

NO END TO ELDERLY ABUSE

Negligence topped all forms of abuse faced by the elderly in the Kingdom

'5pc of Bahraini elderly populace facing abuse'

● The study carried out by Dr Nasser S, Dr Mallala H, Dr Jadeed and Dr Taraif

● Bahrain is one of the first Arab countries which formed a National Committee for Elderly in the year 1984

Zahra Ayaz
TDT|Manama

Five per cent of the Kingdom's elderly population faces some or other form of abuse, according to a study carried out by geriatric researchers.

The term elderly applies to all those aged above 65 as per the global research standards.

The study carried out by Dr Nasser S, Dr Mallala H, Dr Jadeed and Dr Taraif revealed the situation regarding elderly

An alarmingly large segment of the elderly population (66.4pc), were involved in potentially abusive situations. For instance, 6pc of the sample do not feel comfortable with the individuals residing with them and do not trust them and 4.4pc feel that nobody wants them around

abuse and elderly care in the Kingdom and they were published in Bahrain Medical Bulletin.

The study attains immense significance amidst the Kingdom all joining other nations in the world to mark the International Day of Older Persons yesterday.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the first Arab countries which formed a National Committee for Elderly in the year 1984 to protect the rights of the elderly population. Elderly abuse is considered a violation in the Kingdom according to

Bahrain Act numbered 85 introduced in the year 2009. Those responsible for subjecting an elderly Bahraini to abuse that includes neglecting could be either fined or jailed or could face both, depending on the type of abuse.

"Majority of study subjects were literate (78pc). More than two-thirds of elderly participants were financially independent (73.6pc), with 18pc that relied on financial aid from family members, 13.9pc benefited from government aid, and less than 1pc on charity (0.7pc)," the study said.

"With regards to employment, the majority (55.3pc) of subjects were retired, 38pc unemployed with 6.8pc still actively working. The majority of the elders were currently married (71.9pc); about one-fifth were widows/widowers (22.7pc) with the majority living with spouse and children (62pc) and (7.8pc) of subjects were living with other caregivers, which includes either housemaids or other distant relatives.

"Only (3.4pc) of subjects were lived alone. Among study participants (89.5pc) reported that they had at least one chronic morbidity. Of the interviewed elders, 82.4pc were physically independent of the remaining who used instrumental aids; 6.8pc needed wheelchairs to get around."

The five types of elderly abuse acknowledged in the study were neglect, financial abuse, psychological abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. Neglect topped the chart with 21pc males and 8pc of females belonging to the

sampling group reporting it. It was followed by financial abuse (17pc), psychological abuse (15pc) and physical abuse (3pc). There were no complaints of sexual abuse by any of the study subjects.

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tentially abusive situations. For instance, 6pc of the sample do not feel comfortable with the individuals residing with them and do not trust them and 4.4pc feel that nobody wants them around.

"Health care providers should be alert to these situations as they might not be overt abuse cases, but it could potentiate future abuse. It should be viewed as a spectrum of personal violation of rights," the study noted.

The International Day for Older Persons was marked under the theme 'Elderly women's resilience and contributions' yesterday, highlighting the contributions of elderly women and the challenges they face.

As the number of older people increases, the Kingdom is keener to take care of the elderly and provide for all their needs. The International Day of Older Persons is celebrated annually which highlights the contributions older people make to society and raises awareness of the opportunities and challenges in today's world.



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Top court acquits man accused of stealing from abandoned property

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A man convicted of stealing from the premises of Jaafari Endowments and serving a jail term was acquitted of his crime at the Court of Appeal, citing inconclusive evidence.

The Court ordered to reduce his prison terms from one year to three months, retaining the charges of illegally entering the premises.

The incident leading to the case occurred seven years ago at a property belonging to Jaafari Endowments on Budaiya Street.

Lawyer Abdulaziz Musa, who appeared for the defendant, told the Court that his client had entered and stayed

overnight at the said property as it was abandoned and deserted.

Stealing was not his intention, as at that time, he was wanted and was looking for a safe place to sleep.

The Court also viewed that there was no concrete evidence to prove that the man had committed the crime of theft or took part in it. Citing his presence on the property does not prove that he had committed the crime.

The Court of First Instance had passed the judgement accepting DNA samples of the suspect found on several objects at the property and fingerprints found from a mirror frame inside the building that matched the suspect.

Appeals court cuts jail terms in 2012 Al-Dhafiri bombing case

A convict who was a minor granted 7 years instead of life

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The Supreme Court of Appeal reduced the prison terms awarded to a convict in the 2012 Al-Dhafiri bombing case from life to seven years, considering that the suspect was below 18 years of age at the time of the incident.

The Court had jailed him in connection with the murder of Ahmed Salem Al-Dhafiri by detonating a shell planted inside a car tire on the street in April 2012. Judges said they are reducing the jail term of the suspect as per Article 30 of Law No.



4 of the year 2021 concerning restorative justice for children and their protection from maltreatment.

The Court also considered reports of two social psychological experts that the convict is aware of the gravity of the crime and is neither aggressive nor violent in his behaviour. The report also indicated that the convict has

no hatred of society or desire for anti-social behaviour in future.

The incidents leading to the case occurred in April 2012 when a group of men, including the defendant, blocked the main streets with tires. They also put a shell in one of the tires before setting them on fire.

The shell exploded when the victims tried to remove them from the road.

The blast inflicted severe burns on one of the victims, who was rushed to a hospital and later taken abroad for treatment but succumbed to his wounds.

According to forensic doctors,

the death was due to first-degree burns that caused cessation of blood and respiratory circulation and injuries on the face, upper arm and shoulder where skin peeled off.

Public Prosecution soon took over the investigation and charged six people with crimes of terrorism.

The First High Criminal Court charged the suspects with premeditated murder, possession and use of explosive devices for a terrorist purpose.

The Court accepted the confessions of the defendants as evidence against them.