



From the desk of President, DadaDadi.org

January 13, 2011

Dear members / Older Adults,

We take this opportunity to present before you the findings of our recent survey conducted to understand, concerns and problem areas pertaining to older adults, so that we can focus our efforts and channelize the energies in the right direction. We are thankful to Jorawer Singh, our Executive- Operation for his and his company's support in conducting and presenting the study to us.

We are, here, discussing only five of the top six areas of concerns which have come out of the study, and leaving security and safety for action later.

Though, without exception, almost every one pointed out towards deteriorating law and order situation, security, safety and criminal assaults as a major concern for senior citizens. We believe that this aspect as such need a complete overhaul for everyone, young and old alike, and even in the improved situations, the seniors being physically weak & emotionally gullible will always need more than normal effort for ensuring their security and safety.

But why are our seniors, physically weak and emotionally gullible and have been left to defend and fend for themselves of their own? The study suggests that children or inheritors are wanting in some aspects and we have come out with. Let us see these one by one:

**39% of concerns are related to lack of support –physical / attendant support.**

We realize that seniors need some kind of attendant support in terms of doing small tit-bit works, like moving of furniture, updating bank accounts, arranging for some daily use stuff, plumbing, housekeeping, related area. These were normally done by sons, daughter-in-laws or even by grand children or some existing household help in conventional families. This support is disappearing, as adults are both working, grand children have more study loads, and with increasing awareness on child-labour, household help is also not available. Though some are adopting to internet solutions for payment of bills, sourcing of goods/services, vedio chats but this is only a very small 5-7% of urban population.

**Staying with daughter**

Social norms are coming in way of those older adults, who had female children, as they do not even want to stay with their married and willing daughters, as it is considered a



DadaDadi, a non-profit service and advocacy organization, is EnergiZing lives of Older Indians "60+" while diffusing useful knowledge.

stigma to stay at daughter's house or take a financial or otherwise support from daughter. While with honorable supreme court's ruling of equal inheritance rights for sons and daughters, sons also now feel an equal responsibility of daughters in taking care of old parents.

- 1) Male children are paying lesser attention on this, or showing indifference.
- 2) Spouse is working and not perceiving equal responsibility towards in-laws.
- 3) Trained attendants not available at an affordable cost.
- 4) No agency/system in place to check reliability or accountability of available attendants.
- 5) Attendants found to be taking undue advantage of seniors.
- 6) Value systems of respect for grandparents is on decline.

#### **26% of concerns are on account of indifference to the needs of Seniors**

Besides some, "can't do without them" needs, there are some implied needs or desires of the older adults, ranging from taking them for a walk, ensuring periodic health checks to just listening to them for sometimes on day to day basis. These implied needs are expectations, which seniors are feeling too shy to ask for aloud, but expect these to be fulfilled without asking.

- 1) Children not realizing or ignoring their responsibilities.
- 2) Elders too insecure to speak out beyond minimum survival needs
- 3) No NGO / agency to support elders on voicing their concerns.

#### **16% feel lack of forums for meeting social and emotional needs**

The erstwhile method of all older adults of village, coming together at "Sath" in the village every evening, has no replacement in semi-urban or urban setups.

- 1) So called Generation Gap
- 2) Lack of emotional maturity of new generation and too much of financial and performance pressure on earning members.
- 3) The community centers not serving the desired purpose or are not being promoted in right perspective by agencies.
- 4) Senior citizen councils, associations, acting more like self-help groups of a few active members.



DadaDadi, a non-profit service and advocacy organization, is EnergiZing lives of Older Indians "60+" while diffusing useful knowledge.

---

## **14% of concerns are about older adults living below their expected standard or dignity**

Even one of the new NGO is called the dignity foundation, implying that yes, this is an emerging concerns, where seniors feel "This was not how I planned my retired life to be!" resulting in psychological and erratic emotional behavior.

- 1) Employment opportunities, self employment opportunities missing.
- 2) Reverse mortgages not so prevalent.

## **5% concerns on accessing the government infrastructure**

Irrespective of the level and quality of the government infrastructure available, it still is not a major concern, perhaps, the bottleneck is accessing the available facilities. Seniors are aware of large number of welfare programmes, special benefits, pension schemes, discounted travel and higher interest rates, but they either do not have support to help them access these or they do not trust those who are available and can help them with these.

- 1) Complex procedures to avail benefits
- 2) Paper work / formalities not commensurate with energy levels in Seniors.
- 3) Trust in children / relatives is amiss.

We hope that these points which have emerged out of this valuable study need further deliberation among us and let us all come together in deciding the areas, where we need to work, align the government agencies and NGO's so that we touch where the shoe pinches the most.

With warm regards,

On behalf of entire DadaDadi Team.

Sukhbir Kaur

## Results: Study Senior Citizens - 2011 Jan : DadaDadi.org

Row Labels	Count of Code
indifference to their needs	97
emotional and social needs not met	60
support - Physical / Attendant	145
living below expected standards	51
access to govt infrastructure	21
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>374</b>

