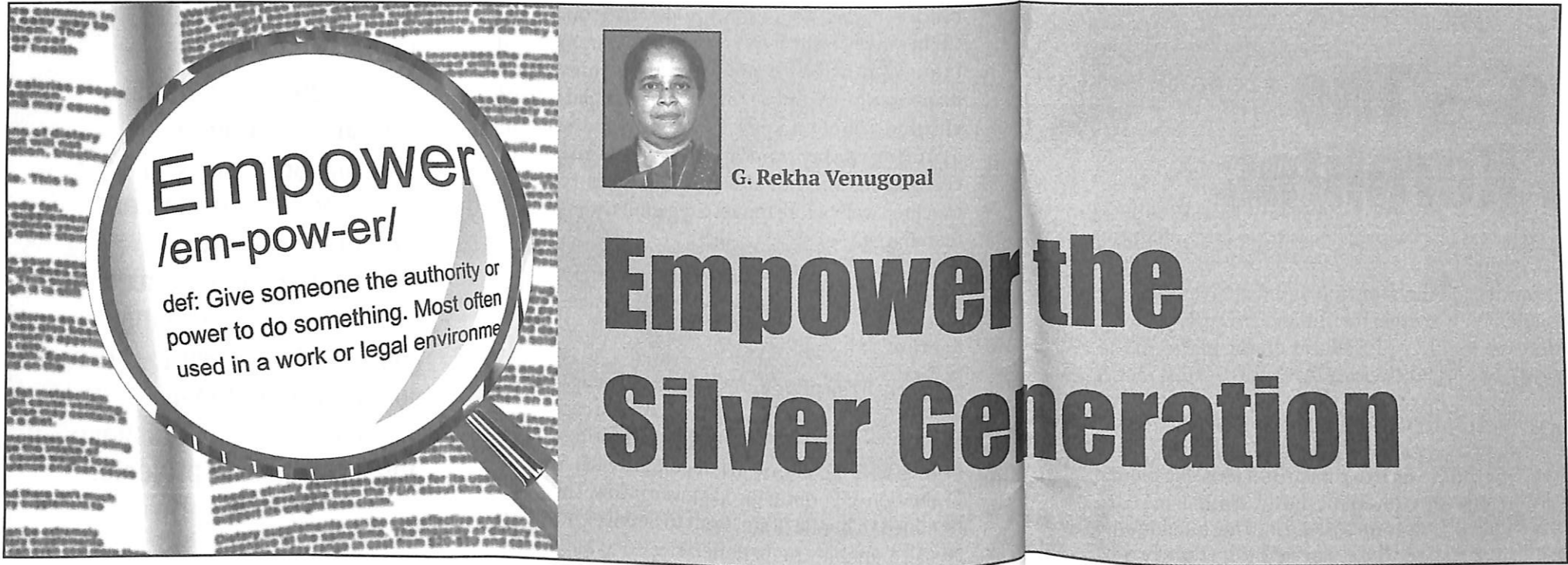


നവനീതം

സാംസ്കാരിക മാസിക

ജസ്റ്റിസ് കെ. സുകുമാരൻ
വിനോദ് നാരായൺ
ശ്രീജിത്ത് മുത്തേടത്ത്
വെണ്ണല മോഹൻ
വിനോദ് ഇളകൊള്ളൂർ





The problem of the aged is a stark reality staring at us in the face. For millions of parents and senior citizens, the winter of old age is not the best of times. Jobless, without resources, abandoned, abused, they languish in isolation and penury. How true that no one salutes the setting sun which has done its day's work.

As Shakespeare said, the world is too much with us and we neither have the time nor the inclination for the burgeoning silver generation. Ageing is a biological process starting with birth, no longer coveted, entered with trepidation and crossed with countless hurdles in this youth-centric world. Three enactments, Maintenance of Parents Act, Hindu Adoption Act and Domestic Violence Act (2005) and the present Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (2007), try to extricate them from their predicament.

Isn't it an irony that we needed a legislation to protect the aged from their own kith and kin, we who claim to have a strong social system? The very essence of our social life centered around "Sanathana Dharma" and 'Varnashrama Dharma' where respect and care were given to elderly unconditionally, where the three Rinas (obligations) were observed-Pitru

Rina, Deva Rina and Guru Rina and where Buddhism was born.

We made a slip somewhere. A remedy has to be found before it is too late. The genesis of most of the problems being sociological, the solution too has to be sought in the wide social milieu. The needs of elderly need to be attended to and handled with care. The human touch is what is needed. The national Programme for Older Persons (NPOP) lays stress on strengthening the family system, sensitising the younger generation to the necessity of intergenerational bonding and envisages an umbrella of measures-healthcare, shelter, welfare, protection against abuse, etc. Active and productive involvement of older persons seems to be the need of the hour.

The elderly should strive to be self reliant for as long as they can. Life after sixty is not the end of the world. A positive approach is needed to enliven the sagging spirit, to mentally prepare oneself to accept the reality and truth of death and to begin a new chapter. Victor Hugo once said, "You should rejoice you have escaped your forties, old age of the youth and at last have arrived at the fifties, the youth of old age".



G. Rekha Venugopal

Empower the Silver Generation

The elderly and the young together- a blending, a bonding can do wonders. The wisdom, experience and proficiency of the elderly could be tapped. The young could strive to give to give maximum support. This tie up mantra can dispel the shadow of this problem looming large before us.

The legislation has to be followed by mass awareness programmes, especially through the CSWB. Facilities, concessions and other social benefits are to be updated at intervals. Speedy disposal of complaints of old persons must be made.

Change and aging come unseen, unheard. When we glance through history, we see a galaxy of people who played a pivotal role in moulding the destiny of mankind in their old age, like Mahatma Gandhi, Baba Amte, and Mother Teresa. Let us remember what Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General, said, "We will grow old one day, if we have that privilege, let us look at older persons not as separate from ourselves but as our future selves". Let us show how our love and concern by empowering them, giving them the opportunity to hold their head high and stand on their own feet with our love as the anchorage.

Dilip K Mehta

Values Devalued

Commitment? What is that?
Not seen anywhere today
A most desirable quality
But only till yesterday

Go on giving promises
Don't bother about performance
Turning words into deeds
Today, has no relevance

Simple living, high thinking
Gone are those days
No thinking, hi-fi living
Are the accepted ways

Save something for future
An idea totally senseless
Tomorrow is so uncertain
Enjoy life today endless

Punctuality has become punishment
Even hosts reach late
Perfume turns into perspiration
Waiting at the gate

Gandhian values are vanishing
Popular are Machiavelli methods
End justifies the means
Nothing succeeds like success

*(Dilip K. Mehta is a poet who can wield his pen in composing lovely lines alike in English language and in his mother tongue, Gujarati. A brilliant post graduate in Economics from the Maharaja's college of older times, he was an office bearer of the Old Student Association of Maharaja's which had, till the recent deterioration in student-teacher relation, had performances comparable to any international educational institution. He was Vice President of OSA when Justice Sukumaran and N.P. Ouseph were Presidents. He was one of the leaders in spices export. His wife Geetha was secretary of the University Women's Association - Chief Editor).