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| **Problems of the Elderly** |
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| **S. No.** | **Problem** | **Need** |
| 1 | Failing Health | Health |
| 2 | Economic insecurity | Economic security |
| 3 | Isolation | Inclusion |
| 4 | Neglect | Care |
| 5 | Abuse | Protection |
| 6 | Fear | Reassurance |
| 7 | Boredom (idleness) | Be usefully occupied |
| 8 | Lowered self-esteem | Self Confidence |
| 9 | Loss of control | Respect |
| 10 | Lack of Preparedness for old age | Preparedness for old age |
| Equity Issues are relevant to all the above |

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| [FACTS ABOUT ELDERLY IN INDIA](http://www.helpageindiaprogramme.org/Elderly%20Issues/facts_about_elderly_iin_india/index.html)[MISSION & VISION](http://www.helpageindiaprogramme.org/Elderly%20Issues/mission%20%26%20vision/index.html)[PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY](http://www.helpageindiaprogramme.org/Elderly%20Issues/problems_of_the_elderly/index.html)[PROGRAMMES AT GLANCE](http://www.helpageindiaprogramme.org/Elderly%20Issues/programmes_at_a_glance/index.html) |
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**Failing Health**
It has been said that “we start dying the day we are born”. The aging process is synonymous with failing health. Failing health due to advancing age is complicated by non-availability to good quality, age-sensitive, health care for a large proportion of older persons in the country. In addition, poor accessibility and reach, lack of information and knowledge and/or high costs of disease management make reasonable elder care beyond the reach of older persons, especially those who are poor and disadvantaged.

**Economic-Insecurity**
The problem of economic insecurity is faced by the elderly when they are unable to sustain themselves financially. Many older persons either lack the opportunity and/or the capacity to be as productive as they were. Increasing competition from younger people, individual, family and societal mind sets, chronic malnutrition and slowing physical and mental faculties, limited access to resources and lack of awareness of their rights and entitlements play significant roles in reducing the ability of the elderly to remain financially productive, and thereby, independent.

**Isolation**
Isolation, or a deep sense of loneliness, is a common complaint of many elderly is the feeling of being isolated. While there are a few who impose it on themselves, isolation is most often imposed purposefully or inadvertently by the families and/or communities where the elderly live. Isolation is a terrible feeling that, if not addressed, leads to tragic deterioration of the quality of life.

**Neglect**
The elderly, especially those who are weak and/or dependent, require physical, mental and emotional care and support. When this is not provided, they suffer from neglect, a problem that occurs when a person is left uncared for and that is often linked with isolation. Changing lifestyles and values, demanding jobs, distractions such as television, a shift to nuclear family structures and redefined priorities have led to increased neglect of the elderly by families and communities. This is worsened as the elderly are less likely to demand attention than those of other age groups.

**Abuse**
The elderly are highly vulnerable to abuse, where a person is willfully or inadvertently harmed, usually by someone who is part of the family or otherwise close to the victim. It is very important that steps be taken, whenever and wherever possible, to protect people from abuse. Being relatively weak, elderly are vulnerable to physical abuse. Their resources, including finances ones are also often misused. In addition, the elderly may suffer from emotional and mental abuse for various reasons and in different ways.

**Fear**

Many older persons live in fear. Whether rational or irrational, this is a relevant problem face by the elderly that needs to be carefully and effectively addressed.

Elderly who suffer from fear need to be reassured.

**Boredom (Idleness)**
Boredom is a result of being poorly motivated to be useful or productive and occurs when a person is unwilling or unable to do something meaningful with his/her time. The problem occurs due to forced inactivity, withdrawal from responsibilities and lack of personal goals. A person who is not usefully occupied tends to physically and mentally decline and this in turn has a negative emotional impact.

**Loss-of-Control**
This problem of older persons has many facets. While self-realization and the reality of the situation is acceptable to some, there are others for whom life becomes insecure when they begin to lose control of their resources – physical strength, body systems, finances (income), social or designated status and decision making powers.

**Task to do**

**After reading the above carefully write a letter to your grandma or grandpa where you express your concern and understanding of the situation she/he is in ,now with the mandated lockdown especially for the elderly. Make reference both to the physical and psychological problems they might be faced with. Also make sure you manage to lift their spirits by being positive, pleasant and encouraging.**