

A Study on the Status of Older Adult Residents of Srilankan Refugee Camp in Puzhal

R Sonali Devi, R Sakthipriya, A Thirumagal Rajam, Rufus Singh

Corresponding Author 1 : R SONALI DEVI, Madras School of Social Work

Corresponding Author 2 : R SAKTHIPRIYA, Madras School of Social Work

Co-Author 1 : A THIRUMAGAL RAJAM, Madras School of Social Work

Co-Author 2 : RUFUS SINGH, Madras School of Social Work

Abstract:

The research talks about the status of older adult residents in the Sri Lankan refugee camp at Puzhal, Chennai. As the older adult resident are the first generation of Sri Lankan residents to move due to the political war in their country to different parts of the world including India, they have seen a fair share of struggle in displacement and settlement in other nations. The research understands the physical, social and economic status of older adult residents. Their access to humanitarian assistance programs and living conditions were also assessed. The census method of sampling was used and response from all older adult residents were taken. Suggestions from the residents through this research aims to aid the future policy making and governance for the benefit of the residents.

Keywords: Refugee, Older Adult, Refugee Camp, Sri Lankan, Displacement

INTRODUCTION

As defined by the United Nations in 1951, a refugee is someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. In this process of forced displacement, these refugees are challenged with a multitude of problems. On humanitarian grounds, some countries take them in and as a result there is a rising need for more knowledge on the refugee's population to help them better.

In Sri Lanka, the island country located in Southern Asia in the Indian Ocean, a war broke out between the Sri Lankan Government constituting the Sinhalese majority and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the militant organization constituting the Tamil minority. The war lasted from 1951 to 2009 resulting in widespread violence, forced displacement and human rights abuses. Many Sri Lankan Tamil refugees moved to nearby nations, notably India, as a result of the country's civil war prolonged. Among these refugees, a considerable number are older adults who have spent a significant portion of their lives in refugee camps. Because of the displacement, the trauma from the conflict, and the aging process itself, these older residents have a unique set of necessities and difficulties.

This study intends to thoroughly study the status and well-being of the older adult resident population living in Tamil Nadu's Sri Lankan refugee camps, with an emphasis on the Puzhal Camp.

The refugees arrived to India in a rescued by the Indian army in the year 1989. Initially, they were placed in camps outside Chennai. But they were asked to stay in a godown with poor ventilation and extreme

heat along with around 60 families together. As reported by the residents, living was simply impossible there and hence they shifted to the refugees' camp in Rameshwaram in 1990. On 25th December 1990, the refugees were shifted to the Puzhal jail in Chennai. The Puzhal jail was the home for refugees for seven years until 27th July 1997. During that time, as a part of safety and precaution, men were not allowed to leave the premises at all. However, women were allowed to go get groceries and other essentials upon request.

As a year passed by, they were also allowed to help with domestic work nearby to earn some money, with high restrictions for the sake of safety. In 1997, the refugees camp in Puzhal was successfully established with 350 homes.

These homes have the dimension of a basic 10ft X10ft and bathrooms are a common sharing facility type. They notably had financial assistance programs from 1997 starting with Rs. 75 for men, Rs. 55 for women and Rs. 35 for children below 18 years.

The elderly residents in these camps are at the vulnerability of facing several challenges, including limited access to healthcare, economic instability, social isolation, and mental health issues. Until this day, there is limited research data that provides a detailed understanding of their living conditions and overall well-being. This study aims to bridge the gap by conducting a full-fledged examination of the status of the elderly in these camps. Understanding their unique needs and challenges is vital for designing targeted interventions and policies to enhance their quality of life.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

As told by the Expert Group Meeting on Older Persons in Emergency Crisis (2019), 3% of refugees were over 60 years of age constituting the elderly population in 2017. Some peculiar information from the report also revealed that older persons in forced displacement often faced difficulties fleeing and could be left behind to safeguard property. Barriers to accessing humanitarian aid, such as food and non-food item distributions, as well as challenges in obtaining water and fuel, were magnified by issues related to mobility constraints, health conditions, disabilities, and caregiving responsibilities particularly to the older adults. Finally older persons were at an elevated risk of human rights abuses, such as violence, exploitation, and abuse. They also faced restrictions on the right to work and the right to health.

According to the Health status and health needs of older refugees from Syria in Lebanon report (2015), two-thirds of older refugees described their health status as poor or very poor. Older refugees had inadequate diets, with reports of regularly reducing portion sizes, skipping meals and limiting intake of fruits, vegetables, and meats. Often, these actions were taken to provide more food for younger family members. 61% of refugees reported feeling anxious and significant proportions of older adults reported feelings of depression, loneliness and believing they were a burden to their families. Looking into the article, Acute needs of older Ukrainian refugees and those with disabilities must not be overlooked (2023) by UNHCR, it was observed that among those households interviewed, 13% had one or more older adults living with them and they all faced a great challenge in accessing to healthcare as compared to the others. 92% of the older adults were struggling to meet their basic needs and were most likely to return back to Ukraine despite the deadly war.

As told by Jacob Juhad (2017), the status of the elderly Rohingya refugees, who fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh is particularly critical. Elderly refugees had to be cocooned in blankets and carried for extended periods. The risk factor multiplied as their journey consisted of dangerous treks along the hills and mountains.

It was common to see elderly grandmothers and grandfathers being dragged along while younger family members carried essential items like sacks of rice. The saddest of all were the elderly Rohingya who were left sitting by the road, too tired or sick to continue their journey, without anyone to assist them.

The studies by R. Sankar (2019) depict that there are 66,156 Sri Lankan refugees living in around 113 refugee camps in Tamil Nadu alone that are arranged in 28 out of 32 districts inside the state. However, this study especially emphasized children and left a wide scope of research for the older adults in the population.

The troubles don't stop post migration, as the refugees still face some political impacts even after leaving their homeland Sri Lanka (Miriam Kuttikat, 2015). Many respondents from a study complained that they will be randomly questioned if they support LTTE and irrespective of what they answer, they will still be taken away and even killed sometimes.

Valatheeswaran C and Irudaya Rajan S (May 2011) found that the focuses on the prolonged presence of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka in Tamil Nadu, India, where they have been under police observation ever since the Indian Prime Minister was murdered. It examines the flow of refugees into India and back out of Sri Lanka during a three-decade period of time, as well as the actions taken by the government to guarantee their wellbeing. This research analyzes the livelihood strategies of refugees utilizing a primary survey of 100 homes and 12 case studies. It highlights their ability to receive humanitarian aid from the State Government as well as their wide range of methods of subsistence, such as looking for work outside of the camps, making use of both national and international social networks, traveling briefly and placing a high value on the education of their children.

According to the study, incorporating migrants into the community—especially those who are married to Indian citizens—may offer a long-term solution for their future in India.

According to Gladston Xavier G (2009), in recent times, forced migration has evolved into a major global issue due to natural disasters, initiatives for development, and conflicts. There are currently about 1 billion refugees in the world, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Of those, 60% are internally displaced people (IDPs) within their own countries, and 40% are those seeking protection across borders. As a result of ongoing disputes and rapid growth, developing regions—particularly Africa and Asia—bear the weight of this displacement. The UNHCR was established in 1951 because of the Holocaust and World War II, which highlighted the significance of refugees on the international agenda.

A person who is fleeing violence due to their nationality, religion, racial or ethnic background, or political opinion qualifies to be a refugee under the UNHCR Declaration on Refugees. The UNHCR's responsibilities were extended to protect refugees worldwide by the 1967 Refugee Protocol, as a response to the increasing number of people escaping their homes.

But as the situation escalated, more attention was required, which encouraged the creation of local organizations. In 1969, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was founded, which was an important milestone for regional efforts to safeguard refugees. The humanitarian crisis of displaced people continued in challenging international responses despite this progress. The OAU and other regional bodies were significant in managing displacement especially due to geographic circumstances. However, further attempts to improve global collaboration and cement refugee protection institutions are required due to the longevity of displacement issues.

Radhakrishnan R K et.al (2022) found that, a significant international concern in today's world is displacement, with a remarkable 79.5 million people—roughly 1% of the world's population— being

displaced in 2019 because of conflict or natural calamities. Over 26 million refugees have been recognized as such worldwide, nearly doubling the number from 2010. In low-income nations, almost 60% of those who have been transferred live. Sustainable solutions are sought for by refugees and those who have been forcibly relocated, yet the changing situation suggests that displacement is not a passing event. As consequently, India does not have a mandate to aid refugees and doesn't have a national refugee policy. Basic rights and protection are often unavailable to refugees in the absence of specific laws. Domestic sentiments, which are often accompanied by tactical ambiguity, have an impact on Indian refugee policies. Despite this, India has received recognition for its generally kind approach to refugees despite its lack of a consistent policy. About 9,458 refugees have registered with UNHCR in India as of 2019, while 160,000 additional individuals have been recognized as refugees by India because UNHCR granted identity cards for them.

Shreyasi Bhattacharya (2024) in their article, they address issues about India's refugee protection policy and examines the country's response to the present refugee crises, with a focus on Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. Because of the political instability brought on by the COVID-19 epidemic and other events, Sri Lanka has been witnessing a severe economic crisis since 2022. As a result, many Sri Lankans have relocated to neighboring countries, in particular India. Sri Lankan migrants have made Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu their prominent destination; they often take unauthorized routes to get there. Despite challenges, India has shown tolerance and welcomed the Tamil people of Sri Lanka. It has also given significant financial aid to Sri Lanka, including \$3.5 billion, and budgeted ₹80 crore for refugee welfare programs in 2021–2022. Assisting the refugee population is the primary objective of these initiatives, which also include free clothing, cheaper rice, and cash aid. The article emphasizes the significance of addressing refugee protection and welfare while emphasizing the complexity of refugee crises and India's approach.

Akshaya Nath (2016) they found Due to the terrible conditions in their homeland and the optimism of a brighter future for their children amid instability and warfare, over one million Sri Lankan refugees have filed applications for asylum in India. The 109 camps for refugees in Tamil Nadu have been reported to have horrible living conditions. For these refugees, the AIADMK party guaranteed dual citizenship. Between 1983 and 1987, more than 134,000 Tamil Sri Lankans traversed the Palk Strait into India during the first phase of immigration. In the following phases, more people went to southern India in search of refuge. Currently, 109 camps in Tamil Nadu are home to over 60,000 refugees, highlighting the persisting misery of Sri Lankans who have been forced from their homelands due to conflict and their need for safety in neighboring countries like India.

RADHAKRISHNAN R K et.al (2022) in their study investigates the resettlement of Rohingyas and Sri Lankan Tamils in Tamil Nadu, India, in the absence of international laws or national policies. These refugee groups have made it into local society with minimal help from the government, despite the fact that India is not a participant to the UN Refugee Convention. Titled "Rohingyas and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in Tamil Nadu: a replicable model of semi-permanent resettlement in low-resource settings," the study was published in January 2022 and highlights the manner in which the refugees have overcome challenges like poor infrastructure to rebuild their lives, especially in the area of education. It highlights the refugees' flexibility and determination, demonstrating that they are able to meet their most basic requirements. However, the report points out areas which need development, particularly regarding housing and health, indicating the necessity of better support systems. Overall, it indicates that the refugees in Tamil Nadu have proven capable of effectively integrating into local communities despite

their lack of official laws or legal frameworks, providing knowledge for related contexts internationally. **Soumya K S (2023)** found that the Tamils from Sri Lanka who lost their possessions in their country's civil war sought refuge in Tamil Nadu. They have been divided into two groups: the original Tamil people and the Hill Tamils, who originally arrived by the British to plant tea in Sri Lanka's hilly areas. As Hill Tamils became more widely recognized, tensions increased and chaos resulted. Four camps for refugees—Perumalpuram, Pazhavilai, Gnaranvilai, and Kozhivilai—house displaced people in the Kanyakumari District. There are 542 people living in Perumalpuram, Agastheeswaram Taluk; Pazhavilai has 211; Gnaranvilai has 125; and Kozhivilai has 320. Through a number of programs, the Tamil Nadu government offers protection to refugees from Sri Lanka. The thousands of this banished struggle to fit in with Tamil Nadu society because of language obstacles, cultural differences, and a lack of employment opportunities. Their resettlement is still a complex issue even with support from the government. These camps' presence serves as a reminder of the persisted humanitarian effects of the civil conflict in Sri Lanka along with the constant demand for help and focus about the refugees.

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Title: Status of Older Adult Residents of Sri Lankan Refugee Camp in Puzhal.

3.2 Aim: The aim of the Study focuses on the Status of Older Adult Residents of Sri Lankan Refugee Camp in Puzhal.

3.3 Objectives of the study

1. To study the socio-demographic details of the aged refugees.
2. To examine the access to social and healthcare services.
3. To analyse the economic stability and livelihoods of the elderly.
4. To understand the social interactions and support networks of the elderly.
5. To study the living conditions of elderly residents.
6. To analyse the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance programs.

3.4 Definition Conceptual Definition

Refugee: As defined by the United Nations in 1951, a refugee is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

Operational Definition

Refugee: A person escaping their country due to unfavorable living conditions and seeking shelter in another country for temporary or permanent settlement is called a refugee.

3.5 Research design

Research design is a blueprint, the framework in which the research takes place. The research design guides the way in which the research will progress. The researcher used descriptive research design. Descriptive research design is a type of research design that aims to systematically obtain information to describe a phenomenon, situation, or population.

3.6 Universe:

The universe is the total population where the researcher gets the sample for the study. The universe of this study is the Older Adult Sri Lankan refugees in the camp in Puzhal.

3.7 Sampling Technique:

Sampling Technique are means or methods through which the data is being collected from the samples.

3.8 Tools:

For the data collection, the census method was adopted where inputs from all the members of the targeted population will be gathered and studied. Primary data and secondary data are used in this research. Primary data is the data obtained or collected directly. In this research, data was directly collected from samples. Secondary data is the data obtained from other sources. Secondary data is collected from books, journals, articles, etc. The researchers employed an interview schedule as a tool as the primary instrument for data collection, comprising sections for demographic information alongside inquiries formulated by the researchers. They have also used the HADS 14 (Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale) scale for the mental health aspect of the research. HADS is a fourteen item self-reporting scale. Pretesting is a method of verifying the tool of data collection and altering the tool based on the feedback given by the respondents. The pre-test was done with 5 respondents.

3.9 Limitation & scope of the study:

The study relies on self-reported data, which may be subject to recall bias or social desirability bias, affecting the reliability of the findings. The study provides a comprehensive understanding of the socio-demographic profile, access to services, economic stability, social interactions, living conditions, mental health status, and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance programs among older adult Sri Lankan refugees in the Puzhal camp. Findings from the study can inform policy decisions and program development aimed at improving the well-being and quality of life of older adult refugees in similar settings.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table 4.1. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR COMMUNICATION WITH HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS.

S.NO	Communication quality	Frequency	Percentage
1	Excellent	13	21.7
2	Good	37	61.7
3	Fair	10	16.7
Total		60	100%

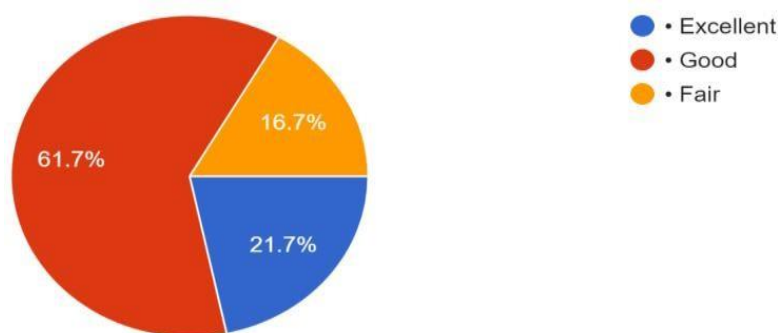


FIGURE 4.1

The above graph shows evaluations of communication quality categorized as "Excellent," "Good," and "Fair." With 13 instances, Excellent communication represents 21.7% of the total, followed by Good at 37 instances (61.7%), and Fair at 10 instances (16.7%).

Table 4.2. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR SOURCE OF INCOME.

S.NO	Source of Income	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
------	------------------	-----------	------------

1	Employment	16	26.7
2	Assistance Program	44	73.3
Total		60	100

The above data illustrates sources of income, with "Employment" and "Assistance Program" as categories. "Employment" accounts for 16 instances, representing 26.7% of the total, while "Assistance Program" accounts for 44 instances, making up 73.3%.

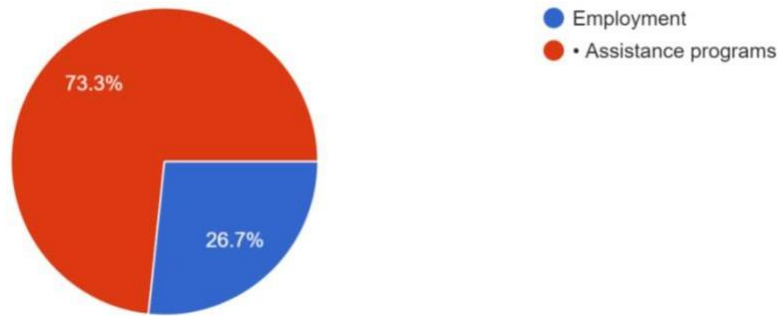


FIGURE 4.2

Table 4.3. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR ECONOMIC STABILITY WITHIN THE CAMP.

S.NO	ECONOMIC STABILITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Stable	24	40
2	Unstable	18	30
3	Improving	15	25
4	Declining	3	5
Total		60	100

The above data examines economic stability, dividing it into four categories: Stable, Unstable, Improving, and Declining. "Stable" comprises 24 instances, representing 40% of the total, while "Unstable" has 18 instances (30%). "Improving" stands at 15 instances (25%), and "Declining" has 3 instances (5%).

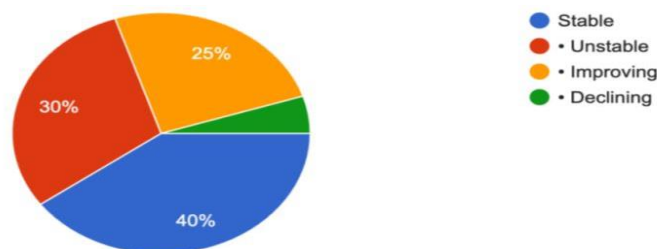


FIGURE 4.3

Table 4.4 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS.

S.NO	Vocational Training	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	47	78.3

2	No	13	21.7
Total		60	100

This above data examines participation in vocational training, with options for "Yes" and "No." Of the total, 47 individuals (78.3%) have undergone vocational training, while 13 (21.7%) have not.

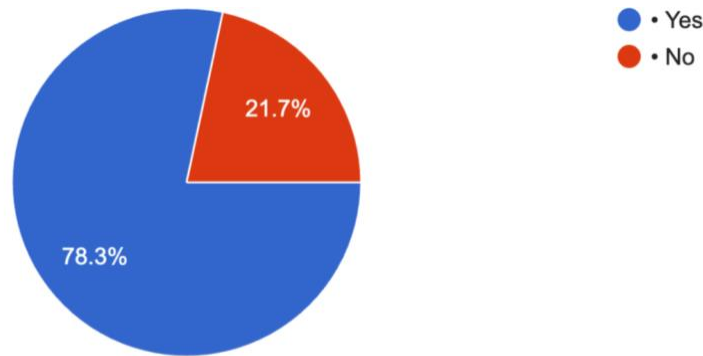


FIGURE 4.4

Table 4.5 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THE CHALLENGES THEY FACED IN THE CAMP.

S.NO	FACE CHALLENGES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	23	38.3
2	No	35	58.3
3	Not sure	2	3.3
Total		60	100

The data outlines responses regarding facing challenges, with options for "Yes," "No," and "Not sure." Of the total 60 respondents, 23 (38.3%) acknowledged facing challenges, while 35 (58.3%) reported not facing any. Only 2 individuals (3.3%) were unsure.

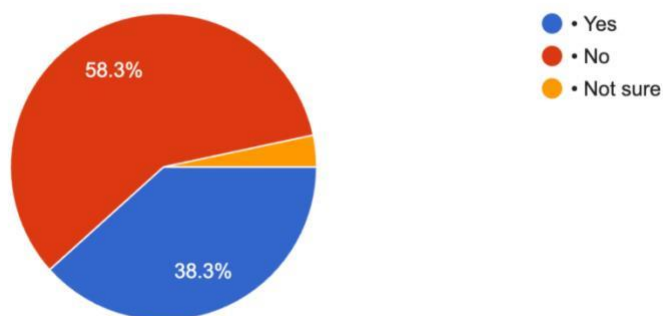


FIGURE 4.5

Table 4.6. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR ECONOMIC SITUATION IN CAMP.

S.NO	ECONOMIC SITUATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
------	--------------------	-----------	------------

1	Improved	23	38.3
2	Stayed the same	27	45
3	Declined	10	16.7
Total		60	100

The data illustrates respondents' perceptions of their economic situation, categorized as "Improved," "Stayed the same," and "Declined." Among the 60 respondents, 23 (38.3%) reported improvement, 27 (45%) stated their situation stayed the same, and 10 (16.7%) indicated a decline.

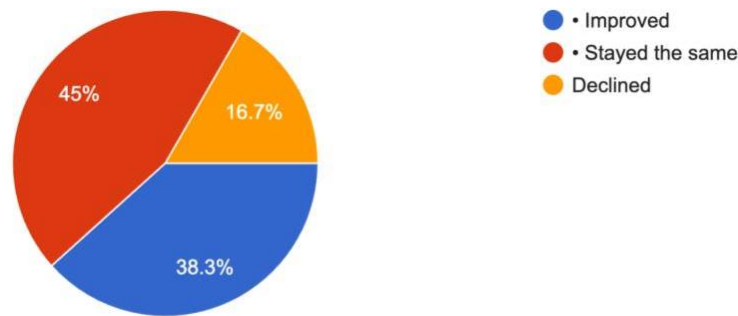


FIGURE 4.6

Table 4.7. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CAMP.

S.NO	SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Rarely	15	25
2	Occasionally	33	55
3	Regularly	12	20
Total		60	100

The data presents respondents' engagement in social activities, categorized as "Rarely," "Occasionally," and "Regularly." Among the 60 respondents, 15 (25%) reported engaging rarely, 33 (55%) engaged occasionally, and 12 (20%) engaged regularly.

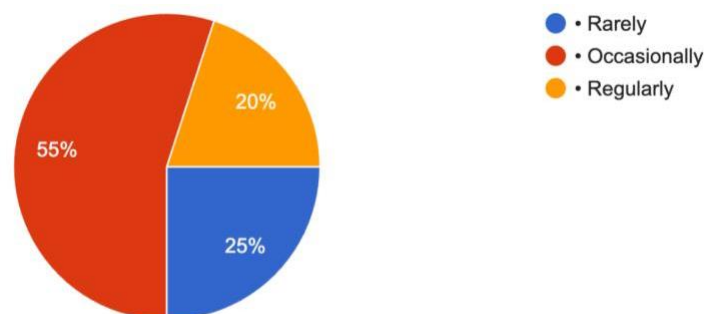


FIGURE 4.7

Table 4.8. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR PRIMARY SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORK WITHIN THE CAMP.

S.NO	SOCIAL NETWORK	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Family	32	53.3
2	Friends	24	40
3	Neighbors	4	6.7
Total		60	100

The data illustrates respondents' social networks, categorized as "Family," "Friends," and "Neighbors." Among the 60 respondents, 32 (53.3%) reported relying on family connections, 24 (40%) on friends, and 4 (6.7%) on neighbors.

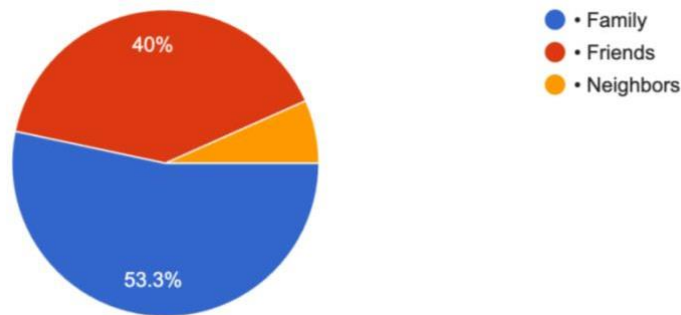


FIGURE 4.8

Table 4.9. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THE SOCIAL CHALLENGES OR ISOLATION THEY EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE CAMP.

S.NO	SOCIAL CHALLENGES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	29	48.3
2	No	26	43.3
3	Not Sure	5	8.3
Total		60	100

This data explores respondents' experiences with social challenges, categorized as "Yes," "No," and "Not Sure." Among the 60 respondents, 29 (48.3%) indicated facing social challenges, 26 (43.3%) reported not facing any, and 5 (8.3%) were unsure.

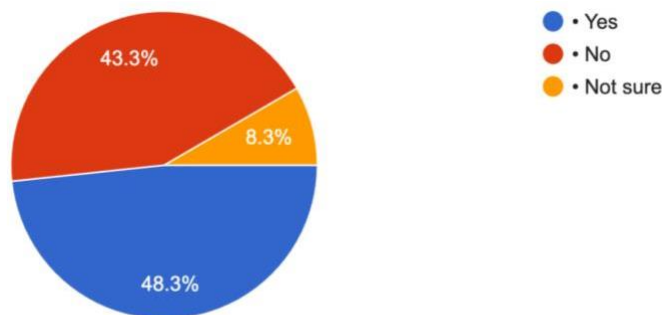


FIGURE 4.9

Table 4.10. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THEIR SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND SUPPORT NETWORK.

S.NO	SOCIAL INTERACTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Very satisfied	22	36.7
2	Satisfied	31	51.7
3	Neutral	7	11.7
4	Dissatisfied	0	-
Total		60	100

The data examines respondents' satisfaction levels with social interactions, ranging from "Very satisfied" to "Neutral" and "Dissatisfied." Among the 60 respondents, 22 (36.7%) reported being very satisfied, 31 (51.7%) satisfied, and 7 (11.7%) neutral. Interestingly, no respondents indicated being dissatisfied.

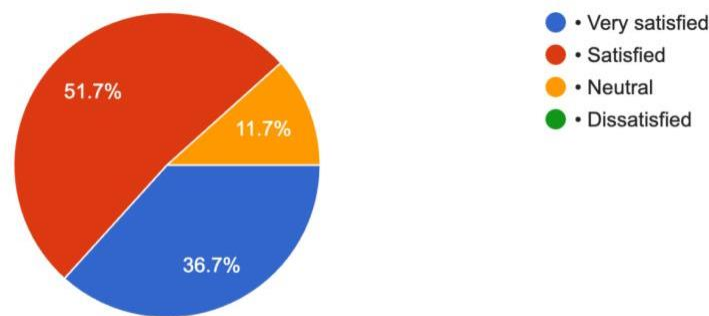


FIGURE 4.10

Table 4.11 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS.

S.NO	COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	53	88.3
2	No	7	11.7
Total		60	100

The data presents respondents' participation in community building activities, with options for "Yes" and "No." Among the 60 respondents, 53 (88.3%) reported engaging in such activities, while 7 (11.7%) did not.

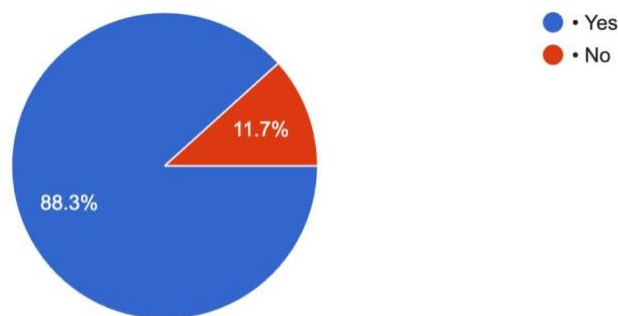


FIGURE 4.11

Table 4.12. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR OVERALL SENSE OF COMMUNITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

S.NO	SENSE OF COMMUNITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Strong	48	80
2	Moderate	12	20
Total		60	100

The data explores respondents' sense of community, categorized as "Strong" and "Moderate." Among the 60 respondents, 48 (80%) reported a strong sense of community, while 12 (20%) indicated a moderate sense.

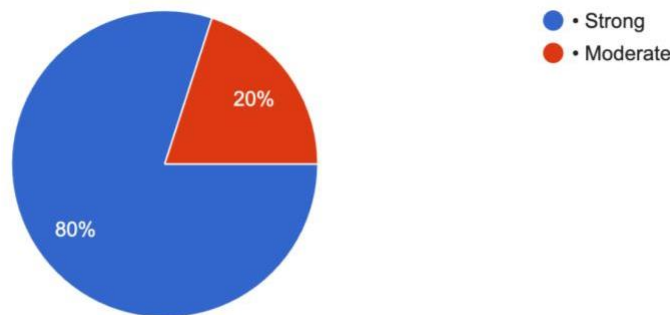


FIGURE 4.12

Table 4.13. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED THEIR OVERALL LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE CAMP.

S.NO	LIVING CONDITION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Good	34	56.7
2	Adequate	21	35
3	Poor	5	8.3
Total		60	100

The data table illustrates the living conditions of respondents, revealing insights into their perceptions and satisfaction levels. Among the respondents, the majority, comprising 56.7%, rated their living conditions as "Good," indicating a high level of satisfaction. Additionally, 35% of the respondents described their living conditions as "Adequate," suggesting a moderate level of contentment. However, a smaller portion, constituting 8.3% of the respondents, reported their living conditions as "Poor," indicating dissatisfaction.

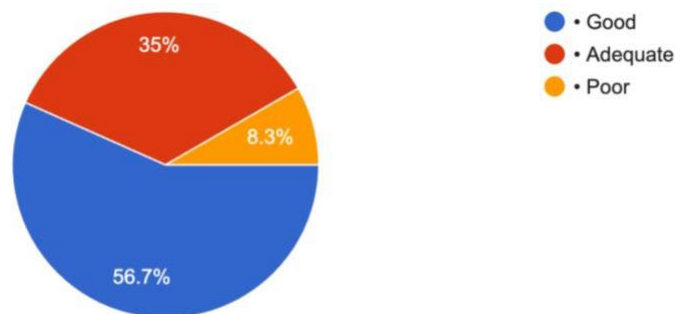


FIGURE 4.13

Table 4.14 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE REGARDING THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS.

S.NO	CHALLENGES IN LIVING CONDITIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	34	56.7
2	No	24	40
3	Not sure	2	3.3
Total		60	100

The data investigates challenges in living conditions among respondents, categorized as "Yes," "No," and "Not sure." Among the 60 respondents, 34 (56.7%) reported facing challenges, 24 (40%) stated not facing any, and 2 (3.3%) were unsure.

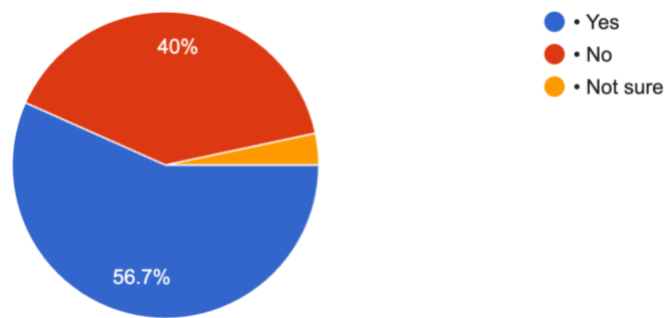


FIGURE 4.14

Table 4.15. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THEIR HOUSING FACILITIES PROVIDED IN THE CAMP.

S.NO	Housing	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Very satisfied	26	43.3
2	Satisfied	17	28.3
3	Neutral	13	21.7
4	Dissatisfied	4	6.7
Total		60	100

The data examines respondents' satisfaction levels with housing, ranging from "Very satisfied" to "Dissatisfied." Among the 60 respondents, 26 (43.3%) reported being very satisfied, 17 (28.3%) satisfied, 13 (21.7%) neutral, and 4 (6.7%) dissatisfied.

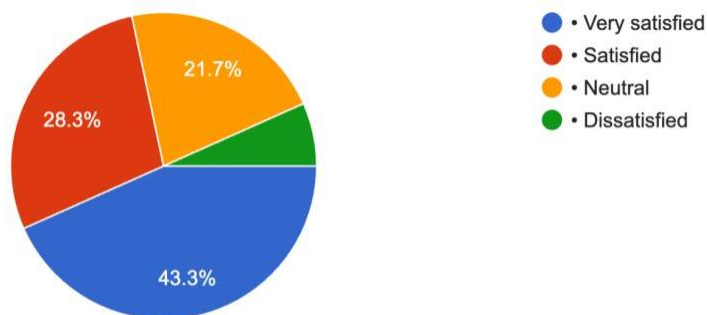


FIGURE 4.15

TABLE 4.16. ARE THERE ANY IMPROVEMENTS OR MODIFICATIONS YOU WOULD SUGGEST FOR THE LIVING SPACES IN THE CAMP?

- Street lamps
- Drainage system
- Bathrooms inside home and street lights
- Streetlights and individual bathrooms

Table 4.17. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY WITHIN THE CAMP.

S.NO	SAFETY & SECURITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Very safe	35	58.3
2	Safe	21	35
3	Neutral	4	6.7
Total		60	100

The data explores respondents' perceptions of safety and security, categorized as "Very safe," "Safe," and "Neutral." Among the 60 respondents, 35 (58.3%) reported feeling very safe, 21 (35%) felt safe, and 4 (6.7%) were neutral.

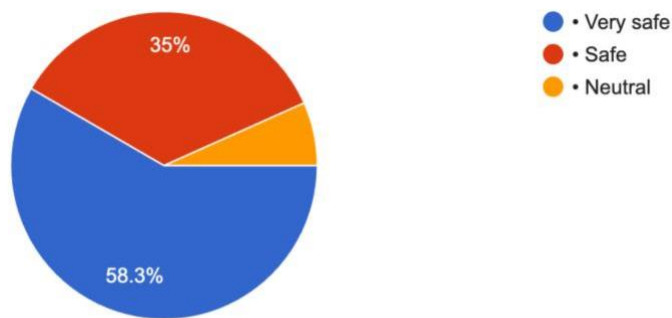


FIGURE 4.16

Table 4.18. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR ENGAGEMENT WITH HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

S.NO	HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	42	70
2	No	12	20
3	Not sure	6	10
Total		60	100

The data examines respondents' engagement with humanitarian assistance programs, categorized as "Yes," "No," and "Not sure." Among the 60 respondents, 42 (70%) reported participating in such programs, while 12 (20%) did not, and 6 (10%) were unsure.

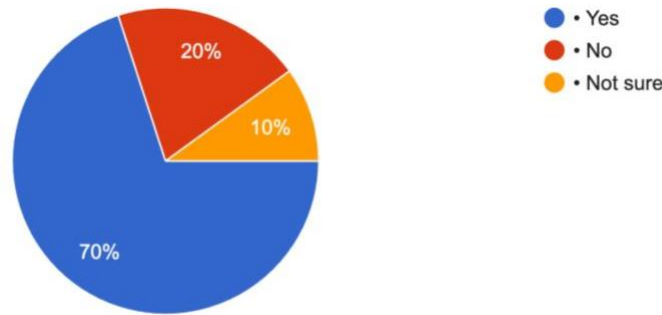


FIGURE 4.17

Table 4.19. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THE IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ON THEIR LIVES.

S.NO	Humanitarian Assistance	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Positive	54	90
2	Neutral	6	10
Total		60	100

The data explores perceptions of humanitarian assistance, categorized as "Positive" and "Neutral." Among the 60 respondents, 54 (90%) viewed humanitarian assistance positively, while 6 (10%) were neutral.

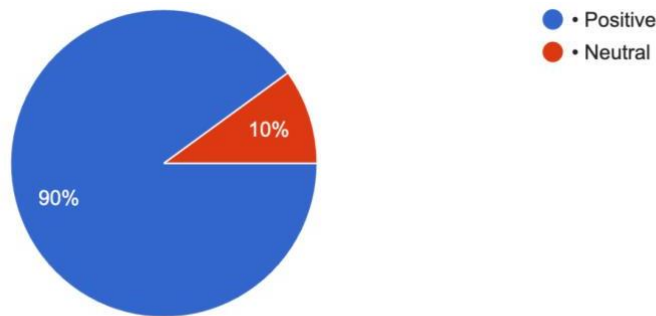


FIGURE 4.18

Table 4.20. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR OPINIONS ON IMPROVING HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS AND SERVI

S.NO	HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	29	48.3
2	No	22	36.7
3	Not sure	9	15
Total		60	100

The data investigates opinions on improving humanitarian programs, categorized as "Yes," "No," and "Not sure." Among the 60 respondents, 29 (48.3%) supported improvement, 22 (36.7%) did not, and 9 (15%) were unsure.

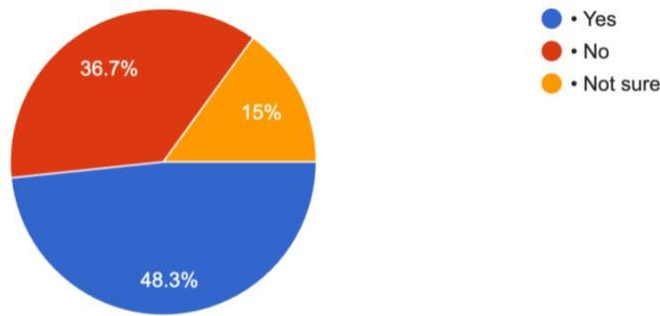


FIGURE 4.19

Table 4.21. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR RATING ON THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE CAMP.

S.NO	EFFECTIVENESS OF HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Very effective	31	51.7
2	Effective	26	43.3
3	Neutral	3	5
Total		60	100

From the data, it can be interpreted that a majority of respondents, approximately 51.7%, perceive humanitarian programs to be "Very effective." Additionally, a significant portion, around 43.3%, view these programs as "Effective." However, a smaller percentage, about 5%, remain neutral in their assessment.

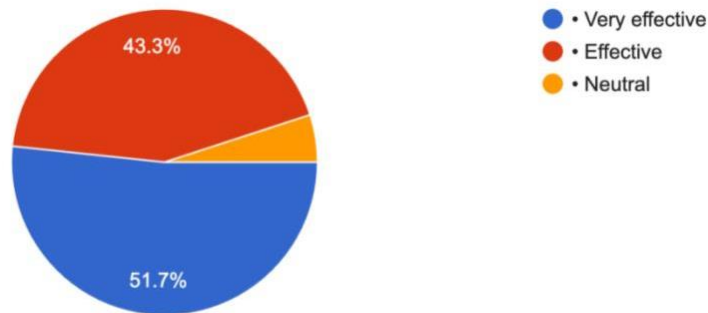


FIGURE 4.20

Table 4.22. Are there any additional comments or suggestions regarding humanitarian assistance programs for the elderly in the camp?

No

Table 4.23. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR OVERALL PHYSICAL HEALTH.			
S.NO	PHYSICAL HEALTH	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Excellent	25	41.7

2	Good	16	26.7
3	Fair	6	10
4	Poor	13	21.7
Total		60	100

The data assesses respondents' perceptions of their physical health, categorized as "Excellent," "Good," "Fair," and "Poor." Among the 60 respondents, 25 (41.7%) rated their health as excellent, 16 (26.7%) as good, 6 (10%) as fair, and 13 (21.7%) as poor.

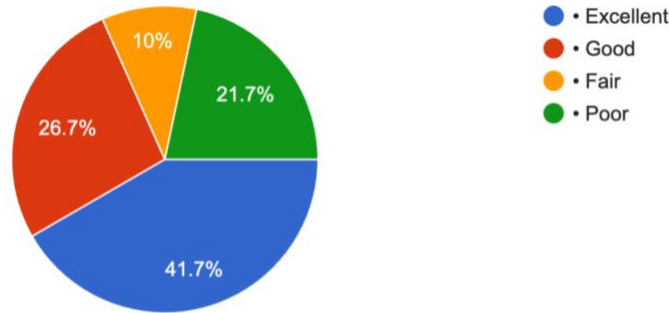


FIGURE 4.21

Table 4.24 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCES OF PAIN OR DISCOMFORT.

S.NO	PAIN OR DISCOMFORT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Rarely or never	11	18.3
2	Occasionally	33	55
3	Frequently	13	21.7
4	Constantly	3	5
Total		60	100

The data examines respondents' experiences of pain or discomfort, categorized by frequency: "Rarely or never," "Occasionally," "Frequently," and "Constantly." Among the 60 respondents, 11 (18.3%) reported rarely or never experiencing pain, 33 (55%) occasionally, 13 (21.7%) frequently, and 3 (5%) constantly.

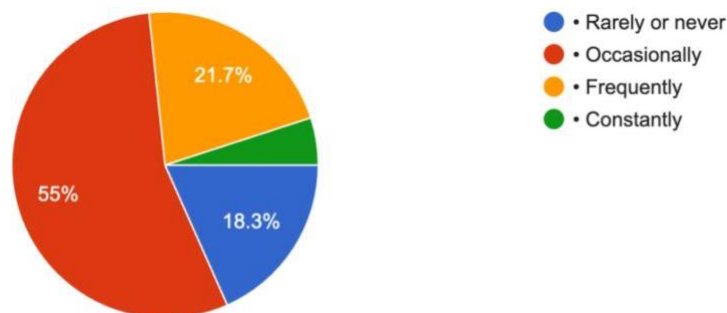


FIGURE 4.22

Table 4.25. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR MOBILITY.

S.NO	MOBILITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Very good	13	21.7
2	Good	21	35
3	Fair	21	35
4	Poor	5	8.3
Total		60	100

The data evaluates respondents' mobility, categorized as "Very good," "Good," "Fair," and "Poor." Among the 60 respondents, 13 (21.7%) rated their mobility as very good, 21 (35%) as good, 21 (35%) as fair, and 5 (8.3%) as poor.

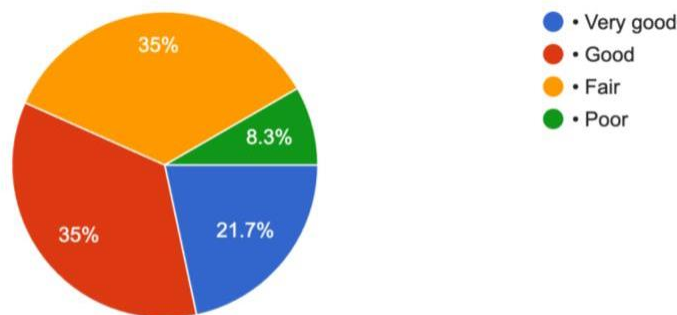


FIGURE 4.23

Table 4.26. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE.

S.NO	MEDICAL CARE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Regularly	13	21.7
2	Occasionally	38	63.3
3	Rarely	9	15
4	Never	0	-
Total		60	100

The data examines respondents' access to medical care, categorized by frequency: "Regularly," "Occasionally," "Rarely," and "Never." Among the 60 respondents, 13 (21.7%) reported receiving medical care regularly, 38 (63.3%) occasionally, and 9 (15%) rarely. Interestingly, none reported never receiving medical care.

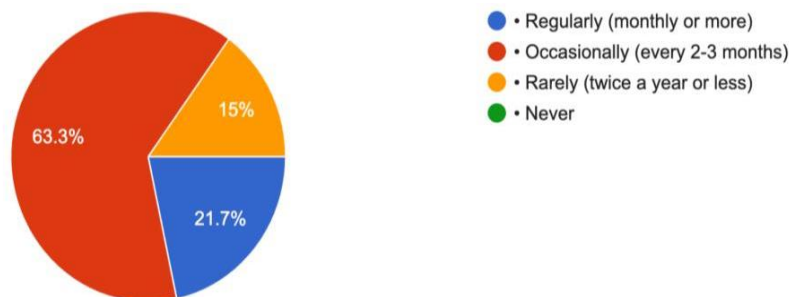


FIGURE 4.24

Table 4.27. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR HEALTH CONDITION.

S.NO	CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	No chronic condition	13	21.7
2	One chronic condition	31	51.7
3	Two chronic condition	14	23.3
4	Three or more chronic conditions	2	3.3
Total		60	100

The data examines the prevalence of chronic health conditions among respondents, categorized by the number of conditions: "No chronic condition," "One chronic condition," "Two chronic conditions," and "Three or more chronic conditions." Among the 60 respondents, 13 (21.7%) reported having no chronic conditions, 31 (51.7%) reported one chronic condition, 14 (23.3%) reported two chronic conditions, and 2 (3.3%) reported three or more chronic conditions.

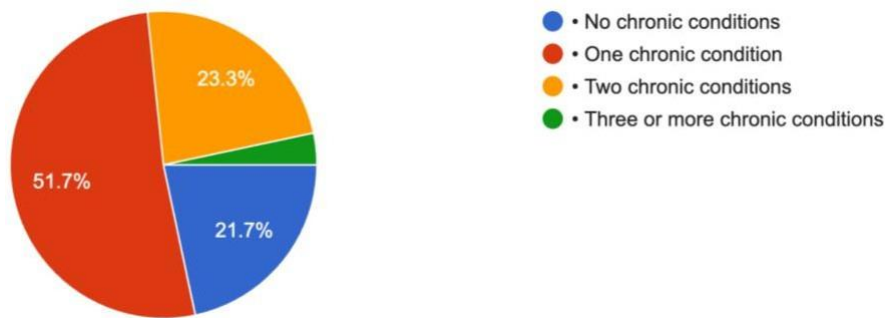


FIGURE 4.25

Table 4.28. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES.

S.NO	PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Regularly	25	41.7
2	Occasionally	35	58.3
3	Rarely	0	-
Total		60	100

The data examines respondents' engagement in preventive health measures, categorized by frequency: "Regularly," "Occasionally," and "Rarely." Among the 60 respondents, 25 (41.7%) reported engaging in preventive health measures regularly, while 35 (58.3%) did so occasionally. Interestingly, none reported rarely engaging in preventive measures.

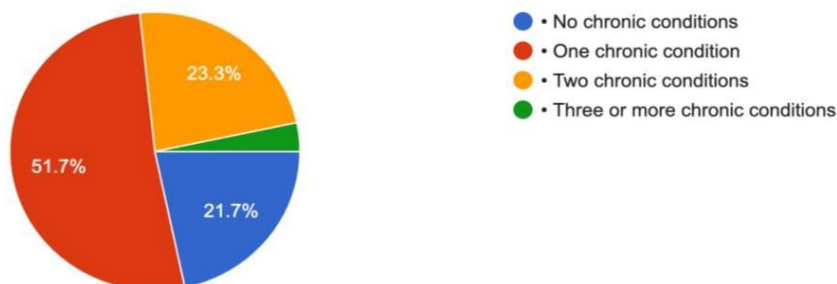


FIGURE 4.25

Table 4.29. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS.

S.NO	DIAGNOSED WITH DISEASE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	15	25
2	No	45	75
Total		60	100

The data indicates whether respondents have been diagnosed with a disease, with options for "Yes" and "No." Among the 60 respondents, 15 (25%) reported being diagnosed with a disease, while 45 (75%) indicated they had not.

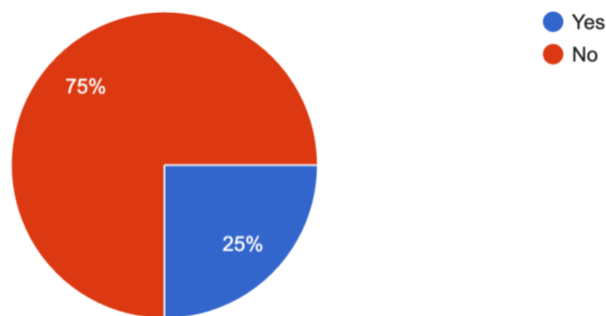


FIGURE 4.26

Table 4.30. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR HISTORY OF HOSPITALIZATION.

S.NO	HOSPITALIZED IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	7	11.7
2	No	53	88.3
Total		60	100

The data examines whether respondents have been hospitalized in the past six months, with options for "Yes" and "No." Among the 60 respondents, 7 (11.7%) reported being hospitalized during this period, while 53 (88.3%) indicated they had not.

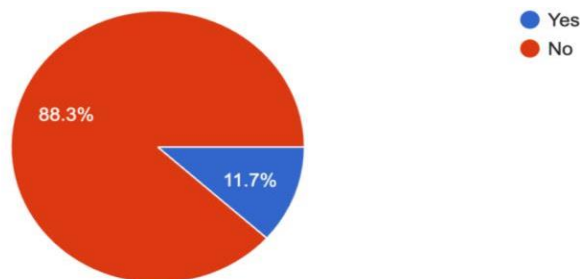


FIGURE 4.27

Table 4.31. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING HEALTHCARE.

S.NO	DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING HEALTHCARE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	22	36.7
2	No	29	48.3
3	Not sure	9	15
Total		60	100

The data assesses difficulties in accessing healthcare, categorized as "Yes," "No," and "Not sure." Among the 60 respondents, 22 (36.7%) reported experiencing difficulties, 29 (48.3%) did not, and 9 (15%) were unsure.

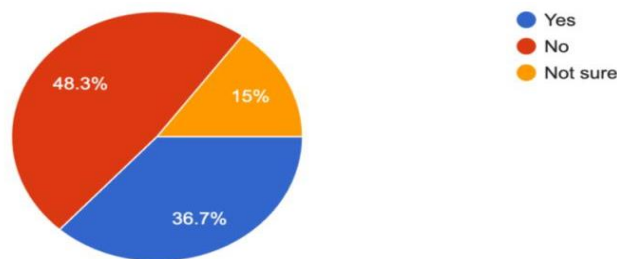


FIGURE 4.28

Table 4.32. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR SATISFACTION LEVELS WITH THE QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES.

S.NO	QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Very satisfied	12	20
2	Satisfied	32	53.3
3	Neutral	13	21.7
4	Dissatisfied	3	5
Total		60	100

The data evaluates respondents' satisfaction levels with the quality of healthcare services, categorized as "Very satisfied," "Satisfied," "Neutral," and "Dissatisfied." Among the 60 respondents, 12 (20%) reported being very satisfied, 32 (53.3%) satisfied, 13 (21.7%) neutral, and 3 (5%) dissatisfied.

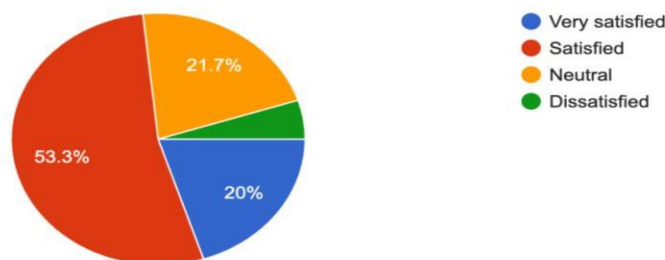


FIGURE 4.29

Table 4.33. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR AWARENESS OF AVAILABLE SOCIAL SERVICES.

S.NO	AWARE OF AVAILABLE SOCIAL SERVICES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	40	66.7
2	No	15	25
3	Partially	5	8.3
Total		60	100

The data explores respondents' awareness of available social services, categorized as "Yes," "No," and "Partially." Among the 60 respondents, 40 (66.7%) reported being aware of available social services, 15 (25%) were not aware, and 5 (8.3%) were partially aware.

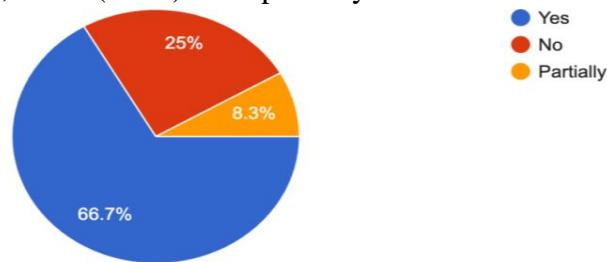


FIGURE 4.30

Table 4.34. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THE ACCESSIBILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE CAMP.

S.NO	ACCESSIBILITY OF AVAILABLE SOCIAL SERVICES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Very Accessible	20	33.3
2	Somewhat Accessible	31	51.7
3	Not very Accessible	9	15
Total		60	100

The data assesses the accessibility of available social services, categorized as "Very Accessible," "Somewhat Accessible," and "Not very Accessible." Among the 60 respondents, 20 (33.3%) reported social services as very accessible, 31 (51.7%) as somewhat accessible, and 9 (15%) as not very accessible.

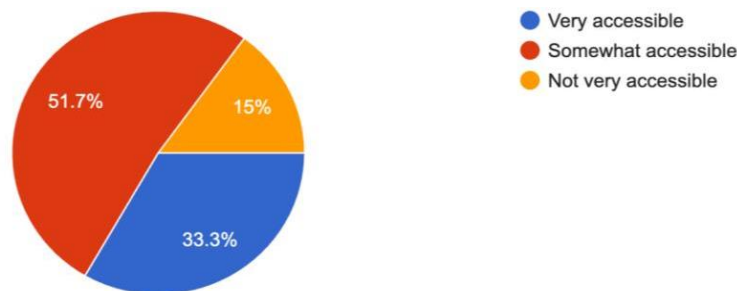


FIGURE 4.31

Table 4.35. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCES IN ACCESSING SOCIAL OR HEALTHCARE SERVICES.

S.NO	CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING SOCIAL SERVICES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	20	33.3
2	No	29	48.3
3	Not sure	11	18.3
Total		60	100

The data examines challenges in accessing social services, categorized as "Yes," "No," and "Not sure." Among the 60 respondents, 20 (33.3%) reported facing challenges, 29 (48.3%) did not, and 11 (18.3%) were unsure.

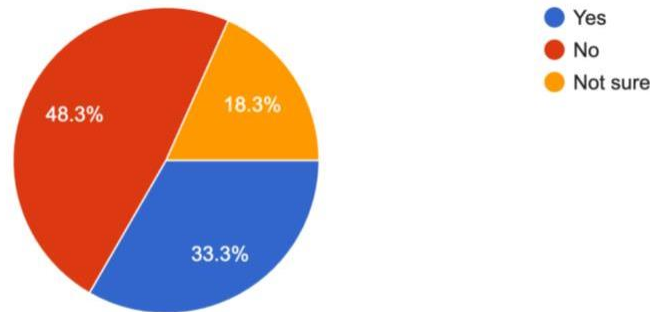


FIGURE 4.32

Table 4.36. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF LACK OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

S.NO	LACK OF SOCIAL SERVICES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	26	43.3
2	No	27	45
3	Not sure	7	11.7
Total		60	100

The data explores respondents' perceptions of the lack of social services, categorized as "Yes," "No," and "Not sure." Among the 60 respondents, 26 (43.3%) indicated a lack of social services, 27 (45%) did not perceive a lack, and 7 (11.7%) were unsure.

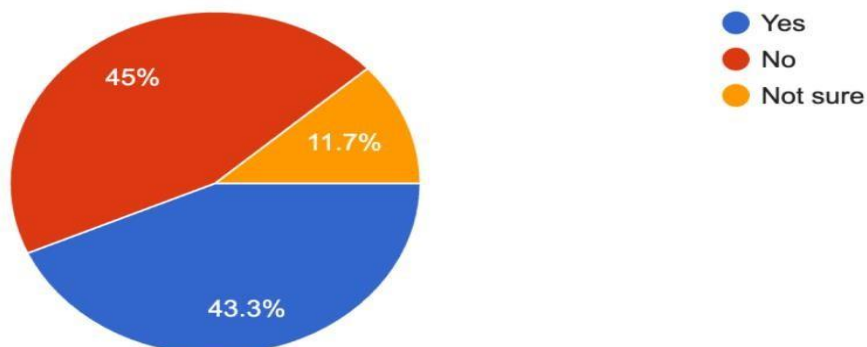


FIGURE 4.33

Table 4.37. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR SEX.

S.NO	SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Male	22	36.7
2	Female	38	63.3
Total		60	100%

The data categorizes respondents by sex, with options for "Male" and "Female." Among the 60 respondents, 22 (36.7%) were male, and 38 (63.3%) were female.

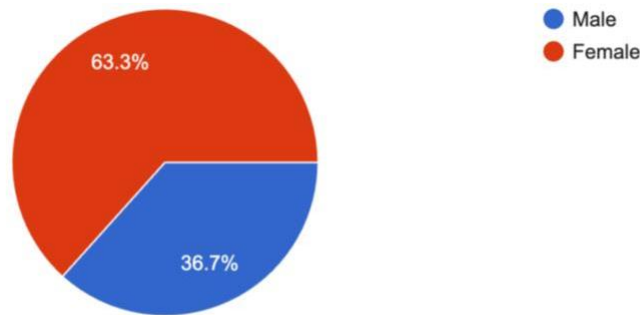


FIGURE 4.34

Table 4.38. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR AGE

S.NO	AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	63	1	1.7%
2.	60	13	21.7%
3.	61	3	5%
4.	62	8	13.3%
5.	63	7	8.3%
6.	65	6	10%
7.	66	3	5%
8.	67	2	3.3%
9.	68	2	3.3%
10.	69	2	3.3%
11.	70	4	6.7%
12.	75	2	3.3%
13.	76	2	3.3%
Total		60	100%

The data categorizes respondents by age, spanning from 60 to 76 years old. The most prevalent age group is 60, comprising 21.7% of the total respondents, followed by age 62 with 13.3%. The distribution gradually decreases with increasing age, with age 65 representing 10%, and ages 66 to 76 each accounting for 3.3%.

Table 4.39. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR OCCUPATION.

S.NO	OCCUPATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Unemployed	40	66.7%
2.	Astrologer	1	1.7%
3.	Auto driver	1	1.7%
4.	Cable	1	1.7%
5.	Daily wage worker	1	1.7%
6.	Construction worker	1	1.7
7.	Domestic worker	2	3.4%
8.	Driver	1	1.7%
9.	Fish seller	1	1.7%
10.	Fisherman	1	1.7%
11.	Labourer	1	1.7%
12.	Load man	1	1.7%
13.	Luggage driver	1	1.7%
14.	Mason	1	1.7%
15.	Primary school teacher	1	1.7%
16.	Rice mill worker	1	1.7%
17.	School van driver	1	1.7%
18.	Security	1	1.7%
19.	Tailor	1	1.7%
20.	Textile business	1	1.7%
Total		60	100%

The data presents respondents' occupations, with frequencies and percentages provided for each category. A significant portion, 66.7%, identified as unemployed. The remaining respondents represent various occupations, each comprising 1.7% of the total.

These occupations include astrologer, auto driver, cable worker, daily wage worker, construction worker, domestic worker, driver, fish seller, fisherman, laborer, load man, luggage driver, mason, primary school teacher, rice mill worker, school van driver, security personnel, tailor, and textile business.

Table 4.40. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR MARITAL STATUS

S.NO	MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Married	43	71.7
2	Widowed	14	23.3
3	Divorced	3	5
Total		60	100

The data categorizes respondents by marital status, presenting frequencies and percentages for each category. Among the 60 respondents, 43 (71.7%) reported being married, 14 (23.3%) were widowed, and 3 (5%) were divorced. The majority of respondents are married, with a notable portion being widowed, while a smaller percentage reported being divorced.

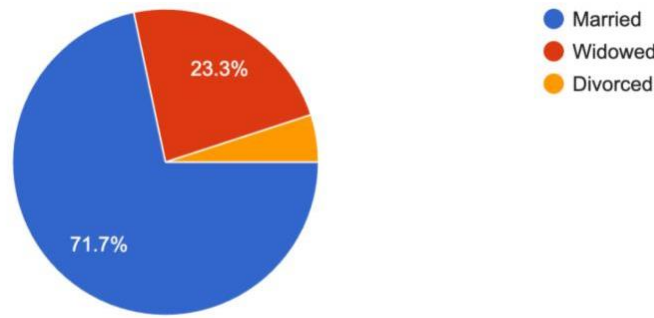


FIGURE 4.35

Table 41. INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

S.NO	INCOME	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	None	40	66.6%
2.	3000	1	1.7%
3.	5000	8	13.3%
4.	6000	1	1.7%
5.	8000	2	3.4%
6.	10000	7	11.4%
7.	12000	1	1.7%
Total		60	100%

The data represents respondents' monthly income levels. Among the 60 respondents, 40 (66.6%) reported having no specified monthly income. For those who did report income, the breakdown is as follows: 1 respondent (1.7%) reported earning 3000 monthly, 8 respondents (13.3%) reported earning 5000, 1 respondent (1.7%) reported earning 6000, 2 respondents (3.4%) reported earning 8000, 7 respondents (11.4%) reported earning 10000, and 1 respondent (1.7%) reported earning 12000.

Table 4.42. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR EDUCATIONAL STATUS.

S.NO	EDUCATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Uneducated	16	27.2%
2.	3rd Grade	1	1.7%
3.	5th Grade	4	6.8%
4.	6th Grade	2	3.4%
5.	7th Grade	2	3.4%
6.	8th Grade	7	11.9%
7.	9th Grade	1	1.7%
8.	10th Grade	22	37.4%
9.	12th Grade	4	6.8%
10.	Undergraduate	1	1.7%
Total		60	100%

The data categorizes respondents by education level, providing frequencies and percentages for each

category. Among the 60 respondents, 16 (27.2%) reported being uneducated. The remaining respondents reported various educational levels: 1 respondent (1.7%) completed 3rd grade, 4 (6.8%) completed 5th grade, 2 (3.4%) completed 6th grade, 2 (3.4%) completed 7th grade, 7 (11.9%) completed 8th grade, 1 (1.7%) completed 9th grade, 22 (37.4%) completed 10th grade, 4 (6.8%) completed 12th grade, and 1 (1.7%) had an undergraduate degree.

Table 4.3 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR DURATION OF STAY IN PUZHAL CAMP.

S.NO	DURATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	3	1	1.7%
2.	5	1	1.7%
3.	6	1	1.7%
4.	7	4	6.7%
5.	10	1	1.7%
6.	11	1	1.7%
7.	15	1	1.7%
8.	17	1	1.7%
9.	20	1	1.7%
10.	24	4	6.7%
11.	26	1	1.7%
12.	34	43	71.7%
Total		60	100%

From the data, it can be interpreted that the majority of respondents, approximately 71.7%, have stayed in Puzhal for a duration of 34 units. Other durations, such as 7 and 24 units, also have multiple respondents, each representing around 6.7% of the total. The remaining durations have only one respondent each, each constituting 1.7% of the total.

MAJOR FINDINGS

1. Majority of respondents rated communication as "Good" (58.3%), followed by "Excellent" (38.3%), indicating overall satisfaction with communication quality.
2. The majority of respondents relied on "Assistance Program" (73.3%) rather than "Employment" (26.7%) as their primary source of income.
3. The largest portion of respondents reported their economic situation as "Stable" (40%), followed by "Unstable" (30%), indicating a mixed perception of economic stability among the surveyed population.
4. Table 4. A significant majority (78.3%) of respondents have undergone vocational training, suggesting a proactive approach towards skill development.
5. A notable proportion (38.3%) of respondents acknowledged facing challenges, indicating the presence of socio-economic obstacles in their lives.
6. A substantial portion (38.3%) of respondents reported an improvement in their economic situation, while a smaller percentage (16.7%) indicated a decline.
7. Most respondents (55%) reported engaging in social activities occasionally, highlighting a

moderate level of social interaction.

8. Family connections (53.3%) were the most relied upon social network, followed by friends (40%) and neighbors (6.7%).
9. Nearly half of the respondents (48.3%) reported facing social challenges, suggesting the presence of social barriers in their environment.
10. The majority of respondents (88.3%) reported satisfaction with their social interactions, with none indicating dissatisfaction.
11. A large majority (88.3%) of respondents reported engaging in community-building activities, indicating a sense of participation and belonging.
12. The majority of respondents (80%) reported a strong sense of community, highlighting social cohesion within the surveyed population.
13. Most respondents (56.7%) rated their living conditions as "Good," indicating overall satisfaction, while a smaller portion (8.3%) reported dissatisfaction.
14. Table 4. A majority of respondents (56.7%) reported facing challenges in their living conditions, highlighting areas for improvement.
15. While a significant portion (43.3%) reported being very satisfied with their housing, a notable percentage (21.7%) remained neutral, suggesting varying levels of satisfaction.
16. The majority of respondents (58.3%) reported feeling very safe, indicating a sense of security within their living environment.

SUGGESTIONS

Mental Health Support: The residents could be provided with psychiatric and counseling assistance inside camp to help them cope with trauma, loneliness, and depression that may be caused worse by their isolation and displacement.

Employment: Providing elderly refugees with a chance to work in meaningful jobs and make money in the camp, such small-scale entrepreneurship, horticultural projects, or handcraft production.

Infrastructure Improvements: Ensure that the camp provides the necessary facilities, such as street lights, accessible toilets, and specially designed rest spaces, to satisfy the mobility and accessibility requirements of its elderly residents.

Technology Access and Training: Offer elder refugees access to technology, such as computers or smartphones, and conduct workshops to teach them how to use it for communication, information access, and maintaining relationships with family and friends. This will improve their quality of life and eliminate feelings of loneliness.

Collaboration with NGOs and Local Organizations: Establish collaborations with local charities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations to benefit from their networks, resources, and experience in supporting senior refugees. Working together can increase the effectiveness of interventions and ensure a comprehensive strategy for meeting the needs of senior refugees in refugee camps.

CONCLUSION

The study on the Status of Elderly in a Sri Lankan Refugee Camp in Puzhal, Chennai, highlights an important but frequently overlooked dimension of the refugee population. A thorough examination of their psychological, health, and economical aspects provides important new perspectives on how

complicated their everyday lives are. Their vulnerability is made worse by a lack of job opportunities and inadequate resources, which leads to uncertain living situations and an increased reliance on government aid. These initiatives include educational courses, social activities, and healthcare services tailored with their needs in consideration. In conclusion, the study offers a thorough assessment of the challenges encountered by senior refugees in the camp in Puzhal, Chennai. It illustrates the struggles they encounter while also recognizing their resilience, sense of belonging, and courage. We can assist elderly refugees in humanitarian contexts achieve more dignity, protection, and well-being by utilizing their abilities and tending to their unique needs.