

# ELDER ABUSE AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION



Edited by  
**Sundara Raj. T**

# **ELDER ABUSE AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

*Editor*  
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## Physical and Psychological Alienation of Elderly Women in India: A Sociological Analysis

V. Sofia Adaikala Mary & Dr. RM. Muthu

### Introduction

Elderly Women are recognized as a responsible member of the family, cares and fulfills the needs of each and everyone in the family till her life time. They are supposed to be the most wanted and most noted member of the family for their services, but now alienated by their own family members. The very simple reason is the age factor which makes them dependent and becomes less significant in all walks of life. This tilts the structure of the family and society at large. Elderly Women are alienated in the family physically. They are put in a separate room and not offering food on proper time. Because of this they suffer during sickness. They are also alienated psychologically like leaving alone at home, not interacting with them, not taking them to the functions and festivals and keeping away separately including their utensils and toiletry things etc. This makes them feel grief, lonely and depressed. Their children do not permit them to meet the siblings and grandchildren who stay away from them. In the extreme cases the elderly women are driven out of their house and in some cases they are placed in the old age homes both knowingly and unknowingly. This paper attempts to focus on alienation of the elderly women both physically and psychologically in the Indian context.

As per 2011 census, the population of the aged in India has crossed 100 million and the ratio of the elderly women is high, compared to their