

01. Introduction

Older adults with concurrent cognitive impairment (CI) and dual sensory impairment (DSI) experience complex functional, psychological, and social challenges that impact independence and participation in daily living activities. While epidemiological studies have quantified their growing burden, little is known about older women's lived experiences in LMICs. This study addresses this important evidence gap.

02. Epidemiological Context

- 57 million people worldwide were living with dementia in 2021, anticipated to reach 153 million by 2025.
- Globally, over 1.5 billion people live with hearing loss and 2.2 billion with vision impairment. prevalence rises sharply with age.
- Concurrent sensory impairment is associated with poorer cognition, functional decline, loneliness, and reduced quality of life.

03. Study Aim: To explore the lived experiences of older women living with concurrent cognitive impairment and dual sensory impairment in India using IPA.

04. Methodology

	Study Design	Interpretative Phenomenological Study
	Analytic Approach	Idiographic, cross-case analysis
	Data Collection	Unstructured, in-depth interviews (25–47 minutes)
	Participants	Six community-dwelling women (≥ 60 years) with CI and DSI recruited from Hyderabad and Rangareddy district, India
	Language	Interviews conducted in Telugu/Hindi
	Data Recording & Transcription	Audio-recorded; transcribed verbatim and translated into English
	Data Analysis	Reflexive IPA (Smith & Nizza, 2022)

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS	RIGOUR AND REFLEXIVITY	RESEARCHER POSITIONALITY	REPORTING STANDARD
- Ethics approval obtained from Queen's University Belfast (QUB), NIMHANS (Bengaluru) and LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI, Hyderabad) - Written informed consent obtained from all participants - Confidentiality, anonymity and the right to withdraw were assured	- Reflexive journaling - Peer debriefing - Multilingual transcript verification (Telugu/Hindi ↔ English) - Regular supervisory discussions and audit trail	The primary researcher is a neuropsychologist and PhD researcher from India. Reflexivity was maintained throughout the research process to acknowledge preconceptions and their influence on analysis and interpretation.	Findings are reported in line with COREQ (Consolidated Criteria for Reporting Qualitative Research).

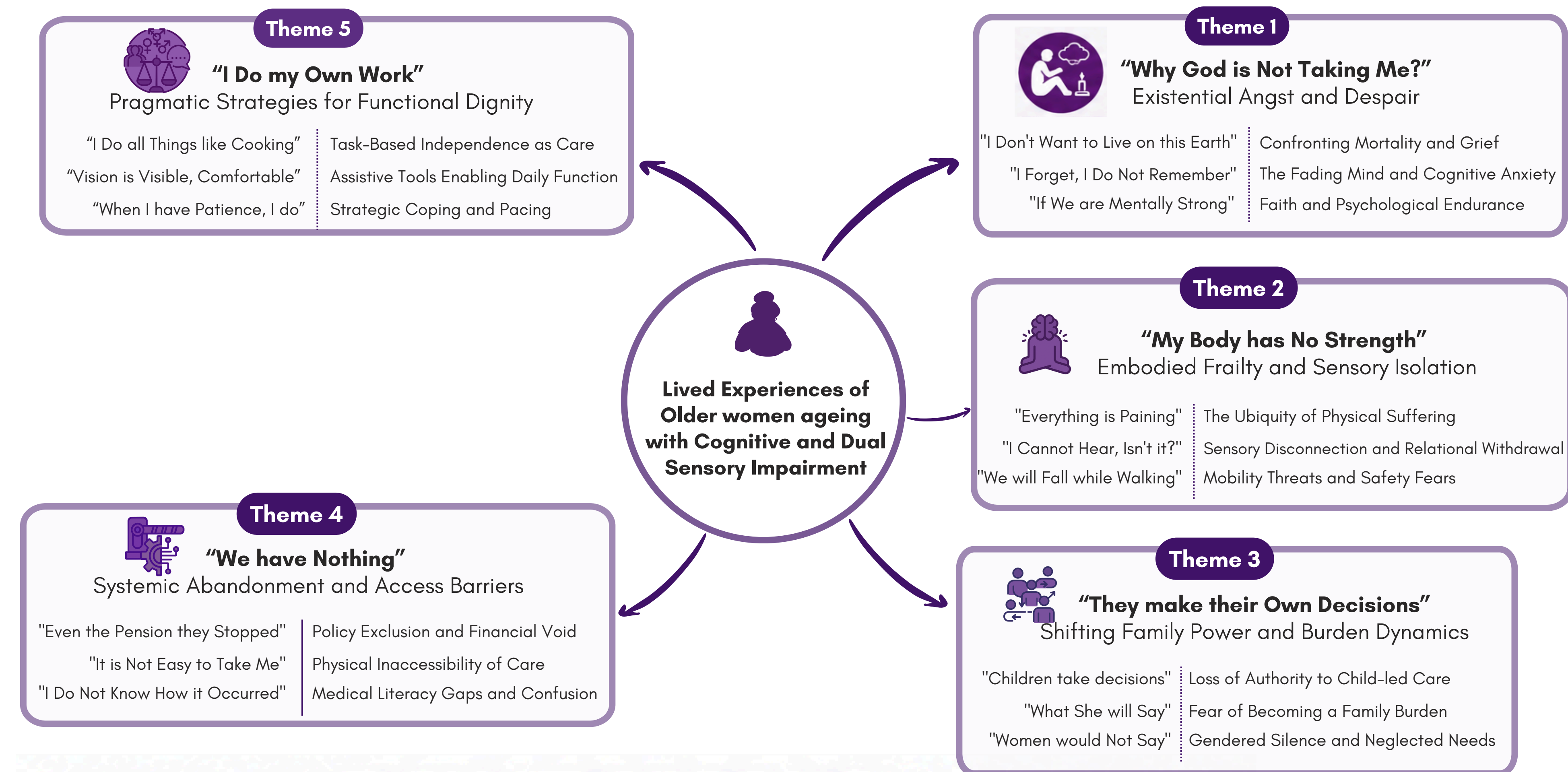
08. Acknowledgement

Funded by the Wellcome Trust, UK [Grant Number: 225573/Z/22/Z].

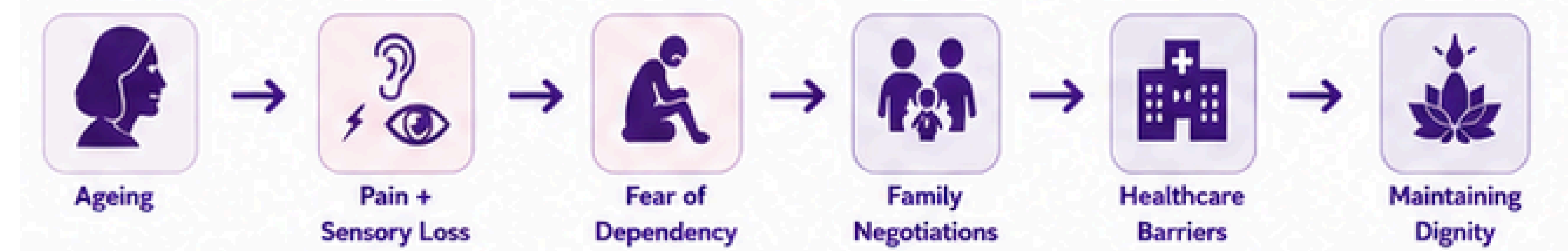
We thank the support of Queen's University Belfast, NIMHANS, and LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

We sincerely thank all the women for generously sharing their experiences.

5. Findings



THE JOURNEY: LIVED EXPERIENCE TRAJECTORY



06. Discussion and Conclusion

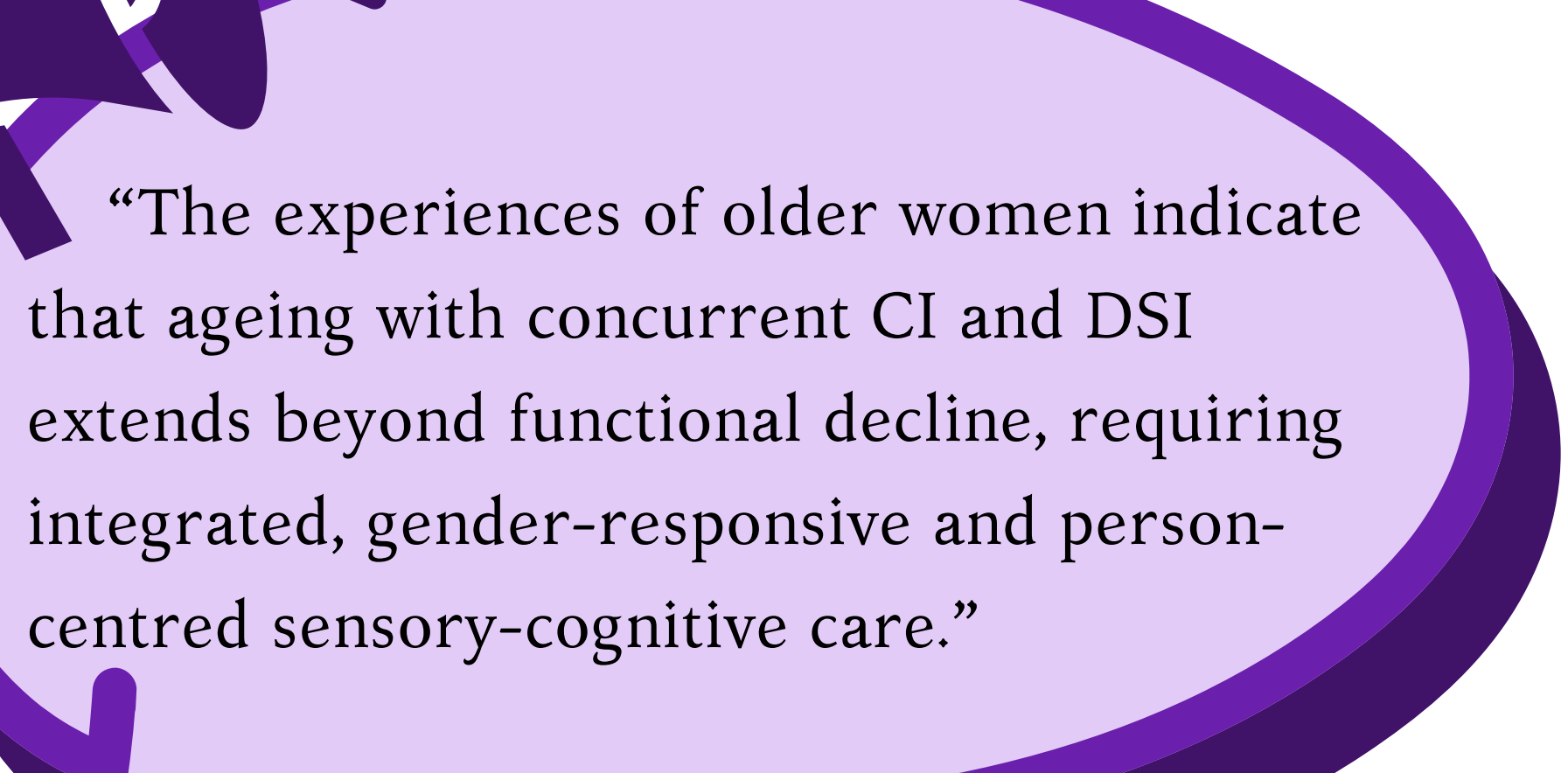
Beyond describing the co-occurrence of cognitive and dual sensory impairment, this study highlights how older women interpreted, negotiated, and adapted to these intersecting conditions throughout everyday life. The findings reveal personhood as continually shaped through the interaction of bodily changes, family relationships, and wider structural contexts, offering a deeper understanding of healthy ageing from the perspective of older women in India.

07. Policy recommendations aligned with SDGs

- Embed integrated sensory-cognitive screening within primary healthcare.
→ SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- Promote gender-responsive, person-centred care for older women.
→ SDG 5: Gender Equality | SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- Strengthen rehabilitation, caregiver support, and social protection.
→ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- Develop integrated, age-friendly health systems through multisectoral collaboration between health, social care, and community services.
→ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities | SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being



Key Message



“The experiences of older women indicate that ageing with concurrent CI and DSI extends beyond functional decline, requiring integrated, gender-responsive and person-centred sensory-cognitive care.”



Contact details

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