



I- Guiding Questions for the focus of the IX Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing: Autonomy and independence

Q1- In your country/region, how is the right to autonomy and independence of older persons defined in legal and policy frameworks?

Answer: In Kingdom of Bahrain the right to autonomy and independence is defined by the Law No. 58 for the year 2009 Concerning Older People's Rights.

Q2- What other rights are essential for the enjoyment of the right to autonomy and independence by older persons, or affected by the non-enjoyment of the right?

Answer:

- The right to freedom from discrimination.
- The right to freedom from violence.
- The right to social security
- The right to health, work, and property

Q3- What are the key issues and challenges facing older persons in your country/region regarding autonomy and independence? What studies and data are available?

Answer: The key issues and challenges facing older persons related to how society views and treats them as nonproductive persons, or like if they don't deserve health care since health decline is part of aging process. Where public awareness should be enhanced in this regard. In addition, there are some other issues form challenges in regard to autonomy and independence these include:

- Social stigma and discrimination
- Negative prejudice associated with old age.
- Social exclusion

In regard to studies and data, a local study has been done regarding the life quality of older person, the study included roughly 3500 men and women of age sixty and above in which some aspects of elderly life was measured.



Q4- What steps have been taken to ensure older persons' enjoyment of their right to autonomy and independence?

Answer: In order to ensure that the elderly enjoy their rights, the following steps are taken:

- a) Implementing of the Law No. 58 for the year 2009 Concerning Older People's Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain has helped the older persons to overcome some of their problems.
- b) Educating the family on how to take care of their elders is another step.
- c) 11 daycare club were established all over the Kingdom .These clubs enable the elderly to stay with their family and provide them with new skills and abilities. This helped them to have a productive life that support them financially.
- d) Establishment of Elderly Service Office which provides them with different programs and help them to have a productive life is another step to help the elders.
- e) Issuing senior citizen card for older person which entitles them to 50% discount on the services provided by from different government and non-government agencies.

Q5- What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to seek redress for the denial of autonomy and independence?

Answer:

- Making older person aware of their rights.
- Making the family or relatives of the older person aware of the rights of their elders.
- Enforcing the existing law for elderly to improve their rights.

Q6- What are the responsibilities of other, non-state, actors in respecting and protecting the right to autonomy and independence of older persons?

Answer: The responsibilities of non-state actor is:

- Supporting the elder person by employing them.
- Supporting the programs that will increase the quality of life of older person.
- Utilization the experience and skills of older persons to help them become financially independent.