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Increasing Elderly People in Need of Surgery Practice: A Sociological Appraisal

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Editorial

World population is in a transition in recent decades leading to aging people of both genders, but more of women. More elderly people worldwide much owes to the development of science and technology, research in medical field, development of surgical practice, development of the auxiliary science of social work especially in developed countries. Many factors in an integrated manner have contributed to more longevity and higher life expectancy. Sociology as a science of appraises the new phenomenon of the elderly and the factors responsible in this regard. In developed countries where social work intervenes, and gives warnings to the aging people, guide those in need, to clinics and hospitals, it is a great job to the elderly people. People at the age of 60 and over, are usually worn out needing hospitalization and surgeries. In the developed world, it easily happens so, and the surgery practice usually extends life span and further longevity. That is why in countries like Japan, life expectancy for women extended to 87 years for females in 2020 [1]. On the other hand, in many parts of the developing world where hospital facilities are poor, the elderly people are not insured and there is not enough social work facilities in practice, the elderly patients cannot easily receive the medications needed. That is why they do not have long lives as the industrial countries have. Yet, as the new generations of aging people being educated with higher expectations, they expect more medical facilities, better food, better housing, more income and so on. Under such atmosphere, governments must plan for higher standards of such facilities.

Older adults have symptoms of discomfort such as uncontrolled leakage of urine, blood sugar, appetite problems and so on, which need to be prevented and treated by medicines. If such

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distressing problems are treated, quality of life of the persons concerned will be improved. Geriatricians are highly related to the elderly people. Old age and surpassing life expectancy usually relate to those in need of surgery, change of organs and the like. Disability conditions generally emerge at the age of 65 and over, when people cannot do certain activities, or interact with the world around. That could be physical, mental, or a combination of multiple factors [2]. Surgery remains as a complex problem in low and middle-income countries. Rich industrial countries with high health insurance systems can easily supply their elders with their surgery needs, whereas in low-income countries with poor insurance systems, people have problems with their surgery needs [3]. Human rights advocates seriously defend the elderly people to be provided with surgery needs. Surgical care can be viewed as a positive right [4]. What the developing countries with increasing aging population need to do, is investing more on their hospital sector, and making other infrastructures in order to be able to provide the needy patients with proper and timely surgeries. Postoperative care is also a necessary point to stress. Patients after the post anesthesia need to be taken care of in the ward concerned, or when discharged home. Similarly, rehabilitation practice is highly recommended under the supervision of the associated surgeons. People who are frail and elderly have usually worse outcomes.

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