

## **ABUSE OR DISABUSE: COPING WITH ELDERLY ABUSE IN THE ASAIMAN MUNICIPALITY, GHANA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study examined the coping approaches of the elderly to abusive experiences in the home. Cross-sectional descriptive survey design was used for the study. Convenience and snowballing sampling techniques were used to sample 184 respondents for the study. The Elderly Abuse and Psychological Wellbeing Inventory (EAPwI) was used to collect data from the elderly. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics. It emerged from the results that abuse of the elderly in the home setting is marginally prevalent in Ashaiman Municipality with the elderly psychological abuse topping the list of the self-reported forms of abuse. It was found that many elderly persons relied on prayers as a coping strategy to abusive experiences from their caregivers. It was concluded that the exposure of the elderly to abuse knows geographical bounds. The prevalence reported raises the questions of general wellbeing of the elderly. The study recommended that there should be easy and accessible complaint centres created in all electoral areas in the municipality for reporting of abuses. A media campaign aimed at raising community awareness about the rights of the elderly and protection of elder persons from elderly abuse should be encouraged.

**Keywords:** Elderly abuse, Coping approaches, physical abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse.