

SOCIAL WORK

Abstract

Elder abuse is single or repeated act or failure to act in good faith that causes hurt or distress to an older person. Elder abuse including physically, sexually, psychologically, emotionally, financially and drug addiction. Most of the victim are women but some are also men. Older people without family or friends, people with physical and mental disabilities or dementia may experience many difficulties. According to a 2014 medical study conducted by researchers at Northwestern University and Rush University, candidate more than 80 years of age are more likely to experience abuse. A 2014 study in Chicago found that women were more likely to be victimized. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), women can also be abused in the long term. According to a 2015 US Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) report, approximately 13 million people are living with dementia. Lonely or withdrawn adults may be victims, according to NCOA.

Family care giving is not a new concept in India. Despite the interchange of interests, caring for family members is the norm in society across the country. As a society, we always want families to provide unconditional care, emotional and material support to independently living elderly parents, grandparents and other family members in their absence.

Intimate partner violence according to WHO, IPV is behavior by a present and previous partner that causes physically, mentally and genitally harm. National Family Health Survey 5, 29.3% of all female between the ages of eighteen and fifty have experienced as a minimum one sharp intimate partner violence; this rate is

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slightly decrease (31.2%). 3.1% of women aged 18-29 were physically abused during pregnancy, and 1.5% were abused when they were 18.7 years old.

Keywords: Social work, Elder abuse, IPV, WHO

I. ELDER ABUSE

1. **Define of Elder Abuse:** It is defined as a single or repeated act or failure to act in good faith that causes hurt or distress to an older person. These crimes include crimes against mankind, including physically, sexually, psychologically and emotionally abuse, financially abuse and drug addiction and crimes against regards and respectability.¹

2. Types of abuse

- **Physically abuse** when anybody causes physically hurt. For example, by killing, flicking or slap in the face. Physically abuse, such as padlock older people in a room against their willing.
- **Emotionally abuse**, may involve a caregiver verbally abusing, shouting, intimidation, or repeatedly negligence an adult.
- **Negligence** occurs when caregivers fail to meet the needs of an elderly person. Neglect includes neglecting physical, emotional, and social needs or denying access to food, medicine, or medical care.
- **Abandonment** is when an elderly person is left without care.
- **Sexually abuse** involving adults watching or participating in sex.
- **Financially abuse**, when an older person's money or assets is used or stolen.

3. Who abused?

Abuse can happen to any adult man and women. Most of the victims are women, but some are also men. Older people without family or friends, people with physical and mental disabilities or dementia may experience many difficulties. Abuse mostly affects people who dependent on others for daily living activities, such as bathing, dressing, and taking medications.²

4. Warning Signs of different abuse

- **Physically abuse** can be assessed by manifest on the body such as
 - Bruises, abrasions, dent
 - Falls
 - Fractured bones
- **Emotionally abuse** can often be assessed by changes in the candidate behavior.
 - Adults may also notify by Dementia-like behavior like vibration or weep.
 - Elder abuse is disregards and insulting one's elders.
 - When abuse occurs, older people are isolated or rejected.
 - Some signs of elder abuse are unresponsiveness or withdrawal from the elderly.
 - They may also develop doubts or fears, become more isolated, and may not want to talk as much. Emotional abuse is rare but has the most impact because it creates many problems for the body and mind.
- **Financially abuse** is a smaller form of abuse than other types of abuse and can be more difficult to investigate. Including financial indicators:
 - Large withdrawal,
 - Loss of property or home funds,
 - Unpaid bills

- Property damage
- Financial information is subject to immediate change.³
- **Sexually abuse** can be detected by physical signs such as physical abuse;
 - especially in the chest or genital area.
 - Rashes or scratches on the breast or breast and genitals
 - Bandages or scars
 - Pain in the mouth or genitals.⁴
 - Other symptoms include unexplained infections, bleeding, and decreased tears.
- **Neglect** is another type of abuse committed by caregivers or the patient himself.
 - Nutritional deficiency and dehydration,
 - lousy hygiene,
 - Not using medication,
 - living a bad life.
 - Does not treat bedsores

Behavioral disorders can be detected by observing the symptoms seen in the elderly and the changes in the behavior of the caregiver. For example, caregivers may not allow them to talk to or visit the elderly person, may not show hatred or love towards the elderly person, or may not refer to the elderly person as "baggage". Caregivers with a history of material abuse or mental problem are more affect than others to abuse the older people.

5. Risk Factors of Elder Abuse

Any older man and women may experience abuse, certain seniors are at higher risk for abuse

Risk factors for elder abuse

- **Age:** According to a 2014 medical study conducted by researchers at Northwestern University and Rush University, candidate more than 80 years of age are more likely to experience abuse.
- **Caregivers:** Caregivers who live with the elderly people, are financially dependent on them, involve in drugs ingestion activity, or have a high criminal record.
- **Gender:** A 2014 study in Chicago found that women were more likely to be victimized. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), women can also be abused in the long term.
- **Health:** According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), approximately fifty percent of human with dementia face abuse and neglect.
- **Exclusion:** According to a 2015 US Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) report, approximately 13 million people are living with dementia. Lonely or withdrawn adults may be victims, according to NCOA.⁵

6. Elder abuse problem: One in 10 families over 60 years of age face abuse, including neglect and financial exploitation. From 2002 to 2016, more than 643,000 adults were handled in emergency for serious and heavy accidents and there have been more than 19,000 homicides.⁶

7. Preventing Elderly Abuse & Neglect: If you are caring for an older person and think you may be at risk of abuse or neglect, you can provide help and support. Maybe you cannot control your anger and find yourself yelling or hurting people you care about? Are others concerned about your behavior or the tension between the two of you?

8. Prevention of caregivers

- Anxiety is a very common cause of older abuse and neglect. Caregivers may decrease stress by doing yoga, meditation and deep breathing exercise.
- All caregivers need regular breaks, even for a few hours, to attend to their own needs and reduce the stress of caring for an older person.
- **Register for the elderly** who will not have friends or family.⁷
- **Learn** to control anger.
- **Take care of yourself.** If you do not get enough rest, you will become angrier. Eat a healthy diet, exercise regularly, and meet your medical requirement.
- **Seek support for depression.** Family caregivers are particularly vulnerable, but there are many things you can do to improve your thoughts and feelings and overcome problems.
- **Elderly Care Team wanted.** Sharing your experiences with others who are facing the same issues can help ease your sense of isolation as a caregiver. It is also a great place to get senior care tips and advice.
- **Seek help for addiction problems.** It is not always easy, but there are many things you can do about drug or alcohol addiction.
- **Looking for support.** If you cannot stop no matter how hard you try, it's time to seek support from your physician.⁸
Every year, 15 June is celebrated as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (**WEAAD**).⁹

9. History

United Nations General Assembly on June 15, 2011 was approved World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), but awareness of the history of elder abuse makes this special celebration even more meaningful. WEAAD's origins can be traced back to the International Plan of Action adopted at the First World Conference on Aging in Vienna, Austria, in 1982, which emphasized the need to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of older people and called on the government to take action on this issue. The problem of elder abuse must be urgently solved and the health of the elderly must be improved.¹⁰

II. FAMILY CARE GIVING

1. Family Caregiving in India: Home care is not a new concept in India. Despite the interchange of interests, caring for family members is the norm in society across the country. As a society, we always want families to provide unconditional care, emotional and material support to independently living elderly parents, grandparents and other family members in their absence.¹¹

- 2. Meaning of Family Care:** Family Care is nothing more than a family member, perhaps one of the children, taking care of an elderly parent. Nursing responsibilities include assistance with activities of daily living, providing direct care to patients, assisting with mobility, emotional support, and providing social, health, and medical care.¹²

The world's aging population is increasing. India has the second largest elderly population in the world, with 103.8 million older people. The demand for formal and informal caregivers to maintain the general health of older people is likely to increase at the same rate. In India, a collectivist country, it is a tradition for family members to take care of the elderly. Although some health and care services have changed, there is still a high rate of family members being left in need of formal care, with informal care being preferred over legal guardians (especially for spouses or guardians).¹³

Elderly care generally refers to medical services provided to people in need by hospitals or individuals. Legal care can be divided into three categories: (1) home care; (2) community care (such as day care centers with trained staff); (3) nursing home care. The care which is provided by family, relatives, friends and neighbors is known as the **Informal care** and these people do not demand money for care so this is also known as the unpaid care.¹⁴

As the recipient's needs increase, caregiving responsibilities also increase, which can increase the stress on the caregiver.¹⁵

- 3. Important of Caregiver's Health:** The role and activities of family caregiver, will have a significant effect on the health and well-being of the care recipient. Poor health in family caregivers is a major factor in caregivers going to hospital, and evidence suggests that caregivers without effective coping strategies or depression issues may increase the risk of falls and prevent symptoms such as heart disease. and reduced work capacity. There is evidence that learning about behavioral patterns can help family caregivers and have a positive impact on their families: as caregivers become less anxious about medical intervention, caregivers will do the same. Care recipients may also be at risk of being abused by their caregivers if the recipient needs help and the caregiver has depression, illness and depression.¹⁶

- 4. The Role of the Family Caregiver:** Most family caregivers face work pressures. They may have daily responsibilities such as assisting patients with medical needs, using the bathroom, dressing, eating, taking medications; including laundry, grocery shopping, house cleaning, meal preparation, finance and legal, hospital coordination, planning and transportation... In addition to these activities, in-home caregivers are always concerned about the health and safety of their patients and provide ongoing emotional support. Constantly busy your body and mind can be exhausting and eventually lead to anxiety, depression, or burnout.¹⁷

III. INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is internal violence committed by a present or previous spouse during a relationship with other couples and individuals.^{18,19} This may include violence against a present or previous partner. According to WHO, IPV is including physically, mentally and genitally assault.^{21,22}

1. Types of Relationship Between Abuser

Physical violence, such as:

- Hitting, hitting, kicking and hitting.
 - Turn your hands or pull your hair.
 - Shake it, shake it, or throw things at it.
 - He tried to strangle you or burn you.
 - Threaten or harm you with a gun, sharp object like knife or other harmful things.
- **Genital violence**, including genital assault.
 - **Mentally abuse** such as insults, disrespect, destroying the property, torture, threats to steal children.
 - **Behavioral control**, together with keeping apart a individuals from their own family and buddies; monitoring their movements; restricted access to economic sources, employment, education or healthcare.²³

IPV is not unusual in India; In fact, the National Family Health Survey 2019-2021 concluded that 31.5% of Indian ladies or girls have experienced physical or genital abuse as a minimum the age of 15. These results do not include women who experienced violence or other forms of harassment. partner.

2. How does Indian law do with IPV?

Formerly, Indian laws taken into consideration domestic abuse by their father and mother as a form of IPV. In 1983, Parliament passed Section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code, which punished male partner who beat their wives. Over time, Indian courts have explored the definition of domestic violence to encompass all varieties of physical and mental abuse. but it is far really worth noting that Indian laws nevertheless do not criminalize marriage or sexual intercourse against girls.

3. How many people are closely involved in violence?

- One in three women and one in four men are subjected to some form of physical abuse by their partner. This includes a variety of behaviors (such as slapping, shoving, shoving) that may not be considered "domestic violence" in some cases.²⁴
- One in seven women and one in twenty-five guys have been injured by their spouse.
- One in ten women are abused by way of their companion.

- In keeping with the National Family Health Survey 5, 29.3% of all female between the ages of eighteen and fifty have experienced as a minimum one sharp intimate partner violence; this rate is slightly decrease (31.2%).
- 3.1% of women aged 18-29 were physically abused during pregnancy, and 1.5% were abused when they were 18.7 years old.

4. Serious Warnings About Relationships with a Victim of Violence

Physical Violence²⁵

- Dark eyes
- Rough hands
- Chapped lips
- Red or purple swelling in the neck
- Sprained wrist

Genital abuse like bodily abuse, can be find out by physical sign & symptoms;^{26,27}

- Especially seen around the chest or genital area/forehead.
- Itching or scratching on the chest, breasts and genitals.
- Seizure or attack symptoms
- Pain in the mouth, anus or genitals.
- Other symptoms include unexplained infection, bleeding, and rupture.

Mentally Violence

- Causes depression, despair, or hopelessness.
- Restlessness, anxiety, or constant worry
- Sleep changes (too much or not enough)
- Drug or alcohol problems
- Very apologetic or sensitive
- Lack of interest in daily activities
- Low self-esteem
- Appearing scared
- Signs of depression
- Talking about yourself or trying to kill yourself.
- Need permission to go anywhere or meet and talk to others
- Partner constantly calling, texting or calling, demanding to know where they are, what they are doing and who they are
- They are taking money or using a credit card which is not allowed and they have to count every money they spend
- They can't drive
- They call their partners "Hope" or "Teacher" or accuse them of always being influential

5. Preventing of Intimate Partner Violence

- Improve women's rights in divorce, property and alimony
- Obtain appropriate consent of the partner
- Promote girls and women's social and economic self-awareness in decision-making.²⁸

- Media/Print Media aims to raise awareness about existing rights.
- IPV should be discussed in the school curriculum.
- Gender Equality
- IPV counseling should be provided to families at high risk once a month.
- sing behavior change communication to affect social change.
- Integrating IPV issues into sexual and child health services, especially at monthly meetings.²⁹
- Creating and integrating IPV “survivors' networks” into various forms of prevention, support, and advocacy; Engaging and supporting victims, communities, and stakeholders in addressing and preventing IPV, such as advocating for IPV awareness issues, strengthening the law. Develop and implement measures to reduce and prevent IPV, provide care to victims, and provide social protection and legal support.
- Improve treatment at all levels of society (family, community, and workplace) to be effective in cases of IPV.
- Plan community events and efforts that use mass media and social media to raise awareness of the problem and provide treatment to victims.
IPV consultants are viewed as media outlets and integrated into program, office and business planning.³⁰

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