

## **PROBLEMS EMERGING FROM THE CARE OF OLDER PEOPLE: WHO CARE, WHO PAY AND WHO CONTROL**

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### **-Abstract-**

Population of the world is aging rapidly because of developing technology about health system and decreasing ratio of child bearing. The care of older people is one of the important problems of the social world in every where. This problem is not seen as actual yet in Turkey. But population of Turkey increases rapidly. Enrolling to a social security system is not sufficient to economic independency of older people. Modernization made some changes to traditional society. For example women work outside of home, children go to kindergartens in early ages. Families are living inside small apartments. All these changes effect also older people. They do not find any place in nuclear family. People in their old ages have to live lonely up to their need to care. Elderly care is the big problem of themselves and their adult children or their close relatives. Who do care our elderly, who pay the care and who control the care. Our social security law must be developed to provide of the needs of elderly population especially coming that sounds like an avalanche. In this presentation it will be given a frame of problem and its solutions.

**Key words:** *elderly care*<sup>1</sup>, *aging*<sup>2</sup>, *care problems*<sup>3</sup>, *aging population*<sup>4</sup>.

**JEL Classification: J14**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

In 20th. century, after the first and second world wars, population of the world had begun to ageing rapidly because of developing social life and technology about health system, decreasing ratio of child bearing and also decreasing ratio of death. Especially in developed side of the world western country populations was aged. Today in 21th. century many developing countries are in the similar status with western countries. The ratio of elderly in the whole population are going to increase rapidly. This means that the needs and problems of elderly people will

take place in social life of the society. With growing elderly part of population, societies should reorganize their sources to meet their needs. These developing societies should review new requirements to plan retirement conditions, housing, health expenditures and care needs of elderly.

Modernization made some changes in traditional society. Several changes had placed in social life. For example women had begun to work outside of home and children enrolled to kindergartens in early ages. Families were started to living inside small apartments. Traditional extended families gave their places to new urbanized nuclear family. Elderly do not find any place in nuclear family. The requirement of elderly's labor force are continuously decreasing because of new technological developments. Briefly modern society is not designed to elderly people. Modern world is for people to whom are producing and consuming in new trend. All these changes effect the whole life of older people. They lose their prestige in social life that is under the effect of capitalism. The new life style effected people who are in their old ages have to live lonely up when they need to care. Not only elderly people are affected from these changes, also all age groups are affected.

This frame of modernization accordance with aging may be seen as negatively. But social world is changing with all sides. It can be considered that the positive sides of modernization leads to easy living conditions. For example some technological and ergonomic equipments may facilitate daily life of elderly. While societies' developmental grade are greater, living problems of older people are going down. When older people have several choices about living arrangements given by society is very important to themselves and their close relatives.

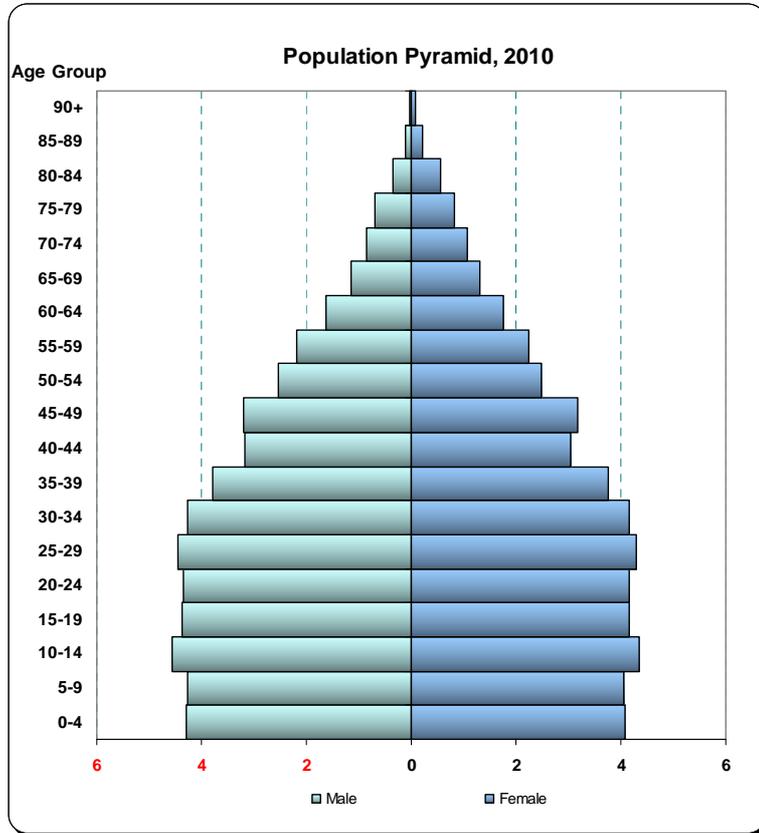
In this study, some problems emerging from elderly care were analyzed. Who care our elderly parents?, Who pay expenses coming from care? And who control the care services?

## **2. TURKEY'S POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

According to 2011 world population data sheet ([www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org): php.page:8) population of Turkey is approximately 74 millions, births %1,8 , rate of natural increas % 1.2, projected population mid 2025, 85.4 millions and mid 2050, 94.7. Infant mortality rate is 2.1, percent of population aged 65+ is 7, under the age of

15 is %26. Life expectancy at birth totally 73, for male 71 and for females 76. Persons at the age group of 15-64 which are the working ages constitute 67,2% of the total population. 25,6% of the population of Turkey is in the age group of 0-14, and 7,2% is in the age group of 65 and over.

**Figure-1 Population Pyramid of Turkey**



([www.turksat.gov.tr](http://www.turksat.gov.tr))

Turkey's population pyramid shows that transitions of society is from fertile and short-living population to less fertile and long-living one. Population of Turkey is a developing country population that is the number of young people are more than elders for many years. But last twenty years our population are changing because of low fertility rates and low death rates. This means that Turkey's population is aging and as a society Turkey has not any sufficient arrangements for coming large population group. Today problems and needs of older people can

be figured out, because some traditional sides of society are continuing. But twentyfive years later according to Table-1 60+ ages will increase from %10 of total population to % 15. This increase is remarkable and saying us that Turkey is an aging society. The median age is 29,2 now, but in a short time it will be more than 35.

Turkey's population pyramide as a figure represents a pyramide from 30 ages, it shows us 0-29 age population do not increase any more. This pentagon shape will be a bell shape in close time. The last shape of our population will be mushrooms. The meaning of this shapes give us information about "population age" that pyramide represents young population society, bell shape represents rapid ageing population and mushrooms shape shows us very old population ( Tufan, 2007: 40-41).

**Table 1 According to Age group and sex mid.year population projections (thousand)**

Age group	2008	2010	2011	2015	2020	2025
<b>Female-total</b>	<b>3855</b>	<b>4074</b>	<b>4196</b>	<b>4742</b>	<b>5709</b>	<b>6756</b>
60-64	1128	1213	1317	1493	1824	2057
65-69	900	956	1023	1136	1425	1733
70-74	688	712	776	868	1039	1278
75+	1139	1193	1203	1245	1421	1688
<b>Male-total</b>	<b>3114</b>	<b>3313</b>	<b>3427</b>	<b>3903</b>	<b>4790</b>	<b>5694</b>
60-64	1004	1111	1173	1411	1731	1958
65-69	767	804	829	985	1289	1560
70-74	566	589	610	671	838	1073
75+	777	809	815	836	932	1103
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6969</b>	<b>7387</b>	<b>7623</b>	<b>8645</b>	<b>10499</b>	<b>12450</b>
60-64	2132	2324	2436	2904	3555	4015
65-69	1667	1760	1816	2121	2714	3293
70-74	1254	1301	1352	1539	1877	2351
75+	1916	2002	2019	2081	2353	2791

**Note: Population projections were based on 2008 Adress Based population Registration system and demographic and health Surveys. Population projections have been revised according to the final result of 2008 Turkey Demographic and health Survey. (tuik.gov.tr)**

In Table-1 you can compare female and male populations, female population is higher than male populations in every age stage after the age of 60. Also, 75+ age population of females is higher than males ratio. This female-male ratio relationship is same for all populations. This means that female life expectancy is higher than males. In other words longevity is higher for females than males. The

most important problem or disadvantage in old ages chronic illness, physically incapacity and loneliness. Elderly needs to care when they faced these problems. Consequences of demographic changes societies are ageing, the ratio of elderly in the population are increasing. This means that chronic ill, disabled and care dependent elderly in their very old ages ( over 80) are increasing (Adamec1999).

### **3. WHAT IS ELDERCARE ?**

Eldercare is the umbrella term used to describe the physical, financial, psychological, social and other forms of assistance provided to people over the age of 65( Adamec, 1999:3). While the people is getting older, they need to care. Increasing number of older people in the society means that there is an increase in care needs. Because women live longer than men, they need care their eighties and frailty. But the need of care for elderly men is provided by their spouses. Mostly spouses and adult children are voluntary and unpaid caregivers of older people. Elderly care is the big problem of themselves and their adult children or their close relatives. The care of older people is one of the important problems of the modern social world in every where. Several developed countries have arrangements in their care model how to care their elders that there are Public and private care alternatives, health care, financial supports, care help. In sum, they manage elder care (Larsson et all, 2005:631). Although this problem is not seen as actual yet in Turkey. But elderly population of Turkey increases rapidly as shown the table above. Turkey has not a sufficient care model which is including alternatives. There is a little care professionals who are educated at university.

### **4. WHO CARE OUR ELDERLY PARENTS?**

Eldercare is not an easy work. When you care a little baby in a time your work goes down because of baby's development but you care an elderly person things to do will go up with time because of dependency and need to support in his/her daily life will increase. According to findings of researches about eldercare, caregivers of elderly are mostly (80%) family members: elder spouses and adult children who are living close places. Adult children are frequently daughters. The gender norm is valid every where daughters-in-law are more likely than their sons to care for an ageing parent( AARP, 2010). Although in several developed countries' elder care services are more developed than elder care services of developing countries, but the most of the caregiving services are provided by family members of elderly in every where. In Turkey, Subaşı's (2001) research on "home care" was found that the most of elderly want to live their home and also want to be cared for by their family members. In this research the most of the

elderly over the age of 75 women and they maintain their daily life by the support of family(Subaşı, 2001). Families design caregiving supports as informal care status according to their working programmes. Formal care are given by experts on care and institutions according to government rules and law. In Turkey, arrangements carried out by government related to elder care are not sufficient. In SGK ( Social Security Institution of Turkey) care services are conducted by the family should be paid( Kılınç and Sütü, 2010). Adult children may arrange their parent's care with a caregiver.

### **5. WHO PAY EXPENSES COMING FROM CARE?**

Does elderly have any income? Which expenses of care can be provided with this income? Is retirement salary sufficient to their care? Who should give financial support to elderly? When are all these questions answered everything is OK? The answer is no. Enrolling to a social security system is very important but it is not sufficient to economic independency of older people in Turkey. If they have savings from their middle ages for example; being owner a house and also a rental income, these savings can give financial comfort older age days. Financial support is definitely very important but not everything. Spouse or adult children are not only care their elderly, but also plan all sides of their life. One of the children who is close to her parent may plan to care. Planning of expenses, medical controls, personal hygiene, houseworks, ergonomic design of house against accidents should be provided by adult child for her parent. If the income of elderly is not enough to his/her expenses then, children can compensate shortfall. Sometimes children may not have any money to compensate , then elderly can leave her home and move near the adult child. This decision is not easy to elderly. Mostly they can feel bad to leave her house but she have to move because of care dependency. This is a dilemma for her/him.

### **6. WHO CONTROL THE CARE?**

Elderly care is a process which has growing problems in time. Formal and informal care differentiate on controlling. Formal care status has control on institutional care forms. But in Turkey formal care diversity is not enough to satisfy elderly and their close relatives. Nursing home capacities are not full because of "total institution" rational, their life style do not give permission individualized life design. Elderly in their own homes or near the adult child can be cared by a unfamiliar caregiver or a certificated caregiver. His/her child have to control care process. There is no status in government general or local. This is the biggest lack. Neither caregiver nor cared elder give tax to government. There is no

control on this care. Today this failure is not seen very clear, but in the near future, as a large group of elderly are coming to need care.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

Population of Turkey are ageing rapidly. There is no new arrangements to elderly. Traditional thinking style in modern society and intergenerational support system are compensate the lack of governmental tasks. But today families have one or two children. Their support for their parents( for us) will not be easy as our support to our parents. In the light of this fact our social security law must be developed to provide of the needs of elderly population especially coming that sounds like an avalanche. After twentyfive years when I will be my seventies I want to choices to my elderly days.

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