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-INCUBATOR-

“Seniors of India”: Life and Legacy.

“Understanding Aging Trends and Implications”

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Keywords: Humanitarian, Older, Companionship, Healthcare.

Our study set out to ascertain the significance of attending to the social, economic, and humanitarian needs of the aged. India has a great deal of responsibility to address the needs of older individuals because it is predicted to have the largest percentage of older adults in the world in the near future (Mathew & Thampi, 2024).

It is clear that India's senior population is suffering from severe health issues. There aren't many healthcare facilities in some places, and some people seem to have difficulties affording them. The Indian government has developed a number of organizations, pension plans, schemes, and tactics to help the elderly access healthcare facilities in light of all of this, like, **National Program for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE). National Pension System (NPS), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY).**

It is seen that, elderly people are alone when they get older, even though this is the time of life when they need their family, someone to help them around the house, and companionship. The

elderly's social isolation is exacerbated by the fact that many individuals who are in need of money are compelled to relocate from their homes to work in urban areas.

Elder abuse has become more prevalent these days, encompassing a range of mistreatments such as neglect, financial, emotional, and physical, inflicted upon them by their family members. According to a troubling poll conducted in 2022 by HelpAge India, 21% of elders in the country reported abuse by their daughters-in-law, and 35% of Indian elders reported abuse at the hands of their sons. Meanwhile, 46% of Indian elders are ignorant of any available legal support or abuse redressal mechanisms. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was created by the Indian government as a first step in that direction (Shiraz, 2023).

The Indian government has implemented several measures to safeguard and provide security for the aged population, as outlined in the,

1. National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP).

In 1999, the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was unveiled, reinforcing the will to protect the welfare of the elderly.

2. The RVY, or Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana.

The Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund provides funding for this Central Sector Scheme.

3. Elderline.

The Ministry established the National Helpline for Senior Citizens (14567)-Elderline in 2021 to handle elder complaints.

4. Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana.

The Ministry has also incorporated awareness-raising and sensitization initiatives with school and college students in an effort to enhance the bonds across generations. (*National Policy on Older Persons in India*, n.d.)

India's aging population is a substantial and expanding sector of the population that needs care and assistance. It is not only morally required, but also essential to prioritize the needs of the elderly in order to advance social fairness and inclusive growth. We can create an inclusive and compassionate society that serves all ages by supporting age-friendly surroundings, healthy aging initiatives, and inclusive policy advocacy.

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