

Chapter 15

Elderly Inmates Living With Dementia in Central Prisons

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ABSTRACT

Adjustment strategies of elderly prisoners living with dementia in central prisons of Tamil Nadu. There is a growing trend of ageing individuals who have been convicted of crimes and subsequently become elderly inmates. Many of these older inmates suffer from dementia within the central prisons of Tamil Nadu. According to a WHO report, there are 55 million people worldwide living with dementia. It leads to increased levels of depression, anxiety, and stress. Dementia also has profound physical, psychological, social, and economic impacts. The research utilizes both qualitative and quantitative data. The research design employs descriptive methods, and the sample consists of five central prisons conveniently selected from Cuddalore, Madurai, Trichy, Tirunelveli, and Vellore, with a total sample size of 213. The study aims to explore how recent assistive technologies can support and improve the lives of elderly inmates affected by dementia in central prisons.

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INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) report acknowledges that the ageing population results in continued growth and boom. As part of that, dementia also increases, with a variety of diseases such as injuries affecting the brain, and Alzheimer's disease being the most common form of dementia, contributing to 60-70%. Currently, dementia holds the seventh position among leading diseases, being one of the major causes of disability among older people worldwide. Dementia is one of the most severe diseases that easily affect memory, thinking, and the ability to perform daily activities. It mostly occurs in individuals aged 65 or older due to factors such as high blood pressure, high blood sugar, overweight, smoking, drinking alcohol, social isolation, physical inactivity, and depression. Dementia syndrome leads to the destruction of nerve cells and brain damage over time, resulting in deterioration in cognitive function. Cognitive function commonly accompanies changes in mood, emotional control, behavioural condition, or motivation. Dementia is one of the leading causes of disability among elderly inmates and constitutes one of the greatest challenges elderly people are currently facing in health and social care services in the world (WHO, 2012). The trend of gradually increasing prevalence and socioeconomic costs of dementia has been well documented (Alzheimer Disease International, 2009, 2015). The study explores the situation of older persons in alarming, critical conditions, as the number of elderly people is increasing globally and is more concentrated in the prison population of South Asian countries (Ilango & Srinivasan, 2015).

The study report provided information from the date of 2010, there are 36 million people worldwide were identified as having dementia, and this is number expected to climb to 115 million by 2050 (Wihailidis et al., 2012). Dementia affects physical, psychological, social, and economic factors, impacting not only people with dementia but also elderly individuals living in central prisons. One leading reason for the lack of awareness and understanding of dementia is the difficulty in obtaining diagnosis and care in central prisons. The proposed chapter aims to undertake the following objectives: assessing the socioeconomic conditions of elderly people, evaluating the depression, anxiety, and stress levels of respondents, determining the level of dementia among respondents, identifying the offences committed by respondents, critically examining new assistive technology and strategies for diagnosing dementia, evaluating their utilization and protection in central prisons, identifying barriers to using assistive technology in central prisons, exploring how higher authorities recommend future assistive technology, promoting enhanced support for elderly people through assistive technology, utilizing assistive technology for tracking and monitoring in the health system, and providing better support for everyday activities. The challenges associated with assistive technology applications will lead to

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