

VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ELDERLY – SOCIALLY AND SCIENTIFICALLY NEGLECTED FIELD

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Summary: A characteristic of contemporary world is that the percentage of people older than 65 years is increasing in overall population. Changed social structure, as a consequence of ageing of population creates variety of problems that influence status and position of old people in society. Study of violence against the elderly is very rare subject of researches in the world, and especially rare in our science community and as a consequence there is not much data on psychological, physical, financial, sexual violence and neglect of people in the third life period. Although study of violence against the elderly is a complex scientific-methodological problem, without the data from these studies there is no answer to problems of old people abuse. Having in mind that this area of research is neglected, the starting point in clarification and learning on suffering in old age should be high degree of definition and operationalization of concept of violence against the elderly and priority should be given, along with quantitative methods, to mild interrogation through non-standardized or deep interview. The problem of violence against the elderly should be approached multidisciplinary so that the answers to questions on incidence, causes, forms, perpetrators, victims and consequences in unstable social and family environment would see the light of day.