

## NATIONAL SALIENT FINDINGS

### Women & Ageing: Invisible or Empowered?

*A HelpAge India Report 2023*

#### **Status of Older Women**

- 81% older women live with their families
- 54% older women in India were illiterate (59% Urban, 66% - Rural)
- 54% older women were married
- 44% older women were widowed

#### **Elder Abuse**

- 50% older women consider elder abuse to be prevalent
- 16% older women have faced elder abuse, mostly in the form of disrespect (46%) followed by physical abuse (43%) and emotional/ psychological abuse (40%).
- Main Perpetrators of Abuse: Son (40%), followed by other relatives (31%) and daughter-in-law (27%).
- Of those abused, only 16% older women reported the abuse to police/ helplines.

#### **Barriers & Challenges for reporting Elder Abuse**

- 18% fear retaliation or further abuse
- 16% have no awareness of available resources
- 13% think their concerns are not taken seriously

#### **Top 3 Suggestions to Prevent or Reduce occurrence of Elder Abuse**

- Raising awareness on elder abuse through education campaigns (59%)
- Strengthening laws and penalties for elder abuse (51%)
- Providing training to caregivers to recognize and address elder abuse (43%)

#### **Awareness & Impact**

- 60% older women lack awareness on redressal mechanisms available for abuse
- 80% older women are not aware of government welfare schemes
- 16% are aware of the Maintenance & Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act

#### **Vulnerabilities**

- 17% of elderly women have faced discrimination due to gender (pg.48)
- 60% of elderly women have faced social discrimination due to the marital status i.e. Widowed
- 71% older women can't take decisions for themselves

#### **Healthcare**

- 48% older women have at least one chronic condition
- 65% older women have reported not having health insurance

### **Economic & Financial Security**

- 69% older women in India don't own any assets (such as vehicle, immovable / immovable property)
- 51% of the older women have reported being 'never' employed
- 74% are Not Working
- 32% older women want work till as long as possible
- 47% of the older women who are working, said that they do not find their environment at home friendly towards work.
- 36% of the older women who are working, say the same for their environment at their workplace.
- Nearly 70% of the older women have reported a lack of adequate and accessible employment opportunities.
- 53% of the older women do not feel financially secure. Of the 47% who do feel secure, 80% are dependent on their children for finances.
- 73% older women do not have any savings.

### **Caregiving**

- 67% older women are in caregiving roles.
- 31% older women are not able to manage the burden of their care taking role (*10% stated decline in wellbeing & 21% stated improved wellbeing but burdensome*)

### **Safety & Security**

- 43% Elderly women worry of getting physically hurt.
- 76% saying its due to 'fear of falling' and 46% stating due to weak eyesight.

### **Digital/Social Inclusion**

- 24% older women consider time spent by their children as not enough.
- 60% older women have never used digital devices.
- 59% older women do not own smartphones.
- 60% older women are not familiar with social media platforms.

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