

## **A Study On Victimization Of Senior Citizen Population In Sankarankovil: An Urban Area Of Tamil Nadu**

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### **Abstract:**

In India, there are only a few research studies dedicated to the victimization of senior citizens and their issues. According to the 2011 census report, 60.3 percent of Indian citizens are between the ages of 15 and 59, with 8.6 percent of Indian citizens aged 60 and older. Our country fails to provide the respect, legal protection, care, affection, social security, and health-related services that older folks most require. The primary goal of this study is to determine the level of victimization experienced by older citizens in and around the Sankarankovil municipality. The study included a sample of older persons aged 60 and up who lived in and around the Sankarankovil municipality, a Tamil Nadu urban area. The outcomes were stated clearly. Senior citizens should have legal protection against harassment and abuse. Policymakers should assess successful senior citizen programmes in other countries and adapt them to local conditions and economic feasibility. Our social security policy "from conception to death" should be strengthened.

**Key Words:** Victimization, Senior Citizen, Sankarankovil, Urban Area

### **1. Introduction:**

Senior citizens are a valuable reservoir of human power because they are endowed with a wide range of knowledge, a wealth of experiences, and a remarkable foresight. In India, the number of senior citizens aged sixty and more has climbed from approximately two crores in 1951 to 7.2 crores in 2011. In other words, around 8% of the population is over the age of 60. By 2025, the figure will have surpassed 18 percent. In January of 1999, our Indian government announced the International Year of the Elderly as a national policy. Article 41 of the Indian Constitution mandates the well-being of senior citizens. "Within the limitations of its economic capabilities and growth, the state shall make efficient provisions for safeguarding the right to public assistance in old age."

Victims are people who have suffered harm as a result of actions or omissions that are in breach of criminal legislation passed inside Member States, such as physical or mental injury, emotional distress, economic loss, or serious impairment of constitutional rights. Karman claims that "The process of being victimised or being a victim is known as victimisation. Any person, group, or entity who has been injured or lost as a result of criminal action is referred to as a victim of crime. Physical, psychological, or financial injury can all occur."

The population of India is currently undergoing a period of transformation. Senior seniors suffer a variety of issues as a result of a lack of sufficient and steady income for health care and social security. In Indian society, parents spend the majority of their savings on their children's upbringing, forcing them to rely on them in their later years [1]. According to the paper "Human Rights of Older People in India: A Reality Check," one-third of older citizens in India endure victimization at some point in their lives [1].

According to the Help Age India 2018 poll, three types of mistreatment are highly widespread in Indian family situations currently. The first is disrespect from family members and relatives, which accounts for 56 percent of the total. The second type of exploitation is verbal exploitation, which accounts for 49 percent of the total, and the third type is neglect, which can be physical or technological, such as greater use of mobile phones and social media, and accounts for 33 percent of the total ([3] & [4]).

Senior citizens' main reasons are financial reliance on family and relations [5]. Second, the young generation's sense of individualism is growing. Elders are seen as a burden and a constraint on the young population's freedom since they dislike any type of intervention in their decision-making process and lifestyle. Another motive is selfish wants to inherit more of the elders' property and money [6]. Finally, many people strive to rule and violence the weak to satisfy their egos as a result of their frustrations and failures in life [7].

As the population of the elderly population grows, so do their issues. Reports of elderly individuals being attacked, tormented, and ostracised by anti-social groups, neighbours, domestic servants, relatives, and even their own family members are common. Family is the primary caregiver for the elderly, and a large percentage of the elderly are reliant on family for their care. Several studies have shown that the elderly's physical disabilities and resultant reliance on caregivers leave them vulnerable to acts of abuse, neglect, and violence [8, 9, 10 & 11]. "The link between the victimizer and the victim is quite intricate," according to [12]. In victimization, the victim, who suffers, and the victimizer, who harms, appears in a close interpersonal interaction, and the victim plays a determining role with the victimizer."

All those who have anything to do with India's crime situation know that cases of crime and violence against the elderly are on the rise, according to the study 'Crime and Violence against the Elderly'[13]. Concealment and Minimization of Crime, Crimes and Weaker Sections, Increase in Older People and Their Problems, Misuse of Police (by Politicians), Order according to Politics and Not the Law, Criminalization of Politics, Increase in Corruption, Aged Safety Scheme, and so on are all covered in the study. A study was undertaken on elderly persons' health, social support, and the urbanization of health services [14]. The findings shows that the type of support (instrumental, emotional) and the type of services (medical, hospital, home care) used make a difference. Successions of national and international conferences and seminars have stressed the growing importance of studies on ageing and older citizens. Over the last two decades, a number of researches in India have focused on one or more topics related to ageing ([15] & [16]).

According to one study, many of the respondents in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu had been financially, emotionally, and physically assaulted by their own family members. In the dread of senior sexual violence, more complete data is needed. Despite growing awareness of sexual assault, the rape crisis movement has discovered that many older women have had experiences that would be classed as rape legally, but many do not consider themselves rape victims [17].

In *Dr Ashwani Kumar v UOI*, the Supreme Court of India acknowledged for the first time the problem of older persons in India and declared that it should be recognized and effectively implemented [18]. In a recent judgment, the Chhattisgarh High Court ruled that Senior Citizens can seek 'Interim' eviction under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act [19]. To give dignity to the elderly, the Karnataka High Court ruled that their offspring cannot treat them as a commodity or chattel [20]. In *Darshana vs. Govt. of NCT Delhi & Others*, the Delhi High Court held that a maintenance claim is not required for the eviction of abusive children; parents can even seek the eviction of legal heirs from ancestral estates. In addition, if parents are mistreated, a maintenance tribunal has the authority to compel the legal heir to be evicted [21].

A southern oxford of Tamil nadu is located in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, India. However, there are other issues and challenges that elderly citizens experience in terms of their livelihood, safety, and access to benefits and justice from the social, economic, and criminal justice systems. As a result, they are victimized in various ways in their daily lives due to a lack of information and sensitization concerning senior citizen victimization among members of the social, economic, and criminal justice systems, as well as the general public.

Senior citizens are the victims of crimes against the body, property crimes, financial crimes, and even rape. According to authorities, over 40% of terrible crimes against older folks are committed by family, domestic staff, and those who know the victims. Victimization of senior citizens is on the rise these days, so this study investigates the various forms of senior citizen victimization and proposes solutions to prevent victimization. The purpose of this research is to learn about the living conditions and socioeconomic conditions of Senior Citizens.

By researching this topic, it will be possible to determine the extent to which the elderly are harmed by crime. How abuse becomes a crime and how it affects them The researcher is interested in doing research in this field because he comes from a legal background. The researcher expects that by the end of the study, he will be able to make a substantial contribution to the elderly's protection by suggesting easy methods to keep them safe. Only senior citizens who live alone or with their own family members are included in the study. The study's goal is to include all of the factors that contribute to senior difficulties and victimization in its scope.

In India, there are only a few research studies dedicated to the victimization of senior citizens and their issues. According to the 2011 census report, 60.3 percent of Indian citizens are between the ages of 15 and 59, with 8.6 percent of Indian citizens aged 60 and older. Our country fails to provide the respect, legal protection, care, affection, social security, and health-related services that older folks most require. The primary goal of this study is to determine the level of victimization experienced by older citizens in and around the Sankarankovil municipality.

## **2. Materials and Methods:**

For researching the realization of the rights available to the aged, a quantitative and descriptive method was used in conjunction with a survey using an acknowledged sampling method. A sophisticated data collection system was used in the survey (primary data). Primary data was gathered through a survey conducted in six villages in the Sankarankovil municipality of Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. Personal interviews were conducted at old people's homes and police stations as part of the survey.

Sankarankovil Municipality was chosen for the study since it is a town and one of the most important places in Tamil Nadu State. There are fewer old age homes run by the Tamil Nadu State government, the Indian government, or non-governmental organisations. In metropolitan areas such as Sankarankovil municipality, family composition is becoming more nuclear and smaller, resulting in fewer persons accessible in the house to offer care and comfort to the elderly.

The study is a descriptive cross sectional study conducted in a rural location, Sankarankovil Municipality, from January 2021 to June 2021. It is a prominent town in the Tamil Nadu district of Tirunelveli. The study covered both rural and urban areas of the municipality of Sankarankovil. Achchampatti, Naduvakurichi, Vadakkupudur, and Chinnakovilankulam are the four villages studied in this study. It should be noted that the municipal area is elected for the urban section of these villages, while the rural villages are included for the rural part.

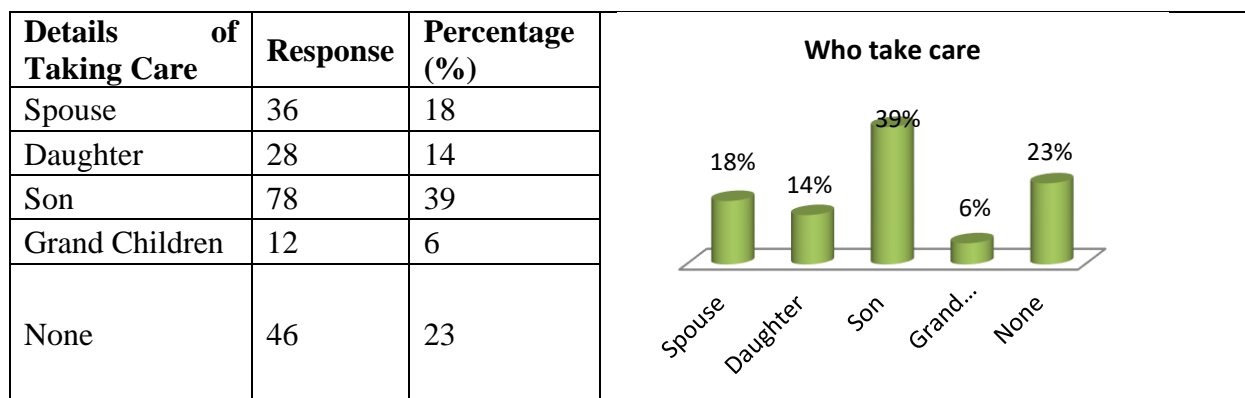
The sample size used for this investigation is 215 people. 200 senior individuals are selected at random from various parks. Due to a shortage of time and to see the study's goal and period, 15 police officers were seized from the Sankarankovil municipality's police station. We will use probability sampling in which we will use random sample for data collecting, which will include senior folks and police officers.

The information from the study population was gathered using a standardized questionnaire. The final questionnaire had two parts: part 1 contained information on sociodemographic profile and self-reported co-morbid conditions, and part 2 contained information on sociodemographic profile and self-reported co-morbid conditions. The quality of life was rated in the second half of the questionnaire. The data gathered through the questionnaire was then translated into a spreadsheet using Microsoft Excel® software and evaluated using charts and tables.

### 3. Result and Discussions:

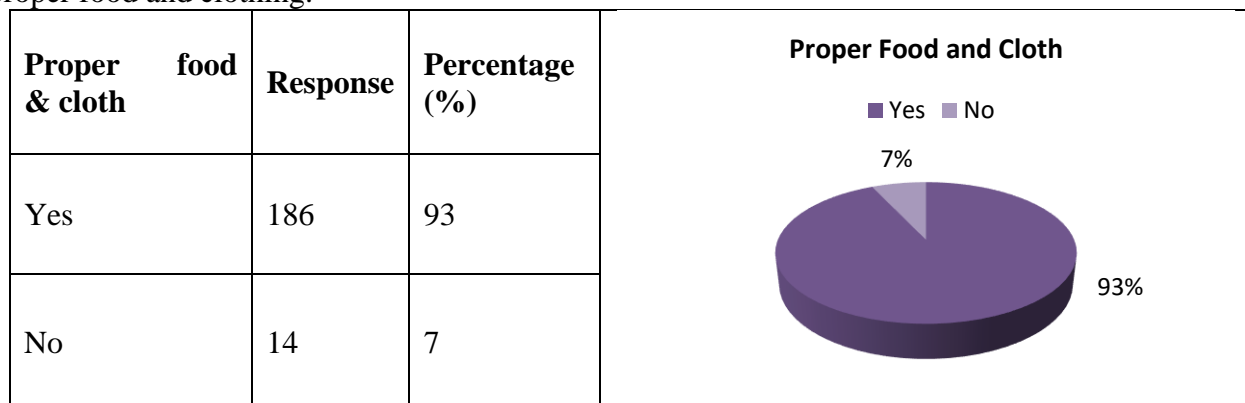
#### 3.1 Details of Taking Care:

As per the report, 18% (36) of senior citizens are look after by their spouse, 14% (28) of senior citizens are look after by their daughter, 39% (78) of senior citizens are look after by their son, 6% (12) of senior citizens are look after by their grand children and remaining 23% (46) are taking care of themselves.



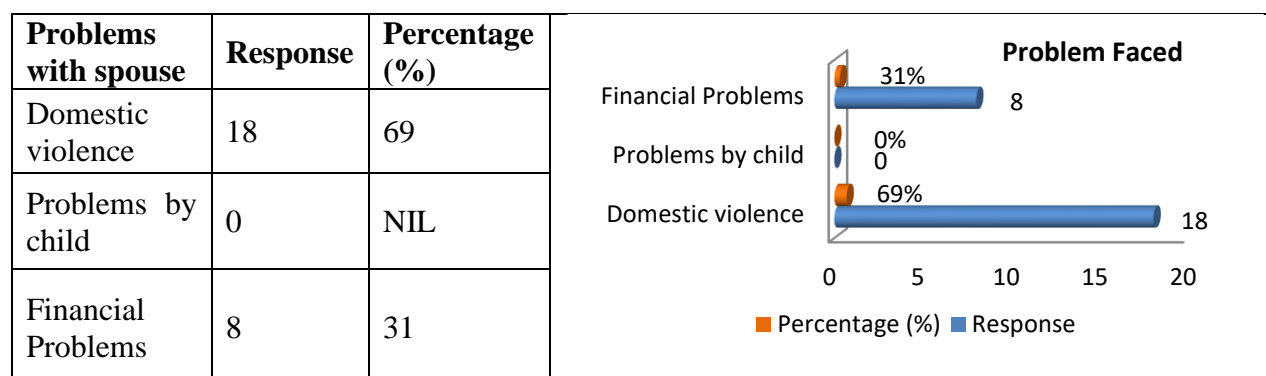
#### 3.2 Proper Food and Proper Cloth:

By this report, 93% of senior citizens having proper food and clothing and 7% of senior citizens are not. 186 senior citizens have proper food and clothing and other 14 senior citizens do not have proper food and clothing.



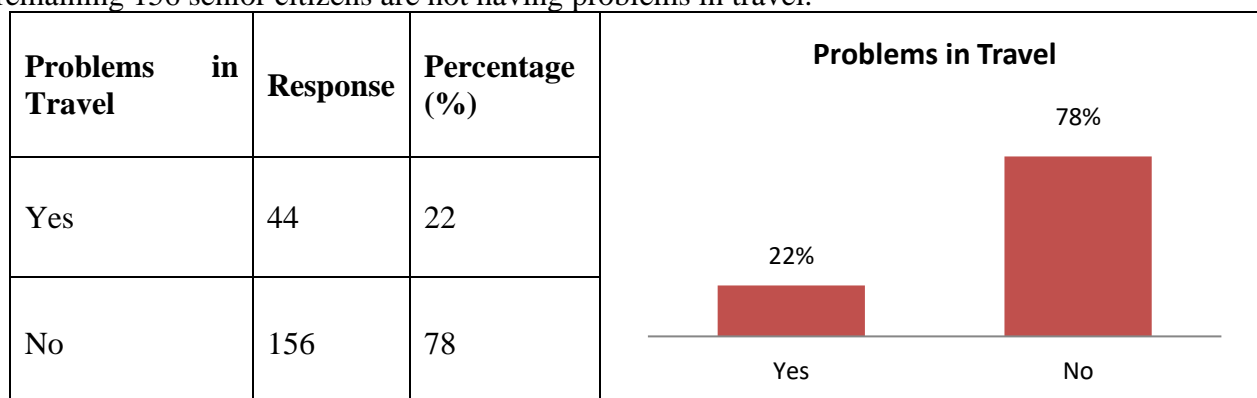
#### 3.3 Problems Faced:

26 senior citizens give statement that, 69% of them are having domestic violence problem and 31% of them are having financial problems with their spouse. 18 senior citizens are suffered by domestic violence and remaining 8 senior citizens are suffered by financial problems by their spouse.



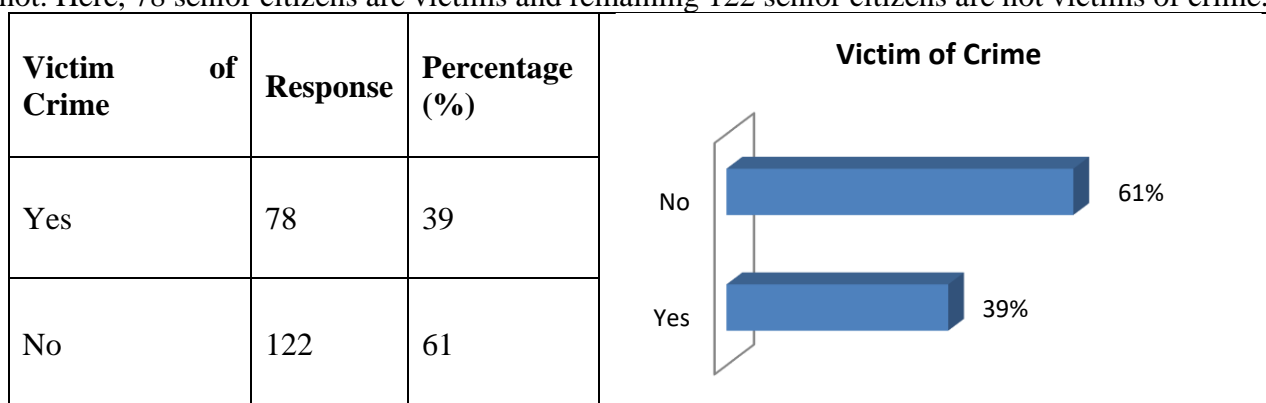
**3.4 Problems in Travel:**

From the Table and Figure, 22% of senior citizens are facing problems in travel and 78% of senior citizens are not facing problems in travel. So, 44 senior citizens are having problems in travel and remaining 156 senior citizens are not having problems in travel.



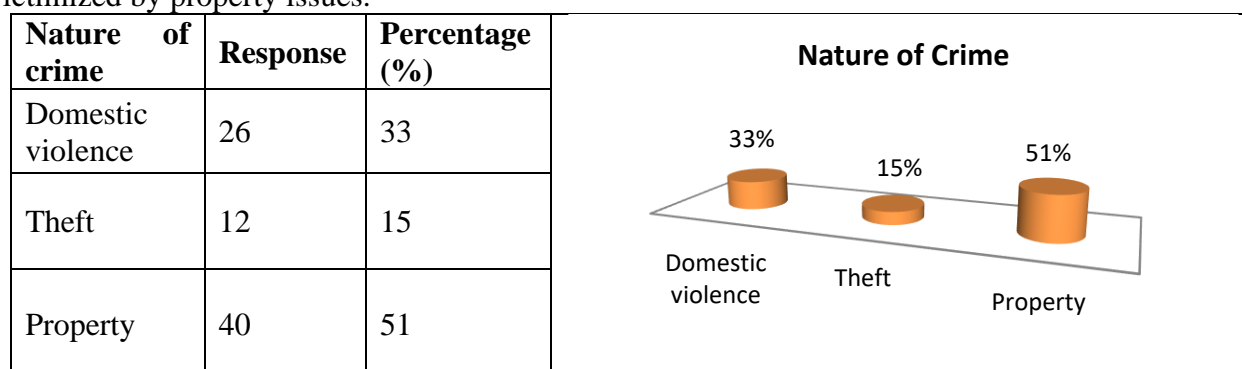
**3.5 Victim of Crime:**

According to the survey 39% of senior citizens are getting victimized and 61% of senior citizens are not. Here, 78 senior citizens are victims and remaining 122 senior citizens are not victims of crime.



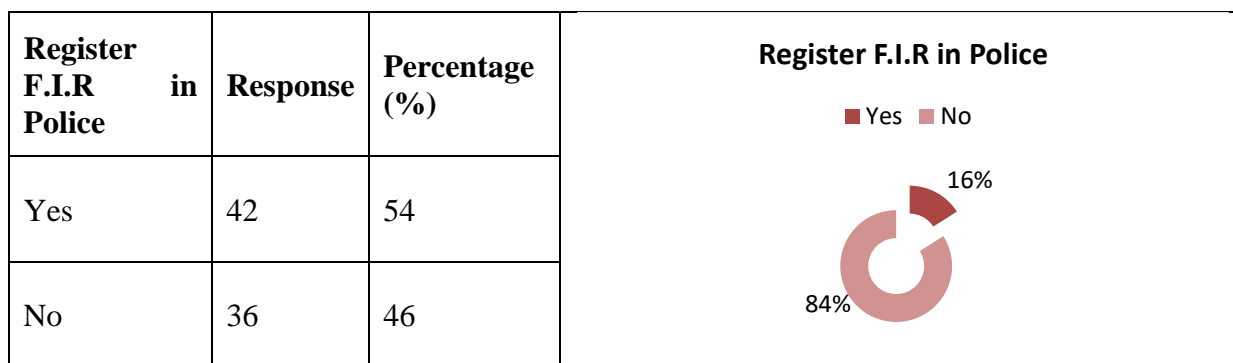
**3.6 Nature of crime:**

From the survey, 26 (33%) senior citizens are getting victimized by domestic violence, 12 (15%) senior citizens are getting victimized by theft and other 40 (51%) senior citizens are getting victimized by property issues.



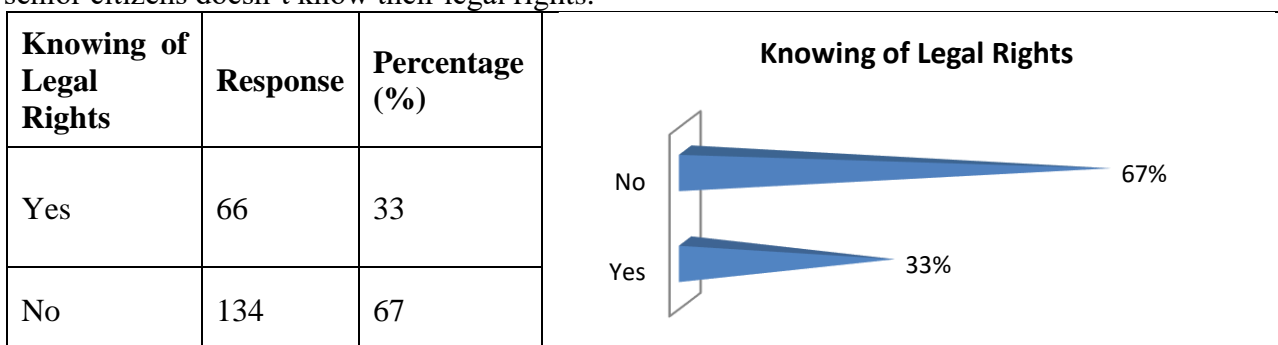
**3.7 Register F.I.R in Police Station:**

From the statistics, 54% of senior citizens had registered F.I.R in police station and 46% of senior citizens are not. As, 42 senior citizens filed F.I.R in police station and remaining 36 senior citizens didn't file F.I.R in police station.



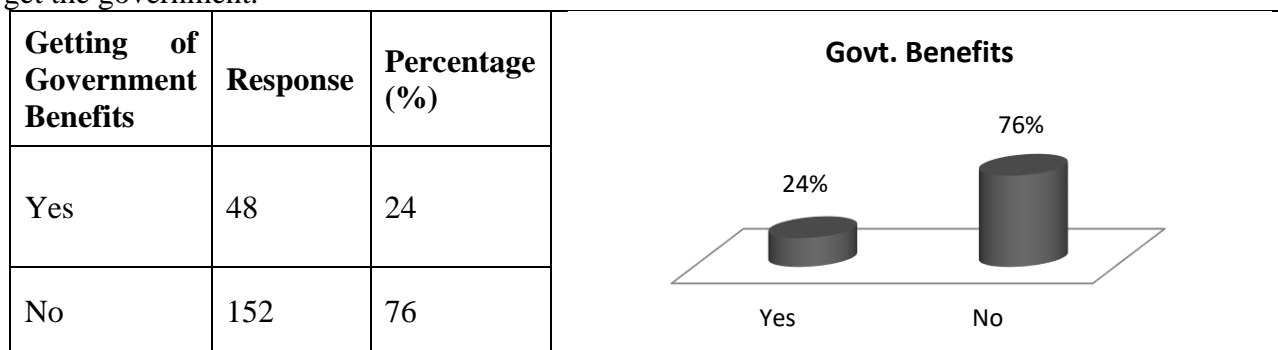
**3.8 Knowing of Legal Rights:**

According to this survey, 33% (66) of senior citizens know their legal rights and 67% (134) of senior citizens doesn't know their legal rights.



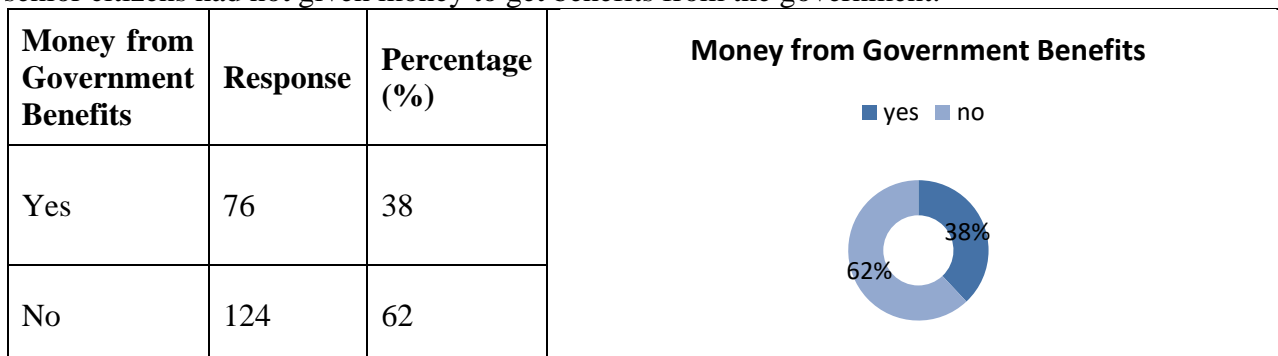
**3.9 Getting of Government Benefits:**

As per the report, 24% of senior citizens are receiving benefits from the government and 76% of senior citizens are not. 48 senior citizens get the government benefits and 152 senior citizens do not get the government.



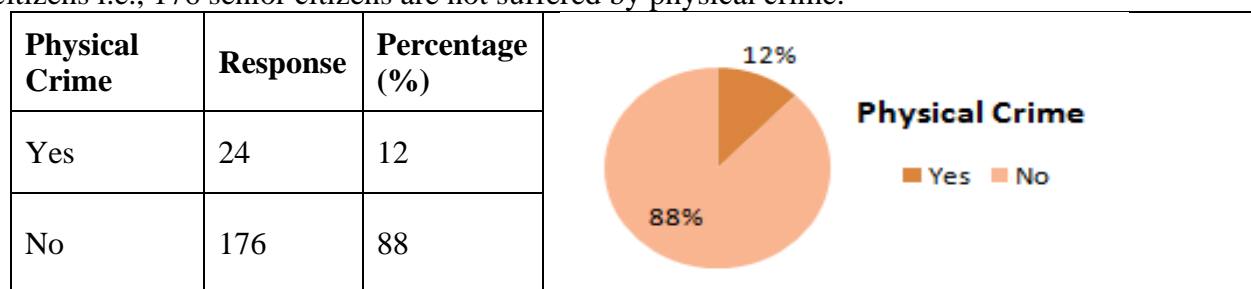
**3.10 Money from Government Benefits:**

By this report, 76 senior citizens had given money to get benefits from the government and 124 senior citizens had not given money to get benefits from the government.



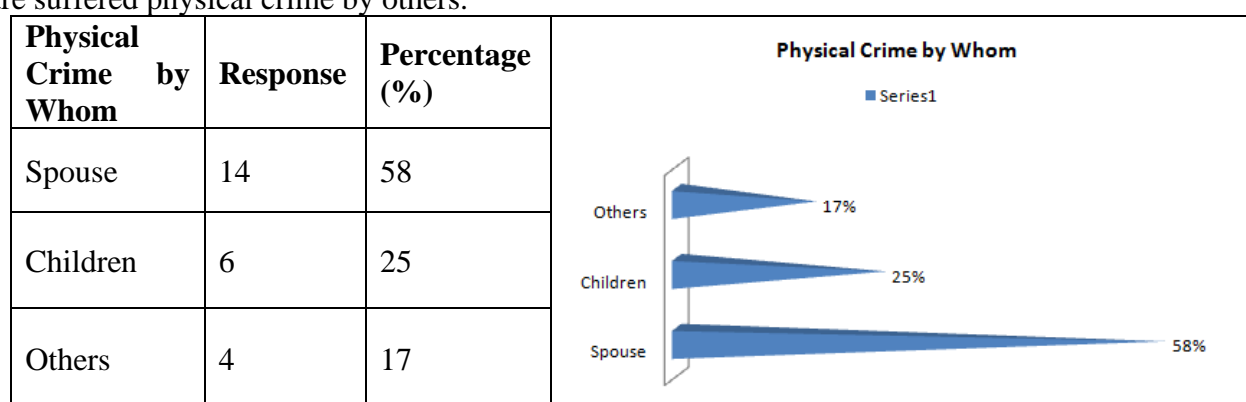
### 3.11 Physical Crime

Here, 12% of senior citizens i.e., 24 senior citizens are suffered by physical crime and 88% of senior citizens i.e., 176 senior citizens are not suffered by physical crime.



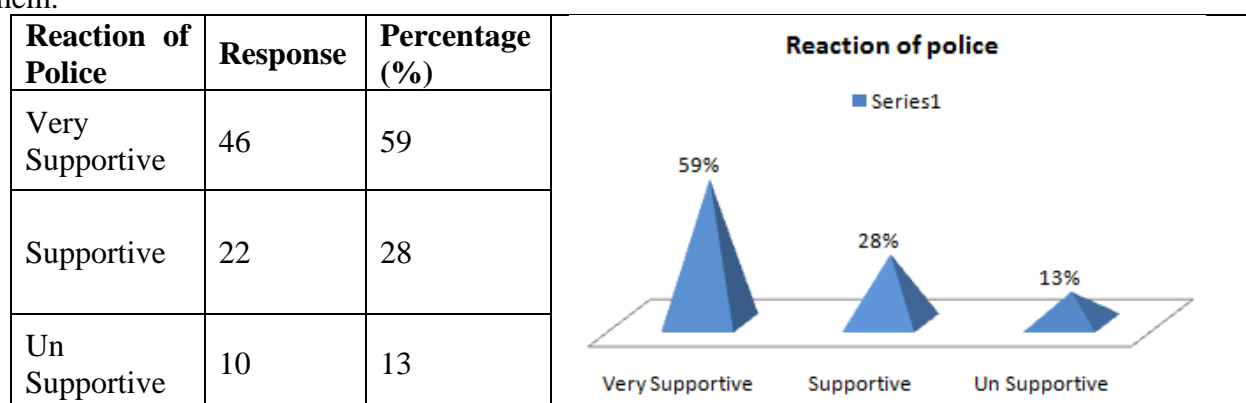
### 3.11 Physical Crime by Whom:

As per the survey, 14 (58%) of senior citizens are suffered physical crime by their spouse, 6 (25%) of senior citizens are suffered physical crime by their children and other 4 (17%) of senior citizens are suffered physical crime by others.



### 3.12 Reaction of Police

From the table and figure, 78 senior citizens said that they had filed F.I.R in police. Out of them, 59% (46) of senior citizens said that police were very supportive, 28% (22) of senior citizens said that police were supportive and 13% (10) of senior citizens said that police were un-supportive to them.



### Conclusion:

Senior citizens' living arrangements, financial situation, and overall well-being will change. As a result, in-depth research based on interdisciplinary assessments on themes such as socioeconomic challenges, morbidity patterns, quality of life, and senior citizen social security demands should be conducted across the country. The traditional duty of honouring and caring for senior citizens should be reinforced in schools, with interventions beginning in primary school. Senior citizens' experiences and expertise should be put to good use for the benefit of society. Senior citizens should have legal protection against harassment and abuse. Policymakers should assess successful senior

citizen programmes in other countries and adapt them to local conditions and economic feasibility. Separate processing methods for senior citizens should be established to accommodate their restricted mobility and safety concerns. Our social security policy, "From pregnancy to death," should be strengthened.

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