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Abuse of elderly on the rise, says report

Special Correspondent

The major findings of HelpAge India's country-wide report on “Elder abuse and crime in India” reflect two prime reasons of crime and abuse against the elderly — emergence of nuclear family and ineffective law and order.

The report indicated financial independence as the top most measure against crime and abuse of the elderly.

A report on “Elder Abuse and Crime in India” was released by HelpAge India, an organisation working for the welfare of senior citizens, on the eve of “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” on Tuesday.

Mr. Dattaprasad Pawaskar, HelpAge India, Manager (Goa and Sindhudurg) said that although Goa was not covered in the first phase of its study, its studies had shown that the problems were similar and elders' abuse had been increasing in the State for the last three years. He said that elders' abuse by daughters-in-law was one of the striking concerns. Among others, the report had stated that the elderly were victims of verbal abuse by their daughters-in-laws and sons.

The study covering the elderly in the age of over 60 across nine cities — Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bhopal, Chennai, Patna, Hyderabad, and Bangalore — was released by Goa branch of HelpAge at a function held in Goa Union of Journalist (GUJ) hall, in the city.

Mr. Pawaskar said the copy of the quantitative component of the study would be handed over to Director-General of Police (DGP) Aditya Arya on Wednesday on the occasion of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Initiatives

Mr. Hegde lauded the steps taken up by the HelpAge, including value education on age care, sensitising school children on ageing issues so that they understand their problems early in life and treat elderly with love and affection.

The survey reveals senior citizens constitute 7.5 per cent of the population. The average monthly household income of the elderly is Rs. 6,269. About 30 per cent of the elderly had a monthly household income in the range of Rs.2, 501-Rs 5,000.

Two-third (66 per cent) of the elderly are financially dependent on others, the highest being reported are in Ahmadabad (86 per cent) and Mumbai (79 per cent).

URL : <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/article2105960.ece>

Majority (85 per cent) of the elderly are reported being dependent for medical expenditure while three-fourth for daily living expenditure.

Abuse is reported more from the family members, with daughter-in-law and son emerging as the major abusers.

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