



#SOCIAL ISSUES

# Would you put your elderly parents in a retirement home?

The concept of old age homes or retirement homes is commonplace in many countries. But in our society, the idea is still frowned upon, to say the least. It is almost a taboo; the social stigma is deeply rooted. On the other hand, though, is it not high time that we embrace this idea?



"It does not seem that people are ready for it," opined Dilruba Kabir, chairperson and trustee of Monwara Islam Tajul Islam Kalyan Trust which runs the old age home named Shailan Probeen Nibash. "There are many who are eligible to enrol, but the social stigma is a hindering factor."

But for those who nevertheless enrol in a retirement home, Kabir cites a number of explanations for it. "Different people have

different reasons. For example, if someone has been widowed and is childless, he or she may not have any place to go but to an old age home," she said.

"There are also conflicts within a family which results in opting for old age homes," she continued. "Being unable to give enough time and care to the elderly is another cause."

Shailan Probeen Nibash, situated in

Dhamrai, does not take any fee from its residents or guardians. Kabir added that limitation of income is another reason why guardians move their elderly to old age homes.

Khatib Abdul Zahid Mukul, chairman and managing director of Givensee Group of Industries Ltd, who founded the old age home named Old Rehabilitation Center, agreed, saying, "Social stigma is there. But if someone simply cannot afford to bear the monetary costs, what can be done?"

His old age home in Gazipur is also free of charge.

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