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Abstract

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Social Interdependence among Malay Older People in the Institutions: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

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Malaysia will become an ageing country by the year 2025. The development of the country, economic circumstances, advancement in health care, coupled with declining birth rate and longer life expectancy has changed social-fabric characteristics of the society. Many people have moved from the rural areas to the urban areas to seek a better lives, economic opportunities and higher standard of living. Thus many ageing parents find themselves living on their own in the villagers, with lack of social support, financial resources and deteriorating health conditions. Ageing parents in the urban areas are also affected because their children are busy pursuing career and their own family welfare, leaving their aged parents to fend for themselves or sent to old folk's homes. **Objective:** The aim of this study is to explore the social interdependence among Malay older people in the institutions. **Method:** This study identifies the social interdependency of the aged Malays staying in institutions via in-depth semi-structured interview methodology. The twenty elderlies from four *Rumah Seri Kenangan* (RSK) namely RSK Cheras, RSK Cheng, RSK Kemunin and RSK Bedong were interviewed and the results were analysed employing the six stages of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). **Results:** Results show that there are elements of social interdependency among Malay older people through (1) meaningful relationship among residents and people in the institution and (2) engagement in activities of occupation. **Conclusion:** An occupational therapist may consider facilitating the process of interdependency among the older people by promoting socialisation and enhancing the establishment of meaningful relationship.