IX Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing:

Long-term care and palliative care
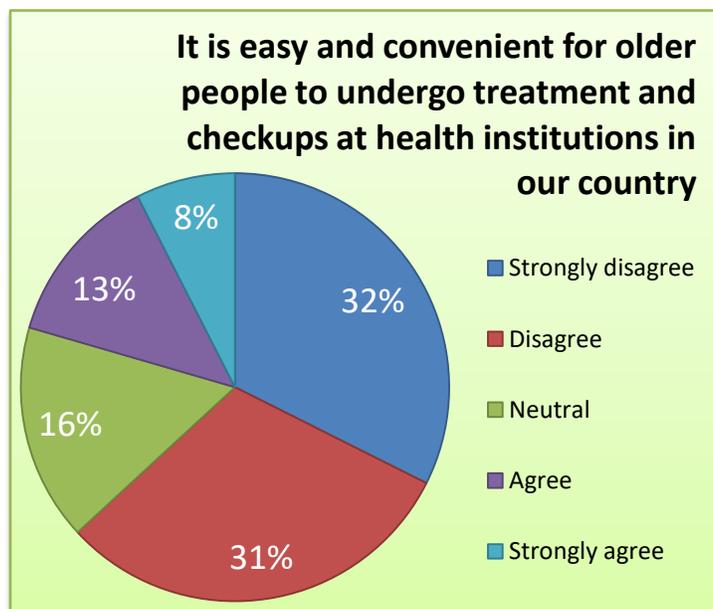
Healthcare in Old Age

Older persons face many health related problems, but it is not easy and convenient for older people to undergo treatment and checkups at various hospitals and clinics in our country. Healthcare in old age is most urgent area in which government and other stakeholders should work intensively.

Perceptions on medical treatment for elderly

In India, only 1/5th respondents reportedly admitted that it is easy and convenient for older people to undergo treatment and checkups at various hospitals and clinics.

- 63.1% respondents said that medical checkups and treatment is old age is difficult task. 32.4% respondents said that it's too difficult for old people to undergo treatment and checkups at health centres.
- 16.4% respondents have not much idea about medical problems of older people hence they remained neutral and didn't express their clear cut views on the subject.

The state of hospitals and clinics across the country is not standardized. While in urban India with the right kind of resources an elderly person can get good healthcare facilities the same is not the case for a majority of the population as the infrastructure and sensitivity towards older persons is lacking on the medical front. Coupled with the already existing medical issues for older persons, lack of infrastructure and sensitization of hospital staff and clinics towards the elderly is one of the main reasons why so many respondents have vehemently disagreed with the statement.

It is easy and convenient for older people to undergo treatment and checkups at health institutions in our country

- Strongly disagree — 32%
- Disagree — 31%
- Neutral — 16%
- Agree — 13%
- Strongly agree — 8%

Source: Survey conducted by Agewell Foundation, India

Most of the eldelry persons were being looked after by their family members & relatives in old age and they don't want to depend upon outsider caregivers, even in critical health conditoins. In India even today outside the family caregiver is considered a taboo because the social customs demand caregiving by family members.

- *Based on Surveys conducted by Agewell Foundation, India*