

# AGEING IN INDIA & OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Focus.

Age & Social Exclusion

United Nations  
August 2011



# Madrid Plan of Action - 2002

- Article 2
- We celebrate rising life expectancy in many regions of the world as one of humanity's major achievements.
- We recognize that the world is experiencing an unprecedented demographic transformation and that by 2050 the number of persons aged 60 years and over will increase from 600 million to almost 2 billion and that the proportion of persons aged 60 years and over is expected to double from 10 to 21 per cent.
- **The increase will be greatest and most rapid in developing countries where the older population is expected to quadruple during the next 50 years.**
- This demographic transformation challenges all our societies to promote increased opportunities, in particular opportunities for older persons to realize their potential to participate fully in all aspects of life.



ECOSOC

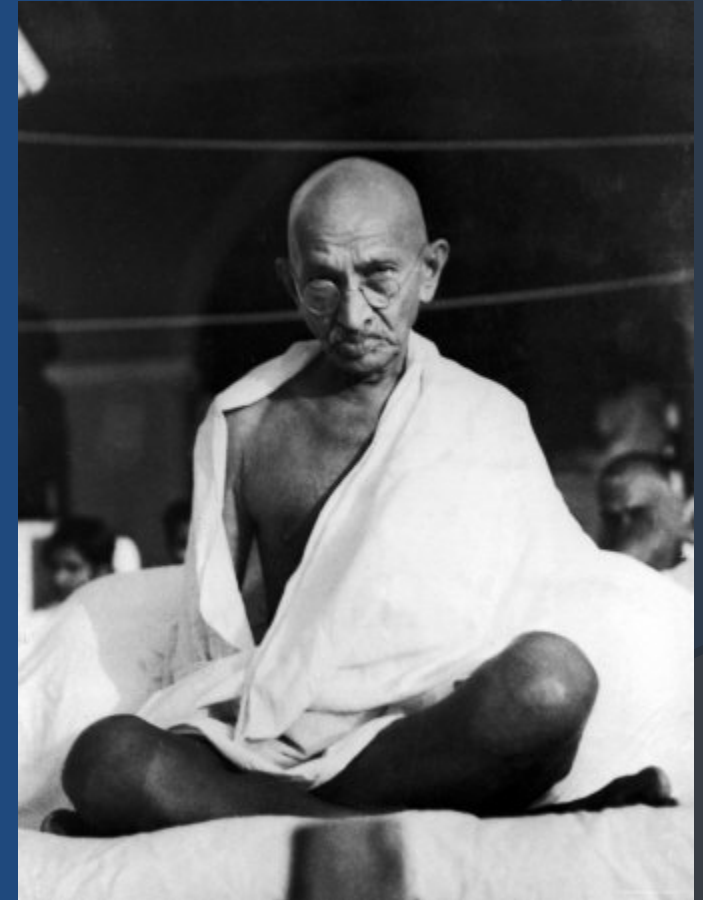


# Approach

- Its has been perceived since ages that age old beliefs have created such traditions which stand nullified in the current age
- The corruption of ideologies need to be rectified and the value of human being in young and old age respected
- Viewing it from cultural perspective simplifies recreating the current human rights understanding

# Mahatma Gandhi

- Respect traditions of the society, but not at the cost of loss of individual dignity.
- His practical and dynamic advice was-  
**"It is good to swim in the waters of tradition, but to sink in them is suicide".**



# Mother Teresa

- Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.



# Age & Social Exclusion

- ⦿ Lets not forget that the only constant in the universe is CHANGE
- ⦿ However the process of change is not only slow but always resented
- ⦿ Therefore it is important to first define and understand this CHANGE of....
- ⦿ Living life fully or.... in denial !!

# Older Persons– Living in Denial

- The under developed countries based on their cultural beliefs have been conditioned for a way of life
- It is identified that old age is to be lived in seclusion – which leads to worldly denial
- It is a stage of
  - Minimum consumption
  - Minimum attachment
  - Maximum Service to others &
  - Complete life of spirituality - renouncement



# Circumstance force old people to remain invisible

- Young try to shun them
- Families try and tolerate them
- Society ignores them
- Governments and policy makers neglect them as they remain invisible



# United Efforts : Need of the Hour

- ① To assess the processs of population ageing globally
- ① To study the emerging socio-economic & demographic scenario
- ① To identify the responsible factors for changed social behaviors towards old people
- ① To create awareness about rights of older persons
- ① For advocacy, lobbying & collaboration for protection of rights of older persons
- ① To build sustainable support system for protection of Human Rights of Older Persons at international as well as national levels

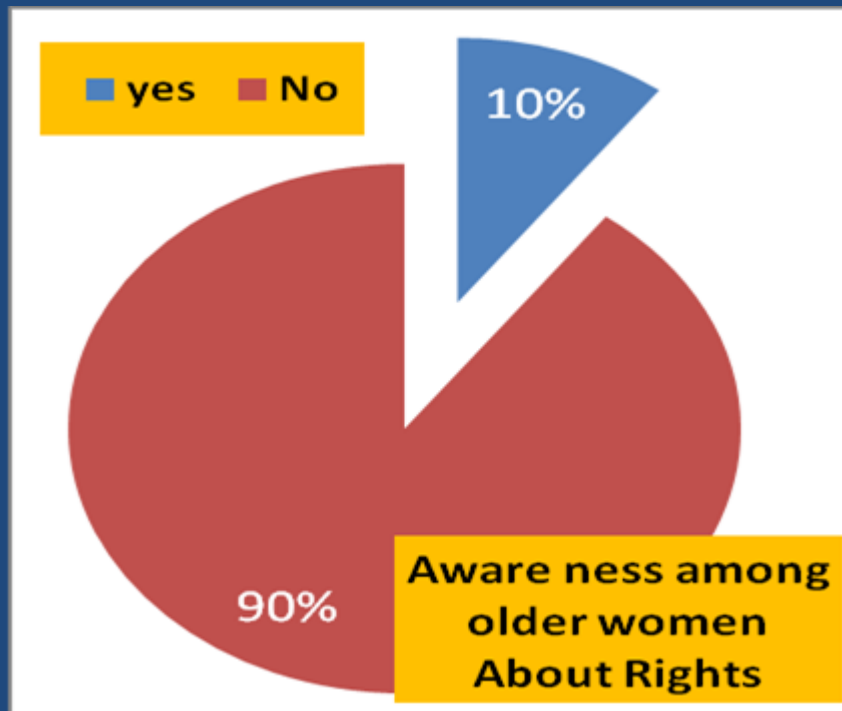
# The Gender Divide

- ⦿ Older women have more critical problem than older men. Due to social and traditional family structure they are forced to live with many limitations
- ⦿ Hence they find themselves marginalized and isolated all the time.
- ⦿ As women live longer than men, many of them have to live a life of a widow in their silver years. Widowhood in old age worsens the situation

# Human Rights & Status of Older women in India

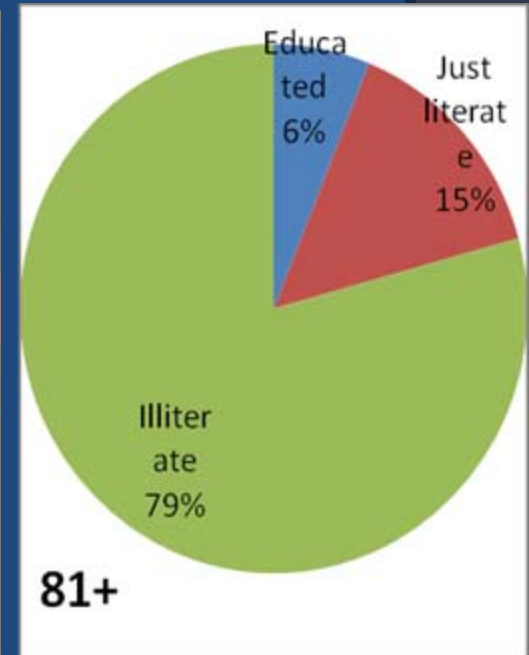
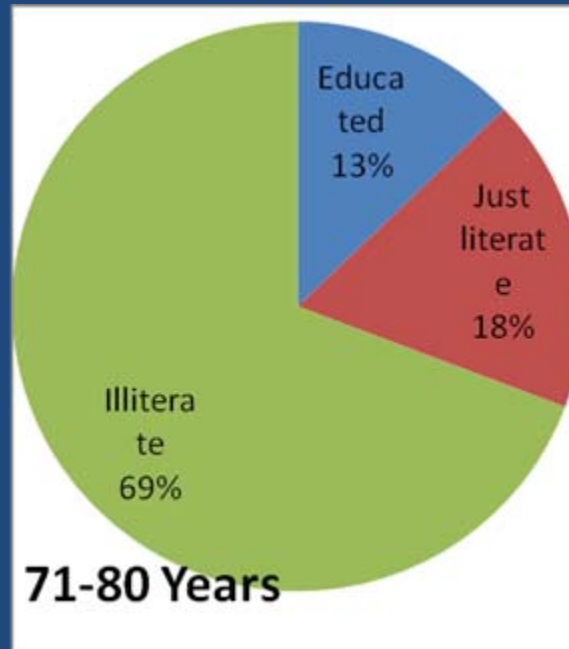
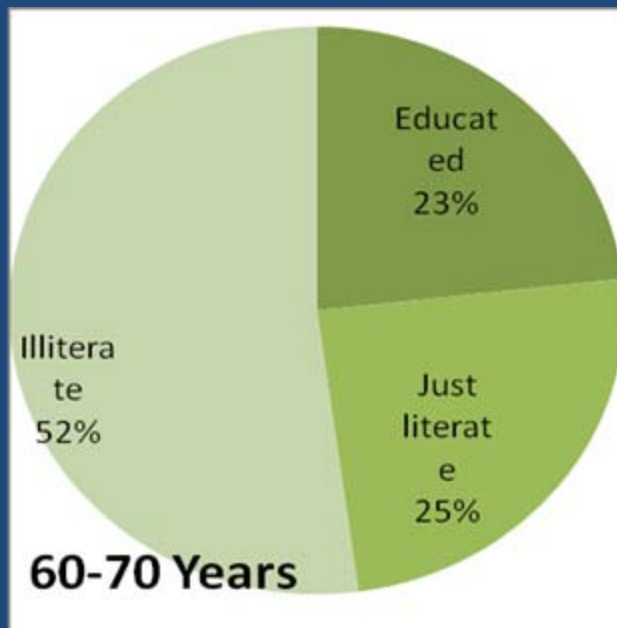
- India has a population of approx. 60 million - older women (60+).
- Traditionally, in India women have a respectable place in almost all societies
- But ground realities vary from this fact and human rights of older women are at stake today

# The Survey Finding



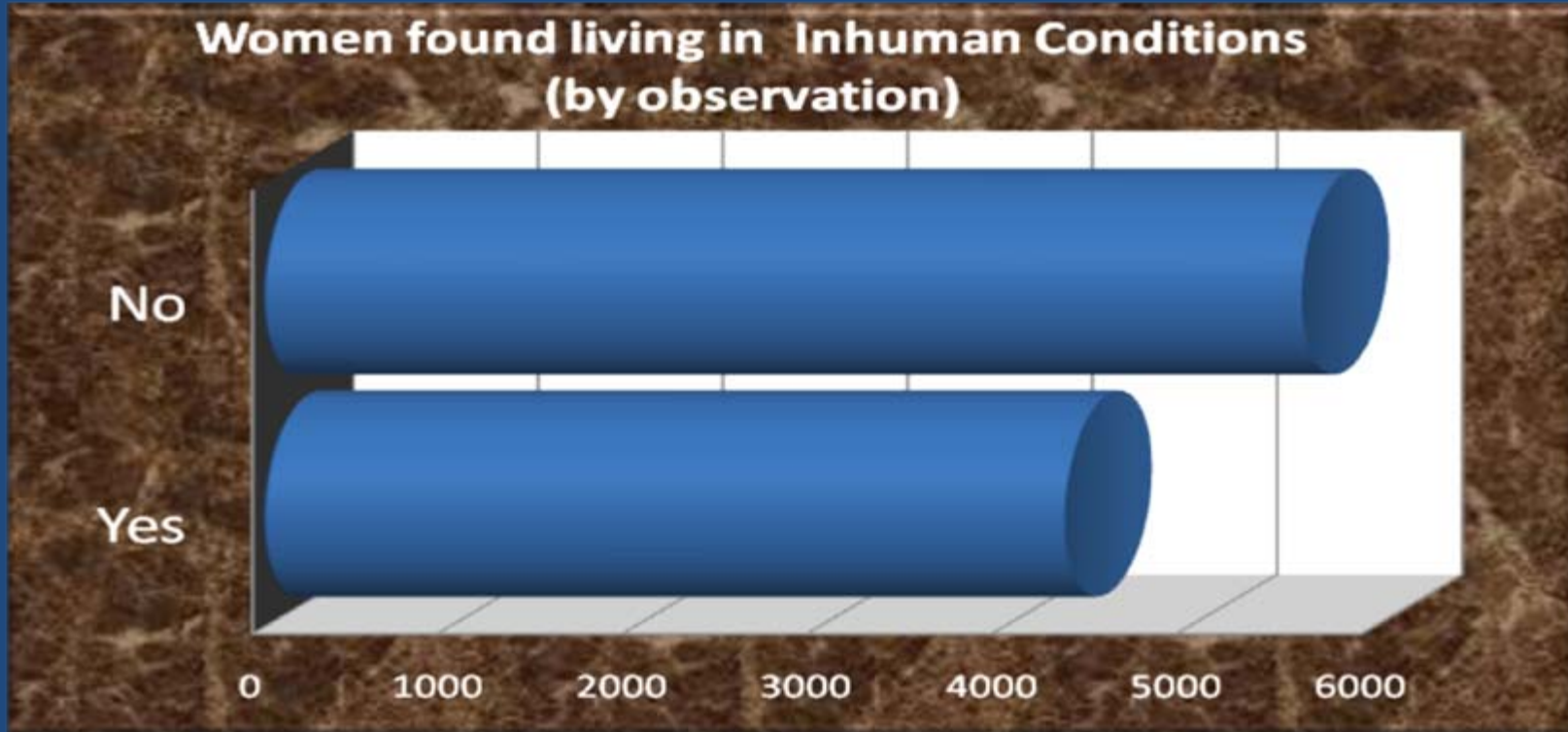
- 90% older women have virtually no knowledge of women rights, due to illiteracy or lack of exposure to outer world.

# The Survey Finding



- Illiteracy the biggest cause of minimal understanding of human rights for the elderly

# The Survey Finding



- ④ 44% older women were found living in inhuman conditions as per interviewers' observations.

# Rights of older people

- ⦿ Rights of older people are embedded in international human rights conventions
- ⦿ Human rights of older people violated in a number of different ways...
  - Elder abuse
  - Mistreatment
  - Age discrimination
  - ageism

# Older people need

- ⦿ Equal protection before law
- ⦿ Own property and use it the way they want to
- ⦿ Information, knowledge and education
- ⦿ Work and remain gainfully engaged
- ⦿ Participate in the process of governance
- ⦿ Social security emotionally, legally and financially
- ⦿ Health and social care services



# Rights of older people

- By the year 2040 there would be more older people than the young in this world
- The time has come now **Ageism** and **Age discrimination** are unacceptable
- *We all need a UN Convention on Human Rights of Older Persons*

Come let's all join hands & work  
towards  
**strengthening the protection of  
the human rights of older persons**

**Thank you**

