

CRIMES THAT ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE EXPOSED TO AND SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE ON ELDERLY VICTIMIZATION

Yaşlıların Maruz Kaldığı Suçlar Ve Yaşlı Mağduriyetine Sosyal Hizmet Bakış Açısı

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ABSTRACT

The distinction between social, economic and geographical regions, as well as the elderly, will face physical, psychological, emotional and economic crimes and live victimization, such as women, children and disabled people. However, the names of the elderly are not mentioned in the face of the crime. When elderly people exposed to crimes elderly people are more exposed to physical, mental and material damage for that other age group. Because the need for protection of the elderly increases more, the relations with the environment decreases involuntary, the community does not directly participate in solidarity, the existing social, cultural and economic opportunities can not use enough.

After exposure to crime, the elderly people may recover later or recover partially physically and spiritually. In addition, elderly people often have little or fixed income and no difficulty in eliminating all kinds of damages. There are other reasons for the elderly people to fear and worry their crimes. First, the elderly are concerned that they will not be able to help the police adequately after the crime, that they will not be able to meet the expectations of the police and as a result the police will think that they are insufficient. Second, they are concerned that family members who learn the crime will also think that they are inadequate. Third, if they report the crime and the offender, they are concerned that the offender may take revenge. They also feel guilty for allowing their own victim.

Elderly individuals are exposed to crime, pickpocketing and fraud because they are more emotional, unable to act fast and their reflexes are weaker than young people. In the context of forensic social work, elderly victims are among the most important groups within the social work profession. In this study, the role of the social worker in the context of the elderly victims and forensic social work will be discussed.

Key Words: Elderly, Elderly Victim, Elderliness, Victimization, Social Work

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1. INTRODUCTION

According to Green and Roberts (2008), elderly victimization is a multidimensional issue including ethical, legal and clinical dilemmas and focusing on family, individual and social responsibilities. Elderly people are now more visible, more free and more active than the past. As the elderly population increases in proportion to the total population, what is done to them or gaps concerning what needs to be done for them come to light in time.

Brogden and Nijhar (2001), focused on two wrong stereotyped myths (non-scientific, wrong-based prejudice) regarding the victimization of the elderly people. The first one is the prejudice that the elderly people used to have better treatment opportunities before capitalist system; however, the elderly people had a difficulty in keeping up with the mobile and active life in the past and they were mostly deserted or left behind. The elderly people used to be killed because of being accused of being witch in the 17th century in Europe and the North America or with a ritual understanding (religious ritual) by their young relatives. Unfortunately, these traditional practices were not exclusive to these continents in the seventeenth century. The second myth is that societies apart from those in the capitalist West are in a better position concerning respect and care for the elderly people than the Western industrial countries; however, no significant differences were found in the studies conducted concerning the approach to care for the elderly, neglect and abuse of the elderly people between the developed western countries and developing countries (Crimmins, Preston and Cohen, 2010).

2. VICTIMOLOGY AND IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN PRACTICE

In today's different justice and punishment theories perspective, there is a transition from punishing paradigm to constructive-restorative justice understanding. Restorative justice is a justice theory which emphasizes that damages resulting from a crime are compensated by considering the needs of the victims of crimes and by involving the society, and the damaged sense of justice needs to be solved among the victim, offender and society (Angel, 2005). Restorative justice understanding aims to provide help to offenders and make them be treated so that they do not commit another crime in the future by focusing on both victim's and offender's own individual needs and by encouraging them to take responsibilities for their own acts. In addition, it helps victims of crimes play an active role in this process (Farmer, 2002). The main purpose of the restorative justice is to foresee that satisfaction of a victim of crime and responsibility of an offender are kept at the highest level and the dialogue between the victim and offender is at maximum level (Sherman and Strang, 2003).

"Desire to be protected from diseases, poverty and to live in better conditions" of the victims of crimes is in parallel with the social solidarity policies of countries (Mawby and Walklate, 1994). In 1950s, these social responsibility principles have foreseen that it is a duty to compensate the victimization of the victims of crimes in proportion to damage that they have suffered and to pay compensation by the state/offender in line with the collective responsibility and social security principles (Dignan, 2005).

3. ELDERLY VICTIM-NATURE, SCOPE AND IMPACT OF THE ELDERLY VICTIMIZATION

In the No Secrets Report of 2000 of England Department of Health, types of elderly victimization are specified. According to this report, types of victimization that elderly people are exposed to are categorized under six main topics, i.e., (1) physical abuse (hitting, slapping, kicking, misuse of medication); (2) sexual abuse (rape, sexual assault and the other sexual acts); (3) psychological abuse (emotional abuse, threat, excessive accusation and verbal abuse); (4) financial abuse (theft, fraud, misuse or misappropriation of property); (5) neglect and act of omission (ignoring, poor care and/or service, malnourishment, social indifference), and (6) discriminatory abuse (verbal abuse, calumny or similar treatment) (England Department of Health, 2000).

In our society, although the elderly people are exposed to ill-treatment (abuse, neglect) by adults like children, victimization of the elderly people is not in sight in the society and justice system. Unfortunately, social sensitivity and public concern regarding the protection of children's rights are not at equal level against the victimization of the elderly people and there is a great discrimination against the elderly people on this matter. Discrimination is observed when the elderly people are treated unsympathetically and they are even disregarded in the society from time to time. Positive discrimination that is expected towards the

elderly people could not find a place in the society like “positive discrimination” towards women and people with disabilities (Muş and Ekici, 2009). Negative dimensions of the discrimination against the elderly people in the society are attitudes and behaviours which reveal prejudices against the old-aged individuals. In most of the societies, changes resulting from elderliness and aging are generally accepted negatively. Elderliness is seen in all aspects of life, productivity, sufficiency, individualism and independence as a diminishing process (Dillon, 1992).

There are some problems stemming from the definition of elderly victimization. Differences are observed in some societies concerning perception and definition of elderly victimization. According to the studies conducted in Japan, it was observed that general awareness of the society on elderly victimization was low (Arai, 2006). According to a research carried out on 2100 people, 2,6% of every 100 elderly people is neglected and abused by their families, friends and nursery staff. Neglect is the most common victimization among the elderly people; furthermore, financial, psychological, physical and sexual abuse incidents are also found. Victimization is generally (51%) caused by victims’ friends-spouses or nursery staff (13%). It was determined that women suffered from victimization more than men (Manthorpe et al., 2007). Victimization rate of the elderly people varies in different studies and different countries. According to the results of a survey that Puchkov (2006) conducted among 2881 women over 60 years old between 2004-2006, they stated that 29% of women were victims.

Although various studies have shown that elderly victimization happens at home, neglect and abuse at private nurseries are not at low level. Thus, Goergen (2004) suggested in the survey that he conducted face-to-face with nurses working at nurseries in Hesse in Germany that psychological, verbal victimization and neglect were more commonly committed than the official statistics. In their study, Yılmaz and Terzioğlu (2010) discuss that negative attitude of the society towards the elderly individuals and elderliness also affects the healthcare services provided for the elderly people, and changing negative prejudices of nurses towards elderliness may play a critical role in eliminating discrimination against the elderly people.

Besides, the elderly people need to be sufficiently informed so that their fear of being exposed to a crime, which is observed intensely, can be decreased. Dolu, Uludağ and Doğutaş (2010) state that even though fear of being exposed to a crime increases in parallel with the increase of crime rates, it does not decrease with the decrease of crime rates. Victimization concern of the individuals increases in direct proportion to modernization of societies. Fear of being a victim destroys trust between individuals and limits daily life. Thus, people build fewer social relations due to concern of being a victim and participate in the social life less; society becomes crowds living alone and modern cities with high population are sentenced to loneliness (Bahar, 2009).

The elderly people will be mostly affected by this loneliness in the society naturally. According to TurkStat data, urbanization rate which was around 25-30 per cent in 1930s (30%- Urban Areas, 70%- Rural Areas) reached to more than 90 percent (92,5%- Urban Areas, 7,5%- Rural Areas) according to 2017 data. A considerable amount of rural population migrated to urban areas to access to better life conditions, regular job and income. It is possible to observe the negative results of this unplanned migration in the other elements that would give a deep shock to the society such as unemployment, education, justice and high crime rates (Köroğlu and Köroğlu, 2015).

While the elderly population (65 years old and over) was 5 million 891 thousand 694 people in 2013, it has increased by 17% in the last five years and reached to 6 million 895 thousand 385 people. Whereas the rate of the elderly population in the total population was 7,7% in 2013, it increased to 8,5% in 2017. 44% of the elderly population was men and 56% was women. Considering that 65 years old and over population which was 8,5 in 2017 in Turkey will reach to 17,6 per cent by 2050, policy requirements concerning aging will be better understood (TurkStat, 2017). In order to compare this rate to the other countries, for example, 65 years old and over population in the USA was 13 per cent in 2000 and it is planned that it will reach to 20 per cent by 2030. As can be seen, elderly population will rapidly increase in Turkey in the upcoming years and given that age average will also increase, it is certain that elderliness and elderly victimization will be one the main social problems in the next years.

According to TurkStat data, while the number of people over 65 years old who deceased as a result of murder and assault was 881 in total (703 men, 178 women) in 2009, this number reached to 1294 in total (1053 men, 241 women) in 2017. Again considering TurkStat data, the number of people 60 years old and over who lost their lives as a result of firearm injuries was 63 and the number of those who lost their lives

as a result of homicide was 31 in 2017. When justice statistics are examined, the number of victims of crimes according to gender in 2017 was 66,4% men and 33,6% women. All types of crimes and age ranges are included in these statistics; therefore, the rate of elderly victims is not known.

4. CRIMES THAT ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE EXPOSED TO

Elderly individuals are target of criminals committing a theft through snatching, manticulation and fraud as elderly people are more emotional, cannot move quickly and their reflexes are weaker than the young people. These criminals especially follow the elderly people after they get their salaries and commit one of the following types of crimes after identifying the most suitable one. The following types of crimes are generally committed by strangers who are not acquainted with the elderly citizens. Domestic crimes or crimes committed by acquaintances are mostly physical violence, coercion, extortion, passage of title and rarely homicide and sexual abuse (Tufan, 2011).

It is stated that every year 2 million American citizens are exposed to physical, psychological or the other types of abuses or neglect. It is pointed out that 60% of the crimes against the elderly people in the USA (2004-2008) is neglect and 15,0% of them is abuse. It is reported that every year one out of every 25 Canadians suffers from abuse or neglect, 40,0% of the cases mostly consists of economic abuse which is the most common type of abuse, 38,0% of them consists of emotional abuse seen as humiliation, harassment and social discrimination and 23,0% of them consists of physical abuse (Lixia, Carson and O'Keefe, 2017).

4.1. Elderly Abuse Statistics in the World

Snatching, manticulation, fraud, burglary, robbery, theft in disguise of electricity or natural gas officer are generally crimes committed by strangers against the elderly citizens. Domestic crimes or crimes committed by acquaintances are mostly physical violence, coercion, extortion, passage of title and rarely homicide and sexual abuse (Lixia, Carson and O'Keefe, 2017).

Table 1: Elderly Abuse Statistics in the World

	Canada 2015	Ireland 2010	England 2006	Portugal 2012	USA 2008	Spain 2006	USA 2005-06	Israel 2004-05	USA 2008
Neglect	1.2%	0.3%	1.1%	0.4%	5.1%	0.3%	-	-	1.8%
Psychological	2.7%	1.2%	0.4%	6.3%	4.6%	0.3%	9%	-	1.2%
Physical	2.2%	0.5%	0.4%	2.3%	1.6%	0.2%	0.2%	-	2.2%
Financial	2.6%	1.3%	0.7%	6.3%	5.2%	0.2%	3.5%	-	4.2%
Sexual	1.6%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.6%	0.1%	-	-	-
At least one of them	8.2%	2.2%	2.6%	12.3%	10.0%	0.8%	-	18.4%	7.6%

4.2. Snatching

It is "seizure and stealing" of wallets, bags, envelopes or any kind of belonging including money or valuables that the elderly people carry in their hands (Samsun Directorate of Security, 2012). As the elderly people cannot catch these criminals by running after them, they are exposed to this kind of robbery frequently (Whitrod, 1981).

4.3. Manticulation

Stealing a wallet, valuables and money through different procedures and methods from a person, his/her pocket, bag that he/she carries without their knowledge and consent is called as a theft through manticulation in general terms. The type of crime that the elderly people are mostly exposed to by strangers is manticulation. The most common types of manticulation that the elderly people are exposed to are thefts by means of vexing, beslobber, mouth off and blatancy (Walker, 1991).

The other types of manticulation that the elderly people suffer from are as follows though they are not as common as the abovementioned types:

- ✓ Theft with debit cards: Theft committed through ensuring that debit cards stay inside by placing various objects in ATM booths and through learning password of a debit card from card holder;
- ✓ Theft by means of cogency: Incidents where individuals are convinced in various ways and their money or valuables are seized;

- ✓ Theft by means of vexing: Stealing belongings of citizens like jacket etc. that they rack in order to perform ablution;
- ✓ Theft by means of beslobber: Pickpockets who smudge staining agents on themselves that they prepare in advance steal “money or similar belongings under cover of cleaning by saying that there is dirt on them” to victims. This type of theft is called in the police literature as “theft by means of beslobber”;
- ✓ Theft by means of mouth off: Theft committed against those who would like to break up the fight through giving the impression that they argue among themselves;
- ✓ Theft by means of blatancy: It is a type of manticulation committed by hugging victims as if they knew them and stealing from their pockets;
- ✓ Theft by means of fooling to do charity work: Getting money from the other people through showing a certain amount of money inside an envelope by claiming that they are going to do charity work (Turkish National Police of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey, 2020).

4.4. Fraud

It is an incident of seizing property, valuables or money through abusing the goodwill after building a direct relation with a person. Fraud crime is generally committed by those who have criminal record of these crimes. The main fraud types that the elderly people are exposed to are those which are committed through communication means of the criminals (generally phone) or through showing themselves as “holders of different offices and positions” directly (defrauders show themselves as prosecutors, police officers, bank employees, finance officers, judges, municipality officers etc. and fraud citizens). Another type of fraud is fraud by means of “cogency” (defrauders chat up and convince citizens and seize their money or valuables in terms of cash in different ways). Another type of fraud that the elderly people are exposed to is to convince them with lies such as “you have won a gift; however, in order to get your gift, you have to send a certain amount of money” and seize their money (Costa, 1986).

4.5. Burglary

Elderly people are frequently exposed to burglary, too. There are two reasons of that. Firstly, many elderly people in Turkey keep their money in their beds, pillows or kitchenware. Many elderly people do not have safe deposits and they do not leave their money at bank due to different reasons. Burglars who know this tendency of the elderly people break in their homes in available times of a day and easily find money that they want. The second reason is that there is no “protector” for the criminals from motives which is stated in the approach also known as “routine activity theory” in the criminology (see the section on victimization theories for further information) (Cohen and Felson, 2003). In other words, burglars breaking into the elderly people’s homes are not afraid of encountering the house owners because resistance possibility of an elderly person to these criminals is quite low. Therefore, the elderly people can be target for thieves.

4.6. Theft in Disguise of Electricity or Natural Gas Officer

The fact that thieves break in the elderly people’s houses by introducing themselves as officers of different institutions and distracting their attention is not a tactic that is only used in Turkey but it is also used in the other countries. Thieves harm the elderly people by using this method and breaking in their home, and the elderly people should be careful about this matter (Doherty, 1991).

4.7. Extortion and Homicide

Some criminals think that the elderly people do not need money or they have lived in this world enough as well as they are easy targets, and target them and extort their money and belongings. What is worse is that some criminals may murder the elderly people due to the same reasons (Clarke, 1990).

5. CRITICAL NEEDS OF ELDERLY VICTIMS OF CRIMES

It is possible to classify physical, psychological and social needs of victims of crimes under seven main categories:

- ✓ Security: Protection and assistance for protection so that they are not exposed to victimization and abuse again.

- ✓ Support: Providing support in order to compensate pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages that they suffer during the criminal justice system procedures.
- ✓ Information: Providing relevant, necessary and useful information to victims about their rights, criminal justice system procedures and victims' services.
- ✓ Access: Ensuring their active participation in justice system procedures and making services available to support victims.
- ✓ Continuity: Managing interinstitutional approaches and methods consistently and making services continuous during the all stages of criminal justice procedures.
- ✓ Participation: Ensuring their active participation in the process and ensuring participation of the general public by developing policy recommendations.
- ✓ Justice: Arresting those who are responsible for crimes that victims are exposed to and ensuring that they serve right (McCallum, Matiasz and Graycar, 1990).

6. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT ELDERLY VICTIMIZATION

As mentioned above, it is necessary to improve quality of life of the rapidly increasing elderly population in our country, ensure their social integration and solve their struggle to earn a living and their health problems. In this section, two types of recommendations will be proposed. Firstly, the recommendations are measures that can be taken to prevent crimes before they are committed. Secondly, the recommendations will be about how to interview with the elderly victims and how to treat them after crimes are committed.

6.1. Preventive Measures

Law enforcement forces have duties including proactive and preventive measures before the necessary measures to be taken by the citizens. Law enforcement forces must carry out crime analysis and preventive and proactive methods should be developed to catch the criminals through identifying where, when and how the elderly people are victimized. For example, if it is observed that there is an increase in snatching, manticulation or the other theft incidents against the elderly people on their pay days or in the following days, law enforcement forces should analyse them carefully and take necessary measures (such as placing undercover police officer in front of banks, spying the elderly people's houses and trying to reveal their stalkers or having intimidating patrol etc.) (Duncan, 1981).

Another important proactive method that law enforcement forces will use is to follow ex-convict criminals targeting the elderly people without harming their constitutional rights. It is highly important to follow these people because according to worldwide truth, most of the crimes are committed by the same people (Moffitt, 2003). Another important police measure is that the police provide crime intelligence. The police should have name-surname, address and phone numbers of the elderly people residing in the police area (especially Public Security Branch Offices which are responsible for preventing-searching-inquiring this type of crimes should have this information) and the police should collect intelligence about crimes that can be committed against these people. When it comes to intelligence, Intelligence Offices come to mind; however, this belief is wrong. Each unit should collect intelligence about crimes that they are responsible for. Public Security Branch Offices can collect this intelligence from the elderly people, those who are among the criminals and provide information to the police and those who follow the incidents around them closely (Anderson and Thobaben, 1984).

Apart from the police measures, there are measures that can be taken by the elderly people. Law enforcement forces sometimes publish these measures through brochures or SMS-internet. However, the thing that needs to be taken into consideration here is whether this information is received by the elderly people or not. For example, use of internet or SMS sent to mobile phones would be ineffective to inform the elderly people because the use of internet and mobile phones is limited for this age group or they do not use them at all. Therefore, the most effective way to reach the target group should be determined (Goldsmith, 1976).

Law enforcement forces should develop more effective measures depending on the conditions of their areas and regions or they should not implement measures that they believe that they would not be effective and they should not spend time, money and effort.

7. MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST FRAUD AND MANTICULATION

- ✓ Elderly people should not keep a lot of money in their wallets. If they have a lot of money with them, they should not show up this money in a way that the other people can see. If they need to carry a large amount of money, they should carry the money in small pieces safely and they should be careful about strangers who approach them with excuses such as asking for a direction, changing money etc.
- ✓ They should be careful when they are pushed by the other people while getting on the buses and dolmuş, in market places and crowded places such as football games and they should check their pockets and wallets.
- ✓ Capital of defrauders is their mouth. Elderly people should not let anyone exploit their naivety and take their money or belongings with tricks and cheats, make them sign contracts or bills.
- ✓ They should not walk on curb sides in order not to be exposed to snatching by car (Sherman and Strang, 2007).
- ✓ They should not leave money, wallet etc. in the pockets of their jackets, coats while performing ablution or prayer at mosques and shadirvans. They should be sensitive about beggars, peddlers and hawkers coming to their houses. If they are alone at home, they should not let them in.
- ✓ They should stay away from those who approach them by fighting and ask for help from them while walking on the street. If those people persistently come at them, they should protect their wallets and should not get distracted.
- ✓ They should not believe defrauders who tell that their relative has died and would do charity work, and ask for money by saying that the same amount of money that they would distribute should be said.
- ✓ They should not believe those who say that they do not recognize Turkish lira and want to see Turkish lira by pretending that they are tourists and they are family with their wives and children in luxury cars rented.
- ✓ Thieves may steal some money while they are looking at money or calculating money (theft by means of sleight).
- ✓ They should not tell and show anyone their passwords while they are transacting at ATMs.
- ✓ When they want to transact at ATMS, they should not accept strangers' offer of help (Siegel and Larry, 2011).

8. WAYS OF BEHAVIOUR OF THE POLICE TOWARDS THE ELDERLY PEOPLE AFTER CRIMES

Measures that should be taken by the police and the elderly people are sorted above so that the elderly people are not exposed to crimes. However, none of these measures can definitely prevent crimes to be committed against the elderly people. Thus, it is essential to know how to treat the elderly people exposed to crimes in order not to exacerbate their victimization and to help them sensitively. Guidelines for behaviours towards the elderly people published by the Office for Victims of Crimes in the USA is an important resource in this regard.

“When exposed to crimes, the elderly people are generally exposed to more physical, mental and material damages than the other age groups because they recover physically and mentally later or they can only recover partially after they suffer from crimes. In addition, as income of the elderly people is low or fixed, they have a problem in eliminating any kind of damage of crimes”. In addition to the aforementioned reasons, there are other reasons causing the elderly people to fear from crimes and concern about crimes. First of all, the elderly people are concerned that they cannot be helpful for the police enough after crimes, they cannot meet the expectations of the police and thus the police would think that they are not sufficient (Henderson, 1975).

Furthermore, they are concerned that family members who are aware of the crime would think that they are not sufficient. Thirdly, they are concerned that the criminal may take revenge if they report the crime and criminal. Lastly, they feel guilty as they let themselves be victims”. Therefore, “the police, as the first persons responding the crime, may ensure that the elderly people trust themselves and continue respecting

themselves". In order to ensure them, the following points should be taken into consideration (Kosberg, 1988).

- ✓ The police should be aware towards if the elderly people are tired or not or they feel good or not.
- ✓ Before starting the interview, the elderly people should be provided an opportunity to clear their heads.
- ✓ Victims should be asked if they have difficulty in understanding or not.
- ✓ It should be considered that the elderly people may have hard of hearing and seeing.
- ✓ The elderly people should be asked if they want to call their family or friends.
- ✓ It should be taken into consideration whether there is domestic violence or neglect (Researches show that 10% of the elderly people are exposed to ill-treatment by their relatives) (Walker, 1992).
- ✓ Victims should be given time to hear and understand the interviewer.
- ✓ Questions should be asked one by one and victims should be given time before proceeding to the next question and they should not be interrupted.
- ✓ Unnecessary pressure and rush should be avoided, interviewers should be patient.
- ✓ They should give breaks frequently and the elderly people should be allowed to meet their needs.
- ✓ If a decision is going to be taken in their presence, the elderly people should be involved in decision-making process and their prestige should be maintained.
- ✓ Those who have hard of hearing should be taken in a quiet place, interviewers should sit in a way that the elderly people can directly see their faces and mouths and directly hear them. However, they should not be too close, interviewers should not talk loudly, they should speak slower and more clear than normal, questions should be clear, short and to the point.
- ✓ Interviewers should be ready to repeat questions, they should paraphrase questions and wishes in case that the elderly people do not understand.
- ✓ It should be remembered that the elderly people remember incidents slowly; therefore, "they should not be forced to remember every detail and they should be told that if they happen to remember anything, they should contact later". Briefly, "in all conversations and comments with the elderly people, their families and all the civil servants working in this process should focus on that the elderly people have self-confidence and maintain respect for themselves" (Office for Victims of Crimes, 2017).

9. CONCLUSION

Within the context of judicial social work, the elderly people are one of the important groups included in the working area of social workers. Focusing on social work profession and social workers in the services provided for the elderly people in the judicial system is of great importance to ensure that services provided achieve their purposes. It is necessary to provide services with judicial social work discipline in terms of crimes that the elderly people are exposed to.

The fact that public institutions in Turkey such as Turkish Statistical Institute, Ministry of Justice and Council of Forensic Medicine do not have data concerning abuse and neglect of the elderly people on their websites is an important obstacle in determining the extent of the issue. Therefore, findings of the cross-sectional publications carried out have been useful to provide data concerning the abuse and neglect of the elderly people for this study. According to the findings of publications showing the level of abuse of the elderly people, it is seen that the problem of elderly abuse and neglect is increasing. As the studies that can reveal the problem of elderly abuse and neglect increase, it will be probably addressed as one of the important problem areas of the society in the near future. A similar situation is observed in the injury and decease of the elderly people. A considerable number of the elderly people are injured and deceased due to trauma. Injury and decease of the elderly people show that they are not provided with necessary support both in social relations and in terms of institutionally, and especially report mechanism does not function sufficiently and they are chosen as victims of crimes.

It has been identified that perception/opinions concerning elderly abuse and neglect show difference in society in time, elderly people are chosen as victims for some crimes on purpose, and sensitivity towards the elderly victims in judicial proceedings should be raised.

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