



Systematic Literature Review On Challenges Against The Care Of The Elderly With Dementia

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ABSTRACT

Elderly people aged 60 years and above and diagnosed with dementia need careful care from their family members or caregivers. The caregivers of the elderly with dementia face many challenges that must be overcome. This paper aims to discuss the conceptual definition of dementia and the challenges faced by caregivers when looking after the elderly with dementia. The secondary analysis method is used in this paper to find out the definition of the concept of dementia and the various challenges faced by caregivers from various sources in a secondary approach. The results of the study obtained from previous studies found four challenges faced by caregivers in caring for the elderly with dementia, namely limited communication, pressure on caregivers, the role of women in parental care and financial burden. The implication is that the role of a caregiver who takes care of the elderly with dementia can cause internal conflict on the caregiver himself due to the decline in cognitive function among dementia patients.

Keywords: *Dementia; Elderly people; Caregiver; Cognitive function*

INTRODUCTION

Based on the Malaysian Demographic Statistics Report for the first quarter (2021), the population aged 65 and above has increased from 2.26 million to 2.37 million for the same period. The expected number of elderly people in Malaysia will be more than double from 1970 to 2020, from 5.4 percent to 11.1 percent and expected to reach 19.8 percent in 2040. Therefore, Malaysia is expected to become an aging country like Japan by 2030 (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2018; Ai Jing and Harifah, 2022). This aging process has become a global phenomenon that also happens in Malaysia. It is a phenomenon that exists in developing and developed countries, especially in developing countries (Ai Jing and Harifah, 2022). Aging is the process of accumulated structural and functional changes in organisms as a result of the passage of time. This process is a long process that occurs throughout an individual's life not only due to age and genetics but by the interaction between environmental conditions and personal events and behavior. These changes cause fertility and physiological functions to decrease until the last time they are in this world (Ulises et al., 2016; Fernandez-Ballesteros, 2013). Expectations obtained from the United Nations show that the number of elderly people in Malaysia will reach 15 percent of the total population (Noraini et al., 2015). This is due to the increase in the number of elderly people who are affected by medical aid facilities, nutritional and health care awareness, increasingly sophisticated treatment methods and increased advances in medical technology (Abdul Aziz et al., 2002). Suridah and Rahimah (2018) explained that the increase in the life expectancy of the elderly causes them to need to be taken care of after for a long period of time. The number of frail and sick elderly is rising, which increases the demand for care, whether it is formal or informal. In Malaysia, most people still choose to do informal elderly care because they still uphold strong values where the elderly is taken care by their family. Even the elderly still depend on their family members when they fall ill (Suridah and Rahimah, 2018). This is because the elderly will experience a lack of physical ability such as hearing, vision, memory loss, urinary incontinence and joint pain (Said, 2017; Bravo et al., 2012; Barca et al., 2011; Saraswat et al., 2020); De Luca et al., 2019). One of the most common memory loss diseases among the elderly is dementia. In addition,