

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi-Disciplinary
Peer Reviewed

www.ijlra.com

DISCLAIMER

No part of this publication may be reproduced or copied in any form by any means without prior written permission of Managing Editor of IJLRA. The views expressed in this publication are purely personal opinions of the authors and do not reflect the views of the Editorial Team of IJLRA.

Though every effort has been made to ensure that the information in Volume II Issue 7 is accurate and appropriately cited/referenced, neither the Editorial Board nor IJLRA shall be held liable or responsible in any manner what sever for any consequences for any action taken by anyone on the basis of information in the Journal.

Copyright © International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis

EDITORIALTEAM

EDITORS

Dr. Samrat Datta

Dr. Samrat Datta Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Samrat Datta is currently associated with Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Datta has completed his graduation i.e., B.A.LL.B. from Law College Dehradun, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand. He is an alumnus of KIIT University, Bhubaneswar where he pursued his post-graduation (LL.M.) in Criminal Law and subsequently completed his Ph.D. in Police Law and Information Technology from the Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research University, Udaipur in 2020. His area of interest and research is Criminal and Police Law. Dr. Datta has a teaching experience of 7 years in various law schools across North India and has held administrative positions like Academic Coordinator, Centre Superintendent for Examinations, Deputy Controller of Examinations, Member of the Proctorial Board



Dr. Namita Jain



Head & Associate Professor

School of Law, JECRC University, Jaipur Ph.D. (Commercial Law) LL.M., UGC-NET Post Graduation Diploma in Taxation law and Practice, Bachelor of Commerce.

Teaching Experience: 12 years, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION of Dr. Namita Jain are - ICF Global Excellence Award 2020 in the category of educationalist by I Can Foundation, India. India Women Empowerment Award in the category of "Emerging Excellence in Academics by Prime Time & Utkrish Bharat Foundation, New Delhi. (2020). Conferred in FL Book of Top 21 Record Holders in the category of education by Fashion Lifestyle Magazine, New Delhi. (2020). Certificate of Appreciation for organizing and managing the Professional Development Training Program on IPR in Collaboration with Trade Innovations Services, Jaipur on March 14th, 2019

Mrs.S.Kalpana

Assistant professor of Law

Mrs.S.Kalpana, presently Assistant professor of Law, VelTech Rangarajan Dr.Sagunthala R & D Institute of Science and Technology, Avadi. Formerly Assistant professor of Law,Vels University in the year 2019 to 2020, Worked as Guest Faculty, Chennai Dr.Ambedkar Law College, Pudupakkam. Published one book. Published 8Articles in various reputed Law Journals. Conducted 1Moot court competition and participated in nearly 80 National and International seminars and webinars conducted on various subjects of Law. Did ML in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Administration.10 paper presentations in various National and International seminars. Attended more than 10 FDP programs. Ph.D. in Law pursuing.



Avinash Kumar



Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC – NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR – Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and learning.

ABOUT US

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS ISSN- 2582-6433 is an Online Journal is Monthly, Peer Review, Academic Journal, Published online, that seeks to provide an interactive platform for the publication of Short Articles, Long Articles, Book Review, Case Comments, Research Papers, Essay in the field of Law & Multidisciplinary issue. Our aim is to upgrade the level of interaction and discourse about contemporary issues of law. We are eager to become a highly cited academic publication, through quality contributions from students, academics, professionals from the industry, the bar and the bench. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS ISSN 2582-6433 welcomes contributions from all legal branches, as long as the work is original, unpublished and is in consonance with the submission guidelines.

THE LEGAL BACKBONE OF ELDER CARE IN INDIA: AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE 2007 ACT

AUTHORED BY - DR.RINI.M.V,
Associate Professor,
Government Law College, Thiruvananthapuram

ABSTRACT

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 represents a crucial step in India's evolving approach to elder care, transforming traditional moral obligations into enforceable legal rights. Against a backdrop of increasing urbanization, nuclear family systems, and rising life expectancy, many senior citizens find themselves neglected or without support. While earlier legal provisions under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, and Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code offered some recourse, they were limited in scope and applicability. The 2007 Act addresses this gap by mandating maintenance, ensuring welfare, and protecting the life and property of senior citizens.

The Act defines "senior citizen" as anyone aged 60 or above and mandates children or legal heirs to provide maintenance. It establishes Maintenance Tribunals for quick adjudication and includes provisions for interim relief, welfare measures like old-age homes and medical care, and the protection of property through mechanisms like Section 23, which allows reversal of property transfers if care obligations are violated. Key judicial decisions have further strengthened the Act, clarifying the powers of tribunals, allowing legal representation, and defining who qualifies as a legal heir.

Despite these strengths, the Act faces several implementation challenges, including delays in tribunal functioning, weak enforcement mechanisms, inadequate welfare infrastructure, and a general lack of awareness among senior citizens—especially in rural areas. Cultural reluctance, insufficient legal aid, and a lack of focus on mental health and chronic care also limit the Act's effectiveness.

This paper explores the background, structure, judicial interpretation, strengths, and challenges of the Act, highlighting its importance in India's legal and social landscape. It concludes by

suggesting that while the Act is a foundational step toward elder justice, further reforms and stronger implementation are essential to fulfill its promise.

Keywords: Senior Citizens-Maintenance Tribunals-Elder Care Law-Property Protection-Legal Heirs-Judicial Interpretation-Welfare Provisions- Implementation Challenges

INTRODUCTION

In the Indian society there is a social and moral expectation that children take care of their aging parents.¹ This is reflected in religious, cultural, and familial norms. However, those norms did not always translate into enforceable legal rights or protections, especially when neglect or abandonment occurred. **Personal Laws** especially the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, includes a provision Section 20 imposes on children the obligation to maintain their parents who are unable to maintain themselves. **Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973** also provides provision for maintenance of parents. This secular law (applicable to all religions) also provides in Section 125 that a *father or mother unable to maintain himself/herself* has the right to claim maintenance. In India modernisation, urbanisation changed family structures and many seniors found themselves without adequate support. Many factors have contributed to the neglect of aged parents. The population of senior citizens is rising, life expectancy increasing, but social security systems (pensions, welfare) are not robust enough to reach or protect all. These served to push for stronger statutory protection. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 (“the Act”) was enacted to provide a legal framework to address many of these issues: ensuring maintenance (i.e. financial support), welfare measures (health care, shelter), and protection of rights for parents and senior citizens

HISTORY OF THE MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2007

India, in 1999, adopted the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP)², which formally recognised rights of the elderly. It declared that the government had responsibilities toward

¹Thota,Rights of Parents & Senior Citizens.(2023).<https://www.sairamlawassociates.in/post/rights-of-parents-senior-citizens>

² SI Rajan. National Policy for Older Persons.(2021) <https://www.isec.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/BKPAI%20Working%20paper%205.pdf>.

economic and social security of older people, healthcare, protection of life and property, etc³. The NPOP can be seen as a policy-level recognition of the problem, setting the stage for legislative intervention. In 2007, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha. It went through committee stage (Standing Committee) in April–September 2007. It was passed by Lok Sabha (5 December 2007) and Rajya Sabha (6 December 2007). It received the President’s assent on 29 December 2007. The Act is formally the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. After enactment, rules for various states were framed. For example, in Tamil Nadu, the Act was implemented from 29 September 2008, with state Rules notified by end of 2009. Maintenance Tribunals, Appellate Tribunals, welfare officers and other administrative machinery needed to be set up at sub-division and district levels.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2007

Here are the main features/provisions of the Act⁴:

Definitions and Scope

“senior citizen” is any Indian citizen who is 60 years or older. Primarily children and legal heirs are liable to provide maintainance. In cases where a senior citizen is childless, legal heirs or relatives who would inherit property are also obliged to provide maintainance. “maintenance” includes: food, clothing, residence, medical attendance/treatment, and other basic amenities required for a dignity-filled life.

Right to Maintenance & Maintenance Tribunals

A senior citizen who is unable to maintain himself/herself (through own earnings or property) has the right to apply for maintenance from children or relatives. Maintenance Tribunals are to be set up in each district (and/or subdivision) for speedy adjudication. The Tribunal has powers like a civil court (summon, enforce, etc.) for the purpose of these proceedings. The Act provides for Interim Relief and Time-bound Proceedings. The Act requires that proceedings in the Tribunal be disposed of within 90 days from the date of service of notice, which can be

³ R Banerjee. A critical analysis of the mwpsc act in light of the 2019 bill and other decided cases. (2023) efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglcfeindmkaj/https://www.nujs.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/File-102.pdf.

⁴ Raj, Utsav, Galhotra, Abhiruchi. (2019, Jul-Dec). The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007- Helping the conditions of the elderly in India, Indian Journal of Community and Family Medicine 5(2), 45.

extended by 30 days in exceptional cases, with reasons recorded in writing. The Tribunal can also issue interim maintenance orders while the main case is pending.

Welfare Measures

State governments are to arrange for facilities such as old-age homes for indigent senior citizens. Hospitals are to give priority to senior citizens—e.g. separate queues, special facilities, etc. State governments also encouraged to promote geriatric care, research for ailments common among elderly, etc.

Protection of Life and Property

Section 23 provides that if a senior citizen has transferred property (by gift or otherwise) on condition that the transferee would care for the senior, and the transferee fails in that duty, the senior citizen can apply to the Tribunal to make that transfer void.

Penal Provision

There are penal provisions for neglect or abandonment: If someone entrusted with care of a senior citizen abandons or neglects the person, the person may be punished with imprisonment (up to three months) or a fine (up to Rs. 5,000) or both.

Key Judgments and Judicial Clarifications

Urmila Dixit vs. Sunil Sharan Dixit⁵

The Supreme Court clarified that under Section 23, a senior citizen who transferred property (e.g. by gift) upon a condition that the transferee would maintain or care for them, and where the transferee fails in that duty, can get the gift / transfer reversed / declared void, and/or can have possession restored. Also, the Court held that the Tribunal has the power to order eviction / transfer of possession of property that rightfully belongs to the senior citizen, as part of relief under Section 23. This is important because earlier some lower tribunals or authorities had been more hesitant to do so. In *Sudesh Chhikara v. Ramti Devi & Anrit* was held that a gift or transfer of property by a senior citizen may be declared void by a Maintenance Tribunal only if certain conditions as set out in section 23(1) of the under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 are fulfilled⁶.

⁵ 2025 SCC OnLine SC 2

⁶ 2022 SCC OnLine SC 1684

These conditions are

The transfer was made subject to the condition that the transferee would provide basic amenities and basic physical needs to the transferor; and The transferee refused to or failed to provide such amenities and physical needs to the transferor.

In Baban Sukru Tambe v. Union of India & Others Supreme court declared unconstitutional Section 17 of the Act which prohibited the representation by advocate before the tribunal⁷. Kerala High Court earlier in Adv KG Suresh v. Union of India ⁸(2021) had already held Section 17 violates the Advocates Act.

Court also laid down jurisdiction rules of the Act. The Kerala High Court in Mrs. Ameera & Ors v. The Maintenance Tribunal, Kozhikode ⁹held that a Maintenance Tribunal under the Act can direct provision of residence to a senior citizen even if there's a maintenance case pending under Section 125 CrPC. The idea is that the right to residence under the Senior Citizens Act is distinct from the monetary maintenance under CrPC, and is part of “maintenance” and “welfare” as defined.

Court has also clarified the definition of Legal Heir. The Kerala High Court ruled in August 2025 that under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, a person is only responsible for maintaining a childless senior citizen if they are their legal heir as defined by their personal law, and not merely because they possess the senior citizen's property. The court clarified that the definition of "relative" under Section 2(g) of the Act requires the person to be a legal heir in possession of or inheriting the property, a status a person who acquired the property through a gift to a family member (like a husband) and then inherited from that member would not possess in relation to the original senior citizen¹⁰

These decisions provided Greater accessibility: lifting the ban on lawyers means parties (especially senior citizens who may be less familiar with legal processes) can have legal help, which may increase fairness and reduce procedural difficulties. These decisions provided Stronger ability for senior citizens to reclaim property or have relief (residence, eviction of non-performing transferees) under Section 23, when conditional transfers fail – this strengthens

⁷ 19 WP/2527/2025

⁸ 2021 SCC OnLine Ker 1686

⁹ 2024 LiveLaw (Ker) 772

¹⁰ [S. Sheeja v. Maintenance Appellate Tribunal & Ors.](#) (2025:KER:58578)

protection of property rights and ensures condition-based transfers cannot be misused by transferees to abandon obligations. The courts have defined more precisely who must maintain (only legal heirs / relatives, not just anyone in possession), which limits misuse while protecting. Despite the progress above, there are still areas where the law / its implementation are weak or unclear; these are opportunities or needs for future reform:

1. Implementation Delays / Tribunal Availability

Even with clarified powers, many districts/subdivisions still may not have an effectively functioning tribunal, or the process of applying / notifying is time-consuming, or enforcing orders is hard. Also, service of notices (respondents sometimes avoid it), delay in enforcement. Judicial decisions help, but ground reality often lagging.

2. Welfare Provisions (Old-age Homes, Medical Facilities, etc.)

The welfare side of the Act (old age homes, priority medical care, etc.) remains poorly implemented in many states. Also, many “may” provisions are still discretionary rather than mandatory. There is often underfunding.

3. Awareness, Accessibility, Legal Aid

Many senior citizens, especially in rural areas or with low literacy, still unaware of their rights. Even if courts allow lawyers to represent them, access to legal aid for senior citizens is spotty. The process of filing maintenance applications, gathering evidence etc., remains daunting for many.

4. Mental Health / Chronic Care Needs

As before, specific needs for elderly with dementia, psychiatric ailments, palliative or home care are not sufficiently detailed in the law, and courts have not yet developed large jurisprudence around these issues.

5. Uniformity Across States

Because implementation depends heavily on state governments (rules, tribunals, welfare infrastructure), there is non-uniformity. Some states perform better (e.g. Kerala), some lag behind.

6. Enforcement / Penalties

Even when tribunals pass orders, actual compliance is another story. In some cases, people do not pay, or ignore eviction / possession orders, or refuse to maintain. Penal provisions exist but are not frequently or strictly enforced.

7. Clarifying and Reducing Misuse

Courts are increasingly alert to possible misuse (property disputes, gift deeds, etc.), but

clear guidelines or statutory safeguards (e.g. for conciliation, proof of fraud / undue influence) could help reduce the burden on courts and avoid frivolous or malicious applications.

MERITS / STRENGTHS OF THE ACT¹¹

The Act has many positive features; here are the major ones:

- 1. Legal Recognition of Obligations and Rights.** Before this Act, many senior citizens relied on social norms or plea in courts under older laws, but there was no specific statutory framework. This Act gives them legal rights: to maintenance, welfare measures, property protection. It shifts neglect from being merely a moral/social issue to one with enforceable legal remedies.
- 2. Access to Justice – Specialized, Speedy, Low-Cost** By constituting Maintenance Tribunals, the Act provides a forum specially meant for these issues, with simpler procedure than regular courts. The time-bound requirement (90 days) helps ensure cases are not dragged on.
- 3. Interim Relief** Ability to seek interim maintenance ensures that senior citizens do not suffer prolonged deprivation while the main case is being decided.
- 4. Welfare Measures Beyond Simple Maintenance** Provisions for old-age homes, priority in hospitals, geriatric care, property protection etc., mean the Act is not only about maintenance but about holistic welfare.
- 5. Protection Against Exploitation – Property and Abandonment** Section 23 is important insofar as it discourages misuse of property transfers to evade maintenance obligations. Penal provisions for abandonment or neglect also impose some deterrent.
- 6. Role of Voluntary Organizations and Legal Heirs** The Act allows organizations to act on behalf of senior citizens, which helps those who are weak, ill, or otherwise unable to approach courts themselves. Also, extending obligations to legal heirs in childless cases ensures no gap when immediate children are absent.
- 7. Policy Recognition, Societal Message** The enactment sends a strong signal socially: that society and state recognize seniors' rights. It helps create awareness and possibly improve societal attitudes over time.

¹¹Dr Seema Totla. (2021, Dec) Analysis of Judgements and Laws Regarding Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens. IJCRT | Volume 9, Issue 12, 25.

DEMERITS / CHALLENGES / WEAKNESSES¹²

Despite its strengths, the Act has also several limitations and challenges — both in its text and in implementation.

- 1. Lack of Awareness** Many senior citizens are simply not aware of their rights under this Act. Some do not know about Maintenance Tribunals, or how to approach them. This reduces use of the law.
- 2. Delay in Implementation / Tribunal Functioning** Though the Act demands speedy disposal, in practice delays occur: lack of functioning tribunals in some districts, backlog, delays in serving notices or in getting respondents to comply, etc.
- 3. Enforcement Difficulties** Even when tribunal orders are passed, actual enforcement (collection of maintenance, ensuring property transfers are reversed, ensuring welfare measures are provided) is often weak. Some respondents evade orders; there is limited follow-up. Also, penal provisions are mild (3 months imprisonment, fine of Rs. 5,000) and may not deter significantly.
- 4. Resource Constraints in Welfare Provisions** Provisions like old-age homes, geriatric care, hospital facilities, priority queues etc. are resource-intensive. Many states have not ensured adequate infrastructure, trained staff, or funding. Also many of the “may” clauses (i.e. state may provide) rather than “shall” mean welfare measures are not mandatory in many respects.
- 5. Cultural / Social Resistance** Because family-based care is deeply rooted in Indian culture, there may be reluctance to file formal complaints against children or relatives. Also, stigma, shame, and desire to keep family issues private may prevent many senior citizens from seeking legal recourse.
- 6. Burden of Proof and Financial Burden** The senior citizen often has to prove the neglect, inability to maintain, etc., which might be difficult, especially in families where documentation is lacking. Also, approaching the tribunal (even though simpler than courts) may still involve costs (time, travel, effort).
- 7. Inadequacy for Medical, Palliative Care, Mental Health** The Act has some provisions for medical care and welfare, but as some scholars observe, issues related to mental health, dementia, chronic care, palliative care, home-based care are not

¹² Ashok Kumar. (2021,May).Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens - A Legal Analysis. Journal Sociology and Criminology Volume 9, Issue 3,100.

sufficiently addressed. Many older people live alone or in remote areas; physical infrastructure may not suffice.

CONCLUSION

The *Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007* stands as a landmark legislative effort in India, aimed at bridging the gap between traditional familial obligations and modern legal protections for the elderly. In a society that historically depended on moral and religious duties to ensure elder care, this Act provides an enforceable statutory mechanism to uphold the dignity, welfare, and rights of senior citizens. It reflects a significant shift in public policy—from viewing elder care as a private, family matter to recognizing it as a public and legal concern that demands state intervention.

One of the most commendable aspects of the Act is that it provides a dedicated and accessible legal framework for maintenance, which includes not just monetary support, but also essentials like food, shelter, healthcare, and other basic amenities. The establishment of Maintenance Tribunals allows for a more specialized and expedited form of redressal, helping to ensure justice is delivered without the delays and costs commonly associated with the general legal system. The inclusion of interim relief provisions is another crucial measure that prevents undue hardship during the pendency of proceedings.

The Act also goes beyond maintenance by incorporating broader welfare and protective elements. Section 23, in particular, serves as a vital safeguard against the misuse of property transfers and ensures that conditional transfers tied to care obligations can be reversed if those obligations are violated. This gives senior citizens a meaningful form of protection against exploitation, especially in cases where they are vulnerable due to emotional or financial dependence.

Judicial interpretations have further strengthened the Act. Key decisions from the Supreme Court and High Courts have clarified critical aspects such as the power of tribunals to order eviction or recovery of possession, the validity of representation by advocates, and the precise definition of legal heirs and relatives responsible under the Act. These rulings have not only enhanced the legal enforceability of the Act but have also brought clarity and consistency in its application.

However, the implementation of the Act continues to face several challenges. The establishment and functioning of Maintenance Tribunals vary widely across states, with many regions still struggling with delays, lack of awareness, and enforcement gaps. Welfare provisions, though well-intentioned, remain largely underfunded and inconsistently applied, leading to a disconnect between law and lived reality for many elderly individuals—especially in rural or economically weaker sections¹³.

Another major shortfall lies in the limited attention given to chronic, mental, and palliative care, which are increasingly crucial as life expectancy rises and age-related ailments become more prevalent. Moreover, many elderly individuals remain unaware of their rights, and cultural factors—such as stigma, familial pressure, and emotional dependency—often deter them from asserting those rights even when abuse or neglect occurs.

Going forward, the Act requires not only better implementation but also thoughtful reform. There is a pressing need for uniformity across states, mandatory welfare measures, stronger enforcement mechanisms, and enhanced access to legal aid. Additionally, integrating elder care more fully with healthcare systems, mental health services, and community support structures could offer a more holistic approach.

In conclusion, while the 2007 Act marks a critical step in securing the rights and welfare of India's aging population, it must evolve—through both legal reform and administrative commitment—to meet the complex and growing needs of the elderly in today's changing social landscape. It is not just a legal tool, but a reflection of a society's values—how we treat our elders defines the strength of our collective moral and civic fabric.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

To make this Act more effective, several changes and improvements might be considered:

1. Strengthen Implementation and Enforcement
 - Ensure all districts and subdivisions have functioning Maintenance Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals.
 - Make enforcement mechanisms stronger (e.g. clear procedures for follow-up, coercive measures, liens, etc.).

¹³ Guru Prasad Sahu. (2024, June). An Overview of Maintenance of Welfare and Senior Citizens Act The lawway with lawyers journal volume:-12 issue NO:- 12.

- Increase and enforce penalties for non-compliance.
2. **Mandatory Welfare Provisions (“Shall” Rather Than “May”)**
For truly vulnerable senior citizens, provisions such as old-age homes, priority in hospitals, facilities for chronic disease etc. should be mandatory obligations on state governments rather than optional.
 3. **Awareness Campaigns: Government (central + state) and NGOs need to run large-scale awareness programs so senior citizens know their rights under the Act, how to approach tribunals, etc. Information dissemination in rural areas is especially important.**
 4. **Address Mental Health, Chronic Illness, Palliative Care**
More detailed, specific provisions should be inserted for mental health care, long-term care (including home-based support), counselling services, dementia care, etc.
 5. **Digital Access, Simplified Forms, Remote Proceedings**
Many senior citizens may be immobile. Enabling many proceedings to happen via teleconference, simpler forms, perhaps mobile tribunals/outreach would help.
 6. **Monitoring & Accountability**
Regular reporting by states about the number of tribunals constituted, number of cases disposed, maintenance amounts awarded vs. pending, welfare facilities created, funds spent, etc. Independent monitoring might help.
 7. **Flexibility in Proof / Burden of Proof**
Some leniency or assistance should be provided to senior citizens who lack documentary evidence. Perhaps reversing burden of proof in certain obvious cases (neglect, etc.) or facilitating representation by voluntary organizations.
 8. **Clarification of “Legal Heirs / Relatives”**
The definitions should be made clearer so there is no ambiguity; this is especially important for situations where children are absent, or transferees are in complicated situations.