

DAY 2: 27 AUGUST 2013, SEMINAR ROOM 2

India International Centre 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi-110001

TIME: 11:30- 1:00 PM

The Session for Elder Abuse was taken by

1. Lily Thapa, Founder, *Women for Human Rights, single women group Nepal*
2. Dr. Anjali Raje, *Executive Director, International Longevity Centre- India*
3. Dr. Geeta Kataria, *Associate Professor, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi*
4. Manjira Khurana, *Country Head, Advocacy & Communication, HelpAge India*
5. Manish Kumar Chaudhary, *President of Respect India & Asst. Professor, Delhi University*

Topics covered:

- a) Violence, Isolation and abuse of elderly single women in Nepal by Lily Thapa, Founder, *Women for Human Rights, single women group Nepal*
- b) Violence, Isolation and Elder Abuse by Dr. Anjali Raje, *Executive Director, International Longevity Centre- India*
- c) Juggling with both hands, challenges & solutions related to abuse of the elderly by Dr. Geeta Kataria, *Associate Professor, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi*
- d) Elder Abuse by Manjira Khurana, *Country Head, Advocacy & Communication, HelpAge India*
- e) ‘Samvedansheel vridh aur savevedanheen vyavastha tantra’ by Manish Kumar Chaudhary, *President of Respect India & Asst. Professor, Delhi University*

1. TITLE: “Elder Abuse- An Overview”.

AUTHOR: Anjali Raje, *Executive Director, International Longevity Centre-India (ILC-I).*

Elder Abuse’ is defined by United Nations as “A *single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.*”

It is essentially an unspoken, unaddressed issue of contemporary society, an intense form of neglect causing harm, taking place mostly in the family & institutional settings. It needs to be clearly distinguished from “crimes against the elderly”, as the latter necessitates police intervention, due to its very nature.

It is a sensitive topic and the seniors who are its victims will not talk about it in the open. The perpetrators of this abuse, being their own children, no parent willingly states that his or her child

is mistreating them. So more often than not, cases of such elder abuse that take place at home go unreported and the elderly victims suffer in silence and in oblivion.

The vulnerability of senior citizens makes them keep quiet about any kind of abuse, lest they are further targeted. Dependent elderly widows more often bear the brunt of domestic abuse by family members.

Amongst the various kinds of elder abuse, 'Neglect' or ignoring of the elder by the family is also a common occurrence but which is not very obvious. Such behaviour amounts to a denial of the very existence of a senior citizen in a family set-up.

Abuse is a major cause of loneliness and depression amongst elders. Violent abuse especially makes an older person more withdrawn and prefers to stay away from or mixing with people. Loss of self-esteem as victims of abuse, makes them want to be isolated from any social groups. Elderly abused women, who have no economic support of their own are more prone to being depressed and consequently isolated from any kind of a social life.

KEYWORDS: Elder abuse, neglect, vulnerability.