
ABSTRACT

A qualitative study on daughters' acceptance of caregiving for their elderly mothers

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A peculiar, intimate, and sometimes distorted mother-daughter relationship can affect the caregiving of daughters for their mothers. However, which aspects of the mother-daughter relationship affect caregiving experience and in what way is not clear. This study aimed to explore how daughters could accept roles of caregiving for their elderly mothers focusing on the variety and factors of the accepting process. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 daughters who were caring or had cared for their mothers at home. These were analyzed based on the grounded theory. Results revealed that four patterns of accepting the caregiving process were found: natural acceptance, resignation, detachment, and conflict. These processes were influenced by nine factors: a gap between mother-image and care-recipient, reversal of position, perception of caregiving as a usual role, accepting ageing and caregiving, focusing on residual functions, enjoying communication with mothers, having conventional mothers, weakened self-images, and positive feedback from mothers. In the light of these process patterns and factors, mental support should be provided to the caregivers to enable them to accept the caregiving role and relationship with the care-recipient.

Key Words: aging, family caregiving, mother-daughter relationship, caregiving relationship
