

Educational program for adults as support in health and social care for the elderly

Program edukacije odraslih kao podrška u brizi za zdravlje i socijalnu skrb starijih osoba

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Introduction and objective: Human lifespan has been extended which necessitates social and health system to create policies that ensure implementation of often long-term care. Long lasting care requires large allocations from public finances, whether for the purposes of formal care in institutions such as homes for the elderly and infirm or extra-institutional care in form of social assistance and home health care. There is also an informal care, usually family and unpaid. Regardless of the source, the primary task of the healthcare system is to provide help when the functional ability of the elder is impaired. As the share of the elderly population increases, so does the need to ensure enough people are participating in the care of the said population.

Objective: It is well known that all over the world most elderly people are taken care of by their family members, although the extent varies depending upon the situations. Taking care of elderly family members has many facets, happiness to burden. Care needs for the older adults are increasing not only in the families but also in the communities. There are many reasons for this. Old age population is increasing along with life expectancy.

The aim of this paper is to present a program that aims to increase the number of qualified personnel who will the help other professionals provide quality care at homes of the elderly or in homes for the elderly and infirm. One such program was developed in collaboration between University of Applied Health Studies and Teaching Institute for Public Health Dr. Andrija Štampar from Zagreb. The caregiver of an elderly person training program lasts 650 hours, of which the planned practical part of the program is 380 hours. The practical program would be conducted in health or social institution with which the Health Polytechnic has concluded a business contract cooperation.

Keywords: elderly, long-term care, adult education