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WHETHER THE ACT HAS HAD ANY IMPACT ON THE CONDITION OF THE ELDERLY WHO ARE WHOLLY ABANDONED OR SUBJECT TO ABUSE BY THEIR OWN FAMILY MEMBERS

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Abstract

Last year, in the southern city of Hyderabad, the well-off family of a 75-year-old cancer patient decided to burn her alive at a crematorium because they did not want to pay for further treatment. She was saved when the crematorium staff noticed her stir and called the police. Elderly parents being abused and abandoned is not just an urban phenomenon. In rural India, the family system is eroding, with the younger generation increasingly heading off to cities with their spouses and their children to start a new life – without their parents or grandparents. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 casts an obligation on the children and heirs of the elderly to maintain their elderly parents through a monthly maintenance allowance. The withering of the joint family system has contributed to the degradation of the position of the elderly in our society who are often abandoned or left to fend for themselves without any physical, emotional, or financial support. The present research aims to analyse the awareness among the elderly of this social

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