

Report on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2026

Organized by: HelpAge India

Date: 15 June 2026

Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Venue: Baptist Missionary Society

Theme: Climate Resilient Ageing: Ensuring Care, Dignity & Agency

Introduction

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is observed globally on 15th June to raise awareness about the abuse, neglect, discrimination, and vulnerabilities faced by older persons. To commemorate WEAAD 2026, HelpAge India organized a panel discussion and survey report release program in Kolkata, bringing together academicians, healthcare professionals, development practitioners, policymakers, and students to discuss the challenges faced by senior citizens in the context of climate change and social vulnerability.

Participants arrived at the venue and completed the registration process. Representatives from educational institutions, NGOs, senior citizen associations, and other organizations attended the event.

The program commenced with a welcome address by the organizers, followed by the formal introduction and welcome of the guests, dignitaries, and panellists.

Ms. Priyanjali Chakraborty, State Head of HelpAge India (West Bengal & North-East), presented the key findings of the study, focusing on the following areas:

- Elder vulnerability in the face of climate change and disasters
- Economic insecurity among older adults
- Housing-related challenges affecting resilience
- Unequal access to institutional support systems
- The varying levels of resilience among different groups of elderly citizens

Key Findings

The survey revealed that financial dependence among many elderly individuals limits their access to healthcare, secure housing, and effective disaster recovery. It also highlighted that poor housing conditions significantly increase the vulnerability of senior citizens during climate-related disasters. Additionally, barriers such as lack of awareness, mobility challenges, and digital exclusion restrict access to government support and welfare schemes.

The findings further showed that vulnerable groups, including widows, persons with disabilities, and socially isolated older adults, face greater risks and challenges during crises.

The panel discussion featured experts from various fields who discussed the impact of climate change on older adults and emphasized the importance of healthcare, disaster preparedness, environmental sustainability, and community support for ensuring dignified and resilient ageing.

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding the impact of climate change on elderly populations.
- Recognizing the importance of economic and social security in ageing.
- Learning the need for inclusive disaster preparedness.
- Appreciating the role of communities and institutions in elder care.
- Understanding the importance of preventing elder abuse through awareness and advocacy.

Conclusion

The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2026 program organized by HelpAge India successfully highlighted the challenges faced by older adults and emphasized the urgent need for climate-resilient and inclusive ageing policies. The discussions and survey findings reinforced the importance of ensuring care, dignity, protection, and agency for senior citizens. The event served as an important platform for dialogue, awareness, and collaborative action towards building a more age-friendly and compassionate society.

