

The International Longevity Centre-India (ILC-I) (2014-15)

ILC-I is a voluntary organization working for senior citizens since 2003 and has been founded by the late Dr. S. D. Gokhale. ILC-I is registered under Section 25 of the Indian Companies Act, 1956 (currently applicable under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013). ILC-I works in the fields of Research, Training, Policy, Advocacy, Documentation and field projects.

The President of ILC is the renowned international scientist, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar. The Vice President is Dr. Arun Nigavekar, former Chairperson, UGC and the Chairman is Mr. Jayant Umranikar, the former Director-General of Police.

ILC-I is also the United Nations' International Institute on Ageing, (UN INIA), Malta's Satellite Centre for the SAARC region.

ADVOCACY:

- ILC-I, with the support of the State Bank of India and the Saraswat Bank, organized a Mini-Walkathon of Senior Citizens to mark the occasion of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on the 15th of June 2014. The 300 participants were welcomed by the Chairman of ILC-I, Mr. Jayant Umranikar, followed by a speech by the Chief Guest, Dr. K. H. Sancheti, and the Presidential Address by the President of ILC-I, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar. A short skit on 'Elder Abuse' was presented by the senior citizens.
- A brainstorming meeting was organised by ILC-I on **“Should Euthanasia be legalised in India?”** on the 12th of September 2014 as part of its advocacy programme. Leading representatives of NGOs, SCOs, academicians, ethicists, lawyers, religious leaders were invited to participate.
- On the 1st of October 2014, to celebrate the World Elders Day, ILC-I invited some of its sponsored needy, elderly women for a small tete-a-tete to ascertain their needs, and shared snacks and tea with the Chairman of ILC-I, Mr. Jayant Umranikar and Hon. Director, the late Mr. C. S. Pathak. A kit of medicines was also distributed to the Aajis.
- A brainstorming Meet on **“ Making Smart Cities Age-friendly”** was organized by ILC-I on the 15th of February 2015 at YASHADA at which the Hon'ble Guardian Minister of Pune, Mr. Girish Bapat was the Chief Guest. A Pune Declaration on the same was drafted and signed by the participants which included the leaders of the National, State Senior Citizens' Organisations, NGOs, and other representatives of senior citizens. Copies of the Declaration have been submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis and Mr. Girish Bapat.
- A lecture on the Right to Information Act by the well-known activist, Mr. Vivek Velankar was organized by ILC-I on the 19th of February 2015 at Athashri, Phases 1& 2 at Pashan.

TRAINING:

- With the support of the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India, the following five training programmes of two months each, were organized by ILC-I on the **“Geriatric Caregiving/Beside Assistance’**.

- The first programme began on the 15th of December 2014, the second on the 6th of January 2015, the third on the 27th of January 2015, the fourth on the 11th of February 2015 and the last on the 31st of March 2015.
- One day sensitization programmes to orient school children to the cause of population ageing and to bridge the Inter-generational gap with focus on the Maintenance and Welfare of Senior Citizens Act, 2007, were also conducted by ILC-I with the support of and in collaboration with NISD from the 24th of March to the 31st of March 2015.

RESEARCH:

- ILC-I undertook a “**Micro study on Elder Abuse and Neglect**” in the two districts of Maharashtra, namely, Pune and Latur under the research project entitled, “Increase Awareness, Access and Quality of Elderly Services” headed by Prof. S. Siva Raju, Dean and Professor, School of Development, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and the Hon. Director of ILC-I from the 24th of September to 15th of November 2014.
This study was part of the larger study on “Building Knowledge Base on Ageing in India undertaken by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/ Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)/Institute for Economic Growth (IEG)/TISS.

AWARDS:

- ILC-I applauds those, who bring quality of life to the elderly, with its annual *ILC-I Awards*. These awards include a national award, the **Anjani Mashelkar Inclusive Innovation Award**, which caters to the best innovation for helping to improve the quality of life of the poor old people, **the late Mr. BG Deshmukh Awards for Excellence in Promoting Qualitative Ageing and the Lifetime Achievement Awards (the Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar)** and the late Dr. **S. D. Gokhale award for “Promoting Qualitative Journalism in Ageing”**.

The fourth ILC-I Awards function was held on the 17th of November 2014 at YASHADA’s MDC Auditorium in Pune. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Mr. D. R. Mehta, Pioneer of the Jaipur Foot & Founder, Bhagvan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, at a grand function which was well-attended by the crème de la crème of Pune along with a big gathering of elders.

FIELD PROGRAMME: “VALUEDUCATION”

ILC-I is also conducting a “Valueducation” training programme for school students in the age group 6 to 12 years, whereby senior citizens (they may be retired school teachers, professors or any elder who is interested in teaching/developing a rapport with the school children), volunteer to teach morals and core values to the children through songs, poems, fables, tales, mythological stories, songs and films.

These morals or core values include respect for elders and women, honesty, integrity, cleanliness, good habits of hygiene and sanitation, hard work and sincerity- all of which make the moral fabric of a good human being.

Essay competitions are also held to gauge what they have learnt and to write essays on topics and issues related to the elderly, and how one must relate to them. This is an ongoing programme in which 1500 children have been oriented to the cause of population ageing.