

Unveiling The Perceptions of Rural Elders: Navigating Gender Roles in Aging Care in The Households in Thailand

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Abstract

This study examined the diverse perspectives of elderly individuals living in rural Thai communities regarding gender roles in family caregiving for the elderly. The study encompassed three districts within the province of Khon Kaen, Thailand, and utilized a concurrent mixed methods design to gather quantitative and qualitative data simultaneously. A survey was conducted in which 390 elderly participants were randomly selected from three districts and interviewed in person. A snowball sampling technique was employed to collect empirical insights from 42 key informants in the selected districts. These informants represented various distinct groups involved in elderly care, such as elderly individuals, family caregivers, care managers, and caregivers. The results revealed that older males exhibited a tendency to view men as possessing greater dominance and power, in contrast to older females, who predominantly associated women with domestic roles. The empirical findings emphasized the crucial role that women in rural areas play in providing direct assistance and emotional support to elderly family members. Women demonstrated commitment, dedication, and empathy as they devoted their time and energy. The study suggests that these findings contribute to the progress of gender equality in caregiving practices for the elderly within households.

Keywords: Perceptions; Rural Edlers; Gender Roles; Aging Care; Sustainable Development