Abstract

Evaluation of the National Dementia Policy from a Gender Perspective: How to Mainstream "Care" into the Dementia Policy Framework

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This study analyzed how the national dementia policy framework sufficiently and properly considers the various (including gender) characteristics of dementia patients and the conditions of care environment under which caregivers (both in families and government funded care settings) provide dementia care from a gender

perspective. Based on the survey and focused group interview results, several policy recommendation have been drawn to mainstream "care" into the current national dementia policy. The policy recommendation drawn from the study results are presented as follow. First, the dementia education needs to be expanded in terms of who can participate and what should be covered in the education. Second, it is important to increase the quality of dementia care in nursing facilities as well as to expand the dementia care infrastructure. Third, family caregivers should be informed and equipped with the accurate dementia knowledge and the right to choose the best dementia care option based on the needs of both dementia patient and family. Fourth, those who work and care for dementia patient simultaneously need to be supported by their employers and the family care leave needs to be easily accessible. Fifth, the nursing assistants who care for dementia patients should have an opportunity to develop their capabilities related to dementia care and be properly compensated for their expertise and hard work. Sixth, it is important to make communities be friendly with dementia patients and their caregivers.