



## Survey of Elder Care Problems in Aging People

Hao Ran\*

*Department of Geriatrics, University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom*

### DESCRIPTION

Based on interviews with 110 familial carers who were caring for their physically dependent parents from 1997 to 1999, this study investigates various aspects of gender differences in both generations of care recipients and carers. The variables studied include carer's health status, health care benefits, and income disparities, as well as carer's caregiving task performance, employment status, and income levels. According to the findings, elderly female carers were more likely than their male counterparts to receive no pension or medical benefits, and female carers were more likely to earn less income when employed. Meanwhile, female carers performed more hours of care tasks per week and were more involved in personal care and house chores, despite believing their health was worse than that of their male counterparts. Male carers were more likely than female carers to provide financial assistance to parents. As economic reforms continue and future family sizes shrink to a 4-2-1 inverted pyramid, the study contends that gender inequalities will likely persist or worsen.

With 7% of India's population being elderly, two-thirds of whom live in villages and nearly half of whom live in poverty, caring for the elderly is a difficult problem to solve. The decline of the joint family, the rise of dual-career families, a possible shift in filial piety values, rising life expectancy with increased chances of a prolonged old age characterised by poverty, degeneration, more empty-nest years, and dependency have all contributed to the severity of the problem and made the elderly more vulnerable than

than ever to abusive treatment. In light of available data, this paper examines these issues, as well as the issue of elder abuse, and suggests some solutions. The problems, stresses, and strains of elderly carers are also discussed. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are expected to play a larger role in the care of the elderly than the government, particularly in providing support services to family carers.

Care for the elderly is one of the most pressing issues confronting almost all European countries, a problem known colloquially as the "old-age care crisis." So far, strategies to address this challenge have resulted in two broad processes: the integration of migrant carers into households and the recruitment of foreign labour by the elderly care sector. However, alongside these processes of "moving carers in," a process of "moving care out" is becoming more visible, namely the migration of older people from Western countries to long-term care facilities in other countries.

This trend is also evident in Germany, where elderly people in need of care are transferred to facilities designed specifically for them and other German-speaking elderly, primarily in Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. Until now, very few academic studies have investigated the underlying causes of this development, as well as the organisation and delivery of care in these facilities.

This gap is addressed by project "Moving Elder Care Abroad," which focuses on the (transnational) processes that create and organize these facilities, as well as the living conditions and concepts of care and ageing that emerge.

**Correspondence to:** Hao Ran, Department of Geriatrics, University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom, E-mail: ranhao@gmail.com

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