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IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ELDERLY PERSONS IN INDIA

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Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has spread across the globe and impacting the population in drastic ways. While all age groups are at risk of contracting this virus, the elderly population is at higher risk. The researcher is not going into intricacies of the causes, symptoms, vaccines, cures and medical terminology of corona virus. In this paper, the researcher will cover the impact of COVID-19 on the elderly persons only with special reference to India. The number of elderly in India increased to 104 million in 2011. Due to the increasing population of elderly, the old-age dependency ratio has also increased from 10.9% in 1961 to 14.2% in 2011 which is projected to touch 194 million in 2034 for the country as a whole (National Statistical Office, Elderly in India Report, 2021). COVID-19 is spreading in India and initially, people above 60 years of age accounted for 63% of deaths that occurred due to COVID-19 (NGO Agewell Foundation Report, 2021). With this view, the research paper focuses on the challenges and concerns faced by the elderly persons during the ongoing pandemic COVID-19. For this researcher has referred the UN Policy Brief 2020 and Advisory 2020 issued by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) so as to throw some light on the efforts taken at national and international level for the same. The paper attempts to analyze the concerns and challenges of the elderly population in wake of COVID-19. Moreover this paper covers the older persons in all the settings of their life like home, prisons, hospitals etc. The researcher discusses the policies and measures taken at international and national level for the elderly persons and lacuna in practical implementation of the same. In the view of above, this research paper is divided into nine sections were in first section is Abstract followed by Keywords and Introduction. The fourth section deals with Objectives and fifth deals with the Hypothesis. The sixth and seventh section deals with Research Methodology and Discussions and Findings. The seventh section will be consisting the detailed discussion on the topic covering the challenges and concerns faced by the elderly persons during pandemic and measures taken at national and international level for the same. In the eighth section the researcher gives the Conclusion and his Suggestions or Recommendations. The final section of the paper is Bibliography which covers the sources which are referred by the researcher.

Keywords: COVID-19, elderly, impact, policies, corona virus, challenges, pandemic, national, international, older persons, UN policy brief, NHRC, Advisory

Introduction:

According to the United Nations Policy Brief on the "Impact of COVID-19 on Older Persons", released in April, 2020, the COVID-19 recovery process is an opportunity of the stage for a more

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inclusive, equitable and age-friendly society, anchored in human rights and guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to "Leave No One Behind". In India, according to the data released by the Ministry of Health

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