

CARE FOR THE DISABLED ELDERLY IN THE FAMILY

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to investigate the patterns of care for the disabled elderly in the family. The data were obtained from the 2002 Survey of the Elderly in Thailand conducted by the National Statistical Office. Disability in this study refers to the one or more restrictions on the activities of daily living (ADLs): eating, bathing, toileting and dressing. The results indicate that most of the disabled elderly (94 %) receive care from their family caregivers. The caregivers of disabled elderly men are spouses, while those of disabled elderly women are children. About 86 percent of caregivers are female. More than half of all caregivers are in the 40-59 age group. About 17 percent of caregivers are elderly themselves. Most of the caregivers live with the disabled elderly. The projections of the caregivers show a greater demand for the caregivers of disabled elderly in the future. The participation in disabled elderly care of men and young people should be encouraged.