

## CHENNAI, MADURAI, CUDDALORE (TN) & PUDUCHERRY



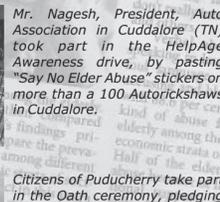
Mr. P. Thamara Kannan (I.P.S), Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order) Chennai (TN), signs his support for the "Fight against Elder Abuse & Crime" in Chennai, he also released the report marking WEAAD. In Tamil Nadu, WEAAD was marked with advocacy workshops along with the release of the report in Madurai, Nagapattinam, Veerayanam, Kollam, Virudhunagar with special focus on the sensitization of Government departments towards the cause.



Mrs. Uma Maheshwari, Judicial Magistrate, Madurai (TN), receives the first copy of the report from Mr. V. Sivakumar, Joint Director-Resource Mobilization (TN), HelpAge India, marking WEAAD.



Citizens of Puducherry take part in the Oath ceremony, pledging their support towards the "Fight against Elder Abuse & Crime". The report was also released by Dr. V. J. Chandran, Senior Superintendent of Police (Law & Order), Puducherry, marking WEAAD.



Mr. Nagesh, President, Auto Association in Cuddalore (TN) took part in the HelpAge Awareness drive, by pasting "Say No Elder Abuse" stickers on more than a 100 Autorickshaws in Cuddalore.

## Hope for Ram



65 year old Ram Preet found abandoned and malnourished, next to a cremation ground in Delhi's Moti Bagh, was rescued by Elder Helpline volunteer Mr. Gaurav Pandey (second from right) of HelpAge India, who along with Delhi Police constables helped rehabilitate this destitute elderly man after a call came in through the helpline by a good citizen. He was then provided medical attention at Safdarjung Hospital and later rehabilitated at Sai Vridh Ashram, Delhi. Today, Ram is healthier, happier and has found a new lease of life.

## A Hi-Tech donation



Mr. B. T. Bangera (left), Managing Director, Hi-Tech Arai Pvt. Ltd. (Madurai, TN) hands over an approval letter to Mr. V. Sivakumar, Joint Director - Resource Mobilization (TN & Karnataka), HelpAge India, for supporting the MMU Madurai running cost for a further period of three years at the cost of Rs.56.59 lakh (approx.).

thank you | S D Tarapuri High Secondary School, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu

## BOOK POST

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## EDITOR Speaks

HelpAge India released a report in June showing that India's elderly increasingly face neglect and abuse from their sons and daughters-in-law, who now view them as a burden. Those who live alone, face huge loneliness and become soft targets for criminal elements. We also researched on crime in cities against the elderly.

As households get smaller and more congested, the stress in families has increased, and the elderly have had to bear the brunt of the anger, according to HelpAge India. More than 55 percent of India's elderly have experienced emotional abuse, with mental torture being the most common, the report has indicated. This study conducted over 9 cities of India which includes the four metros is the shape of India's future families.

We at HelpAge India are alarmed with the report and our only hope remains with young children in school and the values they carry into later life. In future years, our efforts will be raise value education in schools and also in imparting such modules to teachers and educationists. Our website on SAVE called [www.hisave.org](http://www.hisave.org) will be a harbinger on future efforts. Some of you should visit the site and encourage children to visit the site as well.

We remain with hope for the future and a wish to encourage good citizenship.

Mathew Cherian  
Chief Executive

## Raising awareness on "Elder Abuse & Crime" nationwide HelpAge India marks "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day"(WEAAD)

A nation which prides itself for its cultural values and ethos and has always had deep respect for its elderly, now has reached a stage when one has to mark "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day" (June 15). Today Elder Abuse begins at home, with daughters-in-law and sons, topping the chart of those that Abuse. India is changing rapidly and with it, its value system. Senior citizens today have become vulnerable targets for crime and abuse, a serious concern. In order to sensitize people and raise awareness about this grave phenomenon, HelpAge India marked "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day" nationwide this year, across nearly 30 towns & cities. Various events took place from signature campaigns to rallies, walkathons, debates and discussions across the country, urging people to pledge their support against these heinous acts against elders.

To drive home the importance of the issue, HelpAge released a 9 city report on "Elder Abuse & Crime in India", which covered: Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Patna, Chennai, Bhopal, Ahmedabad & Bangalore. The findings of the report were released on the eve of WEAAD, on June 14, and efforts were made to mobilize citizens to support the "Fight against Elder Abuse & Crime."

### THE REPORT

The report was aimed at finding out the existence of Elder Abuse in India and reasons for the same, and to assess the extent and nature of Crime faced by the elderly. The study for the report was conducted among the "SEC C, and D categories (lower income group) with a sample size of 100 elderly per city (50 men and 50 women). These were compared with last year's findings of a similar survey (excluding Bangalore) of SEC A, B and C categories (higher income group) primarily, to compare the prevalence of Abuse among different socio-economic strata of society.

In Depth Interviews were carried out among Legal Experts, Police Officers, Medical Experts, Social Welfare Officers,

Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Psychologists to get amore detailed overview of the issue.

### THE FINDINGS:

- Nationwide family members turn out to be the highest abusers of the elderly.
- **Nationally Daughter-in-law emerged as the major abuser of the elderly (63.4%)**, followed by the son (44%) from the lower socio economic strata, as against the son (53.6%) last year in the higher socio- economic strata.
- More than one fifth of the elderly (22%) have experienced Abuse. While Bangalore tops Elder Abuse cases with a shocking 44%. It is closely followed by Hyderabad (38%), Bhopal (30%) and Kolkata (23%) the lowest being Chennai (2%).
- Physical Abuse among those abused, was 33% in the national capital, with beating topping in this category.
- It was observed that Elder Abuse was highest among the 70 plus elderly and it's mostly elderly women who face abuse due to dependence on sons.
- Dependency levels were high among the elderly, with their main source of income coming in the form of Remittance from children, which was Nationally - 55% & Delhi NCR - 40%, followed by pension (Nationally - 35%, Delhi - 37%).
- About 72% of the elderly stay with their sons. Elderly staying with sons was reported more in Mumbai (86%), Hyderabad (84%), Patna (80%) and Delhi NCR (74%). Chennai reported highest percentage of elderly staying with daughters (22%).
- The average monthly household income of the elderly nationally was Rs. 6269. While the average income of elderly ranged between Rs. 8,645 in Hyderabad and Rs. 3887 in Ahmedabad.

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## Snapshots from across India:

### DELHI



Mr. M.M. Sabharwal (centre) Member of National Policy on Older Persons Review Committee and President Emeritus, HelpAge India, along with Mr. S. Nithyanandam (right), Joint Commissioner of Police, Delhi, and Mr. Anup Khosla (left), Chief Financial Officer, HelpAge India, release the report on "Elder Abuse & Crime in India" at Delhi's India International Centre on June 14.

### KOLKATA (WB)



A young student from St. John's Diocesan Girls Higher Secondary School, Kolkata (WB), signs her support towards the "Fight against Elder Abuse" in Kolkata. Justice (Retired) Mrs. Ruma Pal, Acting Chairperson Human Rights Commissioner, also signed up for the Signature Campaign in the city and released the report.

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## LUCKNOW (UP)



Justice (Retd.) Sudhir Chandra Verma (centre), Ex. Lokayukt & Justice of High Court (UP) lights the inaugural lamp, marking WEAAD in Lucknow (UP). He also released the report. Looking on are Mr. Sriram Arun (left), Retd. Director General of Police and Mr. V.K. Mittal, Retd. (IAS).

## CHANDIGARH



Mr. Arunesh Shankar, Minister Medical Education, Forest and Labour (Punjab), releases the report on "Elder Abuse and Crime in India", in Chandigarh. Looking on are (from right): Mr. Dinesh Chauhan, Social Worker, Mr. Bhavneshwar Sharma, State Head (Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana and J & K), HelpAge India, Mr. Sukhpal Singh, Chief Parliamentary Secy. - Revenue Department (Punjab) and other HelpAge Staff members from Chandigarh - Mr. Apan Bharti, Programme Executive (Chandigarh), Mr. Arvind Kishore, Helpline Counselor and Ms. Arti Tikoo, Manager - SAVE.

## SHIMLA (HP)



(from left): Mr. Prem Kumar, Principal Secretary - Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Himachal Pradesh (HP), Ms. Nirmla Narula, President Emeritus, Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, State Head (HP), HelpAge India, release the report in Shimla, in the presence of members of the Himachal Pradesh Senior Citizens Forum and media.

## BHOPAL (MP)



Mr. Rameshwar Thakur (right), Governor of Madhya Pradesh (MP), receives the report for release, from Mr. S. K. Sharma, State Head (MP), HelpAge India, along with a 5 point Charter of Demands. Looking on are Mr. S. K. Saraswat (left), President, and Mr. Dinesh Mishra (centre), Vice President, of Senior Citizen Confederation (MP).

## AHMEDABAD (Gujarat)



Mr. Sudhir Sinha (right), Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), receives the report from Mr. Anil Massey, State Head (Gujarat), HelpAge India.

## HYDERABAD (AP)



Mrs. Anita Rajendra (centre) (I.A.S.), State Commissioner, Dept of Disabled and Sr. Citizens Welfare (Govt. of AP), receives the report from Mr. S. Dass (left), State Head (AP), HelpAge India, marking WEAAD at the Press Club, Hyderabad (AP). Looking on is Dr. Rao Chelikani, President of Federation of AP Senior Citizens Organization.

•41% of the elderly own property. The highest in Delhi NCR (76%) & Bhopal (75%) and lowest in Ahmedabad (4%) and Kolkata (15%).

•66% of the elderly are financially dependent on one another. Majority (85%) of the elderly reported financial dependence for medical expenditure with the 80+ group reporting the highest (78%), Ahmedabad (86%), Mumbai (79%), Hyderabad (74%) and Kolkata (70%) have the highest financial dependency amongst the 9 cities.

•More than half (51%) of the elderly felt that there has been an increase in the incidents of Elder Abuse in the last 3 years, with Bhopal recording the highest (80%), Bangalore 74% and Chennai the lowest (23%).

•Around three fifth of the elderly reported change in cultural values (57%) and lack of economic resources among elderly (56%) as reasons for feeling increase in incidence of Elder Abuse in the past 3 years. Hyderabad (84%) has the highest percentage of elderly reporting change in cultural values.

•Increase in Elder Abuse incidents due to 'lack of economic resources among the elderly' was reported highest in Kolkata (79%), Bangalore (77%), Hyderabad (72%) and Delhi NCR (71%). More than half (52%) of the elderly feel the trend of 'nuclear family' is another reason.

•19% of India's elderly feel neglected. Reasons such as 'family members are busy in their own lives/ work', 'family members don't really interact with them' were voiced. 46% of the elderly feel neglected in Bangalore, followed by Hyderabad (37%), Bhopal (30%) and the lowest being Ahmedabad (1%).

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## Young India shows its support

### GUWAHATI (Assam)



Students of Class 8 & 9 from Sishu Vidyapeeth School show their support towards the "Fight against Elder Abuse & Crime", by participating in the marking of WEAAD, in Guwahati (Assam).

### KERALA



Students of Assisi Vidyanketan Public School, Chembumukku, Ernakulam (Kerala) pledge their support towards the "Fight against Elder Abuse" during an awareness program. Events took place across Kerala in Thevara, Aluva, Kakkanaad with the aim of sensitizing people towards this grave issue.

### BARMER (Rajasthan)



HelpAge MMU staff members in Barmer (Rajasthan), sensitize the elderly women of Barmer on Elder Abuse & Crime.

### JAIPUR (Rajasthan)



Mr. B.L. Soni, Commissioner of Police (right), Jaipur (Rajasthan), releases the report in Jaipur, as Mr. Nilesh Nalvya, State Head (Rajasthan), HelpAge India, hands over a copy, marking WEAAD. The report was also released in Bikaner (Rajasthan) by Dr. Prithvi Raj, District Collector (Bikaner).

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•Verbal Abuse including speaking in loud voice, using foul language, name-calling, accusing and blaming, topped (88.6%) the kind of abuse faced by the elderly among the lower socio economic strata, while it was 'showing disrespect' reported by the elderly from the higher socio economic strata last year.

•While Verbal Abuse of elderly was highest in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad & Chennai reaching 100%. Physical Abuse was highest in Patna (71%), and lowest in Ahmedabad.

•Half of the elderly reported facing abuse because of lack of emotional support (Mumbai & Hyderabad being the highest), followed by lack of health care (33%) and lack of basic necessities like food, clothing etc. (32%). Lack of emotional support was reported highest in Hyderabad - 89% and Mumbai - 70%.

•More than half of the elderly felt that senior citizens are soft targets for criminal acts. 59% of the elderly in the age group of 70-79 years, followed by 53% in the age group of 60-69 years and 52% among the 80+ elderly felt that senior citizens are soft targets for criminal acts.

•Only one third (37%) said they would take any action in case of facing crime. Of those who said they will not, about half (46%) of such elderly reported that they were scared of facing further crime against them and there would not be any concrete action taken.

•A good 63% elderly in India felt the role of Police / Lawyers in controlling crime was supportive.

•According to the elderly the top four measures to control crime were: 'Inform about the crime to the Police' (37%), 'Contact counselors to help deal with the crime' (34%), 'Procedure for legal aid should be simple and effective' (28%), 'Contact Senior Citizen's Association/ RWA for help and guidance' (23%) and 'Simplify procedure for Police intervention' (23%).

### OTHER NEWS:

•Agicare Service Hub: Fitness and Wellness Centre launched in Dehradun (Uttarakhand) and Bhopal (MP).

•A seminar on Reverse Mortgage Loan was organized in Guwahati (Assam) for the elderly in association with the National Housing Bank.

•A state level Seminar on Health Insurance for Senior Citizens was organized in Hyderabad (AP).

### BHUBANESWAR (Orissa)



An elderly participant speaks his mind during an interactive discussion between senior citizens, police, lawyers & the media, marking WEAAD in Bhubaneswar (Orissa).

### RISHIKESH (Uttarakhand)



(from left): Dr. (Lt. Col. Retd.) Vipin Chaturvedi, Member, Senior Citizen Welfare Organization, Rishikesh (Uttarakhand), Mr. S. K. Agarwal, President, Government Pensioners Association (Rishikesh), Mr. S. K. Sharma, State Head (Uttarakhand) HelpAge India, Mr. D. D. Tewari, Retd. Principal, Bharat Mandir Inter College and Member, Senior Citizen Welfare Organization (Rishikesh), Mr. D. K. Varshney, President, Senior Citizen Welfare Organization (Rishikesh) and Mr. R. K. Sharma, Secretary, Senior Citizen Welfare Organization (Rishikesh), jointly release the report on Elder Abuse & Crime in Uttarakhand.

### BANGALORE (Karnataka)



Mr. Jyothi Prakash Mirji (left), Commissioner of Police, Bangalore (Karnataka), hands over a copy of the report to the Mr. Praveen Sood, Additional Police Commissioner, Bangalore, at the Commissioner's Office, showcasing Police support towards tackling Elder Abuse & Crime.

### PATNA (Bihar)



Justice S.N Jha, Chairman, State Human Rights Commission (Bihar), releases the report in Patna (Bihar), in the presence of senior citizens, who raised prominent issues on the occasion such as:

•A Single Window System for redressal of the problems of elderly in Bihar.

•For the adoption of State Policy for Older Persons by the state of Bihar which has been drafted on the basis of the National Policy for Older.

•Formation of maintenance and appellate tribunals in the state capital as well as all district headquarters.

### NAGPUR (Maharashtra)



Elderly beneficiaries of HelpAge's MMU programme along with Mr. Sunil Thakur, Sr. Manager (Nagpur), HelpAge India, walk the streets of Nagpur (Maharashtra) showing their support in the "Fight against Elder Abuse & Crime".

### GOA



Mr. Prakash W. Kamat (centre), Former President, Goa Union of Journalist (GUJ), releases the report in the presence of senior citizens and children alike, marking WEAAD in Goa. Looking on are Mr. Vithaldas Hegde (left), Secretary (GUJ) and Mr. Dattaprasad Pawaskar (right), Manager, HelpAge India (Goa).

### JAMMU (J & K)



Mr. Hakim Singh Billoria (fourth from left), Secretary, All J & K Senior Citizen's Friendship Association, along with Mr. Vijay Kumar Bagotra (centre), Secretary, Old Age Home Amphalla (Jammu) release the report at an old age home in Jammu (J & K), along with (from left): Mr. Keemti Lal Dubey, Social Worker, Mr. Nikhil Kumar, Helpline Counselor and Mrs. Sunita Santoshi, Manager, from HelpAge India and (from right): HelpAge staff members - Dr. Mairaj Makhdoomi, Physiotherapist ASH (Jammu) and Mrs. Neeru Sharma, Sr. Executive, along with Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta, Member Association Old Age Home.

from HelpAge India and (from right): HelpAge staff members - Dr. Mairaj Makhdoomi, Physiotherapist ASH (Jammu) and Mrs. Neeru Sharma, Sr. Executive, along with Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta, Member Association Old Age Home.

