

## Older Adult Grandparents' Voices as a Principle Care Giver in a Skipped-Generation Family

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**Abstract :** In Thailand, many adults in rural areas migrate to seek employment resulting in skipped-generation family where grandparents care for grandchildren with no other adults present. This is a preliminary study using qualitative case study methods, aimed to explore the situations of older adult grandparents' experiences in skipped-generation family in North-East of Thailand. Data were collected by in-depth interviews with 6 grandparents living in skipped-generation families; 5 females and 1 males grandparents, aged 62-75, some of them have diabetes mellitus, hypertension, during November to December, 2017. The finding themes are: 'Caught up in the middle': the older adults were pleased to have grandchildren but, at the same time, acknowledge the burden that this placed on them, especially when the migrant children failed to send enough money back to support the family. 'Getting bad health': they reported to be fatigued and stressed due to burden of caring for their grandchildren without support. This situation can aggravate problems of poor health status and be worsening economic status of the grandparents. In some cases of deprivation, the grandparents feel that having to be the sole care providers of their grandchildren can negative adversely affect their mental status. It is important to find out in other sectors similar to Thailand and lead to more in-depth research to answer the research questions about policy and social support in skipped-generation family in the future.

**Keywords :** older adult grandparents, experiences, principle care giver, skipped-generation family

**Conference Title :** ICNCP 2019 : International Conference on Nursing Care in Pediatrics

**Conference Location :** Tokyo, Japan

**Conference Dates :** May 27-28, 2019