

Thematic Training for Elders team students - Problems and Issues of Elders in India – 26th July – Di Nobili Auditorium

The Training session for Second Shift students

The Thematic training program for the students belonging to the Elders team was conducted on 26th July in Di Nobili Auditorium. The orientation program aimed to equip the students with the knowledge and empathy needed to provide compassionate care to the elderly. Recognizing the importance of addressing the challenges faced by the aging population, the program sought to instill a sense of responsibility towards the elderly and disabled members of society. The training session for the Shift 2 students was conducted at 10 am and Mr. Edwin Babu, the Director of Help Age India was the Resource person for the morning session. The training program started with a Prayer song by Prof. Rathna. Mr. J. Antony Anbarasan, Faculty, Outreach department gave the welcome speech and introduced the Resource Persons Mr. Edwin Babu, Director of Help Age India and Mr. Vetri, Manager of Helpline, Help Age India.



Mr. Edwin Babu spoke about the increase in the Life Expectancy of Elders during the last 20 years due to the advancements in science and Technology and healthcare. He explained about the three types of Elders such as Working elders, Assisted Elders and Destitute Elders. He then explained about the problems of

Older persons in India such as Abuse, Boredom(idleness), Economic insecurity, Failing Health, Fear, Inability to mainstream, Isolation, Loss of control, Lowered self-esteem and Neglect.



Mr. Edwin Babu also spoke about the specific problems such as the lack of pensions or financial support for 90 percent of elders and that only 25 percent of elders could access or afford healthcare. He then spoke about the interventions done by Help age India in this regard such as Health Inclusion, Financial Inclusion, Social Inclusion and Digital Inclusion. Mr. Edwin Babu spoke about the emotional aspect of caring for elders and how insensitive people have become to the problems and issues of their parents and grand-parents.

Mr. Vetri, the Manager of Helpline then spoke about the kind of interventions that could be done by the students in the intervention areas. He spoke about the health camps and the physiotherapy camps which could be conducted through Help Age

India. He spoke about the services that could be done through helpline and that we can also refer elders to different elder homes who needed care and support.

The Training session for First Shift students

The Training session for the First shift students was conducted at 2.30 pm. The program commenced with a soulful prayer song by Prof. Rathna, setting a tone of reverence and respect for the elderly. Mr. Muthu Krishnan, senior manager of "Helpage India," an NGO with a long-standing commitment to providing altruistic care for the elderly, led the orientation. Drawing from his vast experience, Mr. Krishnan contextualized and interpreted the experiences encountered during the students' "touch with reality" fieldworks. This exercise enabled the students to catch a glimpse of the pain and agony that many elderly individuals endure for significant periods, if not their entire lives.



Mr. Krishnan emphasized the need to identify and focus on the elderly in our communities who require specialized care and support. He highlighted that elderly care extends beyond meeting physical needs and includes addressing their emotional and social challenges as well.





The orientation provided a platform to hear real-life incidents and practical responses to situations that the students might encounter while providing care for the elderly. These accounts served as invaluable learning experiences, inspiring the students to be more empathetic and compassionate in their approach.

Following Mr. Krishnan's enlightening session, the event's focus shifted to Mr. Vetri, the manager of the helpline. He shed light on the harsh realities that the elderly often face in our society, emphasizing the urgent need to change our perceptions and attitudes towards this admirable effort of elderly care. His insights challenged the students to overcome societal stereotypes and foster a more inclusive and caring environment for the elderly. By listening to the experiences shared by Mr. Muthu Krishnan and Mr. Vetri, the students gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the elderly and the urgency of addressing their needs.

As these young minds move forward, they carry with them a renewed sense of empathy and a commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of the elderly. Armed with the knowledge and inspiration gained from this orientation, the members of "The Elderly and Disabled Group" are poised to become compassionate caregivers, advocates, and agents of change in the quest for a more inclusive and caring society for all. The impact of this orientation program will

undoubtedly extend beyond the confines of the event, rippling through their lives and communities, making the world a better place for the elderly.