

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." -Mother Teresa

Article by

Ms. Bhavna V. Herbha

Assistant Prof, Department of Social Work,
C. U. Shah University.



When and why it is celebrated?

Every year **June 15** is marked as World elder abuse awareness day and is celebrated since 2006. The aim of celebrating the day is to educate and make aware the elderly population across the world that is suffering from Abuse. It could be verbal, physical or Emotional.

Who proclaims?

After a request made by the international network for the prevention of elder abuse, the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 66/127, December 2011 officially recognized the day.

Theme:

This year's theme for 'world elder abuse awareness day' is "Access to Justice".

The United Nations official says that older people often face multiple problematic situations in accessing judicial remedies such issues like accessibility, affordability, reasonable accommodation, excessive delays and backlogs in judicial processes.

Current status:

Now a days, a large group of old age persons are suffering from bad treatment and malpractice like entrenched ageism, gender bias, cultural norms, discrimination and the impact of digitalisation etc.....In the present situation, the day has been given fresh relevance in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic which has affected millions of ageing people around the world. The pandemic is putting older people at greater risk of life, poverty, discrimination and isolation. Older person may also face age discrimination in decisions on medical care, triage and life saving therapies. The United Nations states that before pandemic as many as half of older persons in some developing countries did not have access to essential health services and COVID-19 may also lead to a scaling back of critical medical services unrelated to COVID- 19.

Future:

Between 2019 and 2030 the number of persons aged 60 years or more are projected to grow by 38% from 1 billion to 1.4 billion. So it needs greater attention towards these challenges that are directly affecting older persons including in the field of human rights.

The preservation or restoration of dignity, respect and honour for older persons is crucial in such a situation. By celebrating the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day the rights of the elderly are being reinforced. That kind of day gives the ability to older people to fully exercise all their human rights including right to health, adequate social protection to reshape their living standard and live in a better and healthy Environment.

Stop Elder Abuse

