

Ageing in Place: Facing the Challenges

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Abstract : As human population is ageing, globally, we are faced with the need to find solutions for the care of older people who have reached the stage of needing full-time nursing care. Basically, there are two basic alternatives: 1. moving the individual to an institutional setting, a care home, or other form of residency, and 2. Arranging care for them in their own home, what is known as "ageing in place". As ageing in place is becoming popular in many parts of the world, there is a need to understand its' everyday consequences for all the involved parties: the care recipient, her/his family members and the live-in care workers. This is crucial because choosing home care means that the role of the care recipient's relatives becomes very demanding and requires a level of support and responsibility that is often beyond what families can offer. This is particularly challenging when the older person faces dementia. While most Western countries offer a range of social services, many citizens around the world find the care provided by governments and associated social support structures insufficient. Individuals and families find themselves in the position of having to take on the responsibility themselves and find a path for the care of frail members, while facing considerable personal burdens and challenging dilemmas. The aim of this work is to discuss those challenges. The study is based on an ethnographic study of home care for older people in Israel.

Keywords : aging in place, family caregivers, policy making, qualitative research

Conference Title : ICGMH 2023 : International Conference on Geriatric Medicine and Healthcare

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : August 17-18, 2023