



Disease Management Association of India

(Organization with a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations – ECOSOC)

Submission to Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing on “Social protection and social security including social protection floors” and “Education, training, lifelong learning and capacity – building”

India - An Ageing Country - facts & data *

- India’s geriatric population is about 7.4 % (2011 Census) 98 million. So, according to UN definition India is an ageing nation.
- The population of senior citizen is likely to grow by 3.8 % every year compared to the population growth rate that is down to 1.8 % every year, and with this speed the senior citizens would be 143 million by 2021 and by 2026 it is likely to reach 173 million.
- The dependency ratio in India has increased from 7.8 in 1950 to 11.1 in 2010 (UN, 2013).
- The rising trend of nuclear families forces the elderly people to live alone.
- Migration also plays a major role in forcing the people to move to cities for better earning due to which senior citizens are left alone
- The triple hit – no income, no productivity and increasing healthcare spending will bring down the country’s growth rate and increase in spending on geriatric care.

**Reference: Healthcare Reforms in India – Making up for the lost decades by Rajendra Pratap Gupta, Elsevier 2016*

National legal framework

- The well-being of senior citizens is mandated in the Constitution of India under Article 41.
- The National Policy on Older Persons was announced by the Government of India in the year 1999
- “Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens” Act 2007. This bill permits State Governments to establish old age homes with the minimum capacity of 150 elders for the neglected elderly people in every district. The State Government may establish a maintenance tribunal in every district under which every old age citizen can go and claim



their right of maintenance seeking monthly allowance from their children or heirs. The appellate tribunal may also be established in every district. However, in India only 10% of retired employees get pensions from the government.

- The National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) addresses various health related problems of elderly people.
- The Government of India announced a National Policy on Older Persons in January, 1999. This policy provides a broad framework for inter- sectoral collaboration and cooperation. The policy has identified a number of areas of intervention -- financial security, healthcare and nutrition, shelter, education, welfare, protection of life and property etc. for the wellbeing of older persons in the country. While recognizing the need for promoting productive ageing, the policy also emphasizes the importance of family in providing vital non-formal social security for older persons.

Social Security

- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) Under this scheme, all Below Poverty Line Indians above 60 years are covered.
- In September 2018, India has launched health insurance programme- Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) which offers Rs.500,000 coverage per household to 10 crore poor families
- According to the National Health Policy 2017, primary healthcare system is strengthened by larger budgetary support to provide geriatric care

Equality and non-discrimination

- The presence of political workers, social activists, village panchayat administration, ASHA workers, strong community networks, family ties, help elderly in rural areas get access to social security schemes

Accountability

- Under Section 20(1) of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, every Hindu son or daughter is under obligation to maintain aged and infirm parents if they are unable to maintain themselves with the amount determined by a court.
- In 2007, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act was passed to provide maintenance support and protection of life and property of older persons. The Act establishes the Maintenance Tribunal to provide speedy and effective relief to elderly



persons. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act creates post of Protection Officers to address complaints of women suffering from domestic abuse.

- NITI Aayog has suggested several initiatives for senior citizens like linking AADHHAAR and direct benefit transfer - based implementation and monitoring of social security programmes including old age pension
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been implementing the Integrated Programme for Older Persons with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food and medical care.

Education, training, life-long learning and capacity building

- MOOCS were launched which can be assessed by the elderly
- Indira Gandhi National Open University is an open learning system-based university
- Skills development Programs are run by NSCDC
- A strong support system has to be developed for senior citizens where they are given training and a way of living their life happily and healthily.
- They can be utilized in services like teaching, mentoring and packaging industry where it is low risk and low exertion
- The quality of life depends on the quantity of income. So, a pension scheme is needed for senior citizens
- Townships dedicated to senior citizens should be built where the basic support services and assisted living can be factored in design
- NIIT provides free enrollment for senior citizens to understand basic computer skills

Disease Management Association of India is working with all stake-holders to push for a stronger social security for senior citizens through education, health and re-skilling programs.

We hereby submit the above-mentioned inputs on behalf of the Disease Management Association India.



Also, we look forward to the engagement with the United Nations on furthering the objectives of the UN group on Ageing and working with you closely. If you are open to hosting a workshop in India on Ageing, we would be happy to do the same to bring the focus on this issue.

We remain at your disposal for any further information or clarification on the above submission

For & behalf of
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