

SALIENT FINDINGS

(Report Highlights)

FINDINGS OF FORMAL SETTING: OLD AGE HOMES

ELDERLY LIVING IN OLD AGE HOMES

Health & Healthcare access

- ✓ 41% of the elderly in old age homes said that they faced some kind of difficulty during the pandemic.
- ✓ 47% of the elderly residents in the old age homes had joint aches & pains, while 29.6% suffered from Hypertension.
- ✓ 51.2% of elderly residents at old age homes had difficulty in walking and 27.9% had poor eyesight.
- ✓ 40.5% of elderly faced difficulty in accessing medical care/medication as a result of the COVID-19 situation.

Dealing with Fear, Worry & Isolation

- ✓ 36.8% of the elderly said that future seemed bleak to them.
- ✓ 46.8% of the elderly were afraid of getting infected with the corona virus. ✓ The most worrisome thing for elders in old age homes, if getting infected with Covid19 was - isolation & quarantine (60.6%), hospitalization (62.2%), abandonment by caretakers / family members (22.9%) and non-availability of oxygen (21.3%) amongst others. ✓ Amongst the top statements that best describes their feelings since the pandemic started are - *"I find myself waiting for people to call more than ever before"* (56.7%), *"Some days I spend most of the time resting"* (54.7%) and *"I want someone to just be with me"* (30.3%) and *"The days seem to last too long"* (26.4%).
- ✓ The elderly felt depressed thinking and looking at the situation of COVID-19 in the country and it ranged from a little (42.3%), sometimes (20.6%), most of the times (16.9%) and all the times (4%).
- ✓ 58.5% of elderly felt that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their communication with their loved ones.
- ✓ On being asked about what activities they miss doing/experiencing compared to the time before Covid-19, 80.1% said going out for a walk, 41.8% said meeting with friends and family without any protocols in place, 54.5% said not having to wear a Mask and 21.4% said visiting religious places.
- ✓ On being asked what are the various restrictions imposed / protocols instituted by your Old Age Home to protect you - 81.1% said no visitors are allowed, 68.9% said they were not allowed to go out and 70.4% said Mandatory wearing of Mask.

Elder Abuse & the Pandemic

- ✓ 36.1% said that elder abuse is prevalent in society.
- ✓ 26.9% said they have been victim of elder abuse. Of those abused, 48.7% had been abused by their Children, followed by 23.1% who were Relatives, Cleaners/Maintenance staff again 23.1% and 20.5% by the old age home Manager or Owner.
- ✓ Of those abused, 74.4% faced Disrespect, 25.6% faced Beating/Slapping, 30.8% faced Verbal Abuse and 17.9% faced Economic Exploitation.
- ✓ Of those abused in the last one year, said their abuser was - 56.4% indicated old age home care taker and 23.1% indicated family members.
- ✓ 65.5% of those abused, felt that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk of elder abuse.
- ✓ Emotional Abuse (60%), Financial Abuse (40.7%), Physical Abuse (31%) and Psychological Abuse (18.6%) are main the types of abuse faced by those during the pandemic. ✓ 34.1% of elderly in the old age homes, felt a change in the behaviour of care takers/family members during the pandemic.
- ✓ 64.7% of the elderly at old age home attended counselling session organised at the home.

Vaccination: Status, Awareness & Misinformation

- ✓ 93.3% were aware of Covid appropriate behaviour to avoid getting affected. ✓ 80.8% knew about vaccine for Covid19 and 85.2% amongst them felt that vaccine is really important for them.
- ✓ 73.5% of them said that they will be totally immune to Covid19 after the vaccination. ✓ 66.2% elders had got at least one dose of vaccination, while 33.8% have not been administered a single dose of Covid19 vaccine till now.

CAREGIVERS IN OLD AGE HOMES

- ✓ 60.2% of Caregivers said that access to goods / services / benefits difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Amongst the goods / services / benefits where access was a problem - 84.6% said food / groceries, 69.2% said medicines and 53.8% said availability of Caregivers. ✓ 36.9% said that the old age home did not get any help in accessing the above goods / services / benefits.
- ✓ Of those who received help, the source of help was 46.3% - HelpAge Helpline, 41.5% - volunteers, 39% - Police and 31.7% - family members.
- ✓ 50% old age homes said they faced Scarcity of Funds during the pandemic. ✓ In response to the measures did old age homes took, to meet the needs of funds scarcity: 42.6% contacted the local leader for funds, 37% contacted local NGO, and 35.2% reached out to family members of the elderly for support.
- ✓ The measures taken by old age homes to ensure social distancing guidelines are met by elders included - Conducting counselling sessions for the elderly to make them understand about social distancing (74.1%), Encouraging elderly to make video calls to their family members instead of meeting them physically (62%) and Sanitization of

groceries, medicines, daily essentials etc. procured from outside the old age home (58.3%).

- ✓ 93.5% respondents said that regular sanitization/fumigation process were put in place to protect the elderly from Covid-19.
- ✓ 37% said that there are no isolation or quarantine rooms created in the old age home, in case any elderly is infected.
- ✓ 59.3% Caregivers said that visitors are not allowed to meet their parents / grandparents during the pandemic.
- ✓ 83.3% said operational guidelines are in place for the visitors to ensure safety of the elderly.
- ✓ The sources of information for elderly in the old age homes to get information about the COVID-19 situation in the country were: TV (95.4%), radio (36.1%) and phone call (30.6%). ✓ 67.6% staff of the old age homes do not have a health insurance cover. ✓ 34.3 % old age homes faced the problem of staff shortage always during the pandemic. ✓ 56.1% of staff at old age home feel stressed due to shortage of caregivers/attendants during pandemic.
- ✓ 50.9% of Caregivers feared getting Covid19 while taking care of them. ✓ While 67% home had PPE kits, 37% of homes do not have PPE kits available to their staff. ✓ 51.9% of staff members/caregivers of the old age home are not worried about elderly being infected with Corona virus.
- ✓ Amongst the major worries of Caregivers, if some elder residents get infected with Corona are: Isolation and Quarantine (61.5%), Hospitalization (55.8%) and Abandonment by caretakers (28.8%).
- ✓ 61.1% old age home had patients who needed extra care, to do their day-to-day activities like those suffering from Dementia, Alzheimer's, bed ridden etc.

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