

EP26.02

The perception of elderly Turkish migrants about the healthcare services in Denmark and Turkey

Suzan Yazici

Akdeniz University, Department of Gerontology, Antalya, Turkey

Corresponding author: Dr Suzan Yazici, Akdeniz University Faculty of Letters, Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey. E-mail: dottorsuzan@yahoo.com

Background & Aim: The labor migration from Turkey to Europe has started at 1960s and resulted in the formation of a significant Turkish population in Europe which has already reached old age. The need to use healthcare services increases with advanced age and the high frequency of chronic illness.

This research discusses the perceptions of older Turkish migrants living in Denmark about the health services in their home and host country. The health system and the migrant's sociocultural conditions have been discussed in accordance in order to identify the perceptions of the migrants about health services.

Method: Semi-structured questionnaires were performed on 27 people aged 50 and over using a phenomenological approach. Interview records were categorized into themes and subthemes and subsequently analysed by descriptive qualitative analysis.

Results: The results of the research revealed that healthcare service experiences are shaped by the structures of health services, by interpersonal relations besides sociocultural conditions of the respondents.

Conclusions: The structure of health systems, financial and political conditions shaping those structures are affecting the perceptions and the preference of services as well. Besides those factors, the advantages and disadvantages of the health systems in both countries pragmatically affect perceptions and practices. Revisions in health policies and structural interventions such as new bilateral agreements could be of help.