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the family pattern is gradually shifting away from the nuclear due to changes in values, cultural diffusion, huge population, mass poverty, etc. With the process of urbanisation, industrialisation, modernisation, pauperisation, individualisation and the expansion of health care and family planning programmes, a trend in migration is increasing rapidly. Changes are taking place not only in the kinship structure but also in the parent-child relationship, putting them in different worlds and also in different classes.

The only support from the state is the provision of Old Age Allowance, which covers only about 20 percent of older persons. Again, the formal pensioners, retired government servants, constitute only a negligible fraction of them. Despite family intervention, retirement pension and old-age allowance, almost two-thirds of older persons remain uncared for. A significant number of older persons in Bangladesh live on charity i.e. begging which is actually prohibited in Bangladesh and is not a practice we should support.

However, we are fortunate that the practice of looking after the older parents and other relations still exists in our society. Major political parties, the government, some NGOs and particularly the United Nations have become sensitised and active on ageing issues. It is our turn to be sincere, serious and spontaneous about our own later life and to make the society equally habitable and comfortable for all ages as getting and staying active in our later life is our ultimate desire.

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