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<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>The focus of this study was the changing division of responsibilities of organizing the care for the elderly between the three welfare pillars: families, government and the private sector. The study portrays a profile of the people who are currently providing care for their loved ones as well as those who are receiving assistance. People's views of the future sources of care and their own willingness and opportunities of providing the help are also analyzed. The empirical data consists of a survey that was carried out in August 2005. A questionnaire was sent to 5600 randomly selected adults who lived in Päijät-Häme. Less than half (37, 6 %) returned the questionnaire. The data was re-weighted so that the main demographic structure corresponded to the Päijät-Häme population.</p> <p>The gender and generational contracts were used as a reference point for the analysis. These contracts are being "renegotiated" and it is vital to listen to the opinions of the people who are expected to take a bigger responsibility for the care in the future. The study indicated that a clear majority of the respondents shared the view that people should care more for their loved ones. One fifth (21 %) of the respondents give help to someone. Around two thirds of the care providers were women. Care was provided mostly to their or their spouse's elderly parents but caring for somebody who is not a close relative (friends, neighbours) was also common. Among the care providers, there were 13 % employed sandwich-carers who took care of their under aged children as well as their parents. Care providing was most common with the people working in lower management. Only one out of ten men but one third of the women belonging to higher management provided care.</p> <p>The results revealed that respondents' willingness and opportunities varied according to their age, gender and professional position. Only 5 % of the citizens were willing to take full responsibility whereas 15 % thought that the responsibility belongs mainly to the government. Shared responsibility was clearly the most popular option. Men thought that the main responsibility should belong to the government twice as often as women and older people thought so twice as often as younger people. People still want to participate in care but they want to limit who they are willing to take care of, how they are willing to help and what kind of preconditions should there be that would enable them to do so. Respondents were mostly interested in caring for their partners or their spouses' parents. Caring was mostly seen as giving concrete help or social support.</p>		
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