

Elderly Vulnerability to Home Care Receive in Bangladesh

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Abstract

The face of aging in Bangladesh is undergoing a profound transformation as the proportion of people aged 60 years and above has increased rapidly due to combined effect of falling fertility and increased life expectancy. With the increase of elderly, it is also required to increase in the provision of care for them, either informal or formal. Home care can be classified as financial, practical and personal. Traditionally though the family is the prime informal care giver. The rapid urbanization, modernization, industrialization and globalization have changed the traditional concept of family and traditional sources of home care systems for elderly. Besides, the formal care system such as old age home is very limited. A number of research related to the home care for elderly were conducted in developed countries. A few studies were carried out in the developing countries like Bangladesh. This study investigates current the home care; such as financial, practical and personal, provider for the elderly, focusing on the role of relatives, friends and neighbors to determine the vulnerability. A cross-sectional survey was conducted. Respondents were selected aged 60 years and above living in urban and rural areas of Sylhet district. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire from the respondents interviewed individually. Besides descriptive statistics, binary Probit regression model were used to determine the vulnerability of the elderly in home care received. The findings revealed that most of the respondents received financial care from spouse or at least one child. However, the receiving this care is not enough for maintaining the minimum standard of living. In addition, the responded also received financial care from relatives occasionally. A few number of elderly respondents received personal care from spouse and children mostly from spouse. Besides, the study also found that the majority of elderly received practical care from spouse or at least one child for outside care. A few number of elderly received personal care from relatives specifically from daughter-in-laws and grand-child. The study also finds that the majority of elderly received practical care from at least one relative specifically from daughter-in-laws. Daughter-in-laws help them in preparing meals and house work. Friends and neighbors are most important practical care giver for the elderly if they live alone. The findings also indicate that the elderly are more vulnerable in personal care receive than financial and practical care. Thus elderly become more vulnerable with increasing age. The findings also indicate that, most of the elderly are more vulnerable in receiving personal care. Findings suggest that policymakers urgently need to take stapes to provide personal and practical care for elderly with the financial assistance if required.