





Chinese Older People's Perception of Privacy and Dignity in Residential Care Homes

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Privacy and Dignity

- Respecting privacy and dignity
 - → important basic principles of humanity
 - → important goals of care

- Construed through socio-cultural norms and traditions
 - > sensitive to socio-cultural differences







Privacy and Dignity

- Yet, limited knowledge on these concepts in a non-western cultural context
- Still less is known of how Chinese elders perceive what supports/ undermines their privacy and dignity











The Hong Kong Scene

 Problems of psychosocial care provision eg. insensitive and disrespectful domestic chores and daily care

- ? how Chinese elders perceive what supports/ undermines their privacy and dignity in residential care homes
 - → A grounded theory study





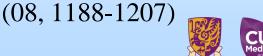


Privacy in RCHs

Meaning of privacy in RCHs

 Not needing privacy in residential care homes

'Privacy is about having things concealed from others. We have everything done together here.... eat, chat and sleep together.... Why do we need privacy? Its communal living here! I dare to say that there is no need for privacy here.'







Privacy in RCHs

- Protecting personal and health information
- Having personal time and space to do what one wants to do:
 - keeping personal possessions, especially money
 - not being interfered with when not want to
 - not bothering others and others not bothering them







Privacy in RCHs

Respecting privacy in RCHs

- Staff not gossiping elders' information to others
- Using own efforts, e.g. creating security for one's own possession
- Using existing resources provided by the home, e.g. padlocks, lockable toilet doors







Dignity in RCHs

Meaning of dignity in RCHs

- → Being in satisfaction with relations:
- Family demonstrating acts of concerns e.g. being taken out for meals during festivals, being accompanied back from home leave by the son
- Being cared for by staff with sensitivity and being treated equally by all staff







Dignity in RCHs

Meaning of dignity in RCHs

- →Being in satisfaction with relations:
- Having satisfying relations with other residents
 - other elders showing concern and respect
- Having opportunities to maintain contacts with life outside of the home







Dignity in RCHs

Supporting dignity in RCHs

- Involving family in care provision
- Trusting staff who provide care with sensitivity
- Promoting resident-resident relations





Reflection

The influence of Chinese socio-cultural values:

- 1. Meeting collective rather than individual needs
 - accepting the limitations arising from communal living
 - 'In this place, everyone is similar. How can one do whatever one wants?' (18, 220-222)
 - enjoying the sense of security and togetherness in communal living: RCH as a big family

Reflection

2. Importance of family involvement

3. Being satisfied with what is being offered

'Being an elder, what other things should one request for?....What else should I wish for? If they cook every of my meal, and if anything happened and they help me, then I am already very happy.' (01, 916-933)

4. Being obedient and respect for authority







Respecting Our Elders

- Acknowledge older persons as individuals
 - each with own distinct life history
 - each making choices within socioculturally determined norms and boundaries

→ Shift from institutional focus of care to a modality that focus on older people as unique individuals: Person-centered Care







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