

THE SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT OF ABUSE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE: A CASE STUDY BASED ON ELDERLY CARE SETTINGS IN SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA KOTTE DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT AREA OF COLOMBO DISTRICT, SRI LANKA

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Abstract: *The increase in elderly population presents several health challenges and one of the most important challenges in the care of the elderly is the occurrence of elder abuse. The elderly abuse has been increasingly recognized as a serious social as well as public health problem which can lead to considerable physical injuries and long- term psychological consequences across the world. The main objective of this study is to investigate the socio-demographic context of elderly abuse in both formal and informal care centers in Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte Divisional Secretariat, Colombo District. The specific objectives of the study are; to examine the prevalence and forms of elderly abuse, to find out factors associated with elderly abuse and to study the interventions and policy option in controlling elderly abuse. This is a descriptive study in which triangulation method was used. The qualitative data collection techniques used to find which type of elder abuses commonly prevails in society. The sample was selected purposively from both formal and informal care settings. The data were analyzed using thematic, content and case analyses. The study captured all forms of elderly abuses by care takers or close friends and also by those in the wider community and strangers. The most prevalent type of abuse was neglect within interfamily relationship followed by emotional abuse, financial abuse and physical abuse respectively. In the formal care settings, the mostly prevalence abuse was neglect but it differs from the neglect at the informal care setting. Most abuse is experienced from family members. Thus, there is a need for the government to initiate the establishment of healthcare policies and structures that ensure the protection of the rights of all citizens while being especially sensitive to the rights of the older persons and other vulnerable sections of the community.. It is necessary to commence a nationally recognized professional elder care taking course for those who are interested and who are already in the field.*

Keywords: Ageing, Elderly Care, Elderly Abuse, Prevalence and forms of Elderly Abuse

Introduction

Sri Lanka experienced an increasing trend of elderly population since 1950s. primarily due to substantial fertility decline, and secondarily to a spectacular decline in mortality at all ages, and pronounced gain in longevity that commenced in the early 1950s (Siddhisena, 2013). The increase in elderly population presents several health

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