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“Ageing population a big challenge for policy makers”

Staff Reporter

Ageing population is a big challenge for policy makers and the community has to introspect and get a grip over this phenomenon, said K.Radhakrishnan, Director, Dignity Foundation. “India has close to 97 million senior citizens,” he added.

Speaking at the valedictory function of the Retirement India Expo 2011 at Chennai Trade Centre here on Monday, Mr.Radhakrishnan said there was a big market emerging for products that relate to senior citizens such as housing and stock market options.

The three-day expo saw close to 8,000 visitors, said Sheilu Sreenivasan, founder president, Dignity Foundation.

“The Retirement Expo was a way to familiarise senior citizens with banks, insurance companies and retirement homes to take care of their needs,” she said.

Dignity Foundation would also urge the government to get involved to identify and recognise issues that senior citizens face, said Ms.Sreenivasan. “The world over, senior citizens are looked after and we hope that the Tamil Nadu government will follow suit and introduce lots of schemes for them,” she added.

At the valedictory function, students of St.Dominic's Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School tied a *surakhsha bhandhan* around the wrist of senior citizens to mark ‘World Elders Day 2011’ and took an oath to look after their elders.

Dignity Foundation honoured senior citizen volunteers who have rendered social support services during the year and distinguished persons for their contributions. Vision India Managing Director Janaki Raman participated.