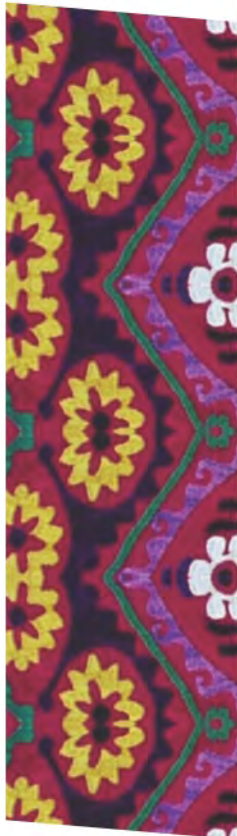


# **Report on Older People Treatment Study in Tajikistan**



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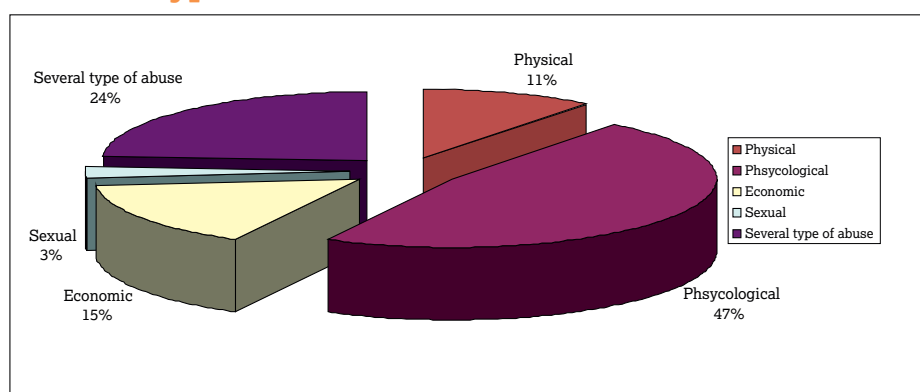
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## 1. Dynamic of gender abuse in Tajikistan

Gender abuse has become all the more common phenomenon in Tajik society during and after the civil conflict in Tajikistan in 1990's. Problems that turned into burning issues in the transition period, such as unemployment, poverty, and social inequality contributed to the increase of psychological, sexual and physical violence against women in Tajikistan.

According to Amnesty International Report (2011) between a third and a half of women in Tajikistan have experienced physical, psychological or sexual abuse by husbands or other family members. Women experience mainly psychological abuse, which is almost half of all the cases that appealed to crisis centre.

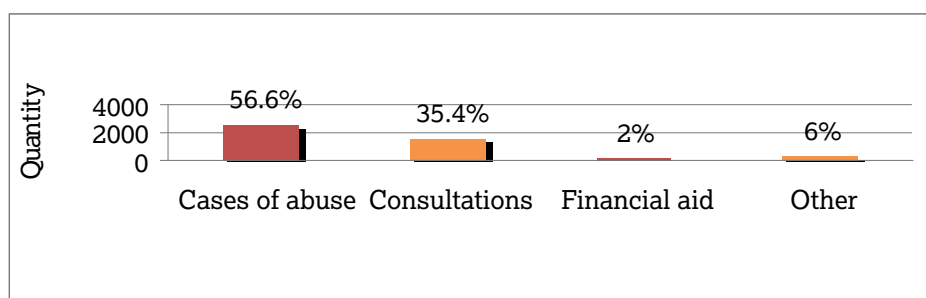
**Table 1: Types of abuse**



Data sources: Bozrikova report (2011)

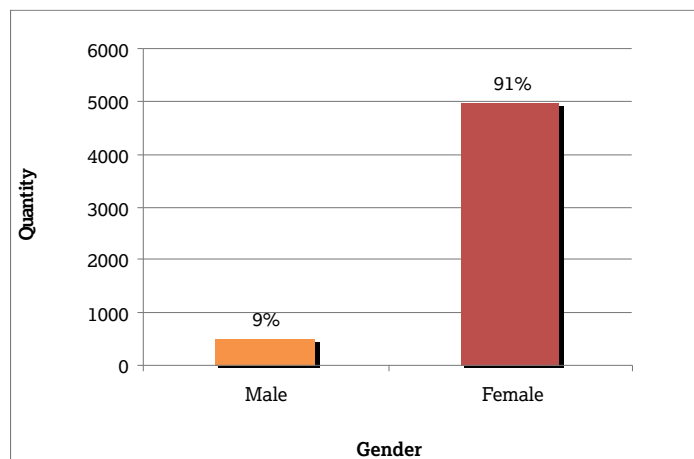
According to data from Crisis center people mainly come with cases of abuse to the Crisis center, which make 56,6% of all the cases, rarely people come for financial aid or other assistance.

**Table 2: Request for assistance from crisis center**



Although there are certainly cases of male victims of domestic violence, women are overwhelmingly the recipients of violence

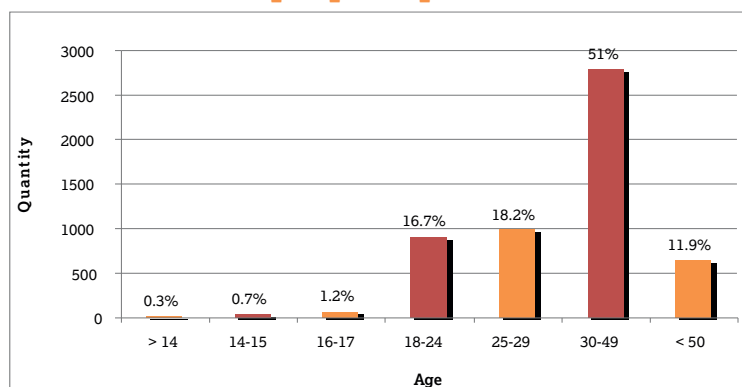
**Table 3: Abused based on gender**



Data sources: Bozrikova report (2011)

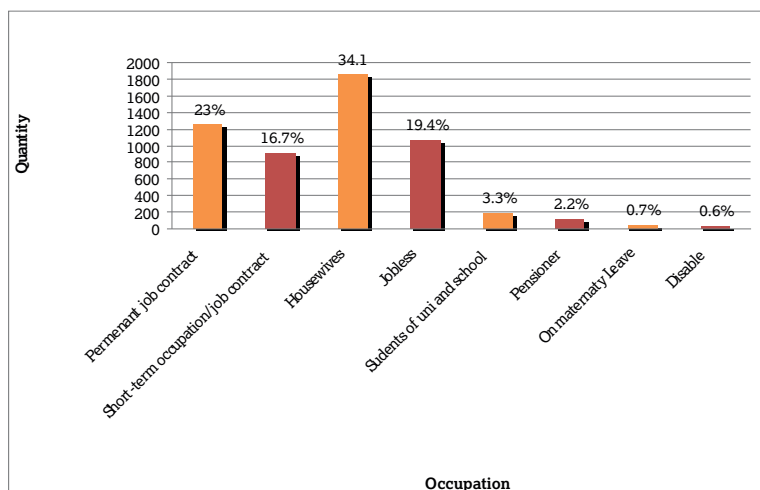
The Crisis Centers data base across Tajikistan shows that abuse is being experienced by any age group and gender, job occupation and education.

**Table 4: Data on people reported to Crisis Center by age**



The chart shows that women at the age of 30-49 report more with the case of violence, however it also shows that people aged 50 and above experience violence.

**Table 5: Occupation of those accessed Crisis Centres**

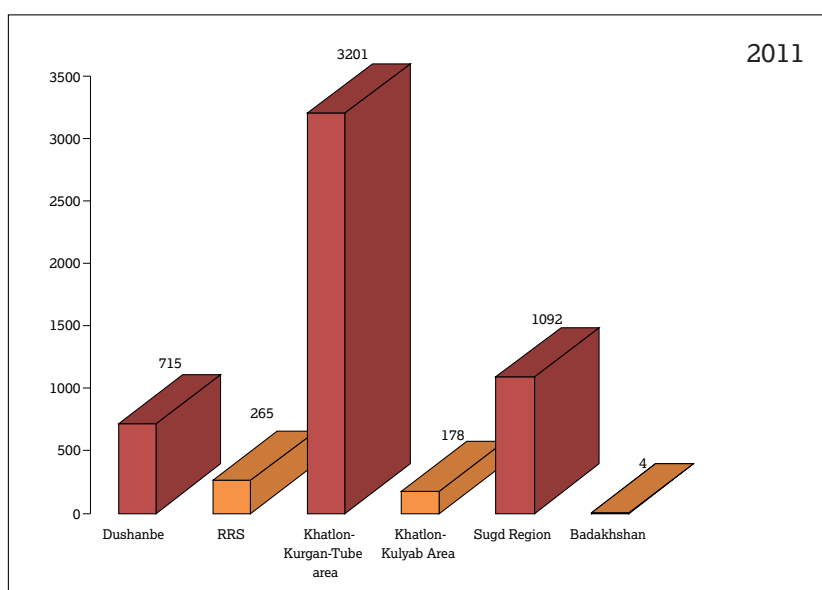


Data sources: Bozrikova report (2011)

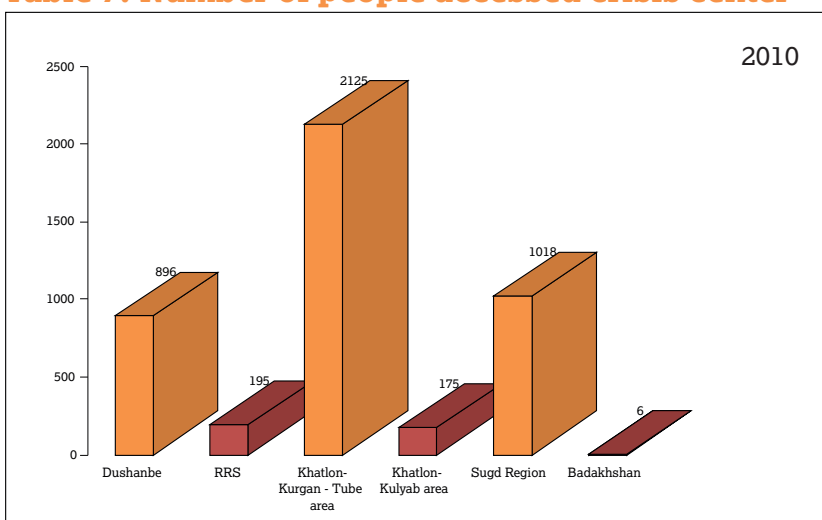
World Health Organization's 1999 study reported a disparity in rates of abuse between the geographic regions. The study found that women in Khatlon experience more physical, sexual and psychological abuse than women in the other regions. The report of JICA (2008) also suggests that women in Khatlon experience more physical, sexual and psychological violence than women in the other regions. This was reinforced by the fact that the civil war started in this region.

In 2011 the number of people accessed crisis center in Kurgan- Tube area reached almost 60% in comparison to other areas across Tajikistan. This number has increased to almost 45% since 2010.

**Table 6: Number of people accessed crisis center**



**Table 7: Number of people accessed crisis center**



Data sources: Bozrikova report (2011/2010)

The main reason why the abuse cases are under reported is cultural norms which impede women to report. According to a Crisis Center Bovari based in Dushanbe Committee on Women and Family Affairs, “women do not report against domestic violence. If they report



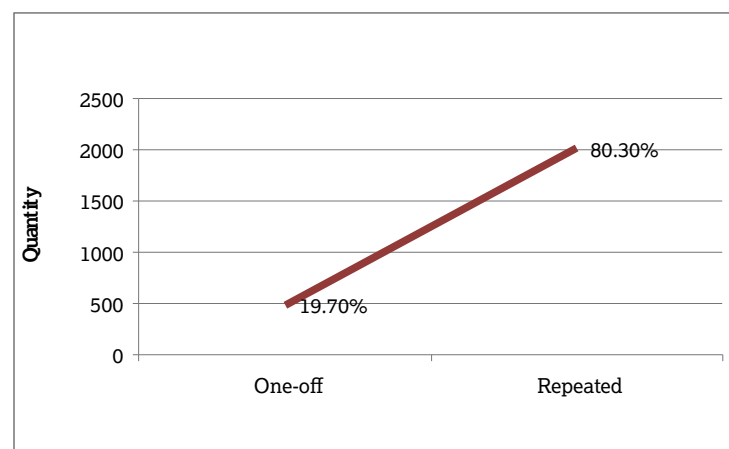
According to Informal Justice report (2012) women massively under-reported violence against them, fearing reprisals or because of inadequate response by the police and judiciary, resulting in virtual impunity for the perpetrators.

The under-reporting of domestic violence cases is very high. The survey by Amnesty International (2010) showed that only 4.1 percent of domestic violence survivors reported incidents to the police. Victims of domestic violence feel blamed and unprotected by the police and discouraged to bring charges against their perpetrators. In cases reported by NGOs and survivors, police officers mocked the woman, or blamed her for “misbehavior.” It was also noted by the Crisis Centre staff that police often share the general societal perception of domestic violence as an internal family matter and do not take it seriously.

Domestic violence has been widely justified as a "family matter" by the authorities wishing to promote traditional gender roles. The prevailing attitude is that it should be resolved by the spouses or within the extended family. Survivors of domestic violence come under pressure not to make it “public”, as the social disgrace associated with separation or divorce is worse than that associated with domestic violence. The findings of the 2005 Khatlon Survey revealed that 58.5 per cent of survivors of domestic violence kept silent about their abuse. (Amnesty International 2010).

Impunity for the domestic violence makes the abusers to repeat the violence. Statistic from Crisis centers suggests that more than 80% of victims were repeatedly abused.

**Table 8: Repeted cases**



*Data sources: Bozrikova report (2011)*

The same study revealed that out of all the crimes registered in Ministry of Interior in Tajikistan in 2001, the crimes committed towards women made 18,4% of all the crimes. The figure tends to increase, in 2008 the crimes committed towards women increased to 23,4%.

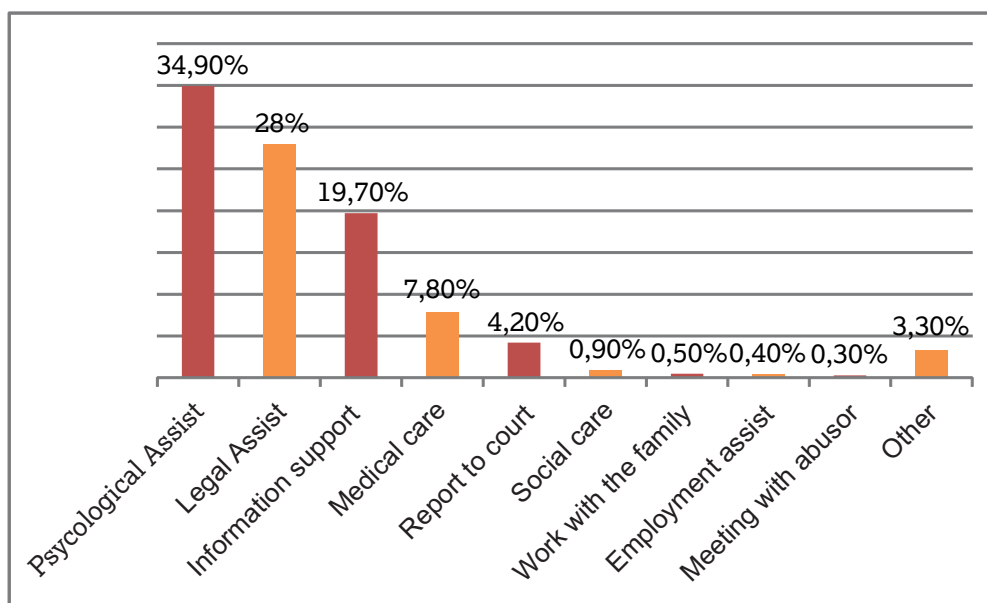
## **1.2. Available services that respond to abuse in Tajikistan**

Over the course of the study the following services were identified which can be targeted to work with the elder abuse.

There are about 10 Crisis Centres functioning in Tajikistan. One of the centres is called «Bovari» functions under the Committee on Women and Family Affairs, 9 other Crisis Centers are supported by NGOs. The Crisis Centres are mainly supported by donor aid from PDV – project on domestic violence prevention funded by Swiss Cooperation, OSCE, and OSI.

For example, in 2011 the Crisis Center provided psychological assistance and other services indicated in the below chart.

**Table 9: Services provided by crisis center**



A single data base exists which collects data on victims of abuse by gender, forms of abuse, type of assistance provided, by regions, age, etc.

### **Daily social care at home for older people**

There are 45 departments or agencies which provide daily social care at home across Tajikistan but not covered in all the cities and communities in the country. The table on services scale including special care at home is available at [land.kiev.ua/opm/](http://land.kiev.ua/opm/).

The social care is provided on a regular basis once in 2 weeks. Each social worker is designated with the task from the older person or disabled and the schedule is agreed by both parties. All the purchase is done on the expenses of a person being cared.

#### *List of some social care provided by Social workers at home:*

- Home cleaning
- Care for disabled children
- Help with taking pension
- Buy medical drugs
- Buy food

Though the work is called special care, there is very little what the Social workers do in terms of social work. Mainly they provide physical help to the older people and those people with disabilities.

#### *Five special police stations (police inspectors) dealing with domestic violence*

In August 2010 five special police stations with staff trained by the OSCE to deal specifically with domestic violence were opened in Dushanbe, the capital, and other cities. The stations are the only ones of their kind in Central Asia, according to the OSCE, which urged the Tajik government to pass a law on domestic violence that has been pending since 2007. Although there are several stations in Dushanbe where female officers are assigned to address cases of domestic violence, these units do not exist outside of the cities.



## 2. SCALE OF ELDER ABUSE IN TAJIKISTAN

### 2.1. What is elder abuse ?

In general, elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. Elder abuse, broadly defined, includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, financial exploitation, neglect and abandonment.

**Physical Abuse** - inflicting physical pain or injury on a senior, e.g. slapping, bruising, or restraining by physical or chemical means.

**Neglect** - the failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care, or protection for a vulnerable older people

**Emotional Abuse** - inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an older people through verbal or nonverbal acts, e.g. humiliating, intimidating, or threatening.

**Sexual Abuse** - non-consensual sexual contact of any kind

**Financial and economic abuse/exploitation** - the illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, pension, property, or assets of a senior for someone else's benefit.

**Abandonment** - desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.

### 2.2. Types of Elder Abuse

According to a National survey conducted by a Gerontology Centre in Tajikistan, the main types of abuse that older people experience are psychological and economic abuse. The following chart shows that older people mainly experience psychological abuse in Tajikistan, which makes 60% of all other types of abuse. About 30 % are subjected to economic abuse, in which the older people are taken their pension or are not provided financially by their family members.

**Table 10**

Types of abuse towards older people						
Interviewees' opinion	Town		Community		Total	
	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%
Total	52	100,0	35	100,0	87	100,0
Physical abuse	-	-	2	5,7	2	2,6
Turn out from home	0	0,0	2	5,7	2	2,6
Psychological abuse	23	54,8	23	65,7	46	59,7
In conflict	9	21,4	8	22,9	17	22,1
Neglect	11	26,2	12	34,3	23	29,9
Don't provide with food	3	7,1	3	8,6	6	7,8
Economic abuse	15	35,7	8	22,9	23	29,9
Take or misuse pension	2	4,8	0	0,0	2	2,6
Don't provide financially	13	31,0	8	22,9	21	27,3
Others	14	33,3	2	5,7	16	20,3

The National survey also shows that older people from urban areas generally experience (16,5%) abuse rather than those from rural areas (7,8%).

However, some evidence from Crisis Centres across Tajikistan data, suggests that abuse is more prevalent in rural areas.

**Table 11: Ratio of victims of violence by their location**



Data sources: Bozrikova report (2011)

Among all responses of our survey on elder abuse the often committed type of abuse is negligence which makes 52%, 29.6% psychological abuse, 6.6% physical abuse, 11.2% economic abuse, 0.4% sexual abuse. More descriptive distribution is provided below:

1. Insults and humiliations: 31.3%
2. Beatings and rough abuse: 16,4%
3. Charges (older people are a burden for their family, no one needs them):28,2%
4. Someone from family take older people's pensions, savings or property without their consent: 18.1%
5. Deny medical care/don't call a doctor: 13.1%
6. Don't buy necessary medicines: 19.2%
7. Don't buy clothing: 20.2%
8. Don't give appropriate food: 29.7%
9. Poor care (dirty bedding, clothing):25.2%
10. Deprive of opportunities to socialize with neighbours, friends and relatives: 10.4%
11. Leave alone, forget about their existence: 22.1%
12. Kick out from home:9.8%
13. Place in homes for older people without their consent: 3.4%
14. Sexual abuse: 1%

For comparison view of distribution of types of abuse among three regions:

**Table 12**

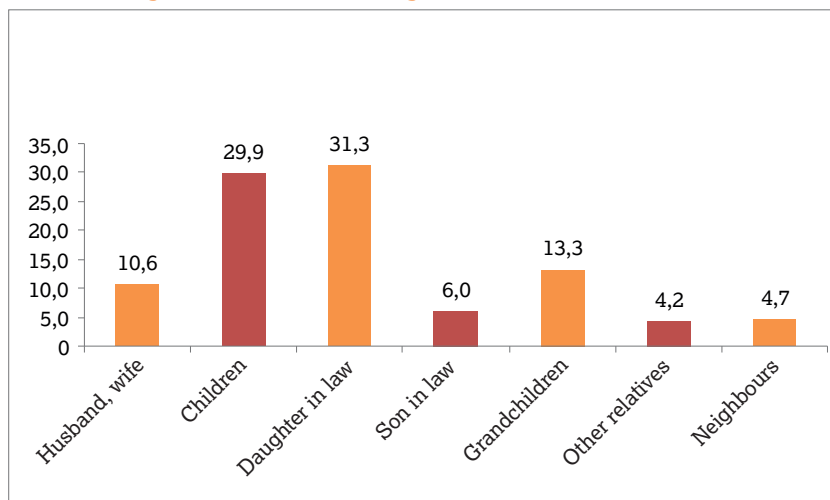
#	Types of abuse	Sugd	RRS	Khatlon
1	Insults and humiliations	5.9%	47.5%	43.2%
2	Beatings and rough abuse	2%	10.1%	38.9%
3	Charges (older people are a burden for their family, no one needs them)	2.9%	37.4%	46.3%
4	Someone from family take older people's pensions, savings or property without their consent	4.9%	23.2%	27.4%
5	Deny medical care/don't call a doctor	4.9%	19.2%	15.8%
6	Don't buy necessary medicines	2%	34.3%	22.3%
7	Don't buy clothing	5.9%	33.3%	22.3%
8	Don't give appropriate food	3.9%	37.8%	48.9%
9	Poor care (dirty bedding, clothing)	4.9%	41.4%	41.4%
10	Deprive of opportunities to socialize with neighbours, friends and relatives	2.9%	17.2%	11.6%
11	Leave alone, forget about their existence:	2.9%	33.3%	30.5%
12	Kick out from home	0	10.1%	20.2%
13	Place in homes for older people without their consent	1%	7.1%	2.1%
14	Sexual abuse	0	0	3.2%

Overall the table shows that the prevalence in elder abuse takes place in Khatlon Region out of three others regions where the survey was conducted. Yet, the RRS region also shows that the dynamic of abuse towards older people is quite high.

Elder abuse tends to take place where the senior lives: most often in the home where abusers are apt to be adult children; other family members such as grandchildren; or spouses/partners of older people, daughters-in-law, which refers mainly to domestic violence.

The respondents of our survey reported the abuse towards the older people are committed by the daughters in law and children. Crisis Centres across Tajikistan data, suggests that abuse is more prevalent in rural areas.

**Table 13: Who do you think usually commints elder abuse in the family?**



### 2.3. Why Elder Abuse Happens?

The literature suggests that the many factors seem to contribute to abuse and each case has its own unique mix of factors. These are the main factors:

#### Abusive style of interaction

In some families, the members have a way of relating to each other that is generally hostile and non-nurturing. The adult children may have been abused by their parents, and having learned to interact in such a manner, carry it on into the next generation. Or there may be some unresolved family conflicts which foster abuse. The family may have a history of wife abuse which carries on into old age.

#### Stress

Stress caused by too many demands and too few resources can contribute to abuse.

Any form of addiction Alcohol/Drugs can lead to the break-down of a person's ability to cope and function appropriately. These addictions can often lead to the financial, psychological and physical abuse of others.

#### Ageism / Lack of Knowledge

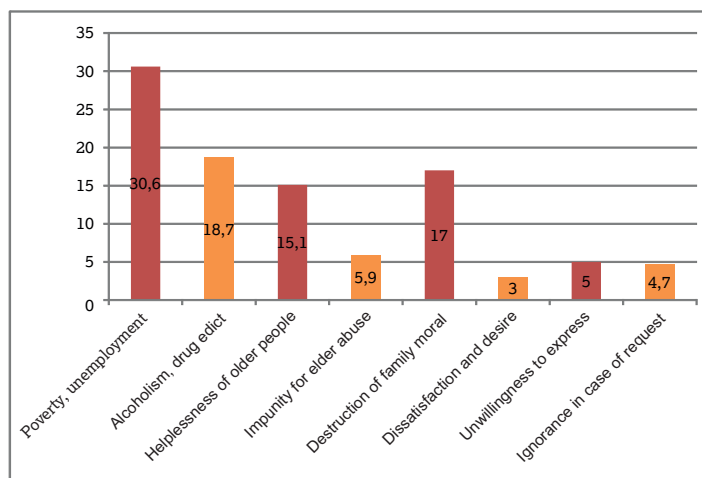
Ageism is a prejudicial view of older adults. Whether intentional or not, abuse may occur as a result of ignorance surrounding the ageing process and the needs of older people. Abuse and Neglect can result from the false negative stereotype of older adults having no useful role, combined with non-acceptance of the increasing dependence that can accompany old age.

#### Dependency

In some cases, the older person becomes dependent to some degree on family members for assistance. Such dependency can tax the resources, both material and psychological, of family members and set the stage for abuse.

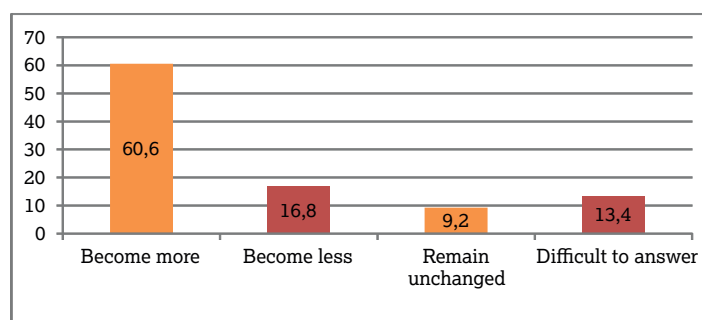
Our survey showed that the main reason of elder abuse in Tajikistan is poverty which makes 30% of the responses. Another reason for elder abuse is alcoholism and drug addiction - 18,7%.

**Table 14: Main reasons of elder abuse**



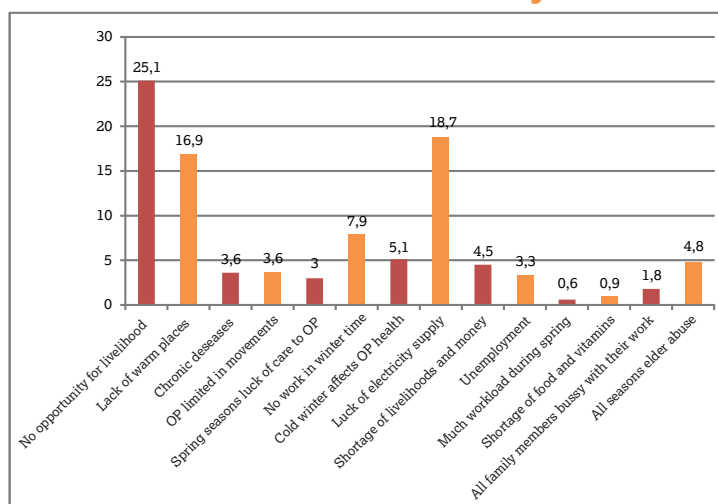
The respondents also reported that the abuse rate has increased during the past 10 years as a result of poverty increase in Tajikistan.

**Table 15: Do you think elder abuse become more, less or unchanged?**



The seasonality of the elder abuse proved that the electricity cut during winter time results in having people get in one place to warm them selves and make them angry towards each other and blame each other especially older people for not having better livelihoods. Respondents designate winter 62,7% and spring 14,7% as main seasons of the year during which elder abuse is committed. The reasons that are explained by respondents mainly follow under these options:

**Table 16: Reasons for seasonality of Elder Abuse**



The cases of abuse also stay underreported not because only it should stay within the family but also due to the lack of information about alternatives. The victim does not know where to go to report abusive behavior. The survey showed that 72% don't know where to go in case of abuse. 36.8% respondents reported that they would go to government to report cases of abuse. Yet 13% of respondents mentioned that they know non-governmental agencies or crisis centres where one can get support in case of elder abuse.

Among those who mentioned that they know non-governmental agencies where one can get support in case of elder abuse 2.7% mentioned Gulrukhsor centre for woman and 5.7% mentioned Woman centre Gamkhori. The rest of respondents mentioned few options such as OSCE, Department of work with family, local government, women's committee, etc.

### **3. SCALE OF THE ELDER ABUSE WITHIN THE TARGET REGIONS**

#### **Results of in-depth interviews**

(Sugd, Khatlon and Region of Republic Subordination (RRS))

The in-depth interviews in the survey were conducted with the Crisis centre staff, militia, women committee, head of jamoats, older people homes, medical centers, agency on labor and social protection.

The interviews showed that there are different forms of abuse existing in the target regions, mainly psychological, neglect, economic and physical abuse, rarely sexual. However, there were few sexual abuse cases in Sugd and Khatlon that were revealed in the interviews.

The in-depth interviews exposed that the elder abuse is seldom reported. Some victims do not report elder abuse because:

- o It is culturally unaccepted; they are ashamed to tell anyone that a family member is assaulting them or stealing their money, or
- o they depend on the abuser for food, shelter, clothing, and health care,
- o they are afraid of what the abuser will do to them if they report the abuse,
- o they think that the police and social agencies cannot really help them.

The in-depth interviews also exposed that sometimes family, friends, or health and social service providers do not report their suspicions of elder abuse because:

- o they do not know who to speak to, - 15%
- o they do not know what can be done, - 10%
- o they do not want to get involved, or – 55%
- o the older person asks them not to report it. - 20%

#### **3.1. Sugd Region**

In Sugd region the in-depth interview showed that people are more reluctant to speak about the elder abuse cases. Some organizations don't recognize the elder abuse, such as Home for older people, but at the same time the Director of the Home accepted that the older people don't come to the Home because they had to leave good life behind.

From the interview with the Director of Older people home in Khujand, there are cases when children bring their parents here as they can not financially support their parents. The Older home director believes that this is an influence of western culture as previously Tajik people hardly ever sent their parents to the older people's homes. However, now we have more than 50% of Tajik residing in this home. The older people home in Khujand apart from providing residential social care, they do social care at home, go to the older people and provide with support to walk them out, or clean their houses if needed, get their pensions for them and bring them home. They only cover 350 older people in need, however the director stated that there so many others that need their social care at home, they counted more than

200 older people are still in need for their care in their area. It is mainly “physical” social care that the older people get at the retirement home or at their own homes by so called social workers.

“There is no capacity in place to address abuse cases by Social workers, they have not been trained how to speak with the family members who make abusive behavior towards the older people at their homes, or care about the victims of abuse. If a Social Worker happens to learn about abuse case they will report to police, stated the Director of Older People's Home.

In the interview with police inspector in Khujand, he stated that they have had few cases when older people come with broken hands by their family members. There was a case last year when an older woman of 73 years old was sexually abused by her neighbor who was a drug addict. The woman reported to police and the case was taken to court and the perpetrator was prisoned.

Most of the abusive cases come to the Women Crisis Center Gulruhsor in Khujand. They provide day care service and residential services to the victims of violence. The Crisis center has 24 hours help line. They have recently sheltered a woman of above 50 years old who was beaten by her sons. Her sons blamed her for not buying them a separate flat to live with their wives. The woman lived in Gulruhsor shelter for months with her daughter until the social workers calmed down her sons with the help of police. According to Gulruhsor Director, Malika Mirzobohodurova: “The main reason for the elder abuse is poverty, which makes family members stressed for not having employment and occupation. Family members start quilting their parents for their unsuccessful lives. We have many cases of abuse coming through our helpline as well as directly to the centre,” noted the Director.

The Crisis Center works extensively with the police inspector on domestic violence. From the interview with the police inspector on domestic violence in Khujand there are many cases, when a woman contacts the police, the perpetrator is only given a warning not to repeat the violence. Sometimes, the perpetrator has to sign a document stating that he will not re-offend and is warned that otherwise there will be “legal consequences.” If we have an elder abuse case, we will do the same, we will talk to the abuser and ask him or her not to offend and send the victim to the Crisis Center.

According to Social Care service lawyer under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection in Khujand, the elder abuse is an impact of western culture, we lost our traditional values. Poverty and unemployment are also reasons for neglect towards the older parents. But why the parents should be blamed. He stated that he is aware of a case when an older woman was thrown to the nursing home from a car without documents and clothes and unconscious. He was involved in helping her with obtaining documentation. He also shared the below story:

*An older woman of 68 from Djabor Rasulov district, who had one bedroom apartment. The care-giver has stolen the flat documents and made up the apartment documents on his name. He promised her to sell the apartment while she went to visit her relatives in Uzbekistan. By the time she returned she saw unknown people living in her apartment. She had to go to older people's home and asked for shelter while police was looking at the case. The case was given to me [lawyer] and we resolved it, we helped her to obtain her apartment back. However, the older woman went through such a stress and hardship, it broke her health incredibly while her case was solved. She could gain very little money which she used to pay her debts and return to Uzbekistan to her remote relatives.*

### **3.2. Regions of Republican Subordination (RRS)**

The in-depth interviews in RRS revealed that there are cases of elder abuse in the region with the same tendency as in Sugd region. The elder abuse cases mainly get to Crisis center and the Committee on Women and Family affairs.



“We have cases when family members are taking or misusing an older person's money or property”, stated a head of women and family committee in Gissar town. She shared the following story:

*An older woman, whose son migrated to Russia, and she was left with her daughter in law. The daughter-in law neglected the older woman, especially when she was ill, the daughter-in-law did not buy her medicine, saying that her son did not send money to buy her medical drugs, so she better die as she is a burden for a family, always gets ill and needs to be cared. Once the daughter-in-law asked her sisters to beat her mother-in-law. The case came to Committee on Women and Family affairs. The neighbors advised the woman to go to Women's Committee as the woman did not want to report to police. The Committee came to re-unite the family, no further steps were taken lately.*

Notably, the Women's Committee now is being a part of the UN Women project, which sustains the data base on abuse cases, by gender and case, age, etc. The Committee in Gissar is also involved in the EU funded project where 4 Social workers were trained to provide social care to disabled people amongst whom are older people. They do home visits, provide with psychological support and financial support to those in need. The Head of Women's Committee believes that the older people with physical impairment are more prone to abuse. The same opinion is shared by the NGO Crisis Centre staff member. “It isn't just unfirm or mentally impaired older people who are vulnerable to abuse. Elders who are ill, frail, disabled, mentally impaired, or depressed are at greater risk of abuse, but even those who do not have these obvious risk factors can find themselves in abusive situations and relationships.

*A Russian woman of over 68 is being abused by her caregiver at home. She is disabled and bed-ridden. She had a house which is being constantly housebroken by neighborhoods. Her care giver knows it and stays implicated. Her caregiver also misuses her pension and does not allow her to get medical care. The NGO Munis happened to know about it and they started to look for her relatives and give her social support, and reported her case to militia. She stays protected by the NGO.*

“The abandonment of older people and neglect because of economic stagnation in the family that is why we have increased number of older people in the retirement home, noted a Head of Retirement Home in Tursunzade (a town in RRS). We also have a few cases when older people from privileged family are put here. However, it is difficult to find out the real reason of why older people are put here. We take homeless people, yet we have those whose children put them here with their consent. The older people believe that preventing or stopping the abuse may be complicated because the older person may feel reluctant to make a complaint against the abuser. The older people may feel that they will not be believed. It may be that they do not recognize they are being abused. Economic dependence also stops older people to speak about being abused.

### 3.3.Khatlon Region

In the interview with social worker at Ghamhori Crisis Center, they come across with the elder abuse a lot. The forms of abuse that older people experience are mainly psychological and economic abuse, but there have been a few cases of sexual abuse as well. The Crisis Centre had an older woman reported on sexual assault from her husband. She said Ghamhori Crisis Centre Social Worker that her husband makes sex with her every night, yet she is ill and does not physically want it. Her husband warns her that he will marry a younger woman if she continues to refuse. The older woman can not afford to be left as she depends economically on her husband and accepts to tolerate her abusive husband.

According to a health worker at local polyclinic, the abuser may not allow people to visit or talk to the older person. The older person may be isolated from the community, social services, and even from other family members. I know an older woman, stated the health worker, who lives on a 4th floor and hardly ever is allowed to go outside. She tried to complain about it to her neighborhood, but after that was beaten by her son and was completely stopped to go out.

Overall the situation in Khatlon is quite dramatic. The poverty rate is higher here than in other regions targeted for this survey. And the rate of people coming to the crisis center and women's committee seemed to be higher. The Crisis Centre Ghamhory stated that they have older people coming almost daily for any help, including complaints about neglect and psychological pressure from their family members.

*37-year-old son, Jahoingir from Khatlon has a drug problem, pulled of his mother's hair during an argument when she refused to give him money. The woman said that "Family matters are private and should stay that way." "I'm so ashamed and embarrassed, she said to her neighbor female that my son behaves in this way. It is my fault that my son behaves this way. I have not brought him well enough, could not protect him from drug."*

According to police inspector on gender violence, in many cases we [police] gather all family members and members of the Mahallah (community) to "reconcile" between the family members. She reported that the main responsibility of her is to "preserve the family, mediate and not let the family to be apart."

This appears to be in line with an order sent out in December 2008 by the Minister of Interior to police inspectors to do "prophylactic work" with "problem families."

The capacity of those who were interviewed in Khatlon Kurgan Tube zone seemed to be lower than in other regions, their knowledge about conceptualizing and reasoning the violence against older people was vague too. The quality of services provided to older people was a bit lower than for example in RRS and Sugd Region. For example, on the question "How you address isolation and neglect of older people in your unit", the Older People's Home in Kurgan-Tube said "We provide them with food and shelter, that should be enough." However, in other older people's homes interviewed in RRS and Sugd Region they use work therapy, for example, engage them in different activities, etc.

However, a few cases of abuse were shared with us in Older people's house in Kurgan-Tube:

*An older Tajik man has worked in Russia for many years. In Russia he could not make sufficient money, so he returned to his family in Tajikistan. His family did not want to accept him without money; they beat him and asked to leave the house. He became homeless. After a while he asked for shelter in the retirement home in Kurgan-Tube.*

A medical worker from a hospital in Khuroson, noted that older people often are ashamed about the mistreatment they are experiencing, so they avoid telling anyone about it. Feeling ashamed usually comes from a fear that others will judge you or your family member harshly if they knew what was happening, and believing their criticism would be too difficult to tolerate and they start to blame themselves.

#### **4. Conclusion and Recommendations:**

The survey conducted showed that the prevalence of elder abuse takes place in Tajikistan. The main types of abuse are neglect and psychological abuse. The in-depth interview results show that there are cases of elder abuse predominantly psychological abuse in the targeted regions and chances are that there are so many hidden cases, which are not taken to attention due to the cultural norms, that the violence should stay within the family.

The situation is worse in Kurgan- Tube area of Khatlon Region both by the prevalence of cases due to economic stagnation and extreme poverty in this region and low capacity which the service providers have, particularly militia, women committee staff, social workers in department of social protection under the Ministry of Labour and Social protection.

The results of the survey revealed that the abuse is committed predominately at home by the family members, mainly daughters-in law and children. The main reason for the elder abuse was essential in the winter and spring season as a result of poverty raise in these seasons of the year, electricity cut, insufficient food, dependency which make younger people angry and in tolerant towards older people. It was also observed during the survey that older people are reluctant to speak about the abuse as most of them feel Economic dependence — questioning who will take care of them, where will they live? They also feel shame and guilt — Older people often blame themselves for any abuse committed against them. Yet, the problem of elder abuse is acknowledged in Tajikistan in the target regions, the survey revealed that 67.1% accept that the elder abuse takes place in their communities.

### **The line of recommendations would be:**

- Preferably focus interventions in Khatlon Region – Kurgan Tube zone for programming to tackle elder abuse as a priority region because the prevalence of abuse is high as well as poverty rate and low capacity of the social service providers.

- Strengthen capacity of existing social services to respond to allegation of elder abuse and support the victims of elder abuse. For example, enhance capacity of Crisis Centers Social workers, Women Department Specialist, Health workers, Inspectors on family violence where available or militia.

- Strengthen capacity of Daily social care at home. This initiative exists in Tajikistan, where Social Workers directly work with the older people at the home. This initiative is under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the departments are based across the regions. The Social Workers can be trained in how to uncover abuse and support the victims and work with their abusers.

- Raise awareness on elder abuse and neglect among population through publications and TV show, video, press conference, round table, articles, public discussions. These way communities have come to learn about child abuse and domestic violence.

- Daily Centers for older people to come together and talk their problems, where the trained social workers can uncover abuse, and provide adequate social care and those abused can access work therapy, psychological and legal assistance, and family reintegration.

- Family reintegration. As the survey showed that the elder abuse should stay within the family, much attention should be given to work within the family. Awareness on elder abuse as well as support the family to respond to older people's needs.

- The older people, who are institutionalized in the retirement homes need special attention. The Social workers' capacity needs to be enhanced to identify victims of abuse or violence and able to support them.

- Coordinate with the organisations which respond to violence to hammer out interventions towards elder abuse.

## 5. Methodology

To identify the prevalence of elder abuse issue and indicate broad trends on prevalence and type of elder abuse in Tajikistan and whether it has seasonal feature or not, the combination of both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used. With the help of quantitative method about 300 people were surveyed through face to face interviews with formulated questionnaires.

Qualitative method was used to collect more detailed and diverse data through in-depth interviews with local authorities such as women committee, social protection units, militia, also the interview were held with crisis centers, older people homes wherever available in the selected districts to identify the dynamics/trends of increase/decrease of the problem, the prevalence of certain forms of elder abuse, reasons of elder abuse increase as well as identifying the ways of reducing the problem and its consequences.

The random sampling was used for the survey. A survey was conducted in three out of four regions of Tajikistan: Sugd region, Khatlon region and Regions of Republic Subordination, with targeted sample of 100 respondents. 4 districts were selected in each region with four targeted communities.

The targeted districts are:

Khatlon Region – Kyrgan –Tube, Vakhsh, Khuroson, Bohtar

Sugd Region – Bobojon Gafurov, Istaravshan, Spitamen, Djabor Rasulov

RRS – Tursunzade, Gissar, Shahribav, Rudaki

The target groups for survey and in-depth interviews (4/25 interviews per community, overall 16/100 in-depth interviews per region, 48/300 within country) are mainly households.

Questionnaires with both open-ended and close-ended questions which were structured to identify the scale of the elder abuse, its significance, attitude of different generations within population toward the problem and ways to solve it. With usage of questionnaire the prevalence of several forms of abuse such as physical, psychological, medical (refused on medical services, treatment, drugs), economic abuse, poor care, sexual abuse, as well as their seasonality characteristics were tested.

The survey and in-depth interview were held with the support from the NGOs having extensive work experience in the area of gender based violence. The selected NGOs are:

NGO Gulruhsor - Sugd Region

NGO Ghamhori – Khatlon Region

NGO Munis - RRS

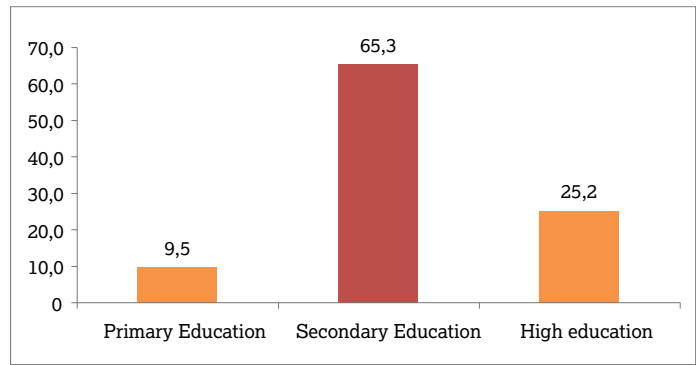
Two out of these NGOs have Crisis Centers, Ghamhori and Gulruhsor, Gulruhsor also provides residential services for victims of violence. All three NGOs have a capacity to respond to abuse cases, they also provide legal assistance to the victims of violence.

5.1. Demographics of the survey:

The average age among respondents is 42 years old. Gender distribution consists of females 68% and males 32%.

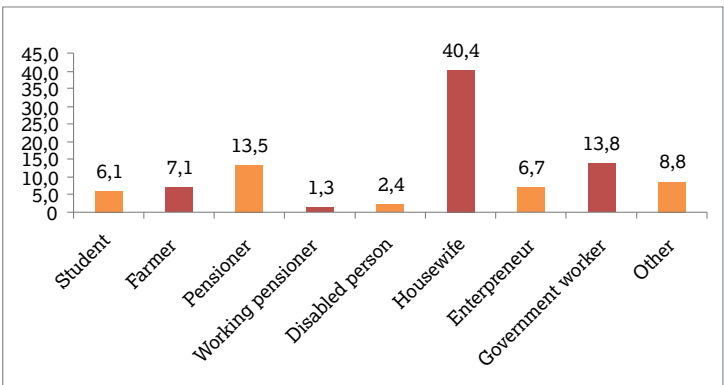
The education level:

Table 17: Education level



Types of activity:

Table 18: Respondents type of activity



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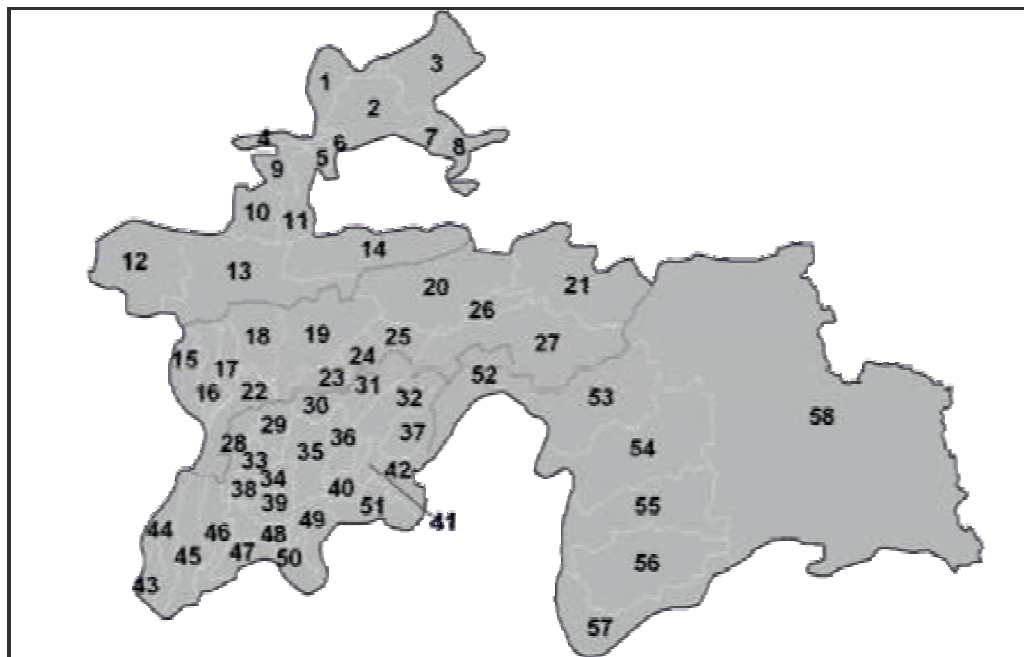
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Location of survey



Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts\\_of\\_Tajikistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Tajikistan)



Source: <http://geology.com/world/tajikistan-satellite-image.shtml>