

# SURVEY BASE

**TOTAL No. of Respondents:** 3526

- Informal Setting
  - Elderly in Household setting: 2513
  - Caregivers in Household Setting: 503
- Formal Setting
  - Elderly living in Old Age Homes: 402
  - Caregivers in Old Age Homes: 108

**SEC:** A, B, C & D

**Survey conducted across 6 major cities:** Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai.

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## SALIENT FINDINGS

(Report Highlights)

### FINDINGS OF INFORMAL SETTING: HOUSEHOLD

#### ELDERS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLD SETTING

##### Living & Caregiving Status

- 73.9% elders lived with their family, 9.4% with Spouse and only 9.9% lived alone. • 58.6 % elderly stated that during the pandemic, their family member 'worked/ studied from home'.
- 98% Caregivers were family members, of elderly living at home, of which foremost was Son (27.3 %) followed by were Spouse (21.5 %).

##### Dealing with Fear, Worry & Isolation

- ✓ 47.4% of elderly felt that their future was bleak.
- ✓ 44.8% of elderly are worried that their family members, domestic help & others, will get infected by COVID-19 because of them. While, 44.9% said that they are worried that they themselves will get infected because of them.
- ✓ 42.1% elders were most worried of being hospitalized if they were Covid affected, and 34.2% were worried of being isolated. 11.5 % had the 'fear of dying'.
- ✓ A feeling of despondency prevails amongst most elders since the pandemic started, with many waiting for people to call them (35.7%), spending most of their time resting (36.5%), the day seeming to be too long for them (22.6%), wanting someone to be just with them (20.5%) and feeling trapped & frustrated (13.7%).
- ✓ 63.2% elders said that the lockdown has affected their communication with friends, families, neighbors and loved ones.

## **Dealing with Loss & Expectations**

- ✓ As per elderly, amongst things which were acutely required, but difficult to get, in case any family member or domestic help was Covid affected, were: 58.7% elders felt getting oxygen cylinders, 43.3% said hospital beds including the facility of ICU/Ventilators and 37.3% felt medicines / injections.
- ✓ 20.8% elders had lost either their family members or friends due to Covid19. Of these, when asked what could have been done better to save their lives, majority that is 50.8% elders said a better medical / health infrastructure, 44.4% said availability of vaccine and 38.7% said availability of medicines & injections on time.

## **Financial Dependency & Impact on Income Sources**

- ✓ A stark reality was the financial dependency of elders on their family members which was 41.1%, with nearly 50% being Female and 70.2% belonging to age group of 80 – 89 years. Interestingly, 17% elders had their own business.
- ✓ 52.2% elders said that their income has been impacted.
- ✓ Top 3 reasons for impact on income sources was - Loss of job (34.9%) & pay cut of the family members (30.2%) and loss of job of self (14.3%).

## **Health Issues**

- ✓ 52.4% had joint pains which is the most predominating health condition. 44.9 % had difficulty in walking, while 24.4% had poor eyesight and 13.8 % had problem in remembering or suffered from lack of concentration, which restricted their well-being.
- ✓ Cooking (43.2%) & managing groceries (38.8%), emerged as major challenges faced while living alone during Covid-19 pandemic.

## **Elder Abuse & the Pandemic**

- ✓ 61.4% said that the 'work from home/study', affected their day-to-day routine. This sharply contrasts with the Caregiver perspective, 71.6% of whom said it did not affected the elders day-to-day routine.
- ✓ 29.2% felt a change in behavior during pandemic, of their care takers/family members/friends/domestic help/others.
- ✓ 43.1% elders said that elder abuse is prevalent in society.
- ✓ 15.6% have said to be victims of elder abuse.
- ✓ Disrespect (45.6%) and beating /slapping (23.1%) were the main forms of abuse. ✓ Main abusers were son (43.8%) and daughter-in-law (27.8%). Surprisingly, 14.2% said that their abusers were their daughter.
- ✓ 62.1% felt that during Covid19 the risk of getting abused has increased. ✓ On a ranking basis - Emotional abuse (60.1%) was the main forms of abuse, followed by financial abuse (61.6%) and physical abuse (58.6%).

## **Covid Care**

- ✓ 69.2 % elders were taken care of by their family members when affected by Covid, while

21.9 % were Attendants/ Caregivers and 14.8% medical professionals like doctors & nurses.

### **Vaccination: Awareness & Misinformation:**

- ✓ 77.5% elders were aware of Covid appropriate behaviour, to avoid getting affected. ✓
- While 58.2% elders were aware that a vaccine had been developed, 41.8% were not aware. Of those aware, 78.7% elders felt that getting vaccinated was really important. ✓
- 61.2% of elderly felt that they will be completely immune to the disease after taking the vaccination.
- ✓ It was heartening to see that 66.6% elders had got at least one dose of their vaccination, 39.4% elders had not.

### **CAREGIVERS IN HOUSEHOLD SETTING**

- ✓ For Caregivers who were 98% family members, 41.9% said their salary has been decreased during the pandemic, majorly in the 30 – 39 years age group (48.4%). While, 25% said that they lost their jobs. 48.1% Caregivers said that they are facing difficulty in managing their expenses.
- ✓ According to the Caregivers, the major challenges faced by the elderly in their house from other family members during the pandemic, was Need for more attention (37.4%), Behaviour of family members (33.6%), Financial insecurity (26%) and Inability of the family members on understanding the needs/emotions of the elderly (18.3%).
- ✓ 66.7% Caregivers said that ‘too much noise’ caused inconvenience to the elderly, due to their ‘work/study from home’ mode.
- ✓ 32.4% of Caregivers felt that once the pandemic subsides, the elderly would be more dependent on family members.
- ✓ 36% said it is difficult to give full attention or dedicate time to elderly members in the family during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- ✓ Interesting to note was that as per Caregivers, post the pandemic amongst the major challenges faced by them while caregiving for the elderly, would be: 36.4% said administering their medicines on time, 32% said taking care of their ‘special’ food requirements, 28% budgeting for their expenses and 24.7% handling their mood swings.

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