

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF OLDER ADULTS - A MEDIATING EFFECT OF DEPRESSION

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Background and Purpose: Old people becoming isolated from society, they often experience the psychological difficulties. Social activities of the elderly are limited by retirement, health, and economic problem. So their depression also is severe. Therefore, we are to promote the quality of the elderly by increasing social participation activities for social integration, exploring the path which can reduce the depression. Methods: The data this study relied on is the 'Study of Need Assessment and Diagnosis of Aged, 2009' carried out by Gangnam-goo in Seoul, Korea. This study analyzed 643 over sixty. DV is social integration, IV is social participation, CV are gender, age, education, monthly income, family members, health. SPSS 18.0 Package was used to analyze data and Hierarchical-regression analysis was employed. Results: First, the influential factors between social participation and social integration are education, health, social participation. Second, influential factors between social participation and depression are family member, health, social participation. Third, depression was tested partial mediation variable, then influential factors are health, social participation, depression. Conclusion and Implications: First, active social participation of the elderly promote social integration, reduce depression. Thus, various ways for seniors to participate in the community - providing information, improving accessibility, the program opened, the facility construction, etc. - has to be prepared. Second, depression in the elderly community participation and a sense of social integration was verified to affect. Therefore, families and communities, country's active intervention – Depression Prevention Program, family relations improvement program - is needed to lower the depression of the elderly.