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The factors that prevent elderly living alone who need emergency transportation from using emergency alert system in Japan

Satomi Yamagishi

National Defence Medical College, Japan

Statement of the Problem: According to 2015 report by the Cabinet Office, over 26% of Japan's population is aged 65 or over and the number of the elderly who live alone has been increasing. Although those people need to use emergency call system for transportation to hospital, some of them have not used the system. The aim of this study is to explore the reason why the elderly who live alone would not use the emergency call system even if their condition took a sudden turn for the worse.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 12 elderly people who live alone in the Tokyo area, and the date interview was analyzed using Krippendorff's technique for content analysis.

Findings: Three themes of reasons for not using the emergency call system were emerged: There are some difficulties to use the system; hesitance to use the system and; decided not to use the system.

Conclusions & Significance: The theme "there are some difficulties to use the system" suggests that we have to resolve some problem and arrange the environment so that they're able to use easily, and we can provide continuous support of secure and safe life for elderly people living alone. Also, it is important that we understand their characteristic psychology like "hesitate to use the system", and we perform mental support for the elderly people in solitude. Finally, the theme of "decide not to use the system" indicates that some of the elderly person living alone hope that there is nobody to their bedside when own life end.

Biography

Satomi Yamagishi focuses on the elderly person who lives alone while having a disease and works on a study. In Japan, he examines a problem and measures medical support and welfare support for elderly person QOL and lives.

yamagish@ndmc.ac.jp