



TWO DAY
NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
CREATING A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SOCIETY FOR ELDERLY CITIZENS:
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

6th and 7th March 2024

ORGANIZED

BY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
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NEW DELHI- 110025

IN COLLABORATION WITH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL DEFENCE
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

CONVENOR
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CONCEPT NOTE

The rate of elderly people in India is estimated [to increase in the upcoming years due to decreasing fertility rates and an increase in average lifespan, which is augmented by better healthcare and medicinal facilities. It is estimated that by the year 2050, 19.1% of India's population will comprise people who are above 60 years of age. However, with an increase in the geriatric population, there will be an increase in various health issues pertaining to old age, such as loss of memory, cognitive decline, arthritis, and so on. [The focus of this seminar is on dementia and the challenges faced due to it. Dementia is a broad term which refers to a series of ailments, such as a decline in memory, cognitive function, and the ability to perform everyday activities. The key symptoms of dementia include a loss of memory and also a loss of self-identity, impaired judgement, cognitive decline that results in speech problems, lack of rationality, decision-making capacity and so on, disorientation, difficulties in performing daily activities and behavioural as well as personality changes.

Some of the primary medical reasons which cause Dementia include drying up brain cells with age or the accumulation of protein in brain cells resulting in entanglement of the brain cells, which is also known as Alzheimer's disease. Severe stress, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related cognitive impairment, and vascular diseases are also some of the medical conditions which may lead to dementia. Studies have also determined a few socio-economic factors that may lead to dementia, which include disintegration of joint family, which is a phenomenon being observed in India and South Asia, malnutrition and low levels of literacy among women, disparity between rural and urban areas, rapid urbanization of rural spaces, genetic diversity, socio-cultural and economic diversity, rapid changes in demography and multilingualism. It thus becomes important to determine the sociological factors which cause Dementia among elderly people.

The role of caregivers becomes vital while dealing with patients suffering from Dementia. The caregivers become the voice for the patients and often become an extension of them. However, the role of the caregivers may become contested as a constant conflict reigns between their role as a caregiver and as an individual self. As a dutiful caregiver, he/she may be a significant other to the patient or maybe a formal attendee. As an individual self, however, the person needs to take time out from their daily life and devote it to their significant other. As an attendee, the caregiver might not form any emotional attachment with the patient and subject the patient to abuse or neglect. The role of the caregiver thus becomes imperative in either providing a sense of comfort and assurance to the patient or resulting in the worsening of the medical condition. The objective would thus be to look into the role of the caregivers and take account of their narratives to create awareness and spread information about a dementia-friendly society.

Apart from caregivers, there is also a responsibility of the civic society, such as hospitals, psychologists, and sociologists, to provide insight into the proper treatment, identification, caregiving aspects, and awareness about dementia. It is important to talk about the disease and acknowledge the potential harm that it could cause, resulting in deaths, major accidents, and a loss of sense of self and identity. Dementia may be an irreversible disease, but certain practices such as following a Mediterranean diet, daily exercise, and engaging in activities that would keep the brain active, such as reading, writing, solving crossword puzzles and so on, can delay the onset of dementia.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

1. To create awareness of dementia-friendly society and promote initiatives to identify the symptoms of dementia, offer proper care and treatment and provide information on how to deal with such patients.
2. To improve the role of caregivers society and actively engage 'the civic society in preventing mishaps of dementia patients in public spaces.
3. To identify the socio-cultural and economic factors, apart from medical factors, which results in the onset of Dementia among the elderly.
4. To introduce a multi-stakeholders initiative where the civic society, caregivers, medical experts, social workers and citizens can actively engage in dealing with Dementia in society.

THEMES AND SUB THEMES FOR PAPER PRESENTATION

- Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and Amendments
- Role of caregivers in managing dementia patients
- Food, nutrition and care of Dementia patients
- Financial and other prolonged stress as a cause of Dementia
- Hormonal factors in women resulting in dementia
- Life expectancy and dementia
- Gender and Dementia
- Comparison of rural and urban areas as being more prone to Dementia
- Stigma and dementia
- Migration and dementia
- Familial structures and abuse causing Dementia
- Communication barrier as a cause of Dementia
- Poverty and Dementia
- Prolonged financial stress may lead to dementia
- role of caregivers to Dementia patients
- Elderly abuse, lack of care and treatment for patients suffering from Dementia.
- Mental stress, feeling of loneliness and depression of Dementia among elderly people
- Language barriers, adapting to a new cultural environment of Dementia patients.

Invitation for Abstract Submission – Abstracts are invited for the above-mentioned sub-themes within (250 to 300 words) along with keywords latest by 26th February 2024, on the below mentioned email- id.

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Participants: Faculty Members, Research Scholars, Students, Policy Makers, Medical Practitioners, Social Workers, Government Officials, Physiotherapists, Psychologists, Counsellors, Civil Society, NGOs, etc.



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