

Poster presentation

The emotional experiences of elderly people living in nursing homes

Shahin Salarvand*¹, Heidar Ali Abedi², Habibollahi Hoseini³,
Shayesteh Salehi³ and Mansooreh Karimollahi⁴

Address: ¹Lorestan Medical Sciences University, Lorestan, Iran, ²Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, Islamic Azad University, Khorasgan Branch And Medical Education Research Centre (MERC) of Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Iran, ³School of Nursing and midwifery, Esfahan Medical Sciences University, Iran and ⁴School of Nursing and midwifery, Ardabil Medical Sciences University, Iran

* Corresponding author

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Background

The promotion of health and economic status in all over the world resulted in increasing the older population. It's expected, at least 40% of the population over 75 years, need extensive health care services in the last parts of their lives. The rate of transferring the elderly to the nursing home is increasing in Iran too. Understanding elder's emotional experiences is important for living in nursing home and understanding why this relocation causes that elder views it as "final sign of failure" is important, because this perceptions and fears have negative effects on elder's adaptation in countering with this challenge. This study aimed to describe emotional experiences of elders living in nursing homes.

Materials and methods

The qualitative phenomenological approach and purposive sampling amongst elderly residents in private and governmental nursing homes in Esfahan city was applied. Sampling continued till data saturation and resulting sample size became 10 participants. The data was collected with in-depth interviews and field notes. Colaizzi's method was used for data analysis and the rigor was based on transferability and credibility.

Results

Three themes were extracted from the data (structural components of experience), including: 1- Residents' emotional experiences in nursing home life 2- Resident's emo-

tional experiences at the entrance in nursing home. 3- Feeling of powerlessness.

Conclusions

In this study, older people have shown various emotions to relocation and residence in nursing homes. Every elder, with different context and different history in life, described its uniqueness experiences. In addition, pay attention to social, financial, health supports and mental, spiritual and physical needs of elders should be met through whole care, because only attention to physical needs of them, denies hopeful, meaningful and purposive life in nursing homes.