

# The Prevalence and Types of Elder Abuse Among Elderly in Selected Community of South Gujarat.

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** In old age, an individual experiences a decline in physical and mental activity. There is also a gradual shift in economic status moving from economic independence to economic dependence. The elderly constitutes nearly 8.25 per cent of India's population (Census of India, 2011).

**Problem statement:** "A Study to Identify the Prevalence and types Of elder abuse Among Elderly In Selected Rural Community Of Bardoli, South Gujarat.

**Objectives:** 1) To identify prevalence and types of elder abuse among elderly. 2) To find out the association between types of elder abuse with their selected socio demographic variables.

**Methodology:** A Quantitative approach and descriptive survey design was used to conduct the study. 100 elderly persons were selected by using convenient sampling technique and elder abuse was identified by using Modified Carney and Kahan standardized tool on elder abuse. Data were collected at selected villages by house to house survey under Sarbhon PHC Bardoli.

**Results:** The result of the study reveals that, majority of Elderly 78 (78%) had mild elder abuse and 22(22%) had moderate elder abuse. Where as in types of elder abuse majority of Elderly had 77 (77%) Multiple abuse and 23 (23%) had single abuse. There is association between financial dependency and of elder abuse with their selected socio demographic variables. Rest of all socio demographic variables there is no association. **Conclusions:** The result of the study reveals that, majority of Elderly 78 (78%) had mild elder abuse and 22(22%) had moderate elder abuse. Hence it concludes that in India the elder abuse rates are still high as compared to global statistics. Nurses play an important role in educating both family and elders regarding measures to prevent abuse of elders in the community.

**Keywords:** Elder abuse, prevalence

## Introduction

Aging is a lifelong process that involves physical, psychological, social and a spiritual change that occurs from birth to death. In old age, an individual experiences a decline in physical and mental activity. There is also a gradual shift in economic status moving from economic independence to economic dependence. Elders are vulnerable and subjected to various forms of abuse on a daily basis in one or the other way as they are physically frail and are less able to stand up to bullying or fight back when attacked.<sup>1</sup>

A report released by the United Nations Population Fund and Help Age India to mark the International Day of Older Persons — observed on October 1 — suggests that India had 90 million elderly persons in 2011, with the number expected to grow to 173 million by 2026.<sup>2</sup>

A community-based cross-sectional study among 125 community-dwelling elderly aged 60 years and above in an urban resettlement colony of east Delhi elderly residents using a Hwalek-Sengstock Elder Abuse Screening Test reported experience of abuse in 12 (9.6%) subjects.<sup>4</sup>

### **Problem statement:**

“A Study to Identify the Prevalence and types Of elder abuse Among Elderly In Selected Rural Community Of Bardoli, South Gujarat.”

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the study were to identify prevalence and types of elder abuse and to association of elder abuse with their selected socio demographic variables.

The study was based on the assumptions that elder population may be subjected to elder abuse and it may vary from individual to individual.

### **Methods and Materials:**

The present research was carried by using a quantitative approach. A Descriptive Survey design was used to identify prevalence and types of elder abuse among elderly. The research was carried out in selected villages of Sarbhon PHC. The participants in the study were elderly who are living in selected villages. The sample was chosen from the target population by house to house survey based on sample selection criteria using a convenient sampling technique.

**Inclusion Criteria** were elderly who are willing to participate in this study, those with age group 60 years and above and who are able to communicate in English and Gujarati language. **Exclusion criteria** were elderly who are bed ridden and having critical illness.

### **Tools and Technique:**

**Part A tool consist of Socio-demographic data** Age, gender, Religion, marital status, education status, occupation history, dietary pattern, Family income per month, Financial dependency, comorbidity.

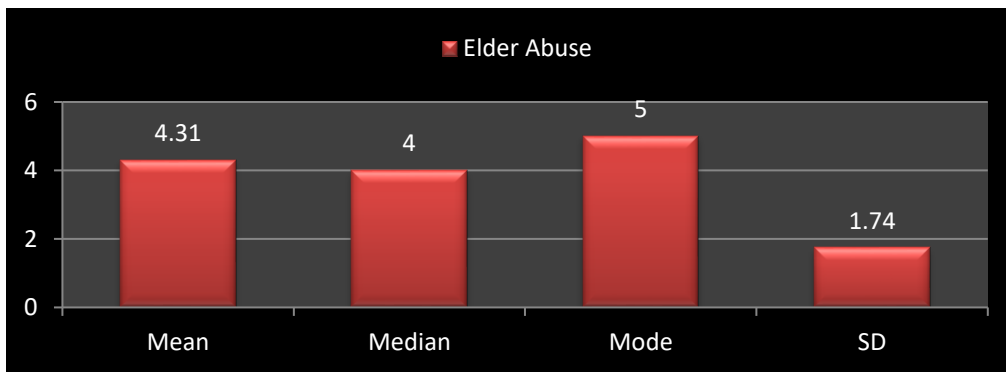
**Part B tool consist of Modified Carney and Kahan questions on elder abuse** includes Total 15 questions on elder abuse. It includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse and neglect. The total score was graded arbitrary Mild (1 – 5), Moderate (6– 10) and Severe (11-15) elder abuse. The response yes scored 1 and No scored 0. The technique used for data collection was Interview technique.

### **Results:**

**Demographic details of the samples:** Out of 100 Elderly most of them, 47(47%) belong to the age group of 60-70 years and 40(40%) belong to the age group of 71-80 years. 52(52%) of the Elderly were female and 48(48%) of the Elderly were male. Maximum of the Elderly 52(52%) belong to joint family and in nuclear family 48(48%). Majority of the Elderly participated in study were belong to Hindu religion is 90(90%), Christian is 6(6%) and 4(4%) Elderly comprise to Muslim religion. Majority of the Elderly participated in study were married is 68(68%), 28(28%) is widow/widower and 4(4%) unmarried. Highest number of the Elderly participated in study was 41(41%) had primary education,

41(41%) had no formal education. Highest number of the Elderly participated in study were having Labour work is 65 (65%) whereas 30(30%) of the Elderly having non-government job. Currently 89(89%) of elderly were unemployed and 11(11%) are employed. Majority of the Elderly participated in study were having monthly family income 50001-10,000 is 34(34%), 28(28%) of the Elderly have between Rs.10, 001 to 15,000 and 29(29%) of the Elderly have below 5,000 income. Maximum of the Elderly participated in study were financially depend on family 80 (80%) whereas 20(20%) were independent. Majority of the Elderly participated in study were dietary pattern is non-vegetarian 73(73%) whereas 27(27%) were vegetarian. Majority of the Elderly participated in study were having no any bad habit is 69(69%) whereas 31(31%) were having bad habit. Maximum of the Elderly participated in study were having co-morbid condition is 69(69%) whereas 31(31%) were not having any comorbid condition.

**Graph -1: Prevalence and types of elder abuse among elderly with mean, median, mode and standard deviation.**



**Table-1 : Prevalence severity and types of Elder abuse among elderly. (n=100)**

S.N	Prevalence	Frequency	Percentage	S.N	Types	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Mild	78	78%	1.	Single Abuse	23	23 %
2.	Moderate	22	22%	2.	Multiple Abuse	77	77 %
3.	Severe	00	00				

The result of the study reveals that, prevalence of elder abuse is 78 (78%) had mild elder abuse and 22(22%) had moderate elder abuse. Whereas in types of elder abuse majority of Elderly had 77 (77%) Multiple abuse and 23(23%) had Single abuse.

**Association of elder abuse with selected demographic variables:** There is association between financial dependency and elder abuse with their selected socio demographic variables. Rest of all socio demographic variables there is no association.

**Discussion:**

According to the findings of this study, the majority 78% elderly experienced mild elder abuse and 22% elderly suffering with moderate abuse. Whereas highest elderly are experienced the multiple abuse 77% and 22% elderly suffering with single abuse. The chi-square test revealed that there was a significant relationship between elder abuses with financial dependency in the present study. This means that

financial help have impact on elder abuse. The above finding is supported by **Kumar & Patra, 2019**, A community-based cross-sectional study among 125 community-dwelling elderly aged 60 years and above in an urban resettlement colony of east Delhi elderly residents using a Hwalek-Sengstock Elder Abuse Screening Test reported experience of abuse in 12 (9.6%) subjects. In this study, a subject may have a combination of one or more of its subtypes; all abused elderly faced neglect, verbal abuse in four, physical abuse by two, and financial abuse in one.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Conclusions:**

The prevalence of elder abuse in this study was considerably high, with mild and moderate out of the 100 participants reporting some form of abuse. Majority elderly are suffering with multiple abuse. Neglect by others was the most reported, and emotional and physical abuse was the least reported type. The most common perpetrators were those on whom the elderly depended, like their sons and family members. Hence it concludes that in India the elder abuse rates are still high as compare to global statistics. Nurses play an important role in educating both family and elders regarding measures to prevent abuse of elders in the community.

#### **Ethical consideration:**

This study got permission from medical officer of primary health center and also got approval from an ethical committee of the college. The elderly who met the inclusion criteria gave their consent to the study.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. The investigation can be carried out with a large sample size.
2. A variety of research design can be used to carry out the study.
3. Community health nurse should organize awareness to facilitate the adequate information and encourage the geriatric on elder abuse.
4. Elderly should updated with the Rights and Privileges for senior citizen for self-protection.
5. In community area, the nurse should provide information to family members, relatives and care giver to prevent elder abuse and protect elderly persons.

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