

▪ *State of the Art*  
**Egyptian Community Empowerment of Older Persons**

By

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Empowerment of older persons in the Egyptian community is key to positive, active and successful ageing through maintaining their maximum level of independence, health and wellness. As Egypt is undergoing a demographic transition, UN 2021 revealed that the number of Egyptian older persons aged sixty years and above is anticipated to be approximately doubled between years 2020 to 2050 from 8% of the total population to 14%. An increasing percentage of older persons is also likely to increase concern of empowering them by maintaining their rights. Older persons have the right to life with dignity, the right of autonomy by controlling their life, the right of equity, and the right to non-discrimination related to age, the right to life with a maximum wellness level and the right to learn and work.

Egyptian government plays a significant role in empowering older persons through the implementation of legislation. **Egyptian elderly law article 83** states that “The state shall guarantee the health, economic, social, cultural and entertainment rights of the elderly, provide them with appropriate pensions to ensure them a decent standard of living, and empower them to participate in public life. The state shall take into account the needs of the elderly while planning public utilities. It also encourages civil society organizations to participate in caring for the elderly”.

Ministry of Social Solidarity is working collaboratively with different Egyptian institutions to provide maximum social protection for older persons. The Ministry of Social Solidarity supervises nearly 168 assisted living facilities, 191 older person clubs, 52

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physiotherapy centers which help older persons to live independently. In addition, the ministry introduced 30 older persons' service offices across Egypt which introduce ready meals, assist in paperwork or even provide appropriate health referrals for cases in need. For the right to life with dignity, the Ministry launched a national program titled "**The Homeless Elderly**" to eradicate the phenomena of older persons in the street by providing adequate shelter, food, and health maintenance. Moreover, the "**Elderly Companion**" project provides home-based care for older persons by training and qualifying youth to be a companion of older persons which help in maintaining an intergeneration relationship.

In the same light, Egypt is working hard to empower older persons and constituted the Higher Committee for Elderly Care, Decree No. 432 dated 12/9/2017. The committee helps in developing, and designing programs for older persons, review of legislation and plan of national projects. Furthermore, the Egyptian government exempts older persons over 70 years from public transportation expenses which helps them in moving freely from one place to another which improves their physical ability and social interaction.

The Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population provides programs for older persons across Egypt for the detection of malnutrition conditions and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular diseases. Also, the program aims to measure and assess older persons' psychological and nutritional status. The program allocates 401 medical centers for health services which help to increase awareness of health problems for the prevention of diseases, introduce medical care or for appropriate referral. The conduction of such national programs helps older persons to maintain a high level of wellness and enhance their quality of life.

Although Egyptian Community Empowerment of Older Persons is done through the Egyptian government by providing them with adequate income through monthly pension, referral for appropriate health services, offer social attachment program, and providing

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adequate living conditions, still, the Egyptian community needs improving in the environmental infrastructure to be suitable for old age, and creating a community with a high-level awareness of concretely envision their life in old age.

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