

Longevity centre to study living needs of senior citizens

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PUNE: In an effort to understand the housing needs of the elderly, the International Longevity Centre-India (ILC-I) is conducting a survey among senior citizens. The survey will be conducted among 3,000 senior citizens and the aim is to make recommendations to commercial housing builders for development of a special retirement community complex for the elderly.

Anjali Raje, executive director, ILC-I told TOI on Friday, "In the future, we will see more and more senior citizens living independently. Children are moving abroad or, even if they haven't moved, they decide to live separately. In such a situation, there is a rising need to make elder-friendly apartments and complexes."

The survey requires senior citizens to list the facilities most required for them during old age. "Among the demands are anti-skid tiles, railings in bathrooms and emergency facilities, which will all will be surveyed by ILC-I," said Raje.

The survey is being conducted online. Volunteers of ILC-I will also personally identify senior citizens all over the country who will fill up the survey.

"Changing lifestyles, rapid urbanisation and thereby nuclearisation of families is leading to a change in the living patterns of the senior citizens in India," said Raje. "Life expectancy too is growing annually. Urbanisation and frequent work place shifts are happening, thus leaving most of the elderly alone without children. Better economic prospects in the last decade have also led to senior citizens being more financially independent. All this often necessitates a strong focus on the often ignored issue of the living needs of senior citizens," she added.

The survey will be completed by the end of October and the results analysed. Based on these results, a report will be published in December which will make recommendations to commercial builders so that they can build elder-friendly apartments.