

OP 17**Caregivers' Perception on Barriers and Facilitators for Provision of Care for Residents in Aged Care Homes in Galle District: A Qualitative Study**

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Background: There is an increase in the older population living in aged care homes in Sri Lanka with the recent trend in institutionalization. Caregivers play a vital role in care delivery for older people in aged care homes. Hence, identification of barriers and facilitators to provide care for residents would be useful. This will facilitate development of measures to improve the care for residents and sequentially to improve well-being of older people.

Objectives: To explore the caregivers' perception on barriers and facilitators for provision of care for residents in aged care homes in Galle district.

Methods: A Qualitative descriptive exploratory study was conducted in selected aged care homes in Galle district. Ten in-depth interviews were conducted with caregivers (n=10) until the saturation point was achieved. These sessions were conducted using a semi structured guide and each session ran for 60-90 minutes. All sessions were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. Thematic analysis approach was used to analyze data.

Results: Eight sub themes were emerged under two major themes which are barriers and facilitators. The themes emerged under the theme barriers were inadequate facilities, economical constraints, lack of willingness of the individuals to become a caregiver and, lack of in-service programmes for caregivers. The themes emerged under the domain of facilitators were religious believes towards donations, supportive leadership, continuous support from social service department and positive institutional values. Mainly they highlighted on inability to obtain proper medical treatment and lack of transport facilities as inadequate facilities.

Conclusions: Caregivers perceived several structural, personal, and institutional barriers that hindered the provision of care for residents in aged care homes. Continuing in-service programmes for caregivers should be implemented to change their personal attitudes.

Keywords: *Aged care homes, Barriers, Care, Caregivers, Facilitators*