

Kiran Puri¹

BOOK REVIEW Mala Kapur Shankardass (Ed.) *International Handbook of Elder Abuse and Mistreatment*. Publisher: Springer Singapore 2020, pp. 649.

The book *International Handbook of Elder Abuse and Mistreatment* is rare of its kind. It is a comprehensive portrayal of the various forms of abuse to which the elderly are subjected. Abuse ranges from physical, emotional, financial and psychological abuse and neglect. The book reiterates the importance of treating the elderly with dignity and respect.

The editor of the book, 'International Handbook of Elder Abuse and Mistreatment' is a well known author Mala Kapur Shankardass, Ph.D. who is an associate professor at Maitreyi College, University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi. The book comprises of 34 chapters including the preamble and is split into 6 parts. It gives a comprehensive view of the condition of elderly in U.S.A., Mexico, Canada, Montreal, Jamaica, Caribbean, Europe with emphasis on Finland, Romania, Hungary, Germany, Flanders, U.K, Middle East: including Turkey, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and West and South Asia. It also covers parts of East Asia like Korea, Australia and Oceania. The ending part of the book covers the various countries of Africa like Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia and other countries of the big African continent.

The book gives important information about how 1 out of 6 people above the age of 60 years and above experience some form of abuse in community settings. The book mentions the systemic review and meta analysis of studies done by Yon et al (2018) that abuse is higher in institutional than in community settings. While psychological, physical, financial and sexual abuse along with neglect is seen to occur in both institutional and community settings the prevalence of all forms of abuse is substantially more in institutions such as nursing homes and Long term care facilities. The book emphasises the fact that most cases of elder abuse go undetected and prevalence rates are likely to be underestimated thus adding to lack of necessary attention to the problem. It is therefore essential to continue to raise awareness to help prevent abuse cases and to ensure that those which take place are immediately reported.

The book starts with 'Prespectives on Elder Abuse and Mistreatment from Selected Countries and Regions: A Preamble' by Mala Kapur Shankardass followed by 'Why More Pilot Studies of Elder Mistreatment are Necessary' written by Lynn Mc Donald where she states that prevalence studies tend to be the main platforms for policy, practice, and research progress, both nationally and internationally. The significance of the pilot studies to be carefully crafted to provide the very best evidence possible to

1 Founder Member, Trustee and Director 'Development Welfare and Research Foundation', India, info@rightsofolderpeople.org

end mistreatment. Pamela B. Toaster, Joy Swanson Ernst and Patricia Brownell address the elder abuse in US and public policy responses to it in their article 'United States Issues in Elder Abuse'. Cynthia Thomas in 'Coordinating Elder Abuse Prevention and Treatment Across Organizations in the USA' provides information about how numerous non-profit and professional organisations work to provide information and services designed to prevent elder abuse and to assist victims. Liliana Giraldo Rodriguez and Marcela Agudelo Botero also reiterate the prevalence of elderly abuse in various parts of Mexico at home and in institutions by family members and caregivers. Nelson García Araneda and Jenny Lowick Russell in the 'Chapter Elder Abuse in Chile: Evidence, legal Regulations and Immediate Challenges' present an overview of the elder abuse in Chile. Every chapter in the book gives a picture of elder abuse in various countries. Elizabeth Podnieks in the chapter 'The Power of Elder Abuse Networks in Canada,' introduces global readers to programs and initiatives taking place in Canada to address elder abuse and neglect. In the chapter 'Ipras Model : Montreal's Integrated Police Response for Abused Seniors,' Marie Beaulieu, Michelle Cote, Josephine Looock , Monia D'Amours, Luisa Diaz and Jacques Cloutier write about the integrated police response for abused seniors to counter mistreatment of older adults. Bardelli Corigliano M. Gina describes the types of violence reported by people aged 60 and over and gender between 2015 and 2017 in the chapter, 'Violence Toward Elderly Adults.' Cases Registered During the Years 2015–2017 in a National Program in Peru.' Denise Eldemire Shearer, Douladel Willie – Tyndall, Collette Robinson and Julian Mc Koy Davis explore available crime statistics and available qualitative cases to describe the situation of elder abuse in Jamaica in their chapter 'Elder Abuse – An Examination of the situation in Jamaica.' A reflection of marginality and its association with elder abuse is presented by Carmen D. Sanchez Salgado in the article 'Marginality and Elder Abuse in Puerto Rico: An Emerging Social Problem'.

Sirkka Perrin, Henrikka Laurels and Paivi Helakallo-Ranta describe the 'Current Policy Context in Finland in their article 'Elder Abuse and the Human Rights Approach -insight....' reveal that from the beginning of 2016, based on the Social Welfare Act, it has been compulsory for workers in social services to report elder abuse or concerns of the safety of an older person confidentiality provision notwithstanding to the municipal authority responsible for the service. In general they state that Finish people are fairly aware of their rights and would know if encountered with discrimination or harassment. Ioana Caciula in the chapter 'Elder Abuse in Romania: Work in Progress' explains that the objectives of S.T.Age project were to design an education program that will provide new learning opportunities in the field of human rights and empathy to prevent abuse, based on creative ideas to empower older adults through education on human rights and the exploration of ways of safeguarding well being. In the chapter 'Violence and Maltreatment of the Elderly in Hungary' Oiga Toth mentions that violence against older people is committed by adult children or grandchildren. Unemployed, alcoholic children return to parental homes and live off the parent's pensions.

Joao F. Fundinho and Jose Ferreira-Alves in the chapter 'Care of Elderly in Portugal: Official Data and Scientific and Professional Challenges' present the scientific and practical developments on the field of elder mistreatment in Portugal. Thomas Goergen in the chapter 'Prevention of Elder Abuse in Germany states that elements of elder abuse prevention in Germany include changes in care-related legislation aiming at quality management in caregiving facilities and services, improvements in oversight of care providers and strengthening clients position in provision of care. Lisebeth De Donder, Sofie Van Regenmortel, Deborah Lambotte, Nico De Witte and Dominique Verte in the chapter, 'Elder Abuse and Mistreatment in Flanders: Prevalence and Prevention' inform that Flanders has currently two helplines for elder abuse and mistreatment. One Organization (VLOCO) is responsible for the support, training and registration of cases of abuse or mistreatment by professionals. A second helpline called 1712 registers all cases on violence by citizens. Bridget Penhale in 'Elder Abuse and Adult Safeguarding in UK states a number of national and international organisations have been established to respond to abuse and abusive situations ; there are differences between different nations of the UK and how abuse is responded to. In Israel, Ariela Lowenstein and Sigal Pearl Naim write that 18% of community dwelling elders report of a disability or A D L difficulties in the chapter ' Coping with Elder Abuse in Israel: The Multi-systemic Model'. Isil Kalayci and Metin Ozkul have determined the size of the elderly abuse and neglect and its importance in terms of providing the necessary assistance to the elderly and creating social policies in Turkey in the chapter, ' The Elderly as Social Victims of Modernization : Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly in Turkey'. Mala Kapur Shankardass in her article 'Reflection on Elder Abuse and Mistreatment in India' explains about how elder abuse and mistreatment of older people in Indian society has emerged as a serious concern requiring affirmative and cross-disciplinary responses to combat it. Manohar Upreti writes about changes in Nepalese society which once believed that only fortunate people get to serve their parents and live a blissful life but now the tables have turned in the chapter ' Elder Abuse and Mistreatment in Nepal '. The society of Nepal in which an obedient son like Shrawan Kumar was remembered has now started to hear the news of parting their parents in the streets and charitable old age homes. In the chapter 'Elder Abuse and Older Women's Vulnerability: A growing Concern in Bangladesh 'Ferdous Ara Begum has also mentioned as to how older persons both men and women are vulnerable to mistreatment in many societies, mainly due to their age and gender identity and extreme poverty. Elder abuse especially neglect, financial or psychological are much more common in Bangladesh nowadays. Shiromi Maduwage in her article, 'Situational Overview of Elder Abuse in Sri Lanka' describes that the magnitude of elder abuse is still hidden in the community of Sri Lanka due to under-reporting. Evidence has shown that culture and traditional practices play a major role to keep elder abuse unreported. In the article ' The Road of Korean Society's Fight Against Elder Abuse ' Mee- Hye Kim reiterates the fact that in 2004 the government has in-

roduced the Welfare of Older Persons Act to deal with the elder abuse in South Korea. 'Japan's 10 year Legislative Experience , Current Status and Future Challenges in preventing Elder Abuse' written by Noriko Tsukada mentions that Japan enacted the 'The Act on the Prevention of Elder Abuse , Support for Caregivers of Elderly Persons and Other Related Matters' on 9th November 2005, which became effective in April 2006(The Ministry of Health , Labour and Welfare 2005). Since then, ten years have passed and lots of research on elder abuse have been accumulated. Wai Chong Ng, Zoe Z. B. Lim and Mumtaz Md. Kadir in the chapter ' A Multidisciplinary Care Management Approach to Preventing and Managing Elder Abuse: The Singapore Experience' have explained that the Singapore government has set up platforms for preventing and managing Elder Abuse, such as the establishment of the National Family Violence Networking System , the Family Violence Dialogue Group and Family Violence Specialist Centres. Legislative framework has also been developed to protect vulnerable elders. Elsie Yan in the article 'Elder Abuse in Chinese Populations' summarizes available literature on the rate and risk factors associated with abuse in Chinese populations. Effort is made to discuss the unique cultural values and summarize current policy and legislation on elder abuse in Chinese communities. In the article, 'Designing Australian Responses to Elder Abuse: Issues and Challenges' Barbara Blundell and Mike Clare bring to the limelight that there has been a considerable focus on the topic of elder abuse in Australia through the medium of various Commonwealth and state government inquiries, and the issue has been further explored in a number of prominent research projects and literature reviews. Briony Dow, Freda Vratsidis, Meghan O'Brien, Melanie Joosten and Like Gahan in their article 'Elder Abuse in Australia' bring forth that a review of the current elder abuse policy and practice in Australia has found that while most states and territories are taking positive steps to protect and empower Australians, response to elder abuse at a national level is slow. This has led to gaps in knowledge – particularly regarding the prevalence of elder abuse in Australia – and services, as well as the duplication of support systems. Lydia Kabole Atetwe in the article 'Prevalence of Elder Abuse in Emuhaya Sub-county, Vihiga County, Kenya' states that the incidence of elder abuse in Kenya and in Emuhaya specifically appears to be increasing by certain accounts, yet no clear cut evidence or official rates are available. The chapter ' Elder Abuse and Mistreatment in the Community in Nigeria: A Myth or Reality?' written by Eniola Olubukola Cadmus reveals that in Nigeria, as well as the traditional setting in many African countries, the family has the responsibility of providing care and support for older persons. However, due to present economic realities in the country, there are many instances whereby the family is either unwilling or unable to provide adequate care and support for older persons. Likewise, the downward slope of economic nucleation in the country has also encouraged emotional and economic nucleation in the country. Therefore, older persons are increasingly placed at risk for abuse and neglect. Sam Togba Slewion in the chapter 'Older People in Liberia: An Afterthought for Policy Development'

writes that the older people in many developing countries, including Liberia, continue to face the brunt of lack of social protection system and policy as well as health care. In Liberia many a time during policy development, the welfare of the over 180,000 older people in Liberia seems to be an afterthought instead of an inclusive segment of any social policy aimed at enhancing the quality of life of citizens of the country. In the chapter, 'Elder Abuse in Africa', Priscilla S. Gavi states that abuse of older persons and the denial of their basic human rights are a worrying phenomenon in Africa. As the traditional African togetherness brought about by the unity of extended family networks continues to disintegrate under the influence of globalization, communities more and more ignore the very fabric that kept them together. It's the disappearance of traditional safety that has forced the older persons now rely on pressure groups to advocate for the recognition of their rights to live a dignified life .

The book has a beautiful display of tables, statistics and data covering the latest analysis. Systematic, qualitative, quantitative, descriptive and retrospective research methods have been used. The book written by international specialists from various disciplines is a great collaboration of the different dimensions of elder abuse and mistreatment in terms of their prevalence, prevention, management and treatment. The reading of this book is specifically recommended for students and researchers interested in ageing issues, be it sociologists, public health workers or clinical psychologists.