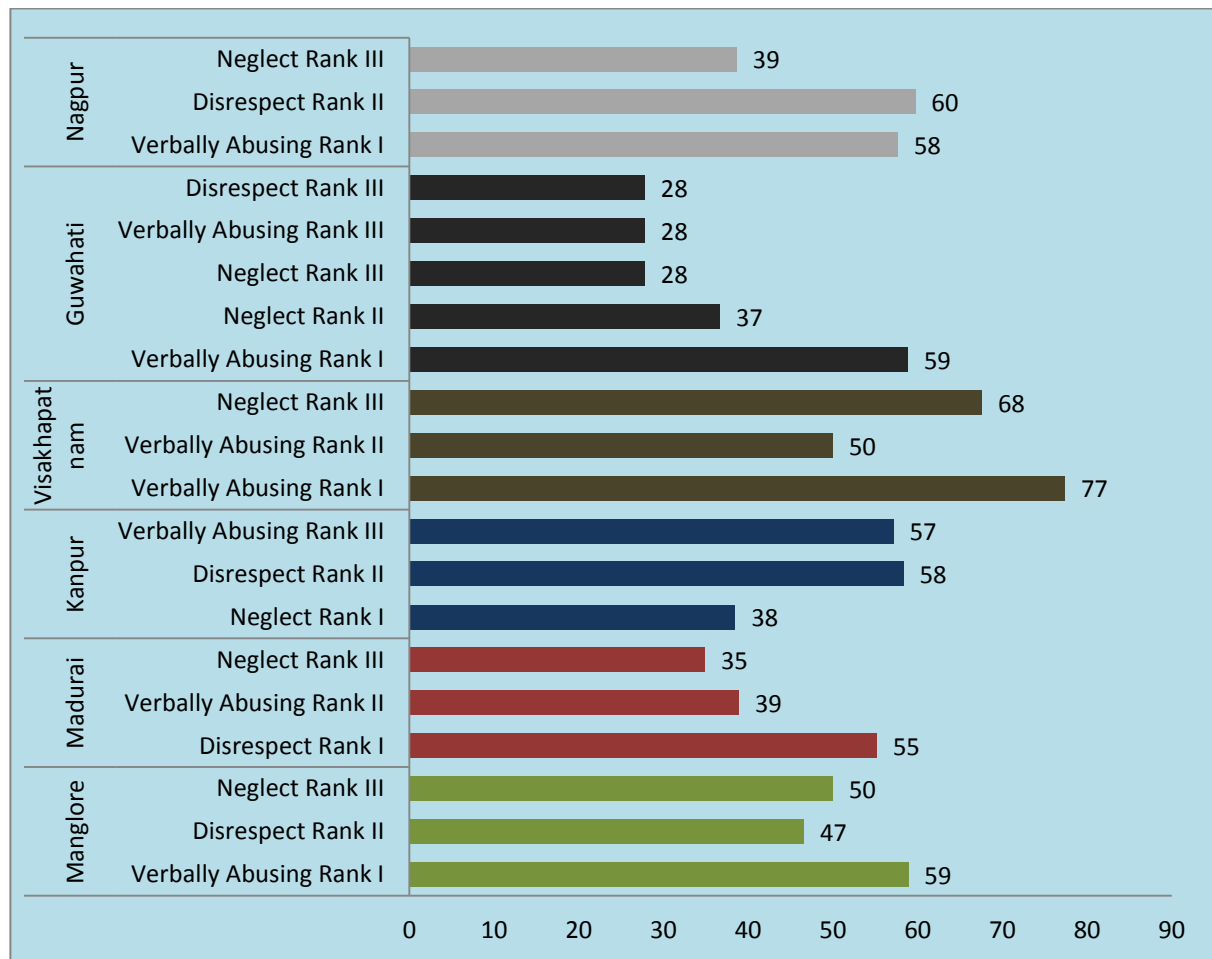


Fig 4.2c Types of abuse - Tier II (%)



4.3 PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE

Elders across cities were asked about the abusers within their family. The Daughter-in-law (61%) and Son (59%) emerged as the topmost perpetrators. This is a trend that is continuing from the previous years. Not surprisingly, 77% of those surveyed, live with their families.

Fig. 4.3a Main Perpetrators of Abuse - National (%)

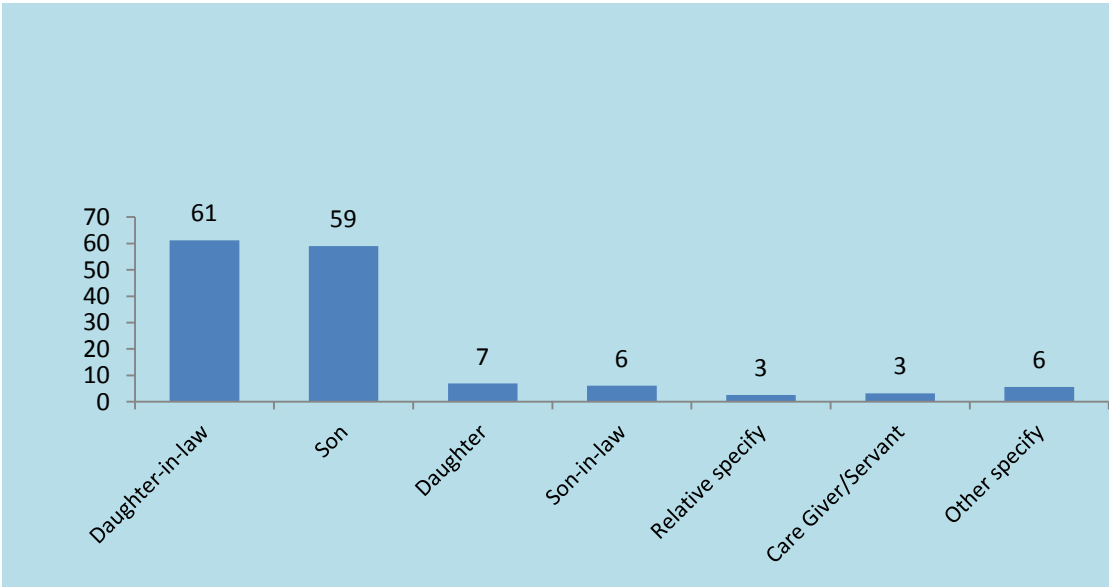
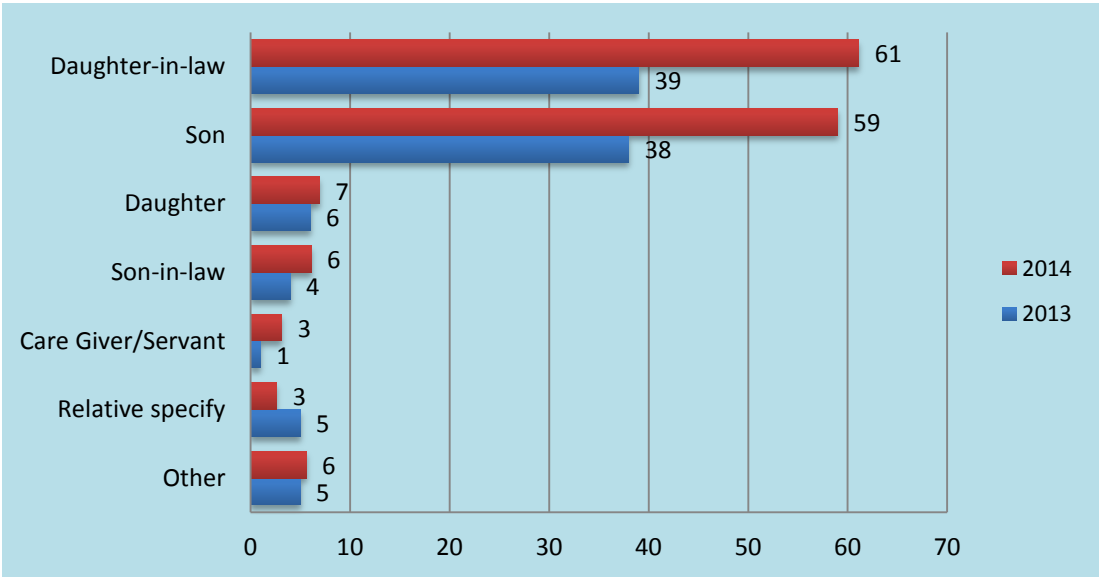


Fig 4.3b Perpetrators of Abuse - National (Yearwise) %



Amongst Tier I cities, Mumbai rates Daughter-in-law as the main perpetrator of abuse at 92% while Hyderabad rates the Daughter-in-law at a lowest of 40%. The Son rates the highest at 65% in Bengaluru and a lowest of 21% in Mumbai and 23% in Delhi.

In Tier II cities, Mangalore has the highest percentage of Daughter-in-law at 97 % with a lowest of 51% in Vishakhapatnam. The Son was rated the highest at 95% at Mangalore and a lowest of 23% in Kanpur.

Fig 4.3c Perpetrators of Abuse – Tier I (%)

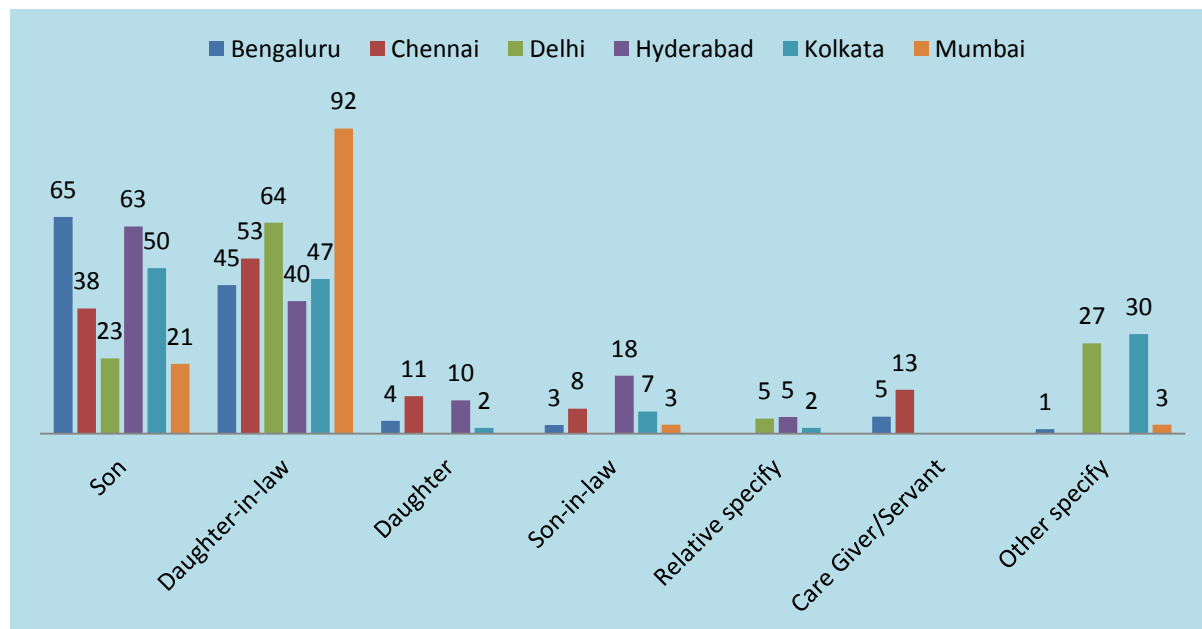
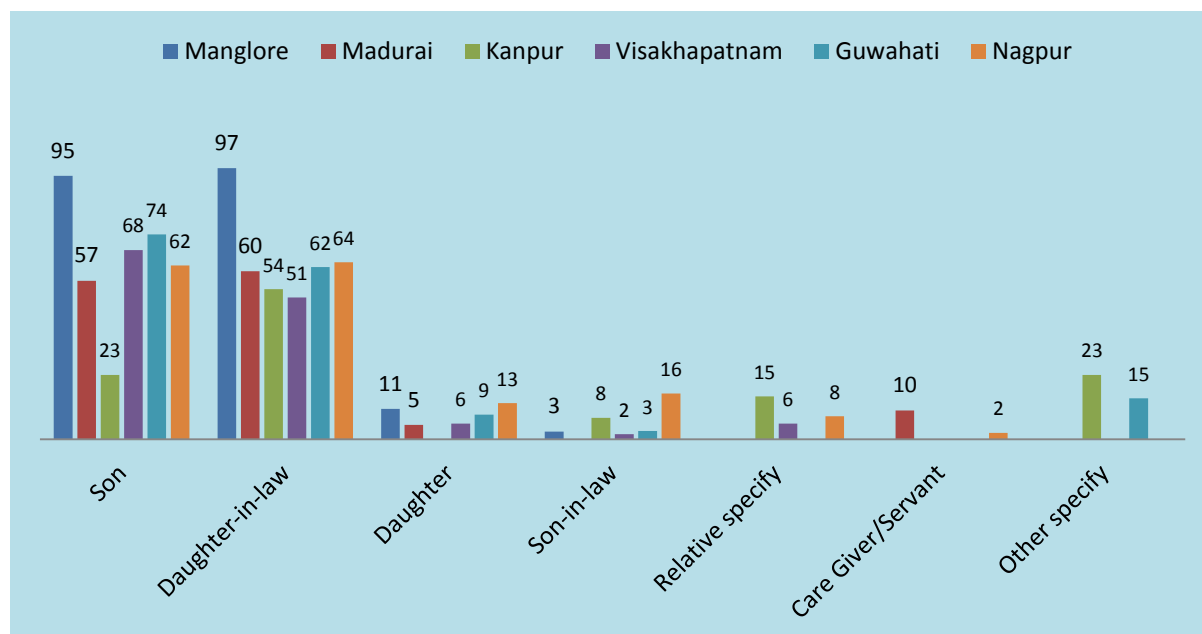


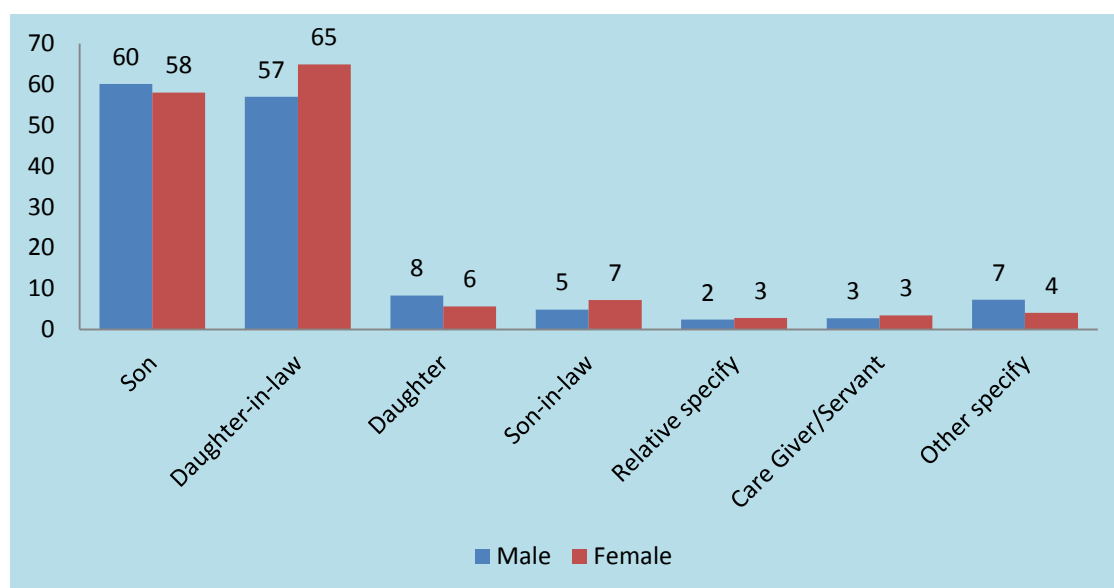
Fig 4.3d Perpetrators of Abuse – Tier II (%)



Son and Daughter-in-law emerge as the main perpetrators of abuse in case of Male elderly and female elderly respectively.

Across the 12 cities, 65 % elderly female and 57 % elderly male responded Daughter-in-law as their perpetrator while 60% elderly male and 58 % elderly female responded that their Son as their perpetrator.

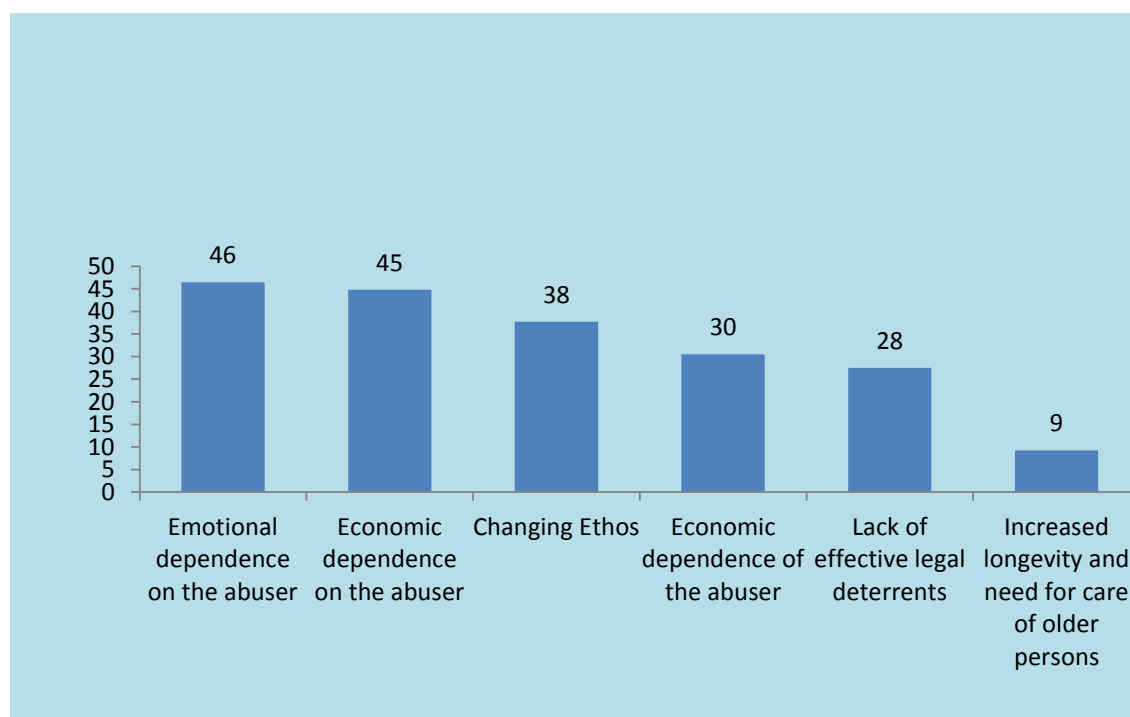
Fig 4.3e Gender-wise Response on Perpetrators of Abuse - National (%)



4.4 REASONS FOR ABUSE AS PER VICTIMS

Across the cities, ‘Emotional dependence on the abuser’ (46%) and ‘Economic dependence on the abuser’ (45%) are the major reasons for them being abused.

Fig.4.4a Reasons for Abuse as per Victims – National (%)



The total exceeds 100 due to multiple responses

About 44% of male elders reported that they were being abused because of their ‘emotional dependence on the abuser’ and ‘changing ethos’. About 48% of female elders mentioned about their ‘economic and emotional dependence on the abuser’ as causes of the abuse.

The elderly females are clearly facing abuse due to ‘dependence on others’, both ‘economic & emotional’, whereas the males are clearly facing abuse due to ‘emotional dependence’ & ‘changing ethos’ in society. It can be inferred from the above, that the males do not face ‘economic dependence’.

In Tier I cities, the ‘economic dependence of the victim’ ranges from 64% in Delhi to 24% in Bengaluru. However, the ‘economic dependence of the abuser’ is high at 55% in Bengaluru and low at 23% at Hyderabad. The ‘emotional dependence of the victim’ is highest at 85% in Chennai and lowest at 18% in Delhi.

Fig.4.4b Reasons for Abuse as per Victims – Citywise (Tier I) %

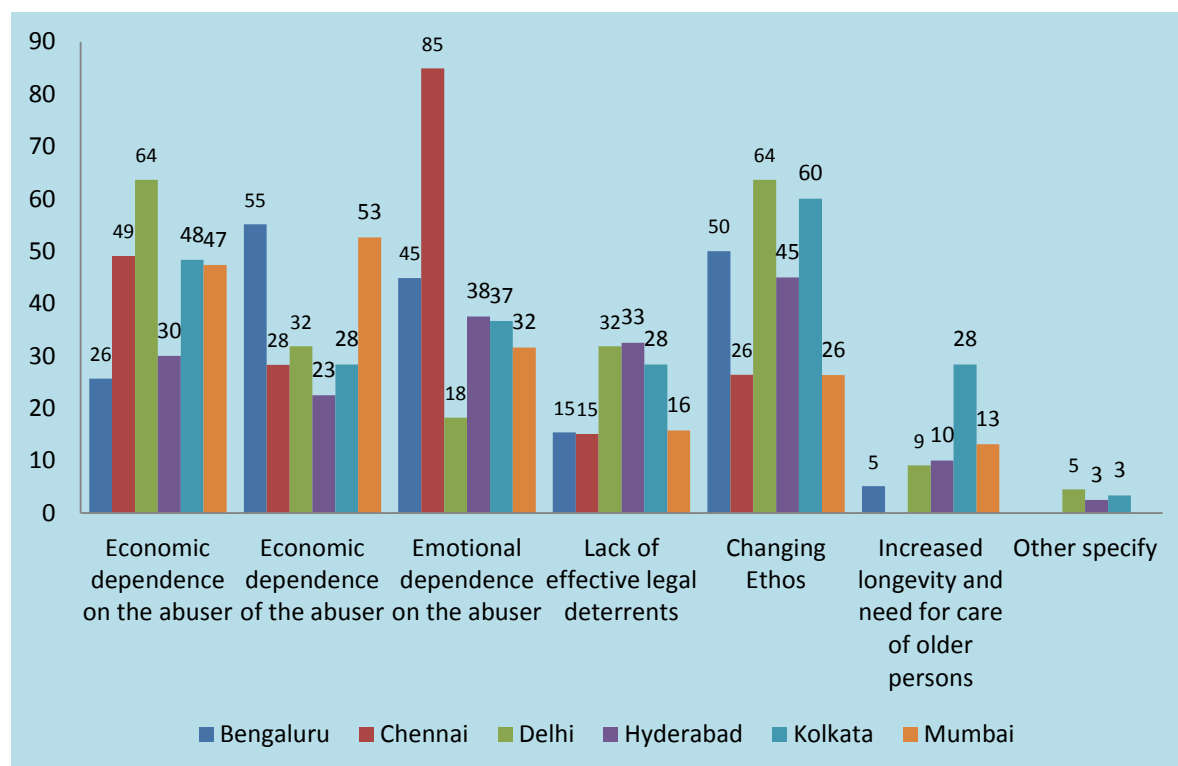
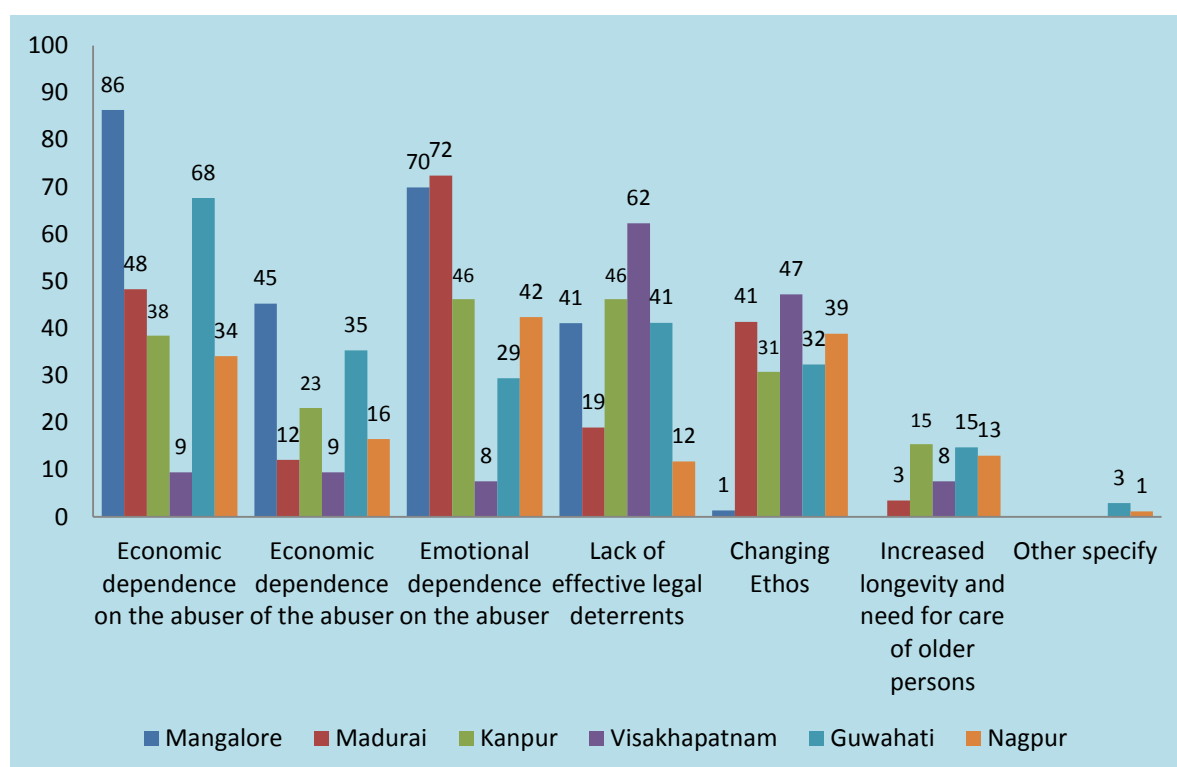


Fig.4.4c Reasons for Abuse as per Victims – Citywise (Tier II) %



4.5 DURATION & FREQUENCY OF ABUSE

Duration of Abuse

Among the elderly who faced abuse, 46% reported to be facing abuse for 3-5 years, while 25% reported the duration as 1-2 years. About 4% of the elderly are facing abuse for more than 15 years. The mean duration of abuse is 5.2 years.

If we look at the comparative figures for the year 2014, we find that there is a sharp increase from 28% to 46% in the cases of the duration 3-5 years of abuse.

Fig 4.5a Duration of Facing Abuse - National (%)

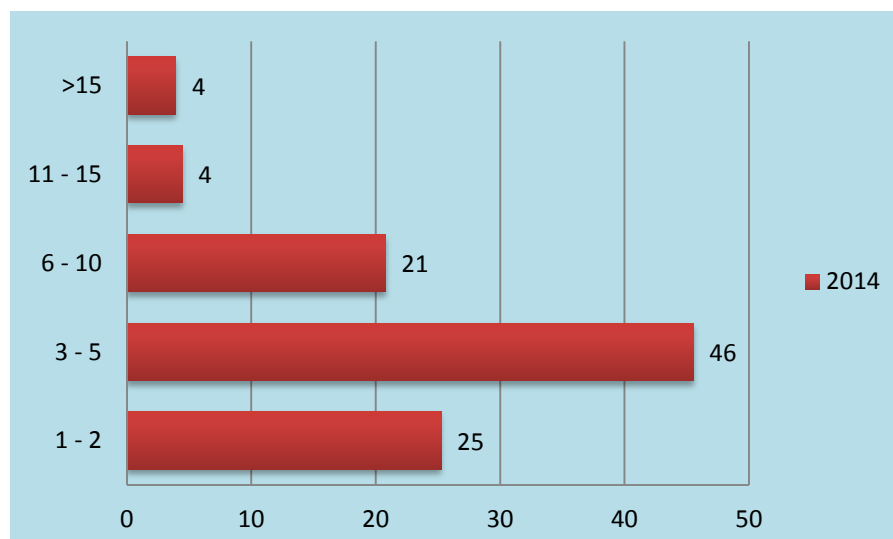
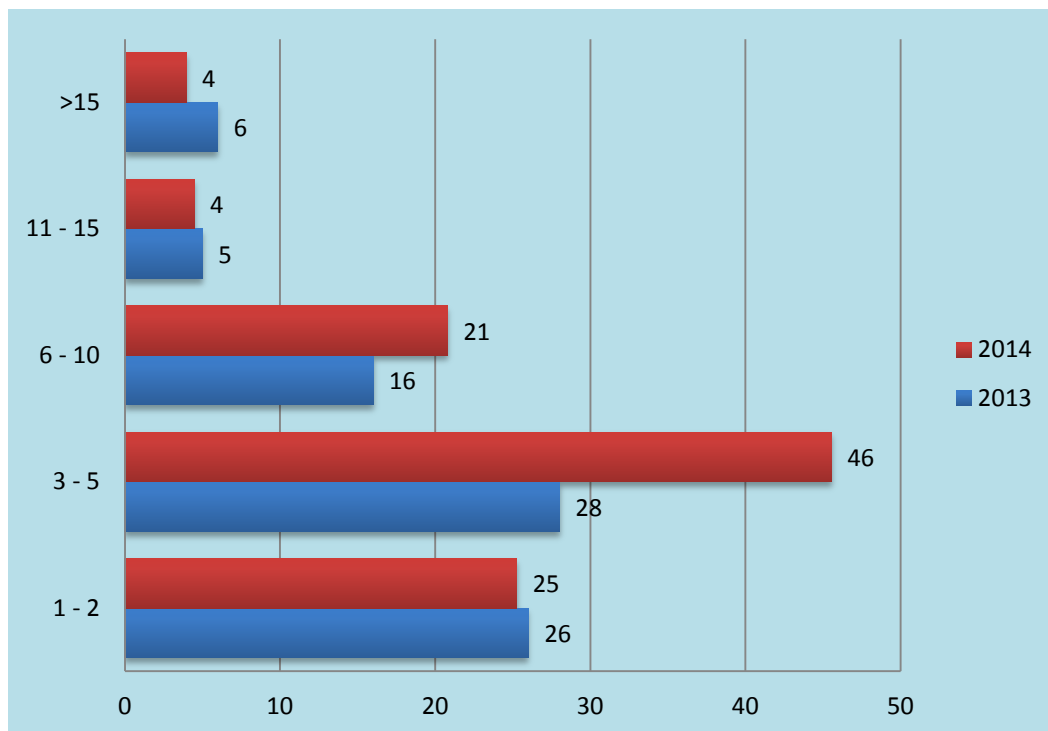
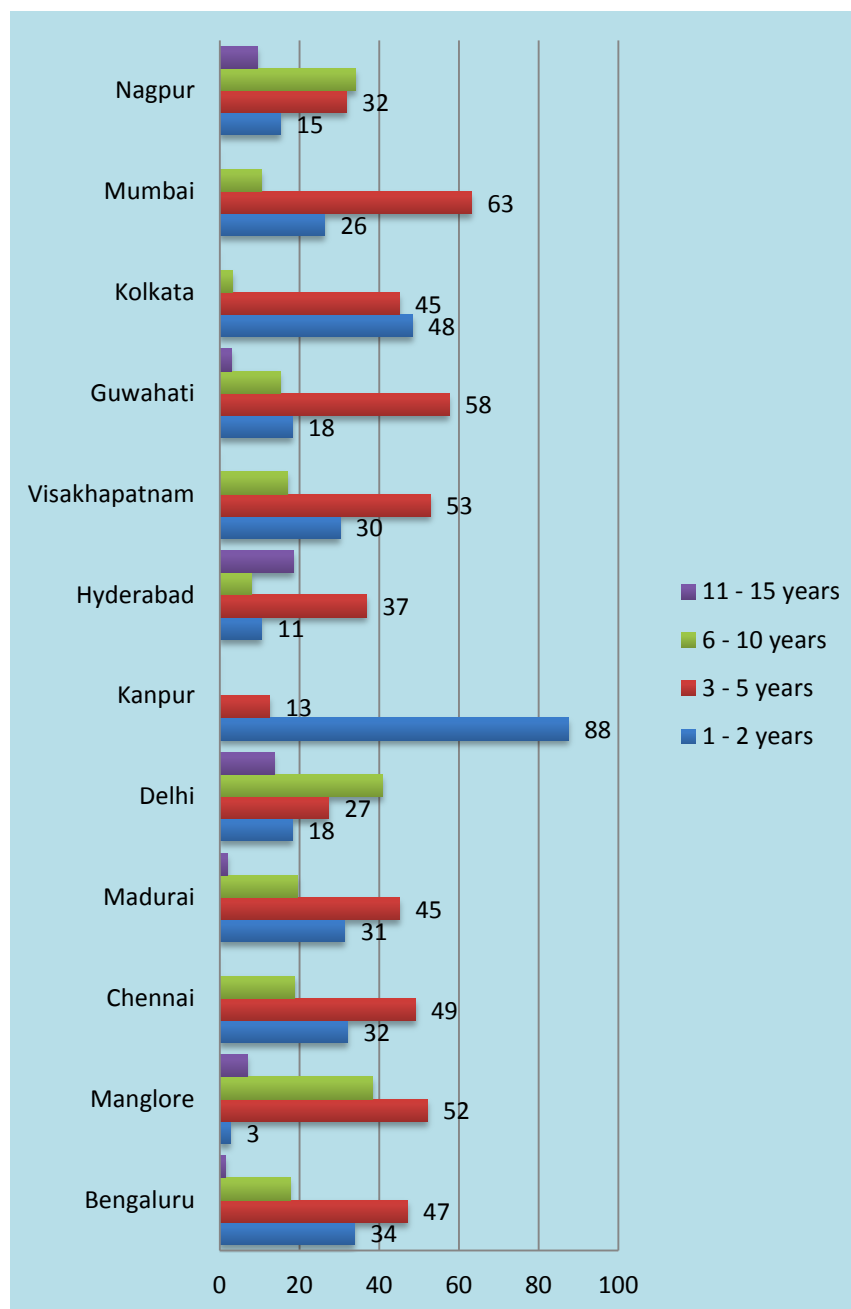


Fig 4.5b Duration of Facing Elder Abuse - National (Yearwise) %



The highest number of cases of abuse for the longest duration interval of abuse 11-15 years was reported from Hyderabad and Nagpur. Mumbai shows the highest incidence of 3-5 years.

Fig 4.5c Duration of abuse – Citywise (%)



FREQUENCY OF ABUSE

Of the elderly who faced abuse, 35% reported that they were abused at least ‘once a week’, 20% reported to have faced abuse ‘once a month’ and 17% reportedly faced it ‘almost daily’.

Fig 4.5d Frequency of Abuse– National (%)

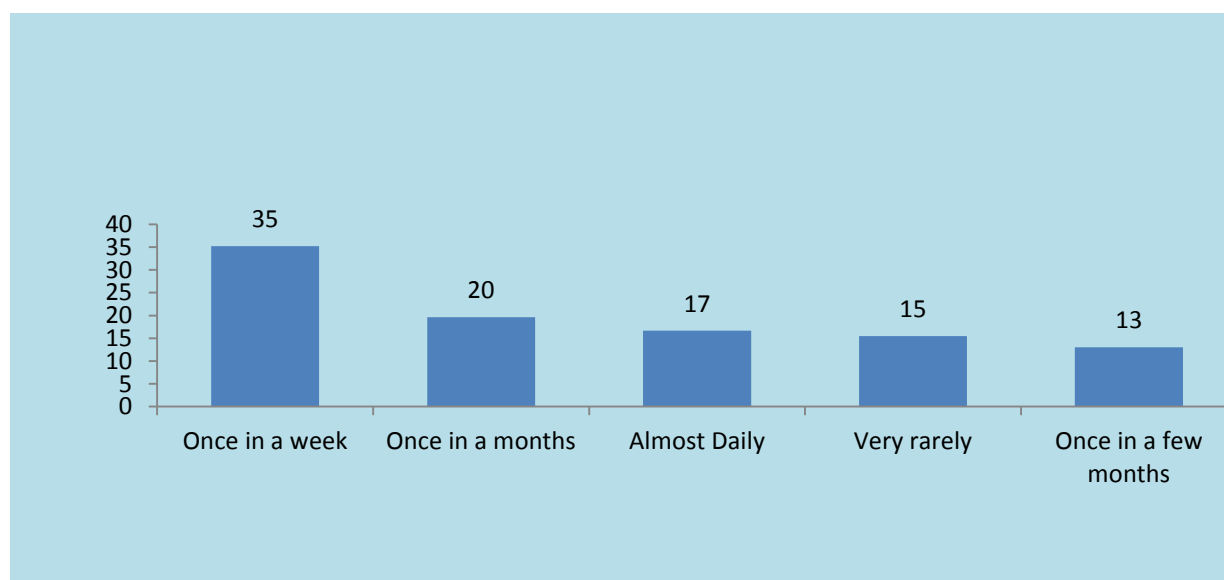
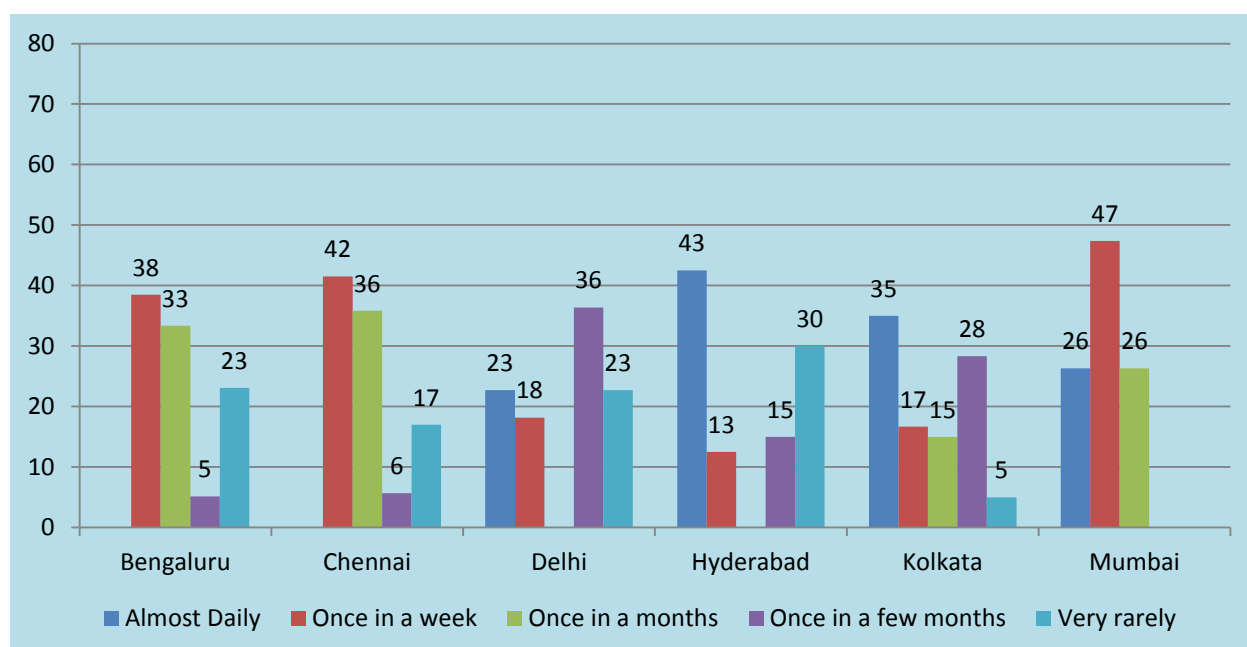
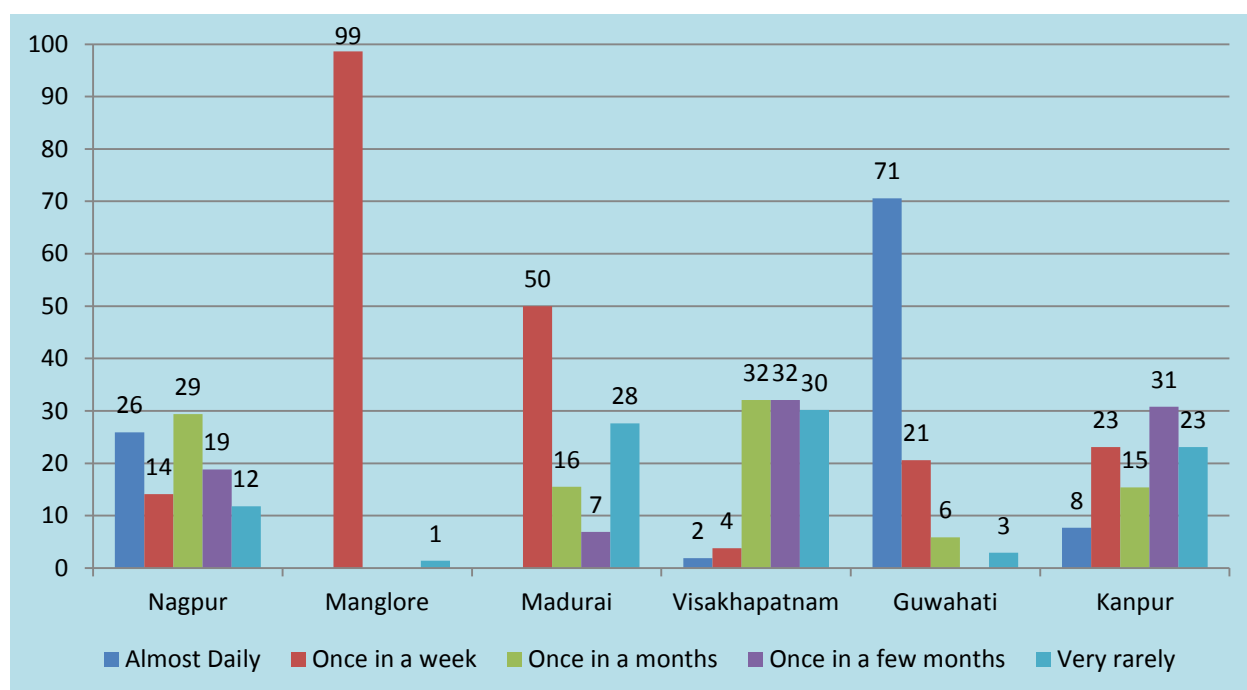


Fig 4.5e Frequency of Facing Elder Abuse – Tier I (%)



Elders who faced abuse ‘almost daily’ in Tier I cities, is highest in Hyderabad (42%) and lowest in Mumbai (26%). Those facing abuse ‘once a week’ are highest in Mumbai (47%) and lowest in Hyderabad (13%).

Fig 4.5f Frequency of Facing Abuse - Citywise (Tier II) %

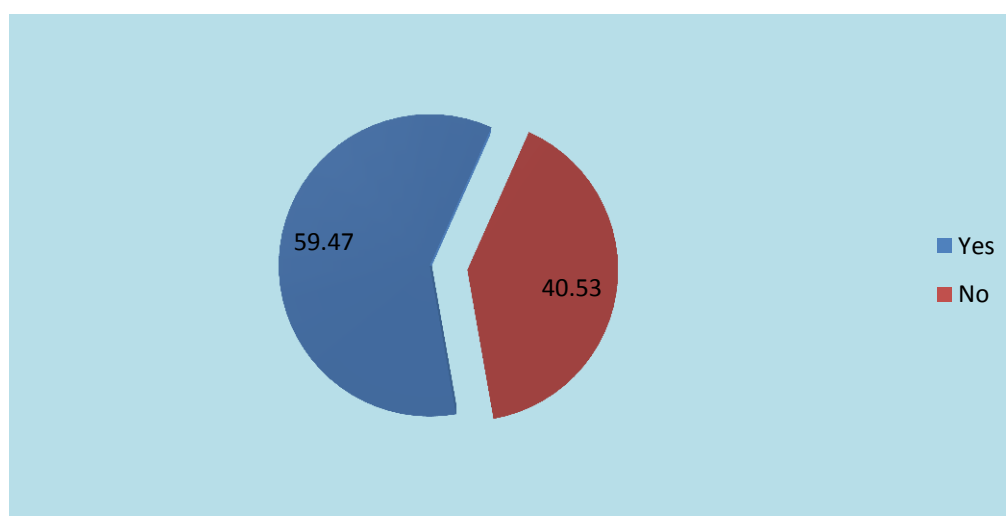


Elders who faced abuse ‘almost daily’ in Tier II cities, is highest in Guwahati (71%) and those facing abuse ‘once a week’ are highest in Mangalore (99%).

4.6 REPORTING OF ELDER ABUSE

Among those who experienced abuse, 41% did not report the abuse to anyone. Reporting of abuse is highest in Mangalore (88%) and lowest in Kolkata (12%).

Fig 4.6a Reporting of Abuse –National (%)



Though 2014 saw a substantial increase in the percentage of abuse from 23% to 50%; so does the reporting pattern from 30% to 59%.

Non-reporting of abuse

Fig 4.4a presents the not reported cases of abuse City & Yearwise. The percentage of elderly not reporting abuse has decreased in all cities except in Nagpur, Kanpur and Delhi. In fact, in Nagpur there is marked increase from 29% to 44%, whereas in Kanpur & Delhi there is marginal increase.

Kolkata has consistently recorded the highest percentage of non-reporting abuse that is 90% in 2013 and 88% in 2014. The sharpest decline was recorded in Vishakhapatnam from 73% to 19%.

Fig 4.6b Not Reporting Abuse - Citywise %

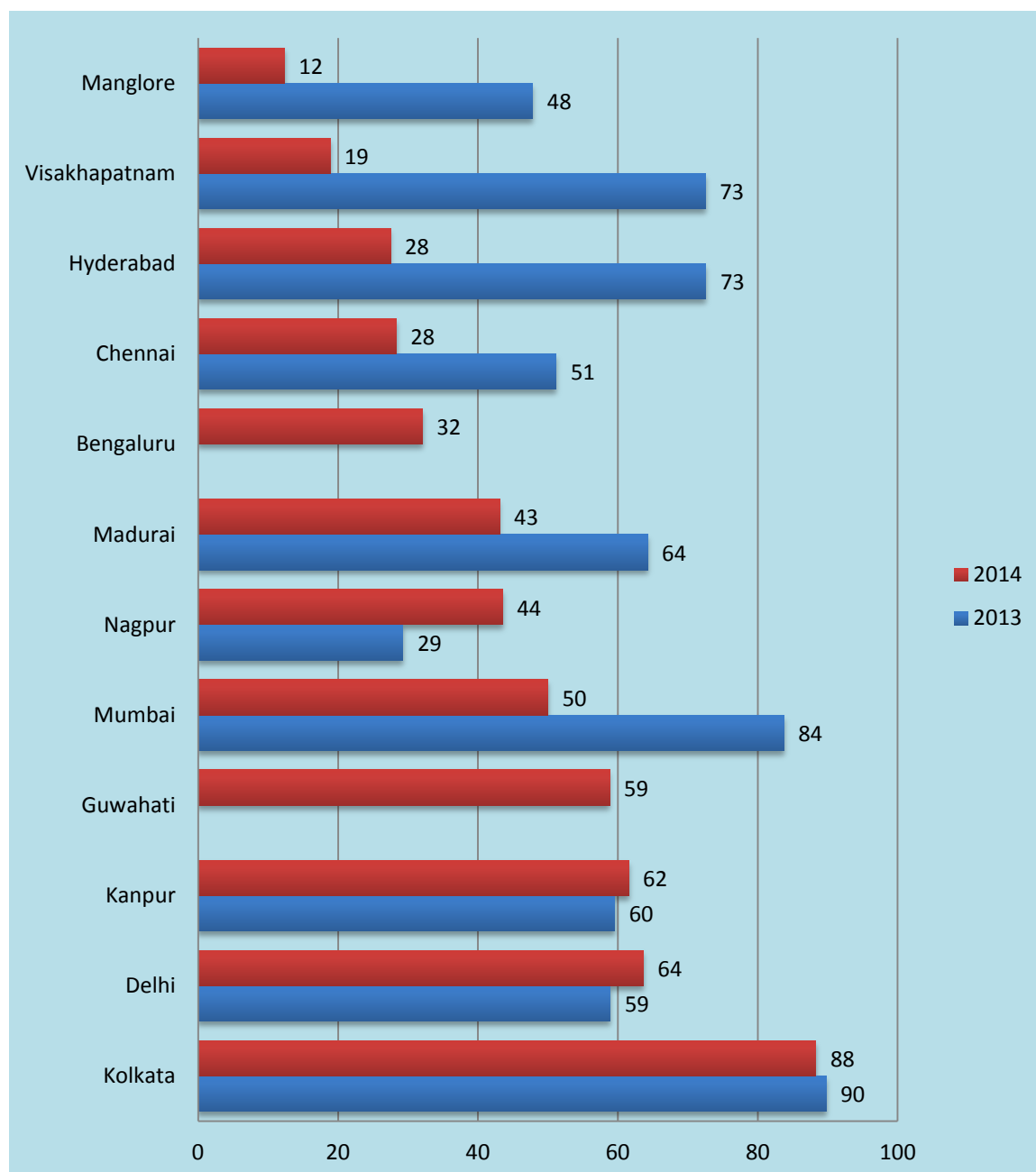
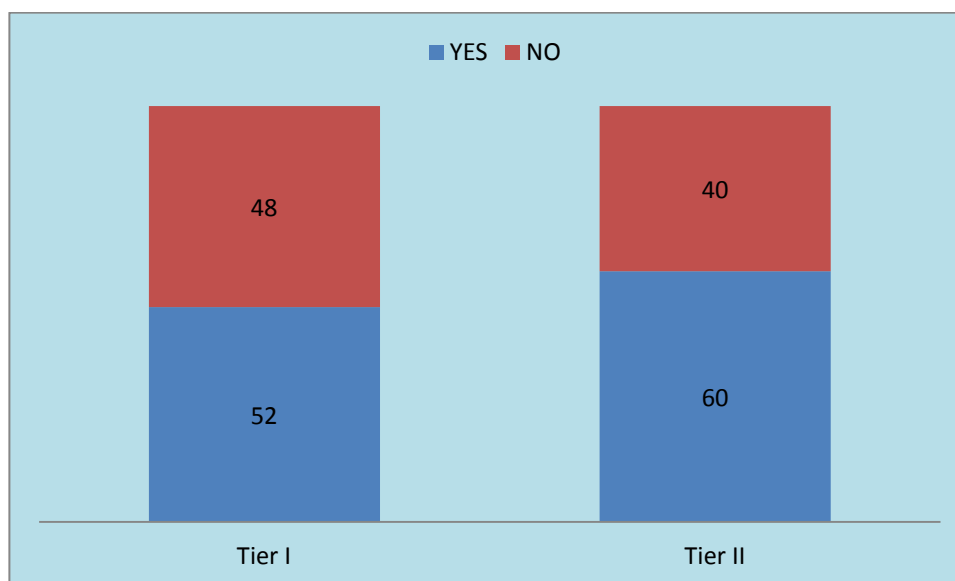


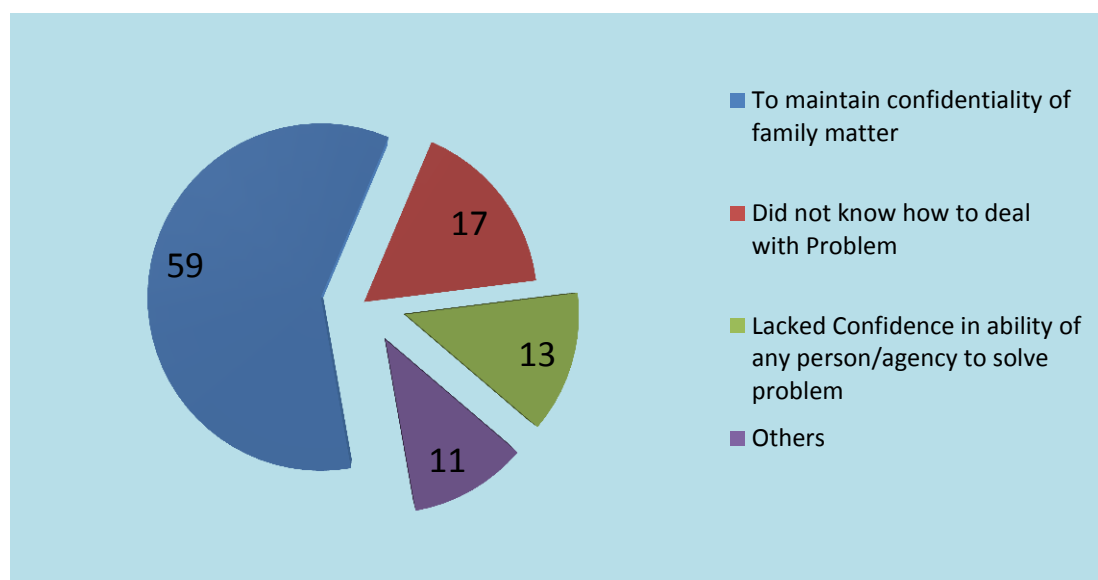
Fig 4.6c Reporting Abuse - National (Tier I & Tier II) %



Reasons for not reporting abuse

The elderly who were abused, but, did not report were asked about the reasons for the same. The majority stated that they wanted “To maintain confidentiality of family matter” (59%). 17 % “Did not know how to deal with the problem.”

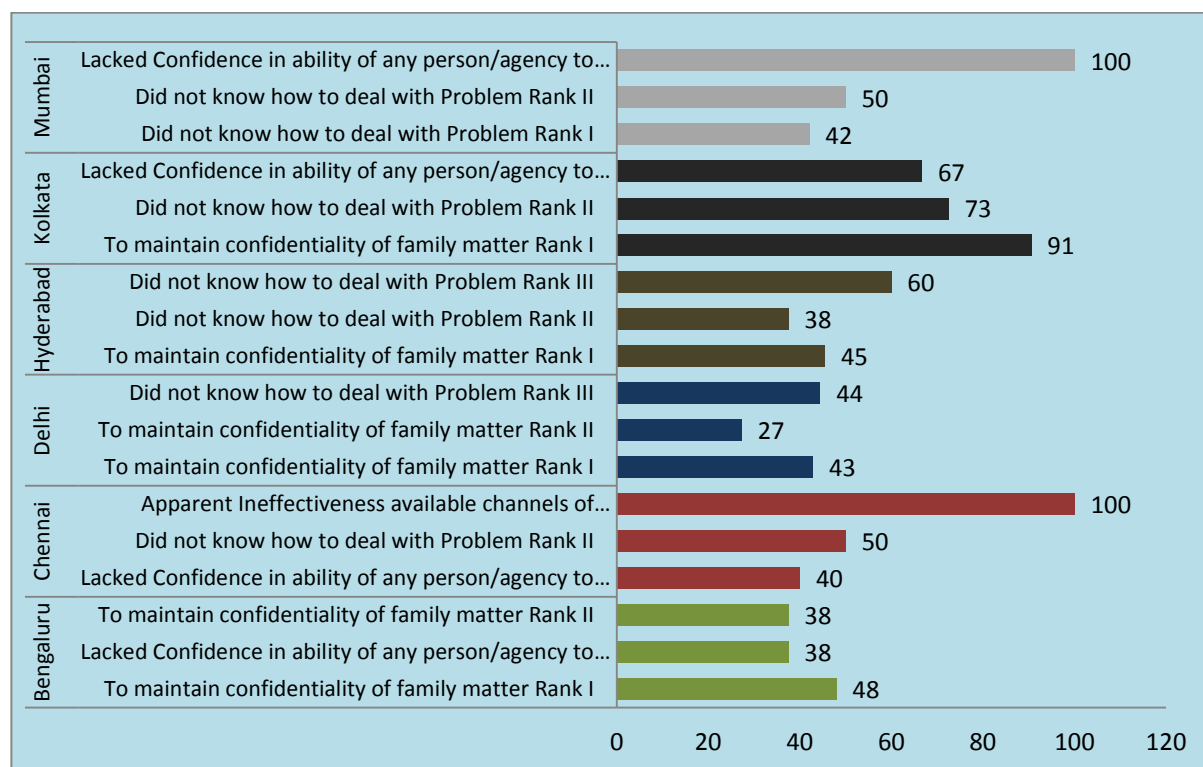
Fig 4.6d Reasons for not reporting Abuse – National (%)



**Others include apparent ineffectiveness of reporting and redressal channels, fear of retaliation and no responses*

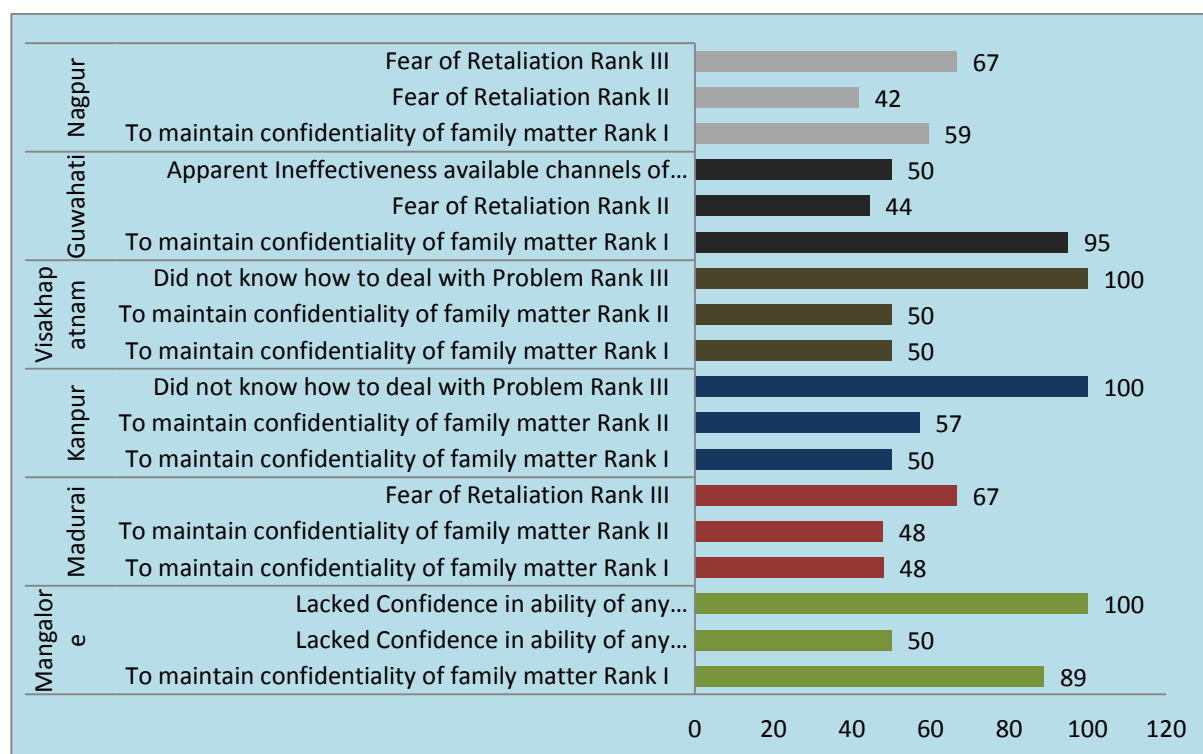
An interesting observation is that in Metro cities there is marked ‘lack of confidence in the any person or agency to deal with the problem’ and also there seems to be a general feeling of “did not know how to deal with the abuse”.

Fig 4.6e Reasons for not reporting – Citywise (Tier I) %



A new finding is that “Fear of retaliation” appears in 3 out of 6 Tier II cities, unlike the Tier I cities.

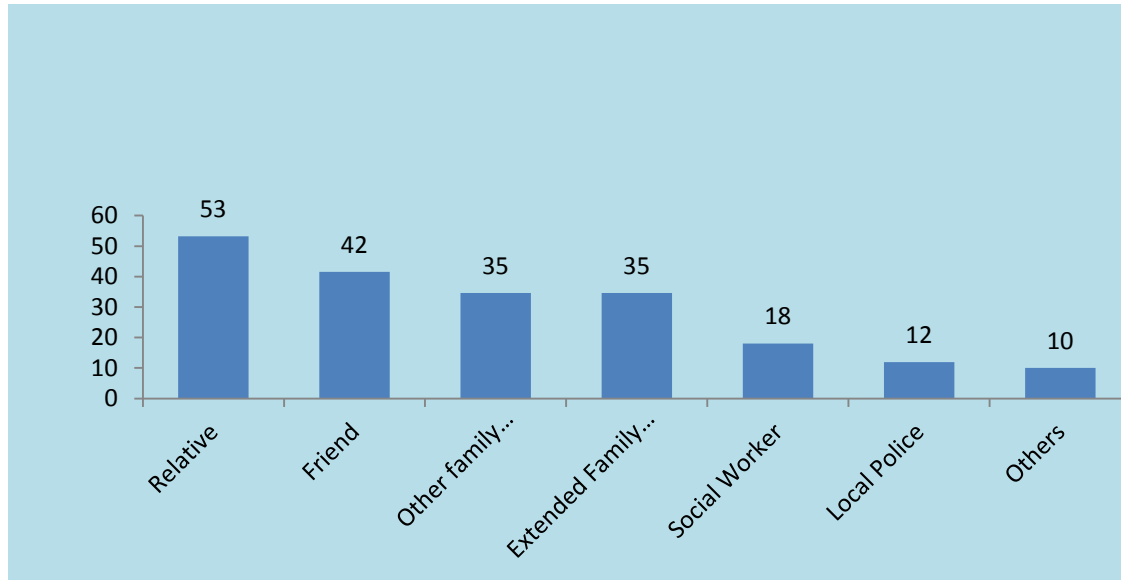
Fig 4.6f Reasons for not reporting – Citywise (Tier II) %



4.7 PERSONS APPROACHED TO REPORT ABUSE

Of those who were abused, 53% approached a relative, 42% approached their friends, while 35% approached either a family member or an extended family member to report the abuse.

Fig 4.7a Persons Approached to Report Abuse - National (%)



*Others Include NGO and Community

The following graph gives a detail of person or persons the abused approached to either report the abuse or seek counsel. The highest reporting to a relative is seen in Kolkata and Guwahati. The highest percentages of reporting to other family members are in Kanpur and Nagpur. Approaching a family member to report abuse was reported the most in Kanpur (80%). About 13% from Delhi reported that they have approached an NGO to report abuse.

Fig 4.7b Persons approached to report abuse – Citywise (Tier I) (%)

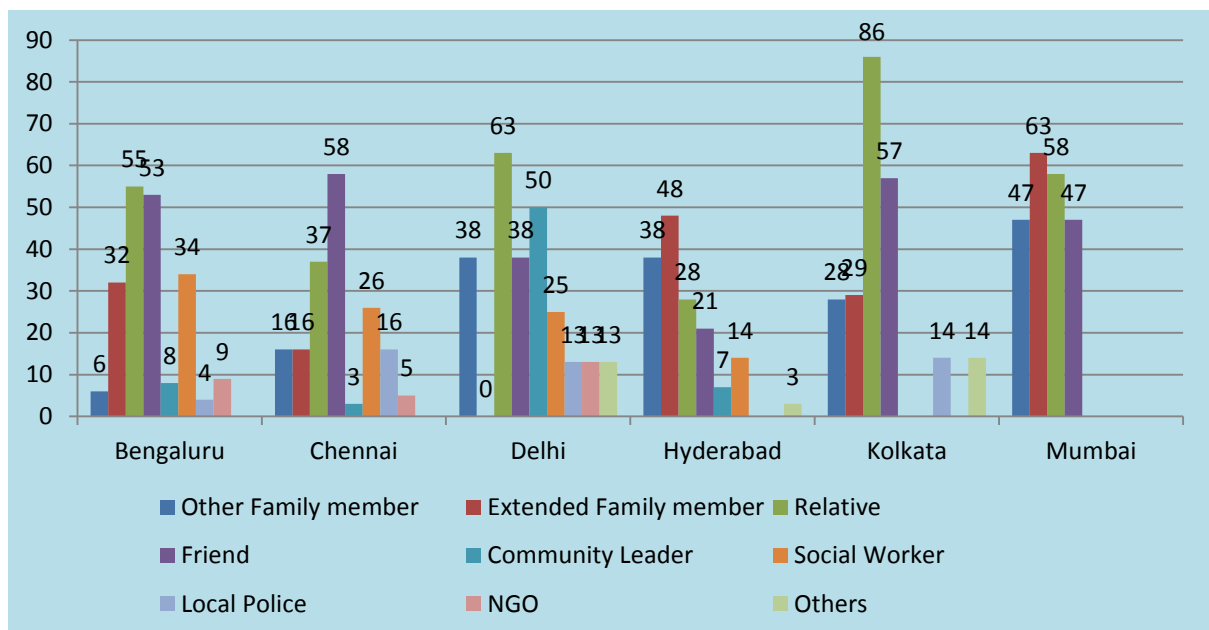
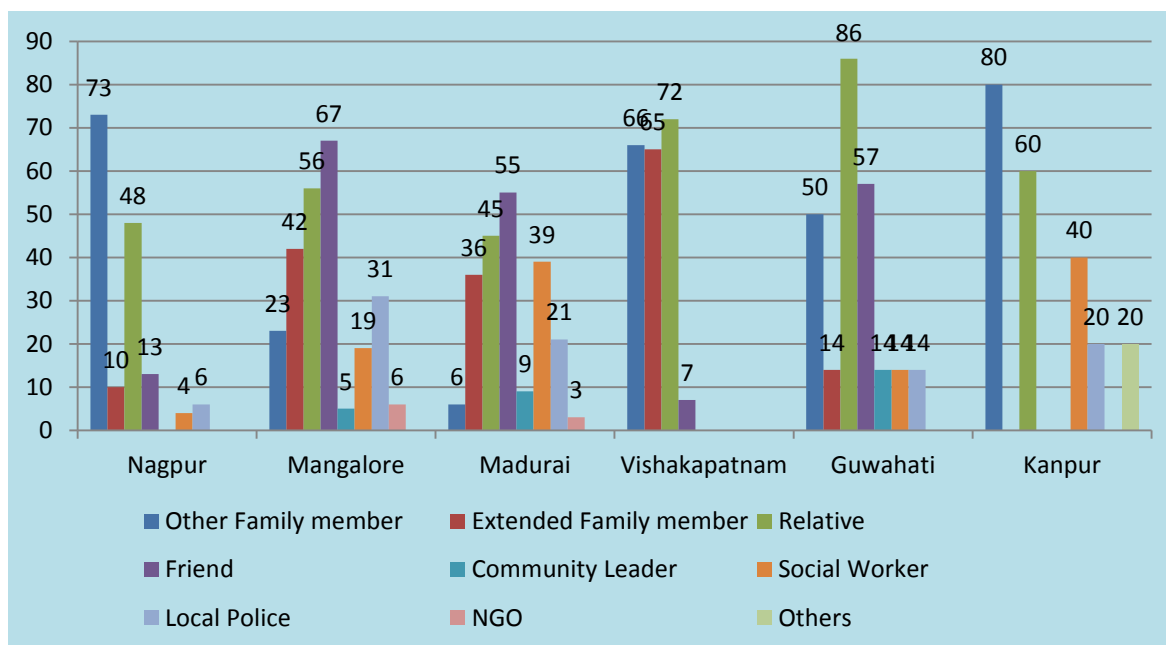


Fig 4.7c Persons approached to report abuse - Citywise (Tier II) %



4.8 AWARENESS OF VICTIMS ABOUT REDRESSAL MECHANISMS

The highest awareness of a Redressal Mechanism is the Police Helplines at 64%, 14% are aware of the Maintenance Act and 9% are even aware of the HelpAge India Elder Helplines. However, 18% are not aware of any mechanism.

Fig 4.8a Awareness of Victims of Abuse about Redressal Mechanisms - National (%)

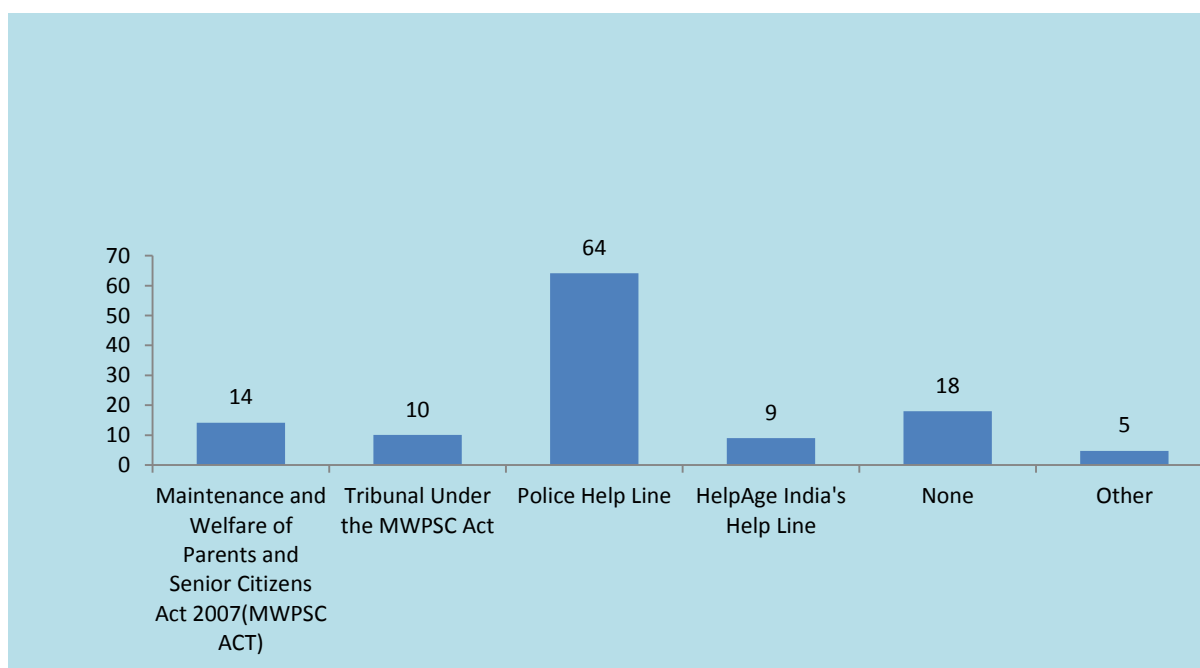


Fig 4.8b Awareness of Victims of Abuse about Redressal Mechanisms - Tier I (%)

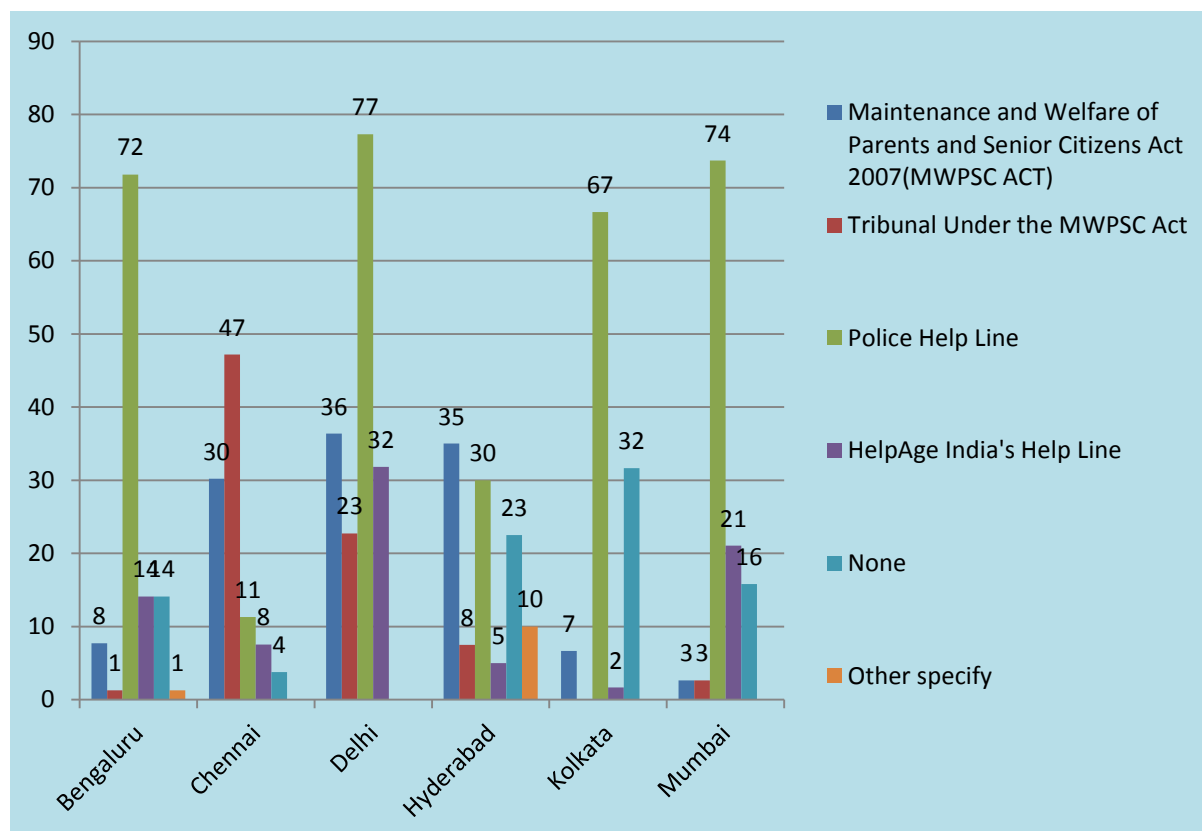
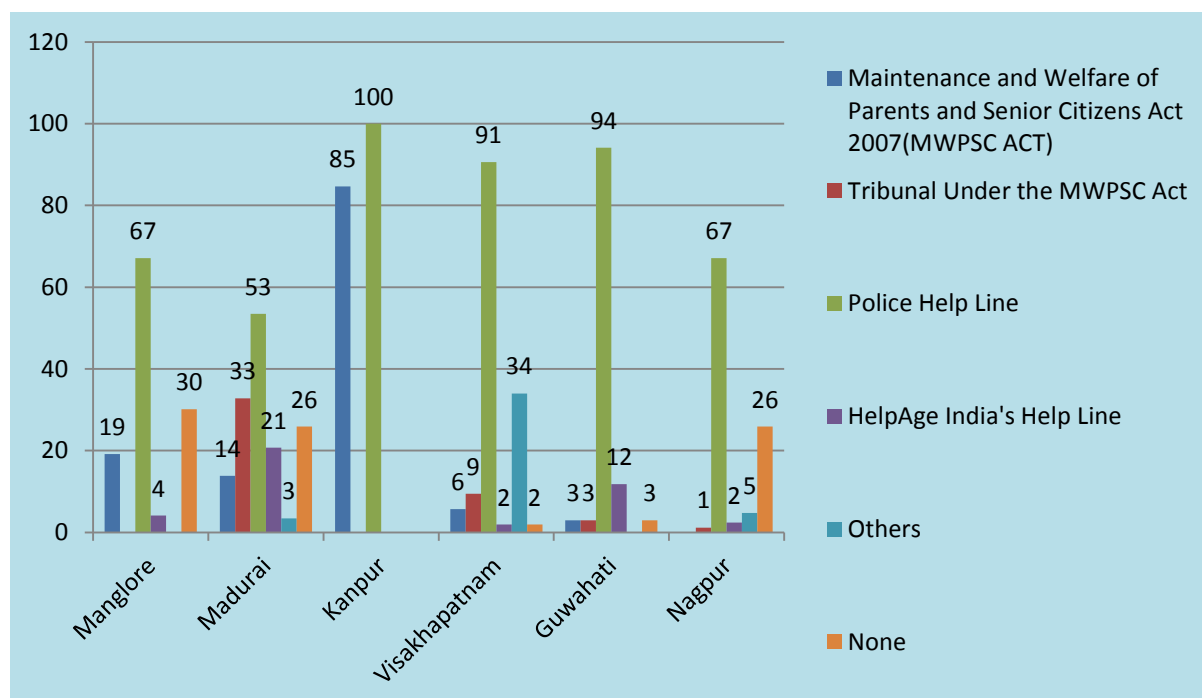


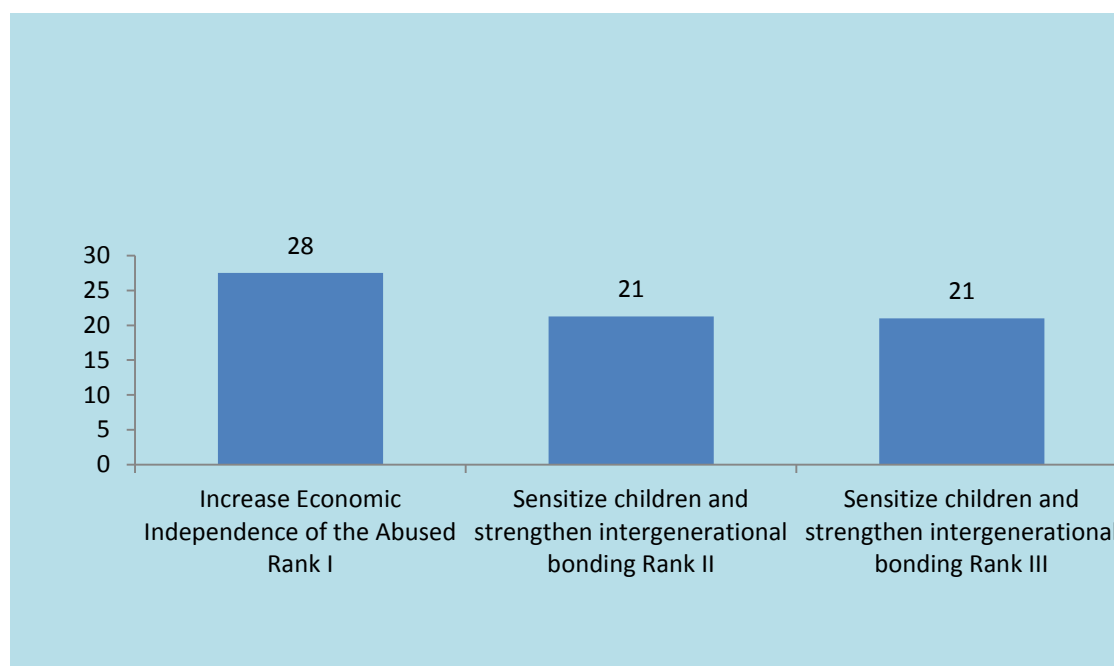
Fig 4.8c Awareness of Victims of Abuse about Redressal Mechanisms - Tier II (%)



4.9 EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH ABUSE AS PER VICTIMS

There is not much difference in the opinion of the victims on this issue. The effective measures identified this year, are similar to the ones identified in the previous years: ‘increasing economic independence of the victim’ and ‘sensitizing the younger generation’, when we look at the ranking of the top 3 choices.

Fig 4.9a Effective measures to deal with abuse as per victims – National (%)



**Figures given in percentages do not add up to 100 due to multiple responses*

However, there is one measure which is not reflected in the National Aggregate figure i.e. “Developing an effective legal reporting & redressal system” which is pointed out as an important step for effectively dealing with Elder Abuse by respondents in Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad & Kolkata in Tier I cities. Similarly amongst Tier II cities - Mangalore, Madurai & Kanpur, the victims stated the same.

Fig 4.9b Effective measures to deal with abuse as per victims – Citywise (Tier I) %

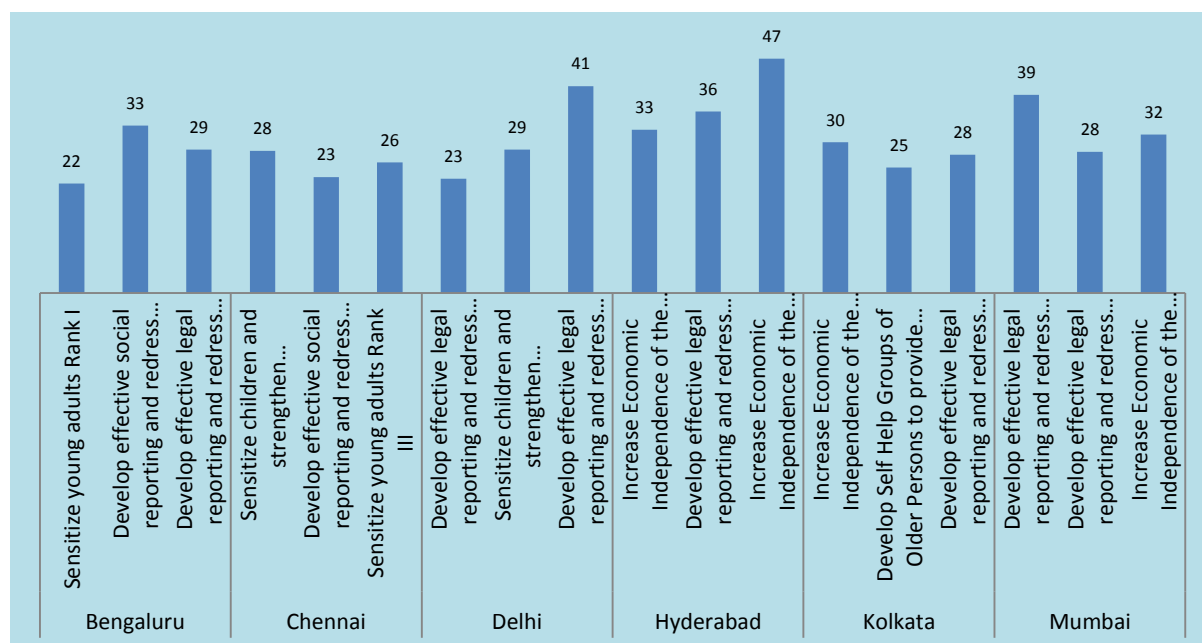
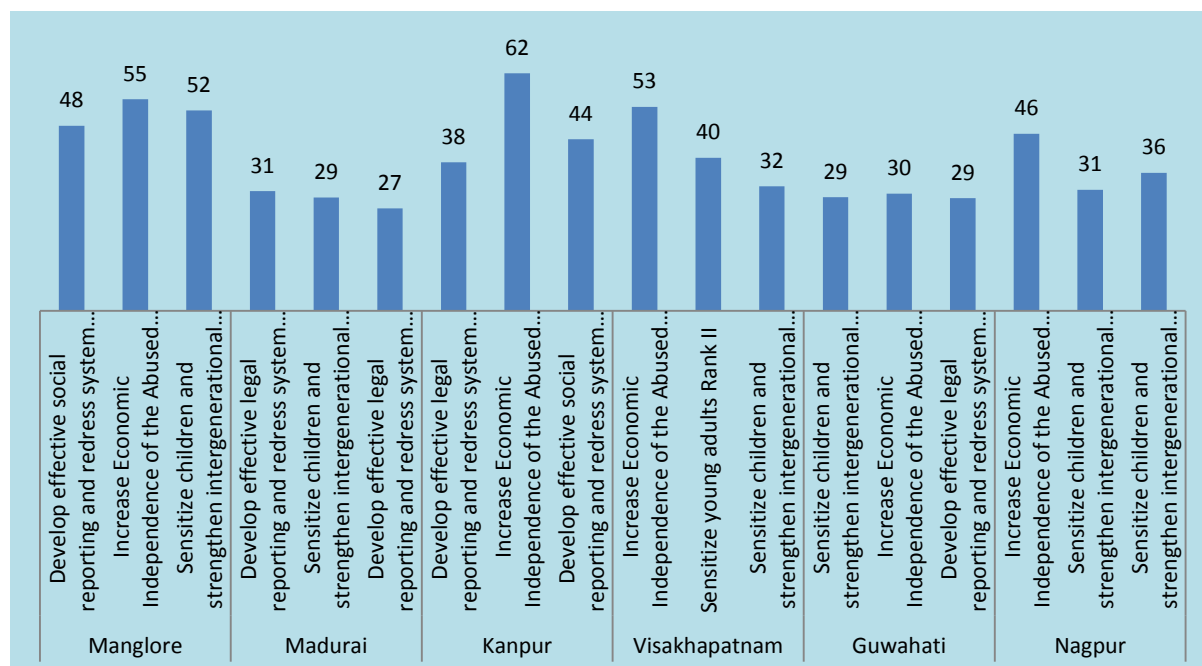


Fig.4.9c Effective measures to deal with abuse as per victims - Citywise (Tier II) %



Beaten in body, mind and spirit

The dark stories of Elder Abuse in India



1. From **Kolkata**: physical abuse over property

“My own Nephews beat me so brutally, that I couldn’t move out of bed for 7 days.”

Gautam Das (*name changed*), a well-educated 62 year old Commerce graduate, resident of Selimpur, Kolkata, currently works as an accountant with an NGO. He has a fixed steady income, lives in a joint family with his wife, son and families of his two brothers.

Life seemed idyllic till his newly married niece committed suicide. Das was blamed for having supported his niece’s decision to marry the man of her choice. From that day on, his brother and wife started blaming him as the main cause for their daughter’s death and his nephew with his friends took to beating him up. Das however suspects that the real reason is that they would like him to leave the ancestral home for the nephew to be able to hand it over to a promoter for developing the property.

After the first incident of severe beating, Das’s family visited the local police to register a Complaint. The Police went to house to speak to the nephews, but this did not have the desired effect. Subsequently some outsiders beat up Das, which he suspected, were at the behest of his nephews. In this case, Das could not get any help from the Police since there was no direct evidence against the nephews.

“My wife loves me the most; she feels for me and always tries to make me happy, she always tries to protect me from this family problem” says Das who considers his wife and son as his only pillars of support.

He feels the only solution to this problem of Elder Abuse is for an independent and efficient mechanism that will empower the elderly to fight this growing evil in society.

2. From **Kolkata**: physical abuse over property

“My daughter-in-law hits me with the end of a towel – it’s got worse since I willed my room to my daughter”

Malti (*name changed*), a 79 year old widow from Dhakuria, Kolkata has suffered from physical and verbal abuse from her daughter in law over a number of years. That she has borne it all these years is surprising as she has been an enterprising lady in her early years. She has been a field agent with a finance company, she is trained in sewing and has worked as a tailor. Even now, she has a rental income which is enough to buy her medicines. Both her sons with their wives and children live in the same house and while the elder son’s wife treats her well enough and provides her with food, the younger son’s wife is the one who maltreats Malti.

Once Malti’s husband passed away, she made a will to give her property to her daughter. This seemed to have enraged the younger daughter-in-law who took to abusing her verbally and physically ever since. Malti did try to seek help by approaching a government agency which looks into elders’ problems; however the agency proved ineffective and even the Police whom she also approached could not bring her any long lasting relief.

Today, Malti finds solace in writing poems and immersing her grief in these. Her emotional bonding with the family and her lack of adequate finances to afford a place in an old age home keeps her tied to a continuing abusive situation.

3. From **Delhi**: neglect due to financial dependence on son.

“My children neither give me food on time, nor money when I am sick”

Financial dependency on his son has driven Moti Lal (*name changed*), a 60 year old plumber from East Delhi to total despair.

It's not that he sits at home doing nothing; even at this age he goes around repairing water taps and earns some income which is not enough to meet his basic needs. As a result he has to depend on his son with whom he lives. This fact, Moti Lal feels, is what makes his son and daughter in law mistreat him. He is denied food on time and money for his medicines when he falls ill. What's worse is the attitude of his wife who taunts him for his lack of adequate income and causes him mental suffering.

Moti Lal blames his son for the abuse he has to suffer, all because of his financial dependency on him.

4. From **Delhi** – Economic exploitation by Abuser

“I earn and I am not financially dependent but my son takes my money for his drinks and abuses me”

Mohinder (*name changed*), 60 year old, from Laxmi Nagar in Delhi, is a rare case of being financially self-sufficient and yet suffering abuse. He has his own shop and an adequate income. Yet his troubles are not any different from the other seniors who suffer abuse at the hands of their son. He lives in his own house with both his sons and daughters in law. However, his elder son who works with him in his shop forcibly takes away the income and spends it all on drinking alcohol. To make matters worse, the son verbally abuses his father and is disrespectful to him. His daughter in law too behaves badly with him and Mohinder has none to depend on but his wife who is the only one to take care of him whenever he falls ill.

Mohinder tried to involve his sister in law to talk to his children and get them to change their behavior and that helped changed the situation to some extent. Mohinder however feels that only education to instil respect for elders and stricter laws can help those like him suffering abuse.

5. From **Chennai**: emotional abuse and abandonment

“At this age, our son left us alone. My wife and I cry over this.”

Manilingam (*name changed*) is a 76 year old from Kodambakkam in Chennai who regrets that he ever had a son. A retired railway pensioner, he and wife constantly suffered abuse at the hands of his daughter in law. His son refused to intervene on their behalf and the old couple found the situation unbearable. The son and daughter in law decided to leave the couple behind and went away to live on their own rather than care for the parents.

Today, the couple fend for themselves in spite of the fact that Manilingam finds it very difficult to walk and move on his own. Theirs is a lonely and dejected existence and they bemoan the fact the old is no longer

given any respect and care either by their own children or society. Educating children on age care values while they are in school is one way to bring about a change in mindsets, feels Manilingam.

6. From **Bengaluru**: economic exploitation by Abuser

“They want my money and so they abuse me”

Ramaiah (*name changed*), is a 67 year old from ITI Colony in Bengaluru. He has a rental income which is good enough to take care of his and his wife’s needs. However, his son and daughter in law want this money for themselves and constantly abuse the couple over it. Ramiah’s deteriorating health and the resultant medical expenses force him to keep the money to meet this need. This caused many a friction between him and his son and daughter in law so much so that the he and wife chose to live separately and face life by themselves.

His relatives were no help in resolving the issue as they merely laughed at Ramaiah’s family problems. Today, he finds solace in the fact that his wife is by his side.

7. From **Guwahati**: financial dependence of Abuser on elder

“My youngest son abuses me – he snatches the money I keep in my bag”

Malika (*name changed*) is a 61 year old widow who lives in the Mathgharia area of Guwahati. She is provided financial help by her two older sons, who though living on their own, provide for her. The sadness in her life comes from her youngest son who lives with her. An unemployed youth and an alcoholic, he is dependent on his mother for his expenses. When denied money, he shouts and abuses his mother. Malika finds all these deeply troubling.

At the root cause of this, Malika feels, is the fact that she is emotionally dependent on her children. This emotional dependency gets deeper with advancing age and it is this bond, Malika feels that keeps her tied to her son even though he is abusive to her.

8. From **Bengaluru**: abuse and abandonment due to financial dependence of abuser on abused

“I prefer loneliness to bearing abuse because of their greed for my late husband’s pension”

Uma (*name changed*), is a 61 year old woman from Malleshwaram locality of Bengaluru. When her husband passed away, his pension amount of Rs. 10,000 a month came to her. Her son and daughter-in-law would take away this money to meet their needs but when Lata would ask for some money to meet her medical expenses or other such basic requirements, she would be verbally abused. After suffering this unbearable situation for a few years, Lata picked up courage and moved out of the house to live on her own.

Today, she admits that she leads a lonely existence but prefers it to suffering endless days of abuse and ill treatment.

From **Nagpur**: verbal abuse because of financial dependence on abuser

“I am retired but have no pension; they abuse me as they think I have hidden my money”

Manoj Kumar (*name changed*) is a 62 year old living in Nagpur. He is verbally abused by his son and daughter in law simply because they suspect that he has hidden money which he is not sharing with them. On the other hand, the fact is an ex-employee of a private sector firm Manoj has no pension benefits and therefore has no income. He is totally dependent on his son for his upkeep and he and his wife are living with his son. His existence is full of verbal abuse from his son and daughter in law and has become so regular that he has to suffer it almost every other day.

Manoj finds himself totally helpless at this situation but sees no way out as he says that when his own son has turned against him, where else can he look for help. He strongly advocates that seniors should have their own finances so that they don't have to suffer his fate. He also urges the government to intervene with laws so that families are forced to take better care of their elders.

9. From **Kolkata**: neglect because of economic dependence of elder on brothers.

“In our society, old people are made to count their days to their end. It is their ‘economical weakness’ that makes them the most neglected creatures on earth”

The bitterness in 65 year old Keshav (*name changed*) is evident in the way he describes his current existence. This resident of Jadavpur in Kolkata recounts how he fell on bad times when he had to sell his shop due to his poor health and became dependent on his four brothers and their wives.

Once the money accrued from the sale of his shop ran out, Keshav's fate too changed. Though his wife cooked for the entire, large family, Keshav had to plead with the others for a fair share of food. Often, they were rebuked for doing so and told that they since they do not earn, they have no right to ask for more. His two sons who live separately are not well off either and so cannot help their parents with financial assistance, apart from some token amount once in a while. As a result, Keshav and his wife have had to suffer their miserable existence for the last 4 to 5 years. What's more, even requests for medicine or clothes are met with taunts of their impending deaths and termed a 'waste' on them.

The cynical indifference to their plight is evident in the fact that when Keshav's wife took ill and required surgery, none from his family came forward to contribute to the expense. Instead, he was told that as his wife was old, there was no reason why money should be 'wasted' on getting her to live longer. Ultimately, it was Keshav's plea to his local club and Councillor of his area that helped him to raise the money required so that his wife could undergo the surgery.

These experiences have left Keshav with the conclusion that “economic dependence” is the root cause why older people have to live out their years in abject misery.

10. From **Nagpur**: neglect and abuse by daughter-in-law

“My daughter-in-law considers me a burden... she even denies me food”

Lata Bai (*name changed*) is a 69 year old widow of Chandramani Nagar, Nagpur who lives with her son, daughter-in-law and their children. Her story is one of daily verbal abuse, handed out by her daughter-in-law. She says her daughter-in-law forces her to do all the house work and since she is slow at it because of her old age, she is verbally abused, and often there are fights. Lata Bai puts the blame on this on her daughter-in-law’s attitude towards her, considering her a burden and not a member of the family.

Today, she says she has no option but to live with it as she is emotionally tied to her grandchildren. She rues the fact that she knows no vocation that would have fetched her a income that would have enabled her to earn her living and live on her own.

11. From **Hyderabad**: emotional abuse

“Emotionally, I am completely attached to my family – yet I don’t receive a word of love or affection”

Her heart longs for a word of love, a gesture of care; but that is not what she receives, bemoans Dayavati (*name changed*), a 72 year old widow from the Kachiguda locality of Hyderabad. She lives with her son and daughter-in-law and their children.

Dayavati feels her daughter-in-law constantly upbraids her even if all that she is trying to do is to discipline her grandchildren on their behaviour. Sometimes, this disciplining is presented by the daughter-in-law as ‘beating’ to her husband. What bothers her is that her son would rather believe his wife rather than his mother.

Dayavati puts the blame for her state on her complete dependency on her son for all her financial needs.

12. From **Delhi**: neglect and deprived of food

“At my son’s place, I am given just two chapattis in a day”

Mansi Devi (*name changed*) is a 60 year old widow who lives with her son in a rented house in Uttam Nagar. She is illiterate and has no income of her own. Her daughter, whom Mansi describes as ‘mentally weak’, lives with them. She needs caring for, all of which is done by Mansi.

Mansi, in spite of her illiteracy, shows an understanding of the changing mores of society, where the old are no longer afforded respect or care. However, she is heart broken by the fact that their neglect starts with the denial of their daily food. She herself is given just two chapattis a day. Her mentally challenged daughter is too denied adequate food and her meagre income from her work is taken away from her. Mansi suffers from failing eyesight due to cataract but is not taken for any medical attention.

Often, Mansi is tempted to leave everything behind and just run away. However, it is her concern for her handicapped daughter and love for her granddaughters that keep her back.

13. From **Bengaluru**: financial dependence of Abused on Abuser (son)

“Our financial dependence on our son and daughter-in-law has turned us into their servants”

The pain in the voice of 68 year old Ramanna (*name changed*) is obvious as he reflects on his and his wives’ current plight. A resident of Langfort Town in Bengaluru, he was once a flower seller with his own income. His advancing years forced him to give up his occupation and forced him to move in with his son and daughter in law. What followed has been years of abuse at their hands.

Forced to do all the household chores at his son’s home, they bemoan the fact that they are not even allowed a moment’s respite to sit down and rest. They feel they are worse off than domestic servants. Ramanna finds it very humiliating that he is being refused money by his son and daughter in law to even meet some of his basic needs. Simple requests for money to buy gifts for their relatives when they want to go and visit them are turned down.

Today, Ramanna and his wife feel completely isolated as they forbidden by their son and daughter-in-law even to interact with their neighbours. This, feels the helpless Ramanna, is sheer mental torture.

14. From **Guwahati**: abuse and abandonment over property

“They wanted my property and ornaments – when I refused, they left home”

75 year old Numali (*name changed*), is a widow who lives on her own in the Piyali Phukan Nagar of Guwahati. She found herself left alone when she refused to part with her property and ornaments and hand them over to her elder son and daughter-in-law. They simply moved out of the house and left the old widow to survive on her meagre old age pension. The other son lives in another city, so Numali now faces life and ill health all by herself. She did try to get the local boys’ club to intercede with her son but when they tried to do that they were abused as well; so the old widow was left to fend for herself.

Today, she leads a fragile, lonely existence but is freed from being at the receiving end of verbal abuses from her son and daughter-in-law.

ANNEXURE 1

ELDER ABUSE STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE

ELDER ABUSE STUDY 2014	Questionnaire	April/ 2014/SRC
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City	1- Bengaluru ; 2-Mangalore ; 3-Chennai ; 4- Madurai; 5- Delhi ; 6-Kanpur; 7- Hyderabad; 8- Visakhapatnam 9- Guwahati; 10- Kolkata; 11- Mumbai; 12- Nagpur;	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px;"></div>
Locality		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div>
Gender	Male 1	Female 2
Name of respondent		
Date		
Address (COMPLETE ADDRESS)	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 15px;"></div>	

Name of Interviewer (INT): _____ **Name of Supervisor (SUP):** _____

FIELD CONTROL INFORMATION																	
	D	D	M	M	Y	Y	STARTING TIME										
FIRST VISIT INTV DATE							ENDING TIME										
SECOND VISIT INTV DATE							STARTING TIME										
							ENDING TIME										
SUPCODE							INT CODE					CHECKED CODE					
ACCOMPANIED CALL	Y	1	N	2			BY:CODE					SIGN					
SPOT/BACK CHECK	Y	1	N	2			BY:CODE					SIGN					
SCRUTINY:FIELD	Y	1	N	2			BY:CODE					SIGN					
ANALYSIS OBSERVATION: EXTENT OF PROBLEM							NO /MINOR 1 MILD 2 SEVERE 3										
SCRUTINY : ANALYSIS				YES1				NO.....2				BY :					

Informed Consent:

Namaste. My name is _____ and I am working with Sigma Research, a Social Research organisation. We are conducting a study for HELP AGE INDIA on ELDER ABUSE. By speaking with you today, we are hoping to learn more about the ELDER ABUSE. I want to emphasise that the information provided by you would be kept completely confidential and will only be used for programme purpose. The information will be securely stored and nobody outside the project team will have access to this information. The interview would take about 30 minutes. Before we begin, I would like to point out that there is no right or wrong answer. We are interested in your views, so please feel comfortable to say what you honestly feel like. Finally, I'd like to remind you that I am just an interviewer and not an expert on anything we discuss today, rather your views and opinions are most important to us.

Participation in this survey is voluntary and you may withdraw your participation any time. However we hope that you will take part since your participation is important. During the interview process if you are not able to understand any question please feel free to ask me to repeat. Are there any questions before we begin? Do you agree to participate in this study?

Agreed to participate.....1 **Does not agree to participate..... 2**

S. No.

101

SECTION 1

Details of Respondent

101a. Age(In completed years)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Years
101 b. Marital Status	Married	1	
	Widow	2	
	Widower	3	
	Divorced/Separated	4	
	Unmarried	5	
101 c. What is the highest educational level you have completed?	Illiterate	1	
	Primary (Up to class V)	2	
	Middle (Up to class VIII)	3	
	Matriculate (Up to class X)	4	
	Higher Secondary (Up to class XII)	5	
	Graduate	6	
	Post Graduate	7	
101 d. What is/was your occupation?	Unskilled Labour	1	
	Casual labour	2	
	Skilled Worker(carpenter, plumber, tailor)	3	
	Petty Trader(small shop, Hawker)	4	
	Government Service	5	
	Private Service	6	
	Retired from Private company	7	
	Retired from State Govt. Service	8	
	Retired Central Govt. Servant (PSU/Autonomous Organisation Under State/Central Govt./ Nationalised Bank/University/Hospital)	9	
	Self Employed Professional	10	
	Business	11	
	Home Maker	12	
	Others(Please specify)	90	
101 e. How much is your monthly Income (write approx amount)			
101 f. Ownership of House	Self-Owned-1 Others own-2 Rented-3	<input type="text"/>	
101 g. Living Arrangement –READ OUT	With family	<input type="text"/>	
	With spouse only	2	
	With Relative	3	
	Alone	4	
	Any Other	90	

Skip to
Q201

ASK ONLY IF LIVING WITH FAMILY – 1 CODED IN 101g


Q.102 Please provide details about the family members living with you.

(1) Sl.No.	(2) Relation with Respondent (DO NOT WRITE NAMES)	(3) Age(In completed years)	(4) Educational Status (see codes)	(5) Occupation (see codes)	(6) Monthly Income (write exact /approx amount)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					

Item	Code
(4) Educational Status	
Illiterate	1
Primary (Up to class V)	2
Middle (Up to class VIII)	3
Matriculate (Up to class X)	4
Higher Secondary (Up to class XII)	5
Graduate	6
Post Graduate	7

Item	Code
(5) Occupation	
Unskilled Labour	1
Casual labour	2
Skilled Worker(carpenter, plumber, tailor)	3
Petty Trader(small shop, Hawker)	4
Government Service	5
Private Service	6
Retired from Private company	7
Retired from State Govt. Service	8
Retired Central Govt. Servant (PSU/Autonomous Organisation Under State/Central Govt./ Nationalised Bank/University/Hospital)	9
Self Employed Professional	10
Business	11
Home Maker/Housewife	12
Unemployed	13
Student	14
Others(Please specify)	90

SECTION 2

Q No	Question	Coding Category		Skip
201	What according to you amounts to elder abuse? CIRCLE ALL RESPONSES AND RANK THEM STARTING WITH 1 AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE	Disrespect1 Beating/Slapping2 Verbally Abusing.....3 Economic Exploitation4 Unwelcome or forcible Sexual Contact5 Neglect.....6 Other(Pl Specify)7 Don't Know8	Rank	
202	Do you think that elder abuse in any form is prevalent in your society?	Yes.....1 No2		Q205
203	IF YES, what according to you is the prevalence of elder abuse? Is it --- (READ OUT RESPONSES)	High.....1 Somewhat2 Low.....3		

Q No	Question	Coding Category		Skip
204	What is the form in which elder abuse most prevalent? CIRCLE ALL RESPONSES AND RANK THEM STARTING WITH 1 AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE	Disrespect1 Beating/Slapping2 Verbally Abusing.....3 Economic Exploitation4 Unwelcome or forcible Sexual Contact5 Neglect.....6 Other(Specify)7 Don't Know8	Rank	
205	Have you ever been a victim of elder abuse?	Yes.....1 No2	→	Q215
206	IF YES, what type of abuse did you face? CIRCLE ALL RESPONSES AND RANK THEM STARTING WITH 1 AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE	Disrespect1 Beating/Slapping2 Verbally Abusing.....3 Economic Exploitation4 Unwelcome or forcible Sexual Contact5 Neglect.....6 Other(Specify)8	Rank	
207	Why do you think you were abused? PROBE. MULTIPLE RESPONSE POSSIBLE	Economic dependence on the abuser1 Economic dependence of the abuser.....2 Emotional dependence on the abuser3 Lack of effective legal deterrents4 Changing Ethos5 Increased longevity and need for care of older persons6 Other (specify)7		
207a	Can you provide details to illustrate this?			
208	For how long have you been facing abuse? Please give details of duration. RECORD DURATION. RECORD 00 IF LESS THAN ONE YEAR	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 30px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 30px;"></div> <div>YEARS</div> </div>		
209	In the last one year, how many times did you face abuse ? Give details of type of abuse faced along with frequency	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> Frequency </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> Type of Abuse (can use answers in Q206) </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> Almost Daily.....1 Once in a Week.....2 Once in a month.....3 Once in a few months...4 Very rarely.....5 </div> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> </div>		

Q No	Question	Coding Category		Skip
210	Who was responsible for the abuse? MULTIPLE RESPONSE POSSIBLE	Son.....1 Daughter-in-law.....2 Daughter.....3 Son-in-law.....4 Relative(Specify).....5 Care Giver/Servant.....6 Other (specify).....7		
211	Have you made any attempt to report these incidents?	Yes.....1 No.....2	→	Q214
212	IF YES, whom did you approach? PLEASE CIRICLE ALL THE GIVEN STATEMENTS AND THEN RANK THEM STARTING WITH 1 AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE.	Other family Member.....1 Extended Family Member.....2 Relative.....3 Friend.....4 Community Leader.....5 Social Worker.....6 Local Police.....7 NGO.....8 Other (Specify).....9	Rank	
213	Why did you approach that particular person/agency? CIRICLE ALL RESPONSES AND RANK THEM STARTING WITH 1 AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE	Confidence in the ability of the person/ agency to solve the problem.....1 Did not know any other way to deal with the problem.....2 To maintain confidentiality of the family matter.....3 Apparent Ineffectiveness of other ways and means.....4 Other(Specify).....5	Rank	

Q No	Question	Coding Category		Skip
214	ASK IF NO CODED IN Q211, You said that you did not report the matter. Please give reasons for not reporting. CIRCLE ALL RESPONSES AND THEN RANK THEM STARTING WITH 1 AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE	Lacked Confidence in ability of any person/agency to solve problem.....1 Did not know how to deal with Problem2 To maintain confidentiality of family matter3 Apparent Ineffectiveness available channels of reporting and redress4 Fear of Retaliation5 Other(Specify)6	Rank	
215	Have you come across cases of elder abuse in your surroundings?	Yes.....1 No2	⇒	Q218
216	IF YES IN Q215, please specify the type of abuse you have noticed. CIRCLE ALL RESPONSES AND THEN RANK THEM STARTING WITH 1 AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE	Disrespect1 Beating/Slapping2 Verbally Abusing.....3 Economic Exploitation4 Unwelcome or forcible Sexual Contact5 Neglect.....6 All those mentioned.....7 Other(Specify)8	Rank	
217	What do you think are the possible reason for such kind of elder abuse in the area? CIRCLE ALL RESPONSES AND THEN RANK THEM STARTING WITH 1 AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE	Economic dependence of the abused1 Economic dependence of the abuser.....2 Emotional dependence of the abused.....3 Lack of adjustment4 Increasing Longevity5 Care Giver's Stress6 Other(Specify)7	Rank	

Q No	Question	Coding Category		Skip
218	How can we deal effectively with elder abuse? CIRCLE ALL RESPONSES AND THEN RANK THEM STARTING WITH 1 AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE	Increase Economic Independence of the Abused.....1 Develop effective legal reporting and redress system2 Develop effective social reporting and redress system.....3 Sensitize children and strengthen intergenerational bonding4 Sensitize Young Adults5 Develop Self Help Groups of Older Persons to provide assistance and intervention6 Other(Specify)7	Rank	
219	Are you aware of the following reporting and redress mechanism? CIRCLE THOSE WHICH HE/SHE RESPONDS TO BE AWARE OF. IF RESPONDENT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY WRITE “NONE” IN OPTION: ANY OTHER.....5	Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007(MWPSC Act)1 Tribunal Under the MWPSC Act)2 Police Help Line3 HelpAge India’s Help Line.....4 Other(Specify)5		

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
COMMENTS OF INTERVIEWER/SUPERVISOR

--THANK AND CLOSE--

ANNEXURE 2

SUMMARY OF MAINTENANCE & WELFARE OF PARENTS & SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2007

MAINTENANCE & WELFARE OF PARENTS & SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2007

BACKGROUND:

Socio-cultural scenario:

In the traditional Indian system elderly were respected and they had a great decision making power in the family. Children felt duty bound to serve and respect the elderly and to contribute to the family resources. Children sought the counsel of elders for making major decisions and placed family resources at the disposal of elders for prudent handling.

During the last century this socio economic and value system has slowly eroded. More and more couples are working full time, families have become smaller and nuclear, and migration and consumerism have become the order of the day. At the same time, life expectancy of the elderly has gone up from 32 years in 1947 to 67 years in 2001. All these factors cause pressures on families resulting in abuse, neglect and abandonment of the elderly. While most elderly are well looked after, many suffer from poverty, loneliness, neglect, abuse and abandonment and find it difficult to mobilise resources for their most basic needs as their children are either unable or unwilling to maintain them. Problem of widows, widowers and the childless elderly is even more acute.

Legal provisions:

All Indian citizens are entitled to fundamental rights guaranteed to them by the Indian Constitution. Senior citizens are no exception. They are also entitled to fundamental rights to life and personal liberty, freedom of speech and equality before law but these rights are often difficult for them to achieve for a variety of reasons.

Most personal laws including the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 recognise duty of the children to maintain their aged parents and the right of the parents to maintenance. Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 specifically provides for maintenance from children if parents are unable to maintain themselves but cases are rarely filed by parents due to love and affection, fear of stigma and time and money required for the legal proceedings. A need has been felt for long for a simpler and faster means and HelpAge India, as part of its work for the cause and care of the elderly, has been advocating for provision of care and maintenance of the elderly amongst other measures.

MAINTENANCE & WELFARE OF PARENTS & SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2007

Government has come to the rescue of the elderly and has brought about “An Act to provide for more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens guaranteed and recognised under the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.” as follows

Title of the Act: “The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007”.

Applicability: “It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir and it applies also to citizens of India outside India.”

Effective Date: The Act shall come into force in a State from the date fixed and notified by the concerned State Government in the Official Gazette.

Provisions:

The Act has provisions detailed under the following chapters:

- I. Definitions
- II. Maintenance of Parents & Senior Citizens
- III. Establishment of Old Age Homes
- IV. Medical Care
- V. Protection of Life and Property
- VI. Offences

Summary of the Provisions:**Who is a Senior Citizen, Parent, Child or Relative under the Act?**

“Senior citizen” is any citizen of India of 60 years and above whether living in India or not.

“Parent” is the father or mother even if not of 60 years yet.

“Children” are adult son, daughter, grandson and grand-daughter

“Relatives” are those who are either in possession of the property of the senior citizen or would inherit it.

Who can demand maintenance under the Act?

Parents and grandparents who are unable to maintain themselves from their own income can demand maintenance from their children as defined above.

and

“Childless Senior Citizens” who are unable to maintain themselves from their own income can demand maintenance from their relatives as defined above.

What is Maintenance?

Maintenance includes provision for food, clothing, residence, medical attendance and treatment. Maximum amount which may be ordered for maintenance of a senior citizen by the Tribunal shall be such as prescribed by the State Government which shall not exceed Rs. 10,000/- per month.

Who is entitled to Maintenance?

Parents, grand-parents and senior citizens who are unable to maintain themselves from their own income and property are entitled to demand maintenance from their children and specified relatives respectively with sufficient means.

Whose obligation is it to maintain the elderly?

It is the obligation of the children and specified relatives with sufficient means to provide maintenance for their parents and childless senior citizen respectively.

How is an Application for Maintenance made and decided?

Application for maintenance may be made by the senior citizen or parent to the Tribunal under Section 4 in layperson's language giving names, full details and addresses of the persons from whom they are demanding maintenance. If there is more than one child or relative, they may claim maintenance from one or all of them depending on their means of income.

Maintenance proceedings may be initiated against any child/children or relative in any district where the parent or senior citizen lives or last lived or where the child/children or relative live.

If such applicants are **incapable** of making an application themselves, any other person or registered voluntary organization authorised by him/her can make the application or the Tribunal can take *suomotu* cognizance and proceed. Upon receipt of the application, the Tribunal would issue notices to the children, conduct hearings, take evidence and order maintenance. Tribunal may also refer the case for reconciliation or pass interim orders for maintenance.

If the children or relatives fail to pay the ordered maintenance without sufficient reason for 3 months after its due date, the senior citizen can approach the Tribunal again who may impose a fine or order imprisonment of the child/relative up to a month or until payment is made whichever is earlier.

What if the elderly themselves and their children and specified relatives do not have sufficient means to maintain them?

State Governments may establish, in a phased manner, sufficient senior citizen homes and maintain the same for indigent or abandoned and neglected (by their kith and kin) beginning with at least one Old Age Home in each district sufficient to accommodate a minimum of 150 elderly. State Government may also prescribe scheme for management of old age homes, set standards and prescribe minimum services for medical care and entertainment of the elderly in the Old Age Homes.

Abandonment:

Under Section 24, if anybody who has responsibility for the care or protection of a senior citizen leaves him/her in any place, with the intention of wholly abandoning him/her, such person shall be punishable under the Act with imprisonment of either three months or fine up to Rs. 5,000 or both. The offence would be cognizable and will be tried by a Magistrate.

Conditional Transfer of Property:

An important provision has been made for the elderly to claim their property back from children, if given conditionally after commencement of the Act on promise of looking after their needs and amenities if such promise is not fulfilled. Under Section 23, if after commencement of the act any Parents or senior citizens have transferred their property to their children or relatives on the condition that they would provide certain maintenance and amenities to the senior citizen but subsequently neglect or refuse to do so the parents or senior citizens can get such transfers voided (cancelled) at their option by having such transfer treated as a fraudulent or coercive acquisition and seek return of their property so transferred.

Government's Role:

- Constitution of Maintenance Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals by the State Governments in all Sub Divisions and States within 6 months of commencement of this Act
- State Governments may make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Act by notification in the Official Gazette.
- Summary trials by the Tribunals for passing orders for maintenance.
- Lawyers excluded from the proceedings.

- Elderly can choose to seek maintenance either under this Act or under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code 1973 if applicable but not under both the provisions.
- “No Civil Court to have jurisdiction in respect of any matter to which any provision of this Act applies
- No injunction shall be granted by any Civil Court in respect of anything which is done or intended to be done by or under this Act.” (Section 27)
- State Govt. to designate District Social Welfare Officer or an equivalent officer as Maintenance Officer.
- Maintenance Officer can represent a parent or senior citizen if he/she wants.
- State Government may establish and maintain sufficient senior citizen homes for indigent or abandoned and neglected (by their kith and kin) beginning with one in each district sufficient to house 150 elderly.
- State Government may prescribe a scheme for management of old age homes, setting standards and minimum services necessary for medical care and entertainment of the elderly
- State Government to establish specific medical facilities, allocate doctors/hospital beds, expand treatment for chronic, terminal and degenerative diseases and conduct research on ailments of the elderly and ageing.
- State Government to take all measures to sensitise and orient the police and judiciary regarding protection of life and property of the elderly and provisions of this act

This is a model Legislation passed by the Central Government for adaptation and application by the States. The Act will apply in a State from the date fixed and notified by the State in the official gazette.

For a full copy of the act kindly log onto the website of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: <http://socialjustice.nic.in/oldageact.php>

ANNEXURE 3

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS UPDATE OF MAINTENANCE OF PARENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACT

Implementation Status Update of Maintenance of parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007²

(i) States/ UTs which have taken all the necessary steps

14 States			
Assam	Bihar	Chhattisgarh	Goa
Gujarat	Haryana	Karnataka	Kerala
Madhya Pradesh	Odisha	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
Tripura	West Bengal		
5 UTs			
A & N Islands	Chandigarh	Daman & Diu	Delhi
Puducherry			

(ii) States/ UTs yet to take all the necessary steps

3 States			
Mizoram	Nagaland	Uttar Pradesh	
1 UT			
Lakshadweep			

(iii) States/ UTs which have framed Rules

18 States			
Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Chhattisgarh
Goa	Gujarat	Haryana	Karnataka
Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Manipur
Odisha	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu	Tripura
Uttarakhand	West Bengal		
5 UTs			
A & N Islands	Chandigarh	Daman & Diu	Delhi
Puducherry			

(iv) States/ UTs which have appointed Maintenance Officers

19 States			
Assam	Bihar	Chhattisgarh	Goa
Gujarat	Haryana	Jharkhand	Karnataka
Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Manipur	Meghalaya
Odisha	Punjab	Rajasthan	Sikkim

² Data shared by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in November 2012 at the National Conference on Ageing

Tamil Nadu	Tripura	West Bengal	
6 UTs			
A & N Islands	Chandigarh	Daman & Diu	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Delhi	Puducherry		

(v) States/UTs which have constituted Maintenance Tribunals

19 States			
Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Chhattisgarh
Goa	Gujarat	Haryana	Jharkhand
Karnataka	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Orissa
Punjab	Rajasthan	Sikkim	Tamil Nadu
Tripura	Uttarakhand	West Bengal	
5 UTs			
A & N Islands	Chandigarh	Daman & Diu	Delhi
Puducherry			

(vi) States/UTs which have constituted Appellate Tribunals

19 States			
Andhra Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Bihar	Chhattisgarh
Goa	Gujarat	Haryana	Jharkhand
Karnataka	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Meghalaya
Orissa	Punjab	Rajasthan	Sikkim
Tamil Nadu	Tripura	West Bengal	
6 UTs			
A & N Islands	Chandigarh	Daman & Diu	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Delhi	Puducherry		

Status of Implementation of MWPSA Act as on 31.03.2013³

S. No.	Steps in implementation of the Act	No. of States/UTs which have taken the steps
1.	Notification	26 States and 7 UTs
2.	Taken All Consequential Steps under the Act	15 States & 6 UTs
(i)	Rules Framed under the Act	19 States and 6 UTs
(ii)	Appointment of Maintenance Officers	19 States and 6 UTs
(iii)	Constitution of Maintenance Tribunals	19 States and 6 UTs
(iv)	Constitution of Appellate Tribunals	20 States and 6 UTs

³ Extract from 39th Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Implementation of Schemes for Welfare of Senior Citizens.

ANNEXURE 4

HELPAge INDIA ELDER HELPLINE NUMBERS

HelpAge India Elder Helpline Numbers (Toll free):

Helpline Number	State / UT
1800-180-1253	Andhra Pradesh Chandigarh Delhi/ NCT of Delhi Goa Gujarat Himachal Pradesh J&K Karnataka Kerala Maharashtra Rajasthan Tamil Nadu Uttar Pradesh Uttarakhand Chhattisgarh
1800-345-1253	Assam Bihar Odisha West Bengal
1800-233-1253	Madhya Pradesh



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