

# Old age homes reflect changing family values

Stories of neglect highlight need for compassion, responsibility

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In a quiet upscale neighbourhood of Lahore stands a grand building that, despite its outward affluence, shelters stories of pain and abandonment.

The facility, known as Afiyat Old Age Home, becomes a place of reflection rather than celebration during Eidul Fitr, as many elderly residents spend the festival grappling with memories of families they have lost.

For many residents, Eid is not a time of joy but a reminder of fractured relationships.

Among them is Kulsoom Bibi, who sits quietly in a

corner of the courtyard, her dignified presence overshadowed by grief.

Once a resident of an affluent area with substantial property and wealth, she now lives in a modest room at the home.

Speaking to reporters, she said her own children and relatives persuaded her to transfer her property before abandoning her.

"I was once the owner of my home, but now I was made to feel like a burden," she said. On Eid, she watches others celebrate with their families and wonders if a mother's love could be reduced to property and possessions.

In contrast, another resident, Zahra Apa, has found a different way to cope.

A widow with no children, she has been living at the facility for three years.


Rather than dwelling on

her past, she dedicates her time to caring for fellow residents. On Eid mornings, she is among the first to wake up, helping others get ready and assisting in preparing meals.

"This home is my family now," she said with a smile. "When you have no one of your own, God gives you people to care for." Her presence offers a sense of warmth and unity in an otherwise somber environment. The administrator of the facility, Haroon Khurshid, acknowledged that Eid is often the most difficult time of the year.

"It is painful to see residents waiting for calls that never come," he said, adding that efforts are made to create a festive atmosphere through community engagement.

On Eid, students from various private universities visit the home, bringing sweets and gifts.

  
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