

Agewell Study on
HUMAN RIGHTS
OF OLDER PEOPLE IN INDIA
A REALITY CHECK
July 2014

DATA SEPARATELY ANALYZED FOR
DELHI-NCR



Agewell Foundation

In **Special Consultative Status** with the ECOSOC at **United Nations** since 2011
Associated NGO Status with **UN-DPI**

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SAMPLE DESIGN & RESPONDENTS

For the survey a **representative sample of 8000 older people** (5000 from urban areas and 3000 from rural areas) were interviewed by Agewell volunteers spread across **15 districts of Delhi-NCR**. The interviews were conducted during the month of **June 2014**.

The sample units were selected based on random sampling but taken care to incorporate the representative views of the area from three main divisions as per following;

| Sl. | Districts | No of sample districts | No of respondents |
|-----|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Delhi | 9 | 5000 |
| 2. | NCR- Haryana | 4 | 2000 |
| 3. | NCR – UP | 2 | 1000 |
| | Total | 15 | 8000 |

Age-group & gender wise classification of respondents

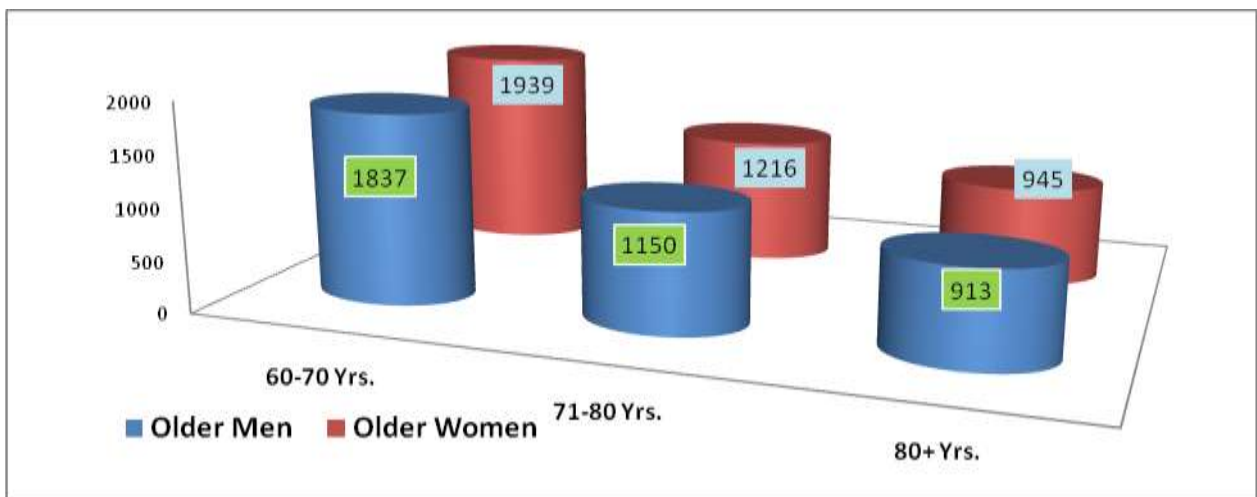
Under the survey older people were divided in three simple age-groups so that more realistic findings could be achieved out of the responses. Respondents were further

categorized in age groups & gender wise to understand the changing trends of old age and their emerging problems better.

- During the survey 3900 older men and 4100 older women were interviewed by the volunteers.

| Categories | 60-70 Years | 71-80 Years | 81+ Years | Total |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Older Men | 1837 | 1150 | 913 | 3900 |
| Older Women | 1939 | 1216 | 945 | 4100 |
| Total | 3776 | 2366 | 1858 | 8000 |

- Out of total 8000 elderly respondents, 3776 (1837 older men and 1939 older women) were in the younger older persons group i.e. 60-70 years.



- Another 2366 elderly respondents (1150 older men & 1216 older women) were in the age group of 71-80 years and 1858 respondents were in the age group of 81+.

- Majority of the respondents i.e. 47.2% elderly respondents were in the age group of 61-70 years while 29.6% & 23.2% were in the age groups of 71-80 years and 80+ years respectively.

Sample Respondents

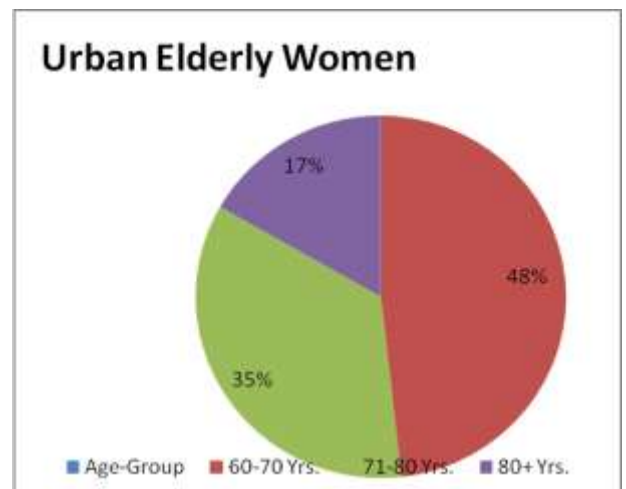
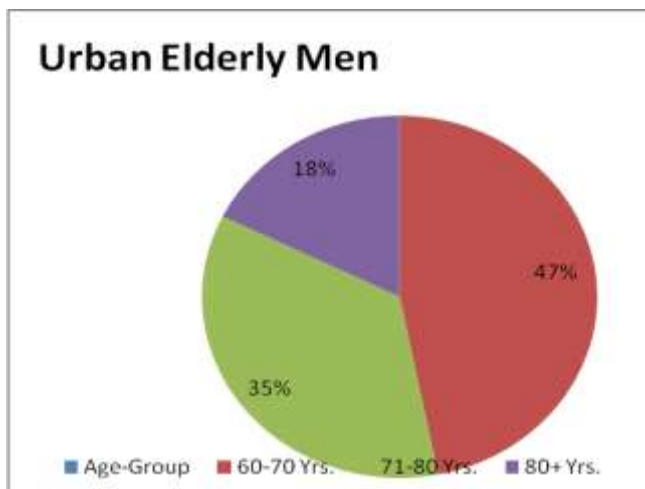
Since Delhi-NCR is a traditionally diverse region where majority of elderly population is migrated from other parts of the country, they lead different types of lifestyle.

With objective to assess the status of older people living in various situations and geographical conditions, the populace of 60+ years was randomly selected as per the 4 groups as under;

- I. Rural elderly men
- II. Rural elderly women
- III. Urban elderly men
 - a. Living in slum areas
 - b. Living in non-slum areas
- IV. Urban Elderly women
 - a. Living in slum areas
 - b. Living in non-slum areas

| Categories | Old Men | Old women | Total |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Rural | 1500 | 1500 | 3000 |
| Urban | 2400 | 2600 | 5000 |
| Total | 3900 | 4100 | 8000 |

- In urban areas 47.6% respondents were in the age group of 60-70 years, 35.2% were in age group of 71-80 years and 17.2% respondents were in the age group of 81+.



- In rural areas 47.7% respondents were in the age group of 60-70 years, 34.8% were in age group of 71-80 years and 17.4% respondents were in the age group of 81+.
- Number of rural elderly respondents in prime age group i.e. 81+ years was quite higher in comparison to urban elderly respondents (81+).
- Out of total 5000 respondents, 856 elderly respondents i.e. 17.1% were from slum areas.

- Percentage of younger elderly respondents (60-70 years) living in slum areas were higher (50.9%) in comparison to elderly respondents in the same age group living in non-slum areas (46.9%).
- Participation of slum elderly people (81+) was lower (14) in comparison to non-slum elderly respondents in the age group of 81+ years (18%).

In each group the target was to include every section of the society, specifically

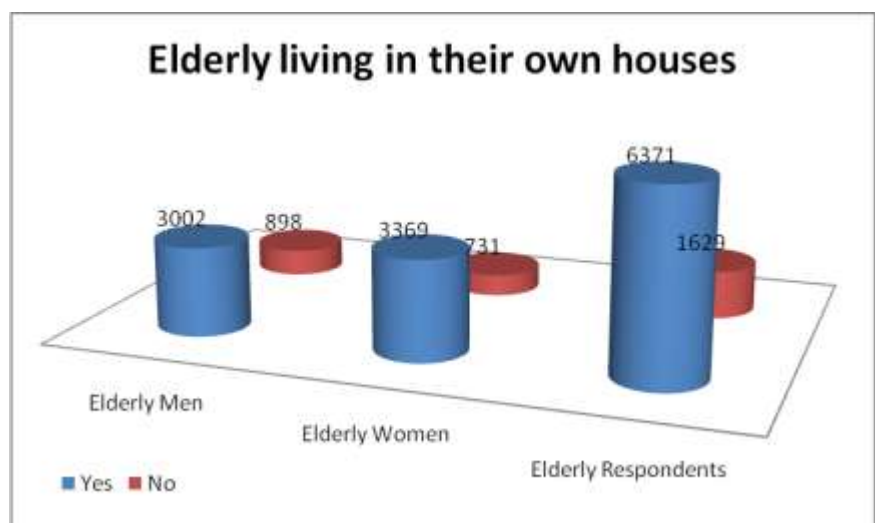
- Retired older people
- Non-pensioners/self-employed
- Laborers/farmers
- Housewives
- Professionals/ businessmen
- Literate
- Illiterate
- Financially secure
- Disabled
- BPL (below poverty line) Family

SURVEY FINDINGS

Housing in old Age

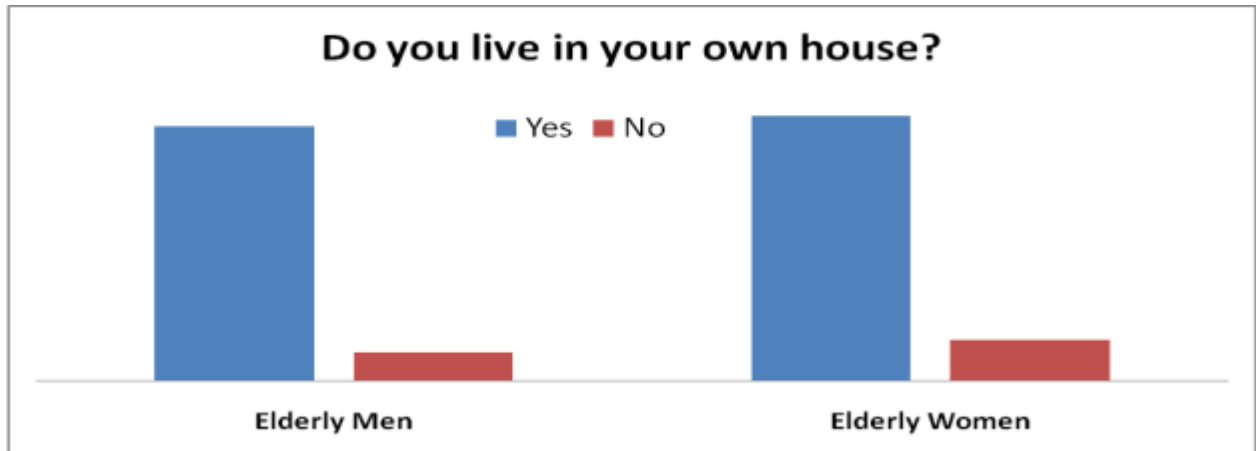
- 79.6% elderly respondents i.e. 6371 older persons out of 8000 older persons were found living in their own houses, while 20.4% i.e. 1629 older persons were found not living in their own houses.

- When data analyzed gender wise it was found that 77.2% elderly men in comparison to 82.1% elderly women were living in their own houses. Out of 3900 elderly men interacted during the survey

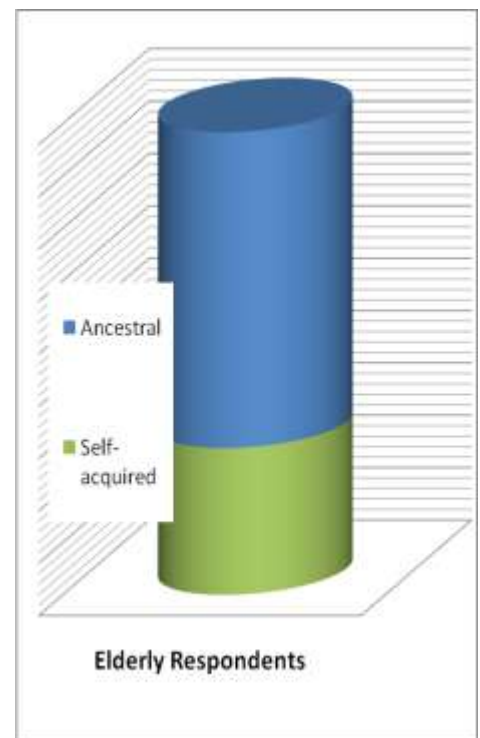


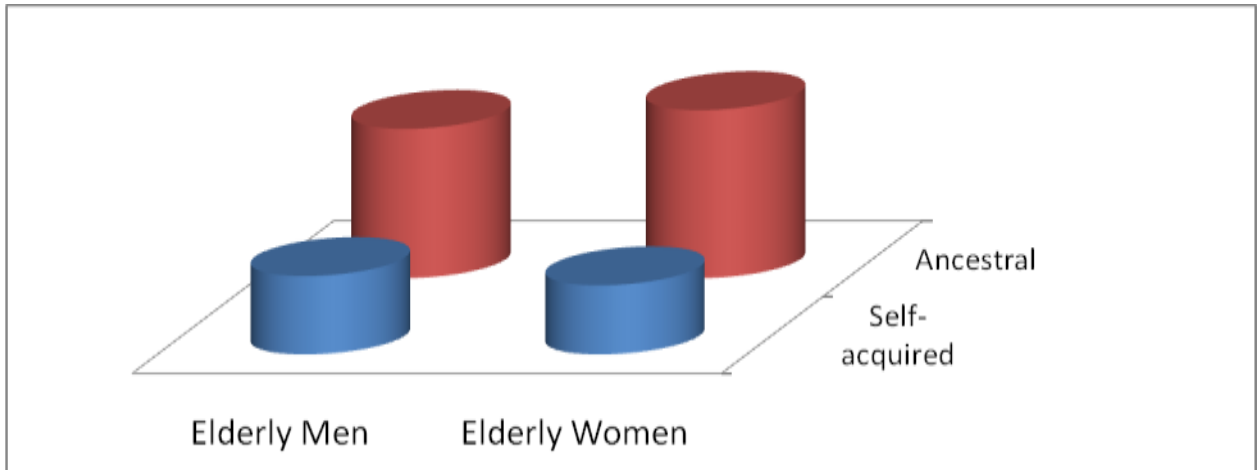
3002 elderly men were living in their own houses, while 3369 out of 4100 elderly women accepted that they are living in their own houses.

- In rural areas more elderly people were living in their own houses in comparison to urban areas.

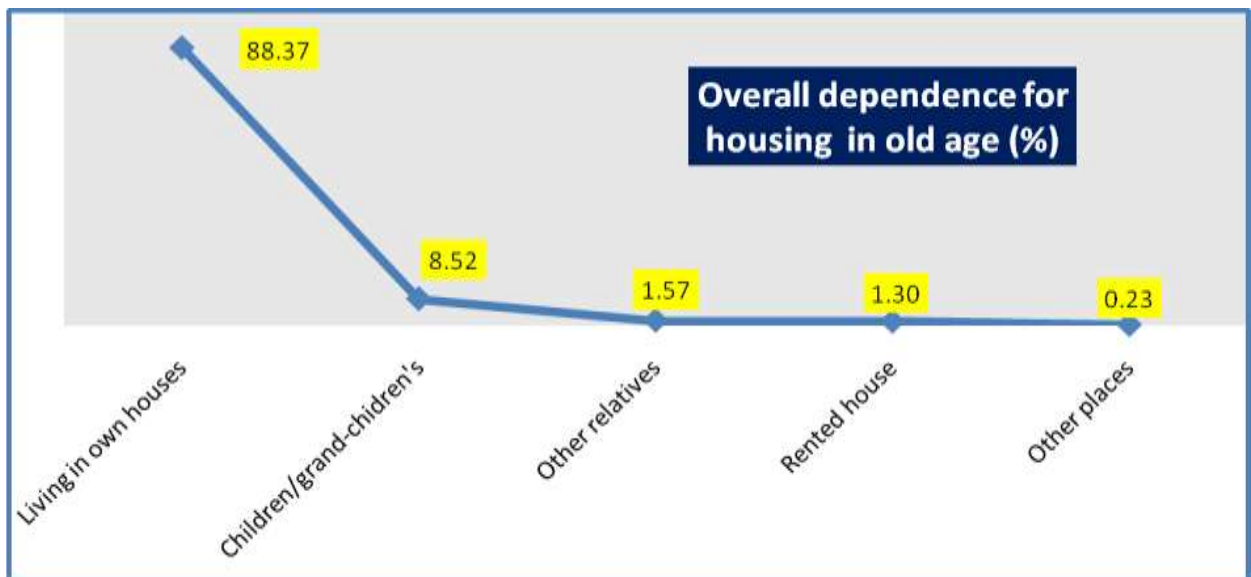


- When the elderly respondents were asked about the type of their current residence, it was found that more than 2/3rd elderly people (66.3%) have ancestral house, where they live. Out of 6371 elderly people living in their own houses, 4214 elderly respondents were residing in their ancestral houses.
- Only 33.1% elderly respondents (2102 out of 6371 living in their own houses) were living in self-acquired houses.
- More elderly women (65.1%) in comparison to elderly men (61%) were found living in their ancestral houses, while more elderly men (39.5%) in comparison to elderly women (25.9%) were living in their self-acquired houses.
- Out of 3002 elderly men living in their own houses, 1050 elderly men have their own self-acquired house, while 1919 elderly men were staying in their ancestral house.
- Out of 3369 elderly women living in their own houses, 901 and 2135 elderly women were living in their self-acquired and ancestral houses respectively.

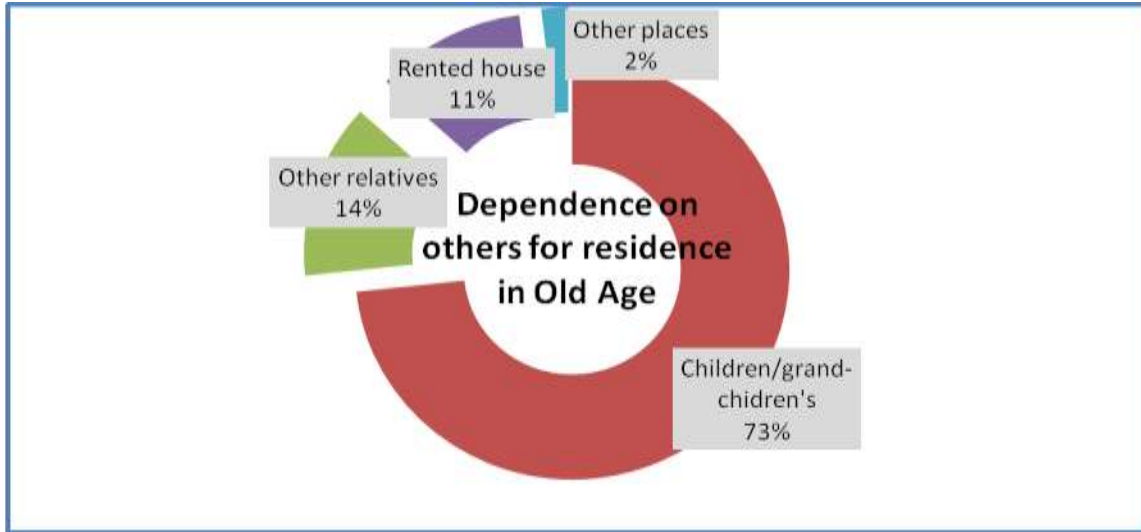




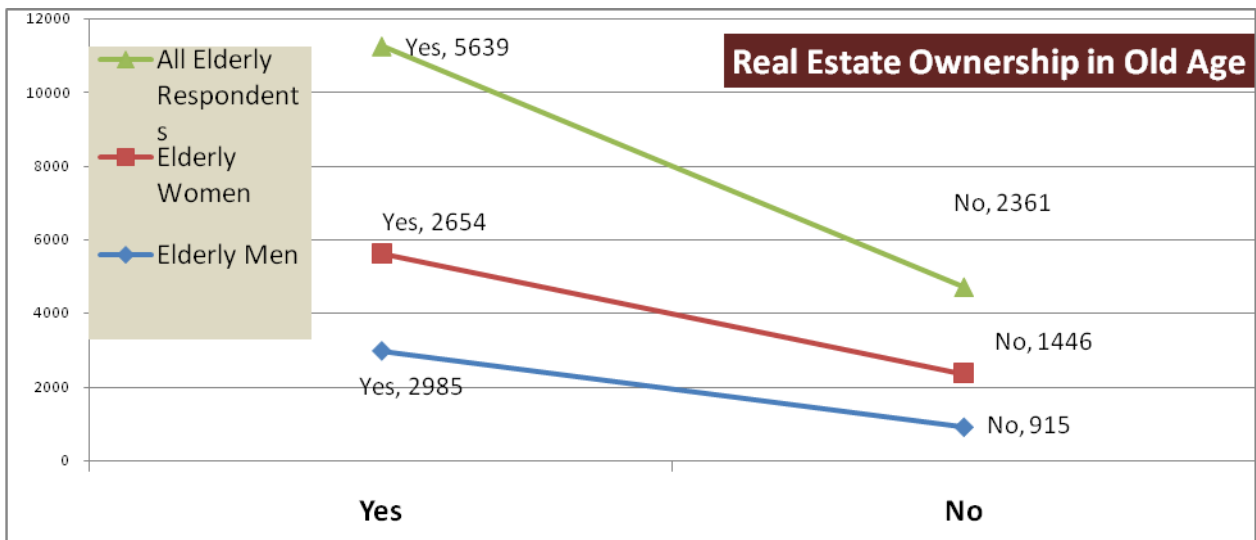
- Out of total 8000 elderly respondents, 885 elderly people (11.7%) do not have their own house to live in and they were forced to depend on other sources.
- Out of 5000 elderly respondents, 8.52% elderly respondents, i.e. 426 older persons were depended on their children/grand-children for housing needs.



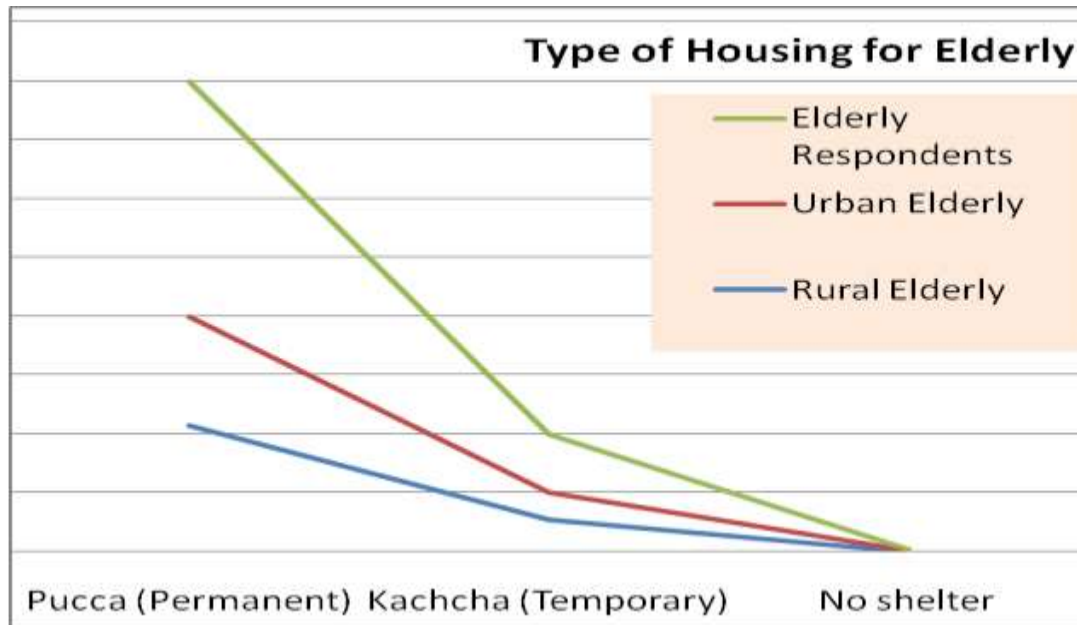
- 73.3% of total dependent elderly respondents were living in houses of their children/grand-children..
- 13.9% dependent elderly were staying with their other relatives while 11% elderly respondents contacted during the survey were found living in rented houses.



- When volunteers asked older persons about their net-worth value, it was found that 70% elderly respondents have their own house/land property somewhere in their name, while only 29.5% elderly said that they have no house or land property in their name anywhere.
- Out of 8000 respondents, 5639 elderly respondents accepted that they own house or land property.
- Percentage of possession of house/land properties is slightly higher (2654 out of 4100 i.e. 64.8%) in elderly women in comparison to elderly men (2985 out of 3900 i.e. 76.5%).

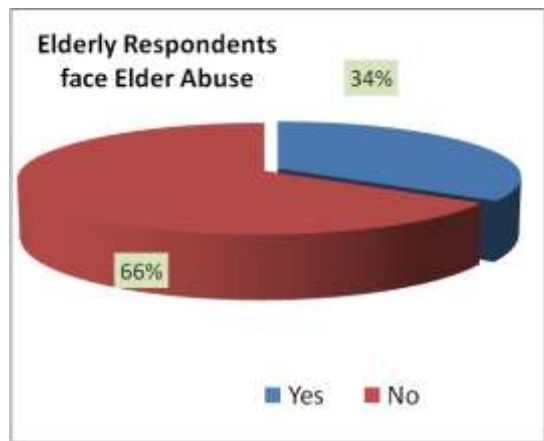


- Only 9.5% elderly (791 out of 8000 elderly respondents) said that they written their Will, while other elderly respondents have not written a Will so far. 15.9% elderly men and 4.1% elderly women have written Will.
- When type of housing of elderly respondents were assessed, it was found that approximately four out of five elderly people i.e. 81.7% elderly were living in permanent houses, while 14.2% respondents were found living in temporary houses or shelters.

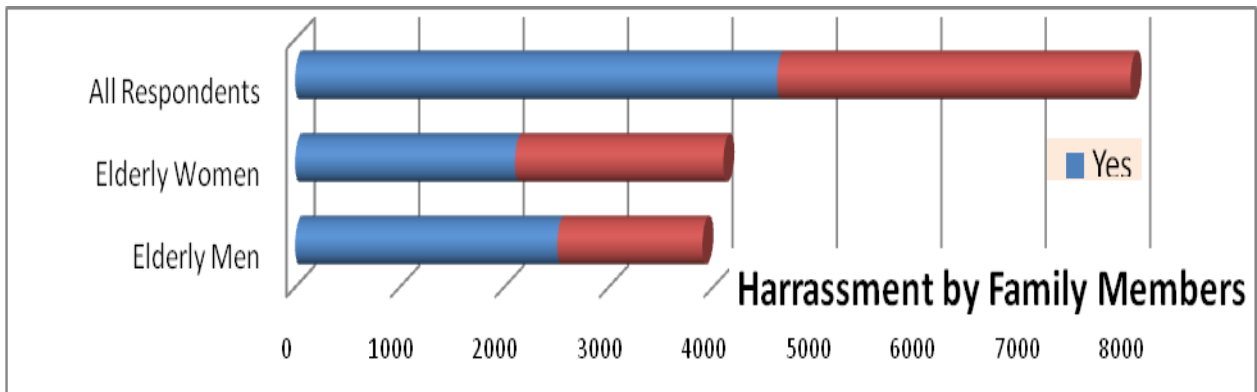


Harassment / mistreatment due to residence

- 57.6% elderly respondents (68.2% elderly men and 46.1% elderly women) claimed that they have to face harassment / mistreatment due to housing in old age. Out of 8000 elderly respondents interviewed during the survey, 4729 older persons said that they face harassment / mistreatment due to housing. Even though many of them are the owners of their property.
- 42.4% older persons (32.8% elderly men and 53.9% elderly women) reportedly denied any harassment / mistreatment in their life so far due to their residence. 4170 elderly respondents out of 8000 said that they did not face harassment / mistreatment in their life ever due to shelter.

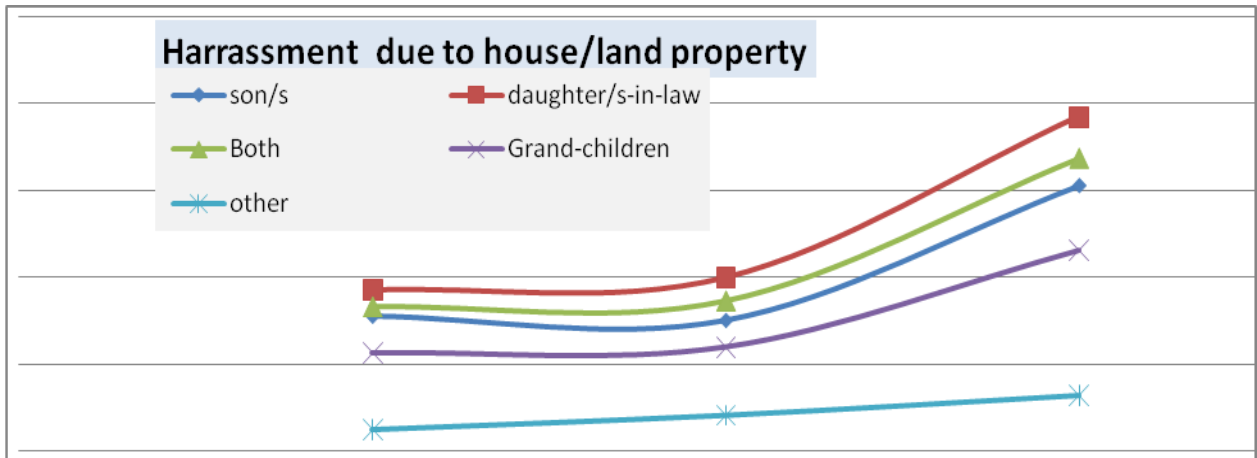


- 26.5% elderly respondents (26.7% elderly men and 26.2% elderly women) accepted that they are being harassed by their family members due to housing/shelter. Out of 8000, 1923 elderly respondents said that their family members are somehow causing trouble in their life due to their houses.
- Harassment due to housing/shelter is more prevalent in urban areas in comparison to rural areas.

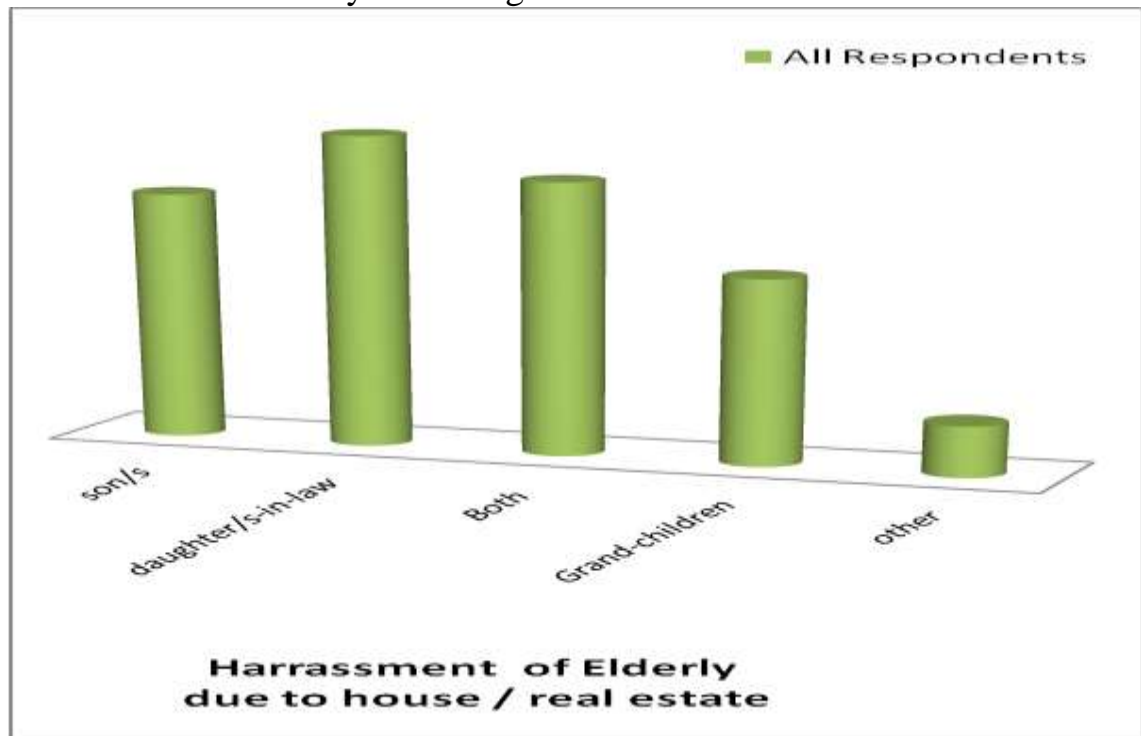


Harassment by family members due to house/real estate

- Most of the elderly respondents were suffering from harassment in old age due to their daughter/s-in law and their son/s. 55. 2% elderly respondents were being harassed/mistreated by their daughter/s-in-law and daughter/s in law & son/s both due to house/land properties.

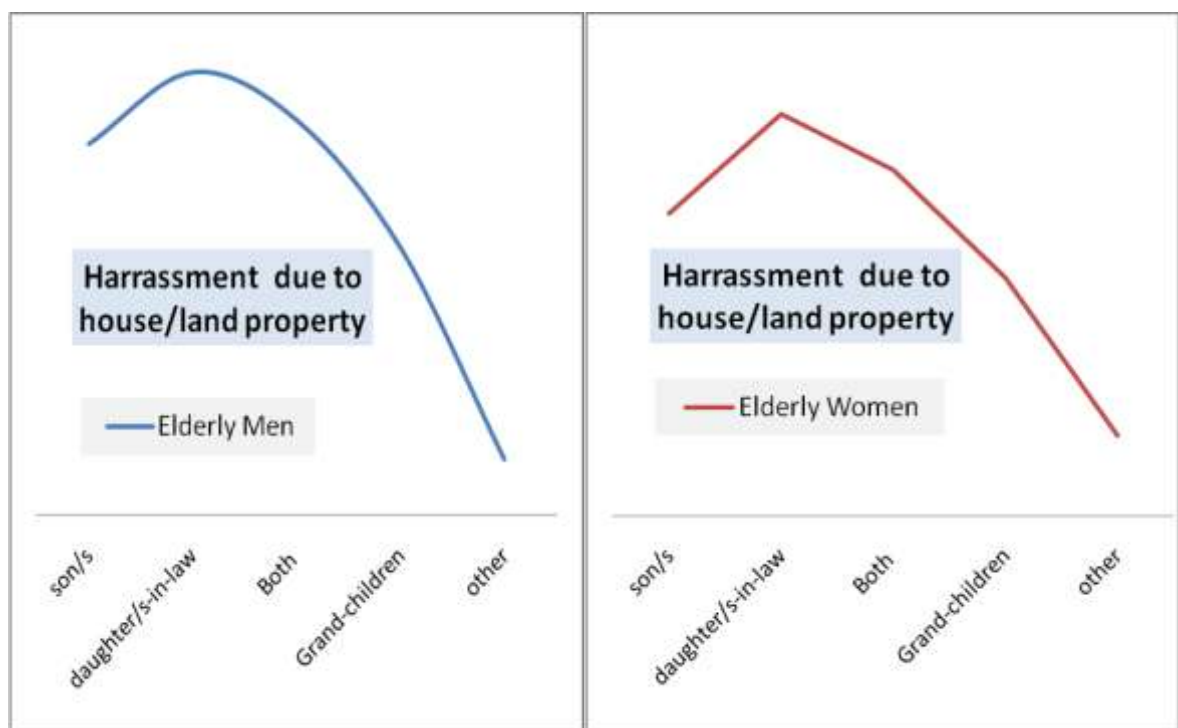


- 28.8% elderly respondents were found harassed/mistreated by their daughter/s-in-law while 25.1% elderly respondents were being harassed/mistreated by their daughter/s-in-law and son/s both.



- 23.2% elderly respondents reportedly acknowledged that they are being harassed by their son/s only, while for 17.1% elderly respondents their grand-children were main cause of house/real estate related harassment / mistreatment.
- Only 4.7% elderly respondents claimed that they had to face harassment and mistreatment in old age due to others including their neighbours who were doing this due to elderly respondents' real estate/house property.

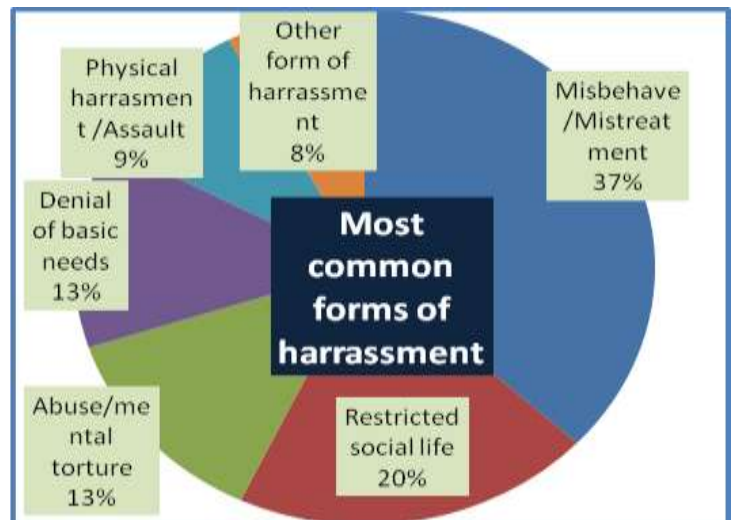
- Out of 1623 elderly respondents suffering from elder abuse due to their house/land properties 352 older persons reportedly said that their son/s harass them. 385 older persons said that their daughter/s-in-law and 377 older persons said that their son/s and daughter/s-in-law both harass them.
- Elderly men were found facing harassment and mistreatment because of their house/land properties by their son/s in more cases in comparison to elderly women. 23.8% elderly men hold their son/s responsible for harassment/mistreatment while 22.08% elderly women were of the view that their son/s is/are harassing them.



- Elderly women were found facing comparatively higher cases of harassment and mistreatment due to their house/land property with the hands of their daughter/s-in-law. 29.2% elderly women blame their daughter/s-in-law for harassment/mistreatment in old age while 28.1% elderly women were of the view that their daughter/s-in-law are harassing / mistreating them.

Common forms of Elder Abuse in old age

- When Agewell volunteers, deputised as interviewers asked elderly respondents, who were suffering elder abuse or had ever faced elder abuse in their life, about most common form of elder abuse, it was found that every third elderly person (35.9% of overall affected elderly) stated misbehave/mistreatment



as most common form of elder abuse. Out of 2743 affected elderly respondents, 985 older persons ranked this as most common form of elder abuse.

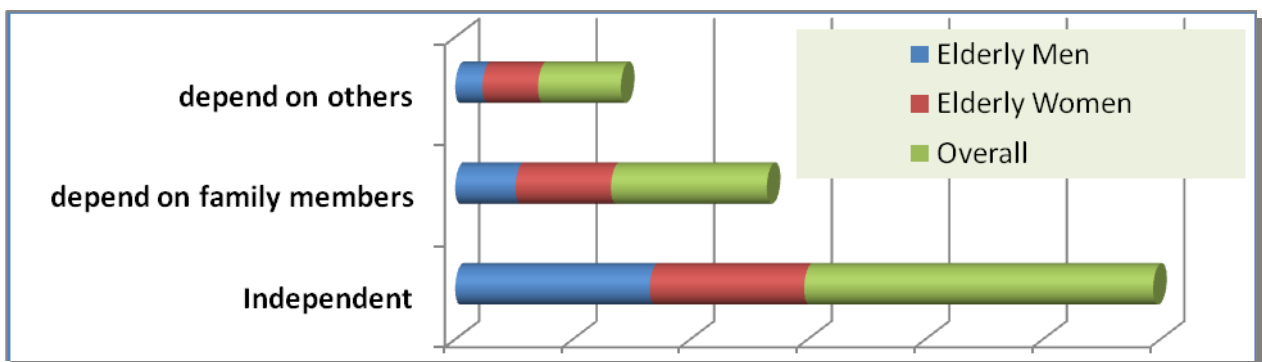
- Survey suggests that every fourth elderly (24.9% i.e. 684 out of 2743 elderly respondents) were affected due to restrictions in their social life by their family members or others.

Kind of elder abuse suffered by elderly respondents

- Misbehave /Mistreatment
 - Restricted social life
 - Abuse/mental torture
 - Denial of basic needs
 - Physical harassment /Assault
 - Other form of harassment
-
- 20.78% elderly respondents said that in their opinion restricted social life is second most common kind of harassment/mistreatment in old age. 541 out of 2743 elderly respondents, suffering elder abuse termed restricted social life as second most common form of elder abuse.

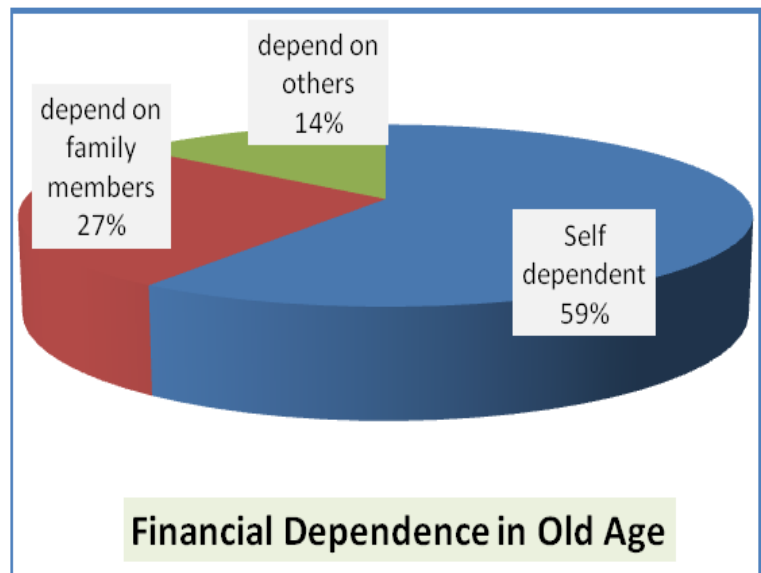
Financial Dependence in old age

- 52.9% older persons were found financially independent while 40.61% elderly respondents were dependent on others for their financial needs in old age. Out of 8000 elderly respondents, 3369 elderly reportedly claimed that they are self-dependent so far as financial independence is concerned.
- 26.5% elderly respondents (2089 elderly respondents) said that they are dependent on their family members for finances while another 14.1% (1016) elderly respondents were depending on others (other than their own family members).



- Elderly men were found in good financial command in comparison to elderly women, where 69.3% elderly men claimed that they are financially independent and only half of the elderly women respondents (51.1%) were found financially self-dependent.

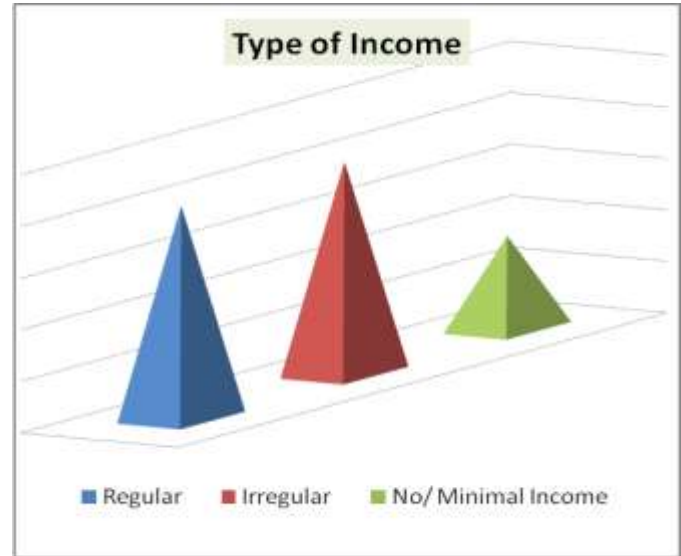
- 21.44% elderly men and 31.2% elderly women were depending on their family members while 9.8% elderly men and 18.3% elderly women were reportedly dependent on others.



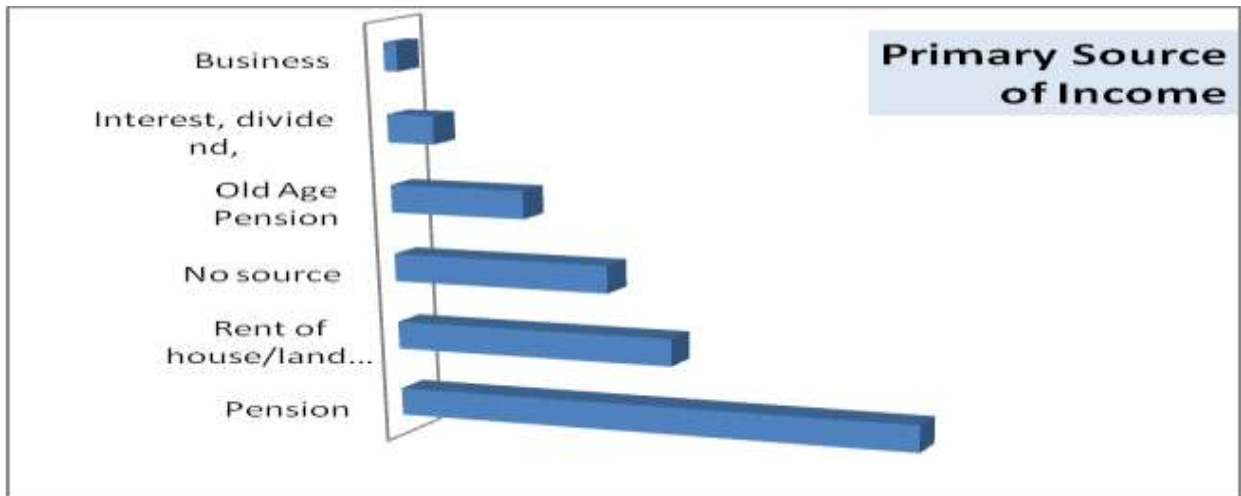
- When data obtained during the survey further tried to look into the financial status of financial self-dependent elderly respondents, it

was found that only 29.1% elderly respondents (45.5% elderly men & 8.44% elderly women) had actual control over their finances. Only 868 elderly respondents out of 2969 elderly respondents accepted that they manage their finances as per their choice.

- Remaining 70.81% elderly respondents have only partial or no control over their finances. Almost half of the financially self-dependent elderly (48.2%) have no control over their money and their family members have actual control on their financial income. Out of 3269, 1606 respondents claimed that they could not manage their money matters or mostly because their family members/relatives don't let them control their money.

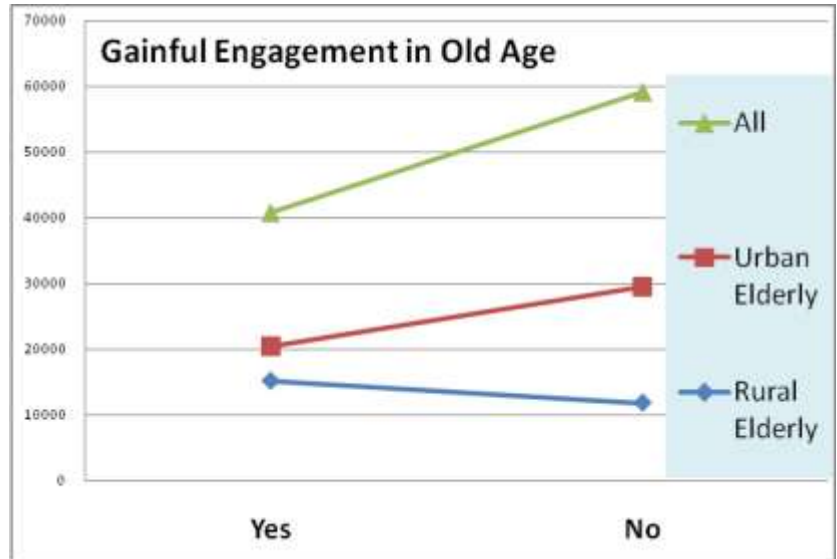


- 41.3% elderly respondents have regular source of income, while 40.97% elderly respondents have irregular income and 17.9% elderly respondents have no/minimal income.
- 43.02% elderly respondents reportedly said that pension is primary source of their income, 23.05% elderly said that they earn from their household /land property. For 11.09% elderly respondents old age pension is primary source of their income.



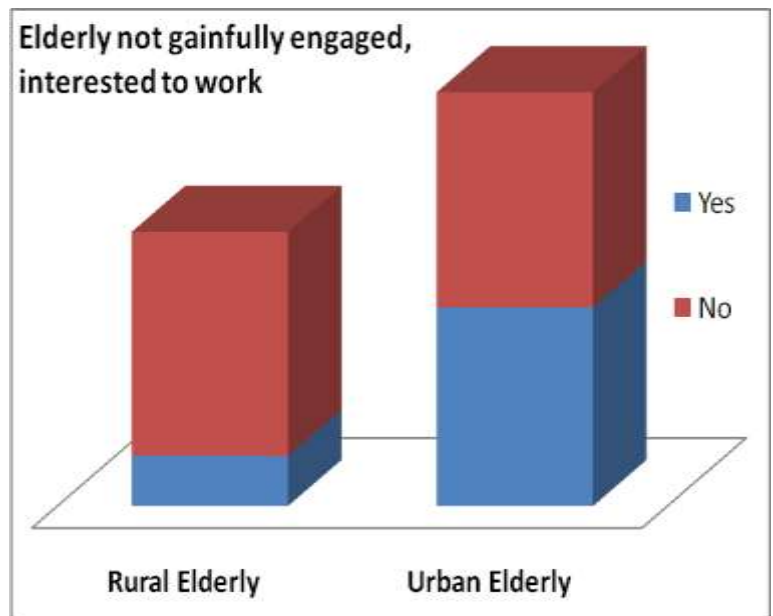
Gainful Engagement opportunities in old age

- 40.51% elderly respondents said that they were involved in gainful engagement in old age, while majority of older persons (58.1%) said that they were not involved in any gainful engagement in old age.



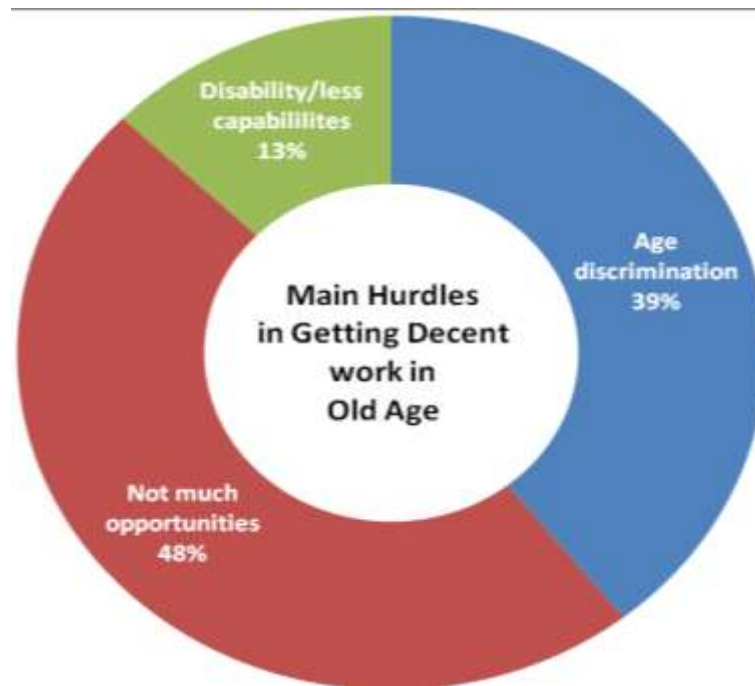
- Out of 8000 older persons, contacted during the survey, 3257 denied involvement in any kind of gainful activities while 2342 elderly respondents said that they are gainfully engaged or were gainfully engaged in their old age earlier.
- In rural areas percentage of gainful engagement is quite higher and majority of older persons were found engaged in traditional or agricultural activities.

- 36.16% elderly respondents (1069 elderly out of 3257 elderly not gainfully engaged) expressed their interest to do work in old age, if opportunity be given to them. Percentage of such elderly was quite higher in urban areas in comparison to rural areas.



- 63.4% elderly respondents (1988 elderly out of 3257 elderly) expressed their reluctance to work in old age.

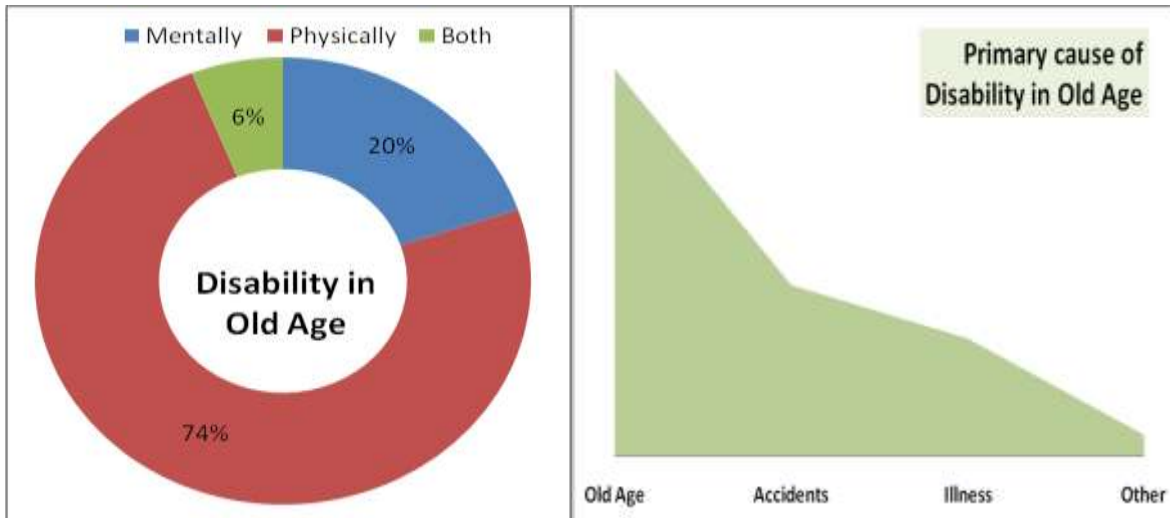
- When asked about the major hurdles on the way to gainful engagement opportunities to older people, it was analyzed that 47.9% elderly respondents found non-availability of suitable job opportunities for older persons as major hurdle while 39.36% older persons held age discrimination accountable for not getting decent work in old age.
- Another 12.73% elderly respondents said that disability and low performance level in old age is major hurdle in getting suitable job in old age.



Disability in old age

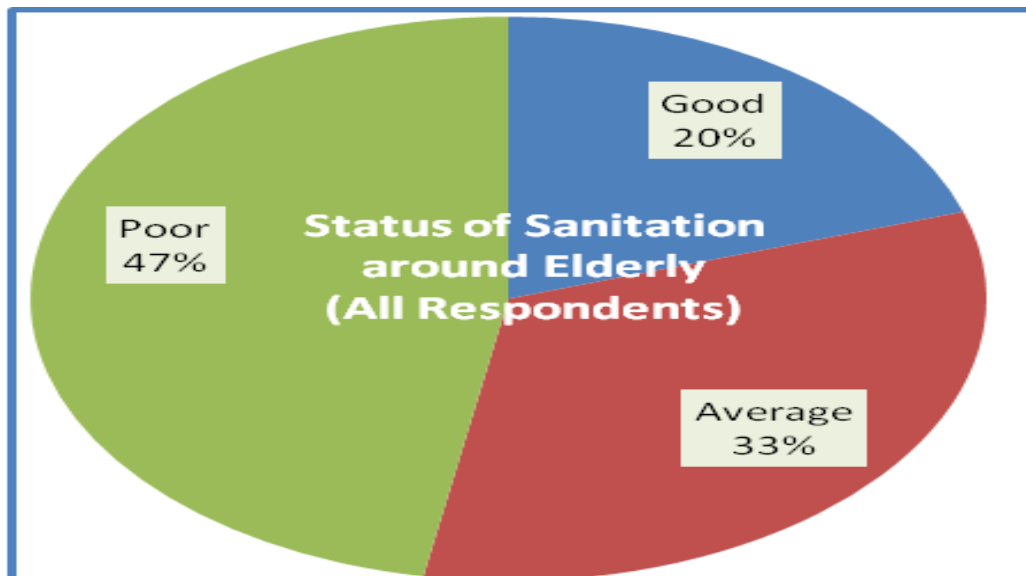
- When sample respondents were classified on disability parameters, analysis indicates that 7.71% older persons were either disabled or had gone through disability phase in their old age. Out of 8000 respondents, 5389 claimed that they are disabled or had been disabled in the past.
- According to 54.9% disability-affected older persons, old age is primary cause of their disability, while 25.3% disability-affected elderly said that accidents and falls are primary cause of disability in old age. Out of 428 disability affected elderly 235 elderly respondents accepted Old Age as primary cause of their concern, so far as disability in old age is concerned.

- 16.8% disabled elderly were found reportedly suffering chronic diseases and illness, which caused disability in old age.



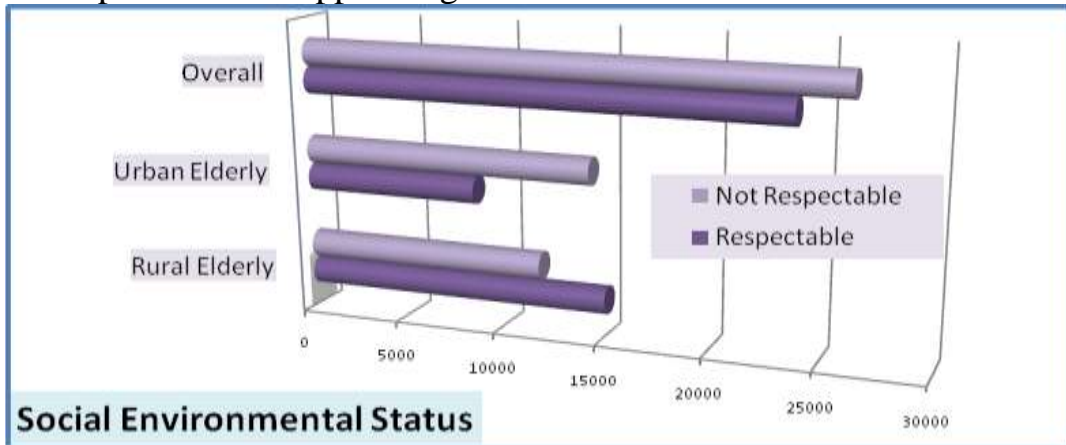
Sanitation/Hygiene in old age

- 20.3% elderly respondents said that sanitation/hygienic status is good, 32.85% elderly said that its average and most elderly i.e. 47% termed sanitation status in and around their houses as poor.

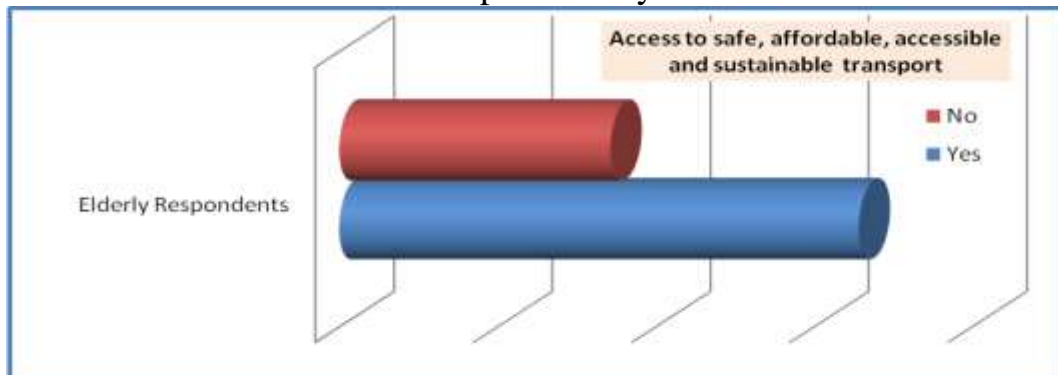


Social Status in old age

- As per 47.4% elderly respondent's social environment status of their family/society is respectable while majority (52.6%) find the social environment around their houses and in the society not respectful.
- In urban areas, according to 2436 out of 5000 urban elderly, social status of older persons is disappointing.

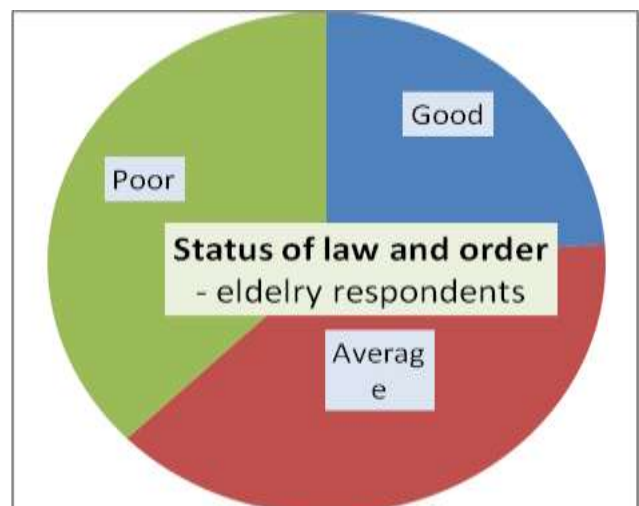


- Almost every third elderly (34.3%) had no access to safe, affordable accessible and sustainable transport facility.

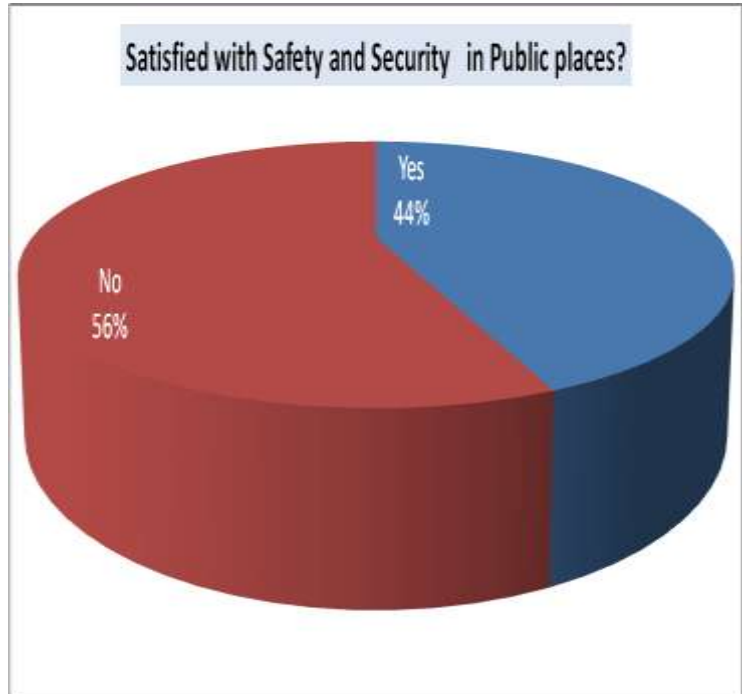


- 81.3% elderly respondents don't find road transport facilities elderly friendly.

Safety & security in old age



- 23.7% older persons said that status of law and order in their locality is average, while 37.1% elderly respondents judged law and order status as poor. Only according to 23.9% elderly respondents' law and order status in their locality is good and they find themselves safe and secure.

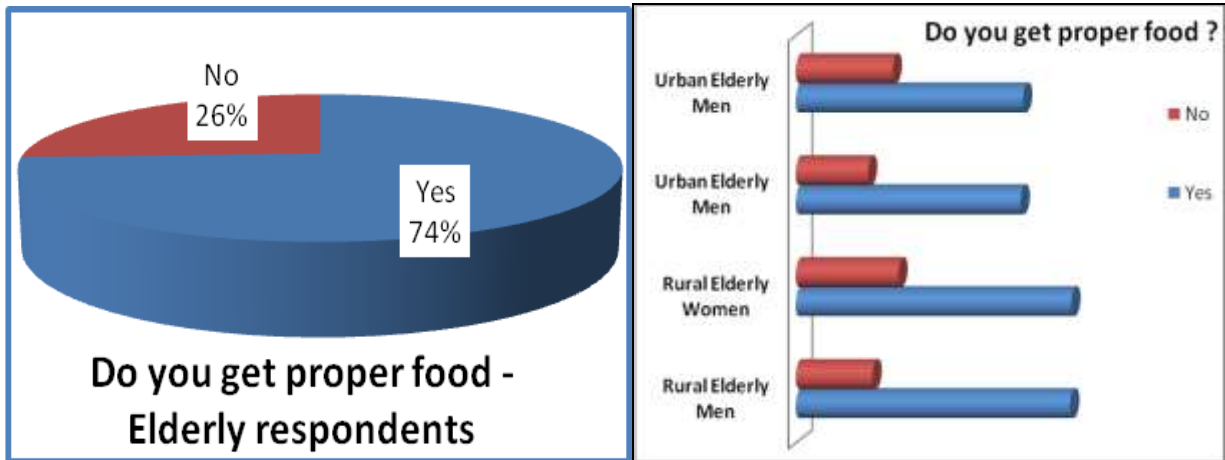


- When older persons were asked about sense of safety and security in their houses, 79.1% respondents agreed that they feel safe and secure inside their houses, while 21.1% said that they are not 100% safe even inside their houses.
- When the same question was asked in terms of public places, less than half elderly (43.78%) said that they feel safe even in public places and more than a half (56.02%) expressed their view on safety and security in public places negatively.

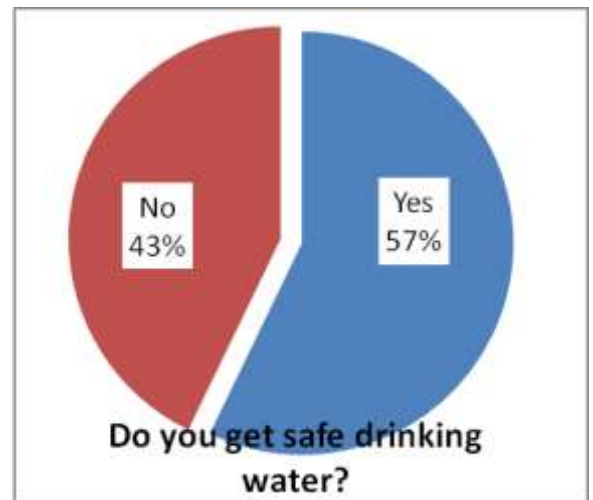


Food in old age

- Overall 74.4% elderly people accepted that they are getting proper food in old age, while almost every fourth (25.7%) elderly person is reportedly not getting proper food. Out of 8000 elderly respondents, only 5810 getting proper nutritious enough food in old age, while 1889 elderly people are deprived from getting proper food.
- Ratio of getting proper food in rural as well in urban areas is almost same.

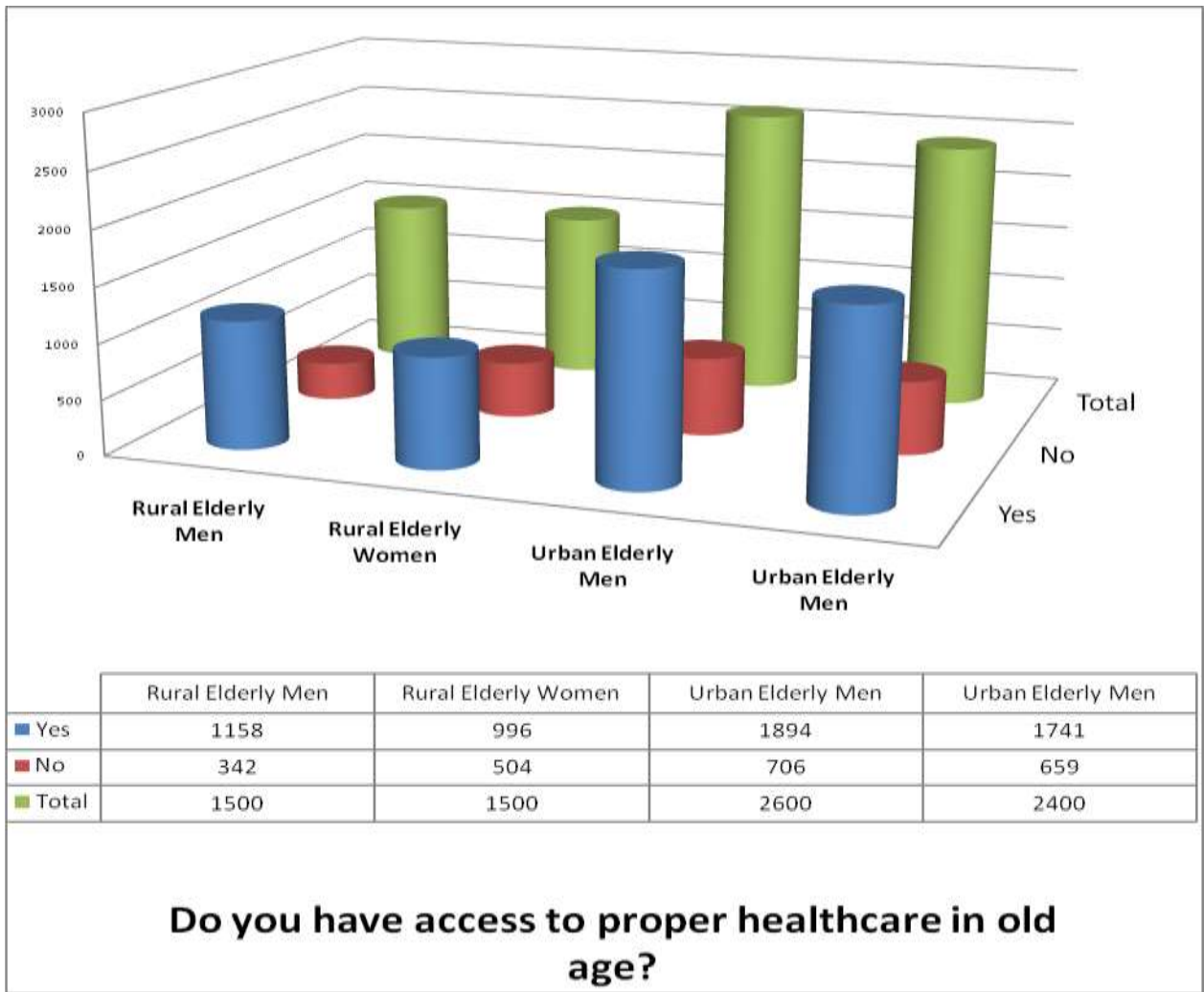
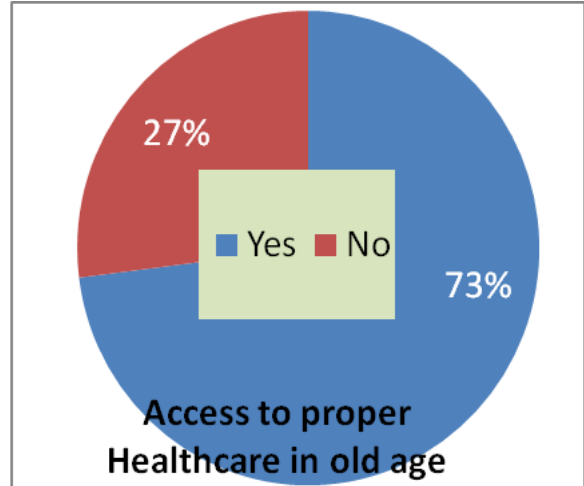


- 57% older persons (3665 out of 8000) said that they can say that their food is nutritious, while 29.2 % elderly respondents said that their food is less nutritious and 13.1% elderly termed their food as mal-nutritious.
- Even 43.3% older persons (3341 out of 8000 elderly respondents) reportedly said that they are not getting safe drinking water currently. Out of them almost half elderly respondents' had never got safe drinking water as majority of them were dependent on natural/traditional source of drinking water.



Healthcare in Old Age

- 27.4% older respondents had no access to proper medicine/healthcare facility. In rural areas 28.6% elderly respondents and 25.1% urban elderly respondents were not getting proper healthcare facilities.
- 72.6% older persons were found getting proper medicines and healthcare facilities. In urban areas status of healthcare facilities was found better, where 72.7% elderly respondents accepted that they have been looked after medically well while in rural areas only 71.8% elderly respondents were getting regular healthcare facilities.

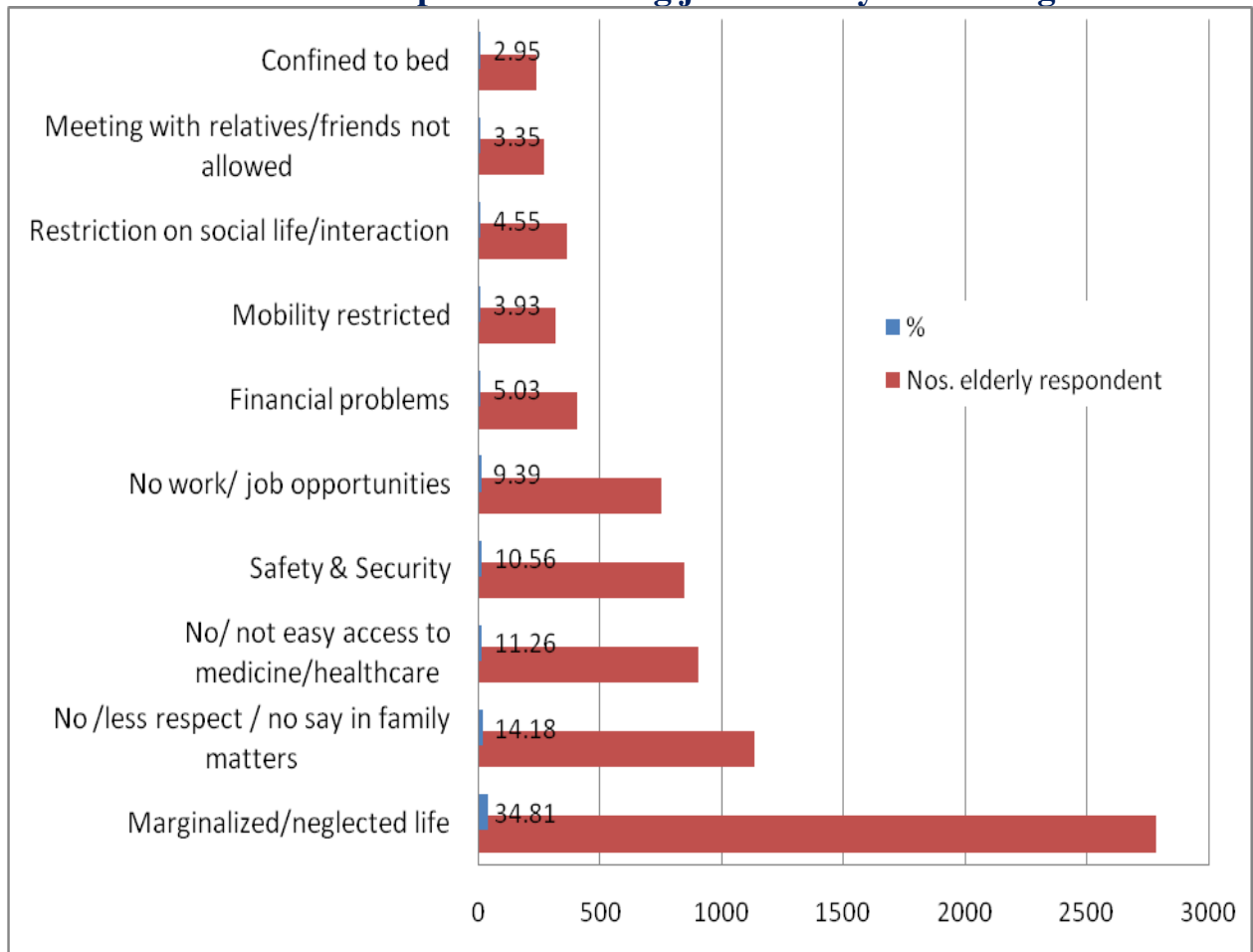


- Half of the deprived elderly respondents (53.7%) said that healthcare facilities/ medicines were unaffordable for them, that's why they could not get proper healthcare in old age.

Common problems due to old Age

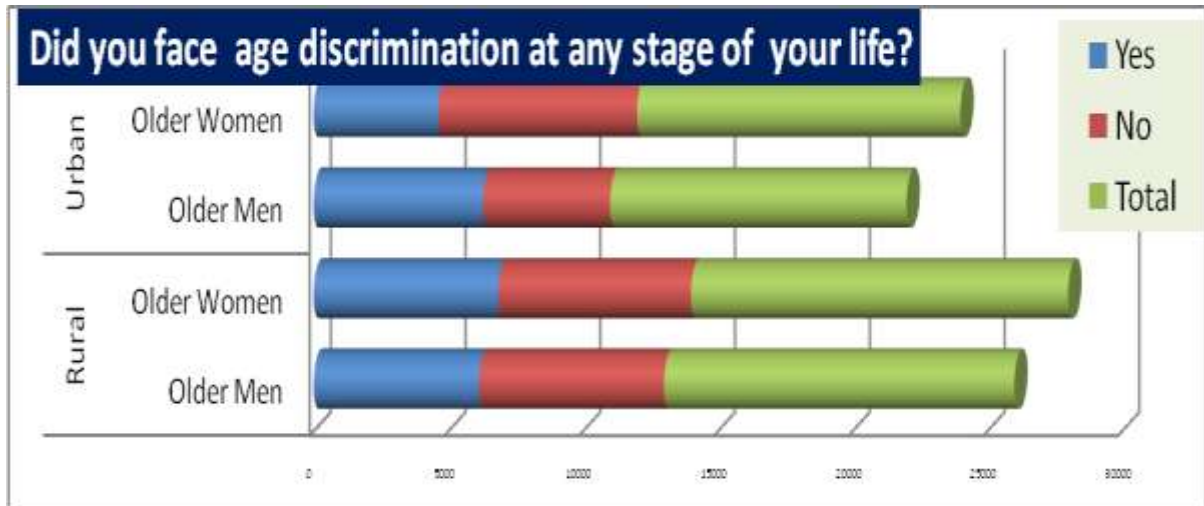
- When elderly respondents were asked about common old age problems, marginalization and neglect in old age emerged as most common problem. According to 34.81% older persons (2785 elderly out of total 8000 sample respondents) agreed that marginalized/neglected life in old age cause many problems in their life.
- 14.18% elderly respondents (1134 out of 8000 elderly) said that they have no/less respect and/or no say in family matters, which disturb them a lot.

Most common problems facing just due to your Old Age



Age Discrimination

- During the survey 49.2% elderly respondents acknowledged that they face age discrimination often, while 50.8% elderly respondents denied any kind of age discrimination in day to day life in their old age.





Agewell Foundation

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-Associated NGO Status with **UN-DPI**-

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