

THE ASSESSMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH OF ELDERLY PEOPLE AND PREVIOUS RESIDENCE OF SPOUSES IN THE NURSING HOME

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Introduction: One of the effective factors on elderly mental health is previous residing of close relatives in nursing home, so this research was carried out on relationship between previous resident of spouses in nursing home and mental health.

Material and methods: A descriptive-Analytical study with aim-centered sampling was performed on 56 elderly people residing on Golabchi nursing house –Kashan-IRAN 2007. Including factors were; normal IQ and lack of serious mental disease and Alzheimer .The standard mental health Questionnaire (GHQ28) was used. Some other factors like demographic features, religious activities, previous resident of spouses in nursing home, previous agreement for staying at, satisfaction from living in nursing home, economic status and ... were assessed too. The descriptive statistics and χ^2 were used to analyze the data.

Results: Results showed %41.1 of samples was unhealthy mentally. There was no significant relationship between mental health and gender. Economic status of samples was; %60.8 undesired, %30.4 medium and %8.9 undesired. %3 of health elderly people had previous residing of spouses compared with %8.7 of unhealthy ones, in spite of this there was no statistical relationship between previous residing of spouses in nursing home and mental health.

Conclusion: Previous residing of closed relatives in nursing home does not make positive attitude about residing in nursing home. It's a must to raise compliance of elderly for new situation and also change the attitude of family for accepting the elderly.