

# **Senior Citizen Protection & Role of Police**

**Focus on Kerala State**

**Biju Mathew  
Director  
HelpAge India**

# MANY ABUSED ELDERS SUFFER IN SILENCE

Express News Service

**Kochi:** When Narayanakutty (name changed) met with an accident that left him paralysed, his relatives threw him out of the house. Helpless he lay on verandah in public places until the locals called our helpline.

The elderly bachelor was living with his brothers and was contributing towards the education of his brothers' children till the day he met with the accident. By then, they had also taken hold of all his assets. HelpAge India has now rehabilitated him in an old age home in the city.

With rising life expectancy, the elderly population is also on the rise. But how far is Kochi equipped to face the challenges posed by elder abuse. With joint families fading into oblivion, there is hardly anyone to lend a ear to the abused elderly.

Though the HelpAge India survey reports that the percentage of elderly abuse is far less in Kochi

## INITIATIVES TO CREATE AWARENESS

**Kochi:** To create awareness, HelpAge India is organising programmes for students on Friday. Drawing contest, pledge and release of report will be held at St Paul's International School, Kalamassery, SBOA Senior Secondary School, Chittoor, Bhavan's Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kakkanad and St Xavier's College, Kakkanad. It is also organising a picnic for 20 inmates of an old age home in Thevara.

Corporation compared to other cities, the fact remains that many are not vocal. "Despite the cruel behaviour, the elderly love and adore their children and protect them instead of complaining. In some cases, even if they wanted to complain, children and relative would prevent it," said Biju Mathew, state head, HelpAge India. A random survey conducted by HelpAge in 20 cities on 280 people - seven each in 40 locations - reports that

the highest number of abuse was reported in Madhya Pradesh (77.12) and lowest in Rajasthan (1.67) followed by Himachal Pradesh (2.99) and Kerala (10.98).

In Kochi, it is low, with 46 per cent experiencing economic exploitation, 40 per cent neglect and 14 per cent disrespect, relatives being the primary perpetrators.

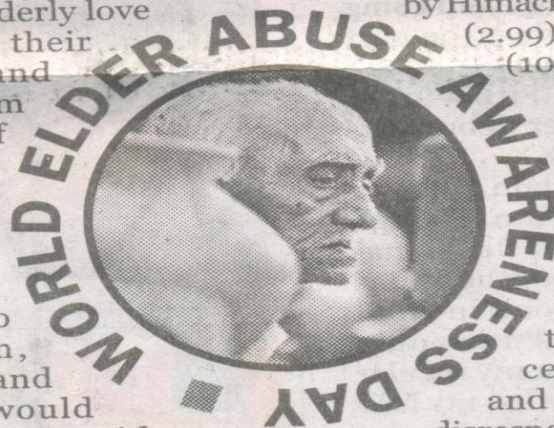
About 29 per cent faced abuse daily and 52 per cent of victims reported abuse and 48 per cent did not.

Lack of adjustment and economic dependence were the reasons for abuse.

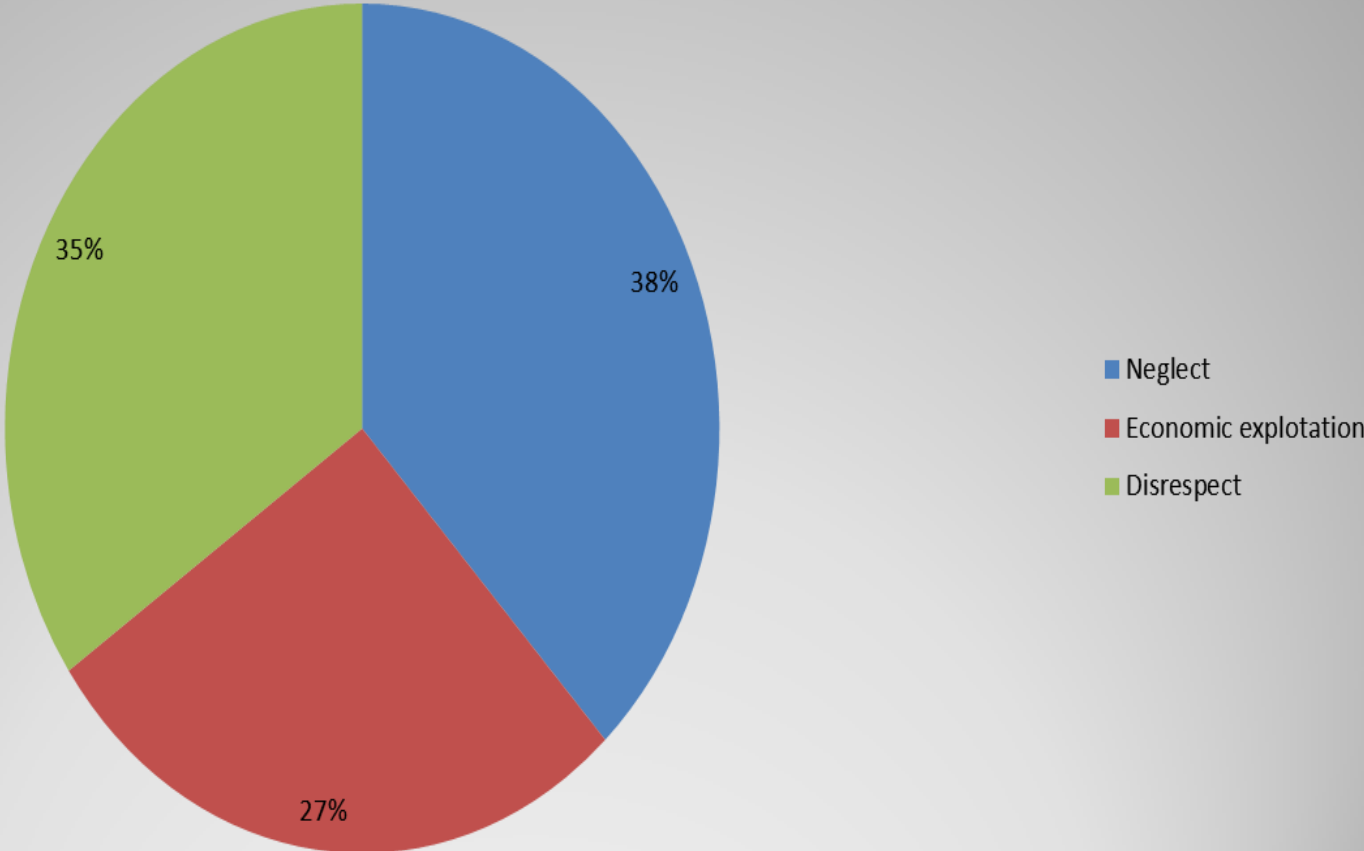
"The percentage of the abused could be higher as many go unreported. Awareness of their rights (Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007) is low. Many do not know that their children should maintain them. They are eligible to maintenance up to ₹10,000," he said.

They can complain about any kind of abuse. If the children are destitute, the government has to come to their aid. The Act also allows the elderly to take back the property bequeathed to children. If a case is moved, it has to be redressed within 90 days.

The aged population in 2011 is 73,993 of which 40,846 are women and 9,023 above 80. District social welfare officer C. Sundari said that the cases registered are on maintenance and transaction of property, no physical abuse has been reported.

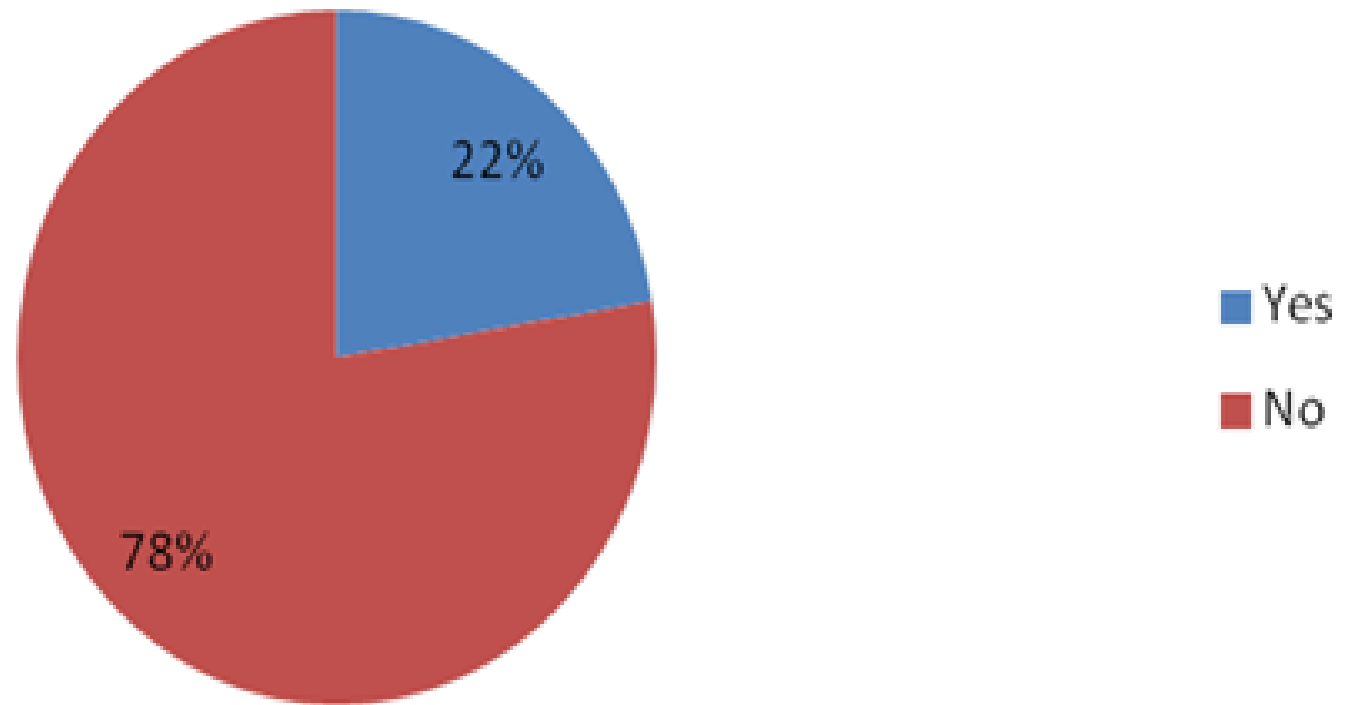


# Perception of what constitutes elder abuse(Thriuvananthapuram)



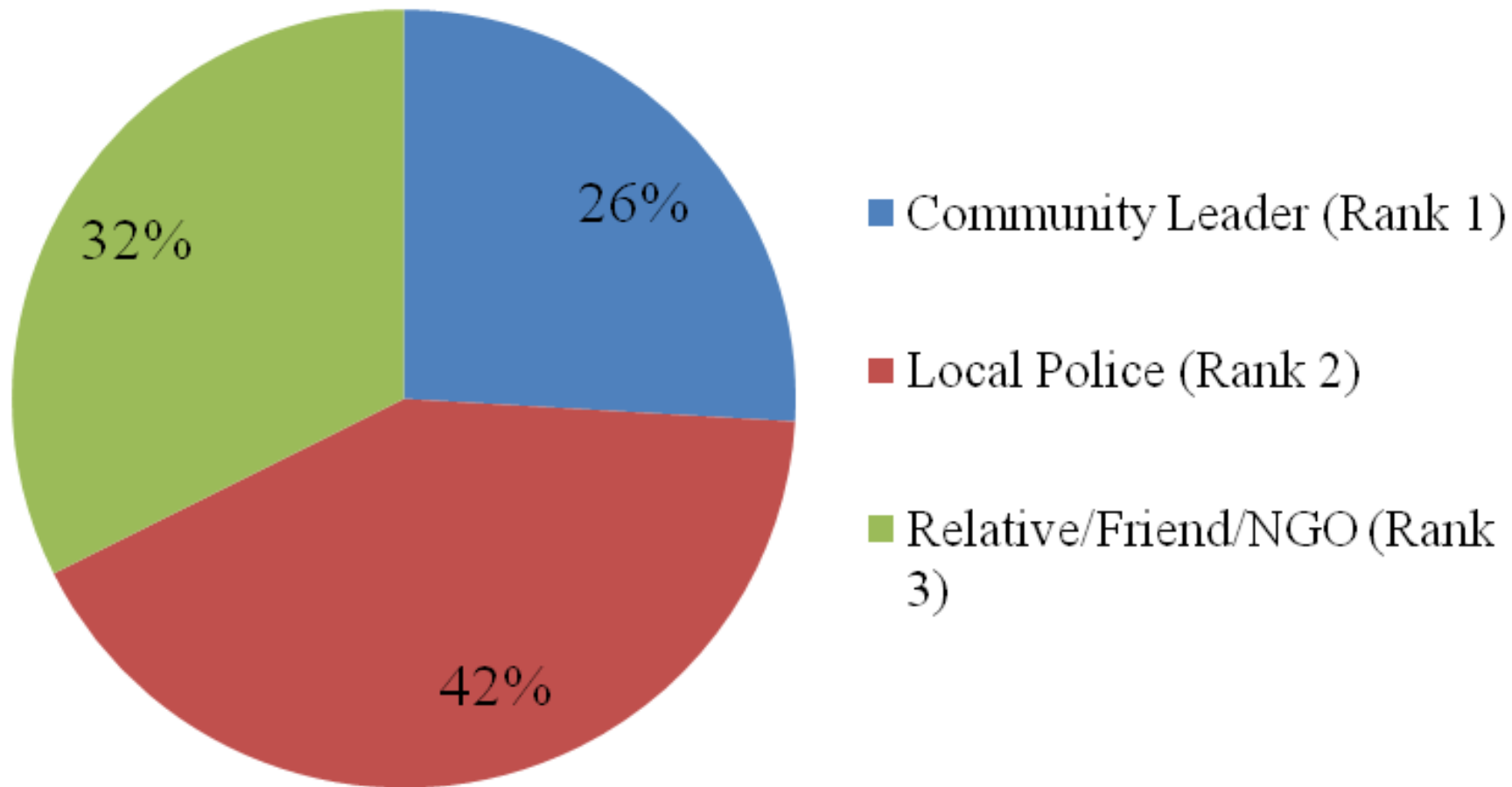
# Concept of Abuse

# Personal experience of abuse among elderly (N=277)



**Experience of Abuse**

# Agency/Person approached



**REPORTING BEHAVIOR**

17/1/14

THE HINDU

# Lack of awareness hinders legal assistance to elderly

## Abandonment of senior citizens seen as family matter: ADGP

Staff Reporter

**KOCHI:** Laws and welfare schemes are aplenty to help the elderly and protect them against abuse. However, legal measures to bring relief to the elderly have been hit by a lack of awareness regarding the laws and delays in the implementation of some of the recommendations of the law.

As per the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act notified by the State government in 2009, senior citizens who have been abandoned or had their property appropriated by others can obtain a sum of money as maintenance and get their property back.

Complaints may be filed before the Revenue Divisional Officer or the police in cases of abuse.

Despite the law having been passed more than four years ago, convictions under the law are rare. "Convictions are low because there is a lack of awareness regarding the law. Abandonment of the elderly is still seen as a family matter rather than a police case," said Additional Director General of Police K. Padmakumar. "Steps to protect the elderly from abuse and neglect in their old age need to be put in place quickly as

**HELPING THE AGED**



- Revenue Divisional Officer has the authority to convene tribunals to decide on maintenance to be paid to abandoned elderly
- Law recommends formation of State and District councils for older persons similar to the National Council
- Police have senior citizens help desk to assist the elderly

the number of senior citizens among the total population is rising quickly," he added.

### No cases registered

Officials from the District Crime Records Bureau said no cases had been registered under the law in the city in 2013. The Ernakulam rural police dealt with a few cases of elder abuse in the year. Most of the cases, however, go to the Revenue Divisional Officer.

The RDO convenes tribunals to consider complaints

and fixes the sum to be paid as maintenance to the abandoned senior citizen. In several cases, the RDO has also stepped in to bring justice to senior citizens who have been tricked out of their property by their children.

Activists working to assist the elderly, however, said that a separate system should be constituted to tackle complaints coming under the law so that they were cleared faster. The law recommends the formation of State and district councils for older per-

sons along the lines of the National Council for Older Persons. While a State council has been formed in Kerala, it is said to be largely ineffective. The State government had announced that a revised geriatric policy would be formed in 2012. The policy is yet to be released. District councils too have not been formed.

Officials and the police are also often uncertain about the procedure to handle complaints of abuse of senior citizens. "Once there is a complaint, the person who abandoned the senior citizen has to respond within 90 days. But the procedure is unclear about how to handle the situation, if say, the respondent is abroad," said Biju Mathew, State head of HelpAge India. He said police officials were also often unsure of how to handle cases coming under the law. The Ernakulam rural police, with the assistance of HelpAge India, are organising a training programme next month for its officers on handling cases under the senior citizens' welfare law.

The police have also compiled a list of senior citizens living alone. Police officials visit the elderly regularly to address their grievances.



**SENIOR CITIZEN  
SPECIAL PURPOSE TRAINING CENTRE  
KOCHI CITY**



- **Coordinate safety & security.**
- **Regular advise on induction of Security & Safety measures.**
- **To prepare the help desk directory and an instruction booklet.**
- **Houses of the elderly are visited at least once a week**
- **Police Verification of all the domestic help employed**
- **Monitoring of registered Senior Citizens by regular interaction.**
- **Helping in case of personal problems.**

## **Objectives of CARE**



- **446 Police officers**
- **Dy.SP and below (Dy.SP, CI, SI, SHO, Sr.CPO, CPO etc).**
- **The one day training programme was held at four locations spread over 8 days.**
- **District Crime Records Bureau (DCRB) based at Aluva & Edapally.**
- **Issues facing senior citizens and how to deal the same in a humane manner.**
- **Focused training on "Maintenance & Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007".**
- **All Police Stations under the jurisdiction of Ernakulam Rural Police District and also Kochi City Police Commissionarate.**
- **Kochi City Police has 21 Police Stations. It covers an area of 87.341 Sq.Kms**
- **Ernakulam Rural Police District have 15 Circle stations, 31 Police Stations and one Women Cell under its jurisdiction. It comprises of an area of 2330.659 Sq. Kms covering 118 Panchayaths & 6 Municipalities, 10 Legislative Assembly Constituencies, 4 Parliamentary constituencies.**

## **Senior Citizen Protection Scheme (CARE)**



**SENIOR CITIZEN  
SPECIAL PURPOSE TRAINING CENTRE  
KOCHI CITY**

1192







S. No	City	State Coverage	Toll Free Helpline Number
1	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1800-180-1253
2	Bengaluru	Karnataka	1800-180-1253
3	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	<b>1800-233-1253</b>
4	Bhubaneswar	Odissa	<b>1800-345-1253</b>
5	Chandigarh	Punjab	1800-180-1253
6	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	1800-180-1253 & 1253
7	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	1253
8	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	1800-180-1253
9	Delhi	N C T of Delhi	1800-180-1253
10	Guwahati	Assam	<b>1800-345-1253</b>
11	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	1800-180-1253 & 1253
12	Vijaywada	Andhra Pradesh	1253
13	Eluru	Andhra Pradesh	1253
14	Jaipur	Rajasthan	1800-180-1253
<b>15</b>	<b>Kochi</b>	<b>Kerala</b>	<b>1800-180-1253</b>
16	Kolkata	West Bengal	<b>1800-345-1253</b>
17	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	1800-180-1253
18	Mumbai	Maharashtra	1800-180-1253
19	Panaji	Goa	1800-180-1253
20	Patna	Bihar	<b>1800-345-1253</b>
21	Puducherry	Puducherry (UT)	1253
22	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	1800-180-1253
23	Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	1800-180-1253

**Elders Helpline (Toll Free) 1800 180 1253**





# KERALA POLICE

- Home
- About us
- History
- News
- Contact us
- Tenders
- FAQs

## Other Pages

- » Chief's Message
- » Citizen Helpdesk Hand Book
- » Press Releases
- » Foreigners Registration
- » Circulars
- » Executive Directive
- » Important GOs
- » Important DGOs
- » Quotations **NEW**
- » Seniority List
- » Citizens charter
- » Cyber Crime Police Station
- » Hi-Tech Crime Enquiry Cell
- » Anti Piracy Cell
- » Cyber Security Tips
- » Kerala Police Message Centre
- » Police Housing & Welfare
- » Announcements
- » Police Medal Winners
- » Information as per RTI Act
- » Right to Service Act (Services)
- » e-Projects
- » Stolen Vehicles-Kerala
- » Photo Gallery
- » More Websites

## Innovative Projects in Kerala

- » Janamaithri Suraksha
- » Student Police Cadet

## Senior Citizen Grievance

Fields marked with (\*) are compulsory

First Name \*

Last Name

Sex \*

Age \*  ( Age must be 60 years or higher)

Address\*

Residing Police district \*

Telephone No

E mail

Type of grievance\*

Brief of grievance \*

Security code

Enter security code\*



# THIRUVANANTHAPURAM CITY POLICE COMMUNITY CARE PORTAL



- Home
- Senior Citizen Cell
- Women & Children
- Students
- SC & ST
- Complaints
- Contact us

## SENIOR CITIZEN CELL

- Objectives
- Registration
- Complaints

Commissioner's Message

Janamithri Suraksha

Safety Tips

Cyber Cell

Photo gallery

Links

Emergency Numbers

Hospitals

Ambulance Service

LPG Service

### Personal Details

Name:  D.O.B (dd/mm/yyyy):

Age:  Years Address:

Gender:

Tel No.:  Religion:

Email:  Mobile No:

Field of Specialization:  Retired From:

### Spouse Details

Spouse Name:  D.O.B(dd/mm/yyyy):

### Other Details

No.of Children:  Family:

Health:

Residing With:  Alone  Alone with Spouse  Children  Friends/Relatives

### Relative Details

Relative's Name:  Relation:

Address:  Tel No.:

### Servant

Name  Address / Tel

### Driver

Name  Address / Tel

### Watchman

Name  Address / Tel

### Tenant

Name  Address / Tel

Submit Reset





**THANK YOU**