

Guiding Questions: Neglect, violence and abuse

1) In your country, are there specific studies or surveys (from governmental, non governmental or academic sources) on violence, abuse and neglect experienced by older persons?

The statistical data of Bangladesh represent the number of aged population has increase from 1.38 million to 7.59 million from the year of 1974-20012. Furthermore, the nuclear family is increasing in Bangladesh day by day and older people left alone living separately from their family and becoming vulnerable. There are initiatives taken by government and NGOs and social organizations for elderly but there is not enough data on violence, abuse and neglect experienced by elderly people in Bangladesh.

2) (a) What forms of violence, abuse and neglect (e.g. physical, psychological, sexual, financial, or other) are registered? What is the setting in which they occur (i.e. residential and nonresidential)? Is there information about the type of perpetrators?

There is no enough data of violence, abuse and neglect of elderly people in Bangladesh. Till now In Bangladesh male older people are treated as an important advisor in the family as well as Community. But this situation is changing for family setup and social change.

(b) Does violence, abuse and neglect particularly affect specific groups of older persons? If so, which groups and how?

Elderly are one of the victims of poverty and dependency. Although elderly man possess some property but elderly women are barely penniless. Their main problem is economic. They have no capability of earning. Generally elderly women in middle class family of Dhaka city depend on their sons or husband. As a middle class member they are not enough capable to fulfill the inherent high ambition.

Economic situation of the elderly is very vulnerable. In general older people feel that young people see them as being unable to earn income, dependent on their families for survival, and therefore as a burden.

The health condition of elderly is not so good to be satisfied. They possess broken and ill health in absence of proper health care needs and facilities. The older or the people above 50 years have two kinds of diseases: (i) short term diseases (ii) long term diseases.

Old people aged above 65 years are having an increased threat for disease due to poor diet and inadequate physical activity. In Bangladesh, services for the elderly have been limited.

3) Does your country's legislation explicitly address issues of violence, abuse and neglect against older persons? If not, what legislation applies to such issues in the context of older persons? Does this legislation sufficiently address the full range of violence against older persons?

- Government has a pension system for its retired employees since the British rule in 1924. Retirement age in government services is now 57 years.
- The age of 65 years for male and 62 years for female whose yearly average income not exceeding 10,000 BDT are considered eligible for the old age allowance. Bangladesh government allocated BDT 14,400 million and the total beneficiary is 3 million, each beneficiary getting 400 BDT per head per month¹⁹.
- Due to the social context of Bangladesh, most of women in rural and slum area do not own land and other property and they are on worse situation in the old age, though the country has law to distribute assets and land to the women. Moreover, according to the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) application act, 1937 (ACT NO. XXVI OF 1937) the wife inherits one-eighth if there is child and if there be no child gets one-fourth.

4) What legislation exists to protect older persons specifically against financial abuse, including Inheritance abuse?

legislation exists in Bangladesh:

- Old age allowance
- pension policies
- Recently the Maintenance of Parents Act, 2013 of Bangladesh tried to ensure that the children have to take necessary steps to look after their parents for three years and provide them with maintenance. But it is not in fully functioning yet
- Safety Network