

A Survey on the Preparation of Mind and Knowledge in the Process of Toward the End of Life

Primary researcher: Nozomi Okamoto, Professor,
Department of Human Development Education, Hyogo University of Teacher Education

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to conduct a self-administered questionnaire survey of independent elderly persons, asking them whether they ever think or imagine their own death, and to examine the factors related to this question. Questionnaires were collected from 634 independent elderly persons aged 70 or older. For both men and women, there was no significant association between "whether or not they ever think or imagine their own death" and coherent sense SOC scores. For both men and women, there was a significant association with having heard about caregiving experiences from those close to them, having heard about experiences or problems with inheritance from those close to them, talking about inheritance as a gift to one's own children, and talking about graves with one's own children. In the group of women who have thought about or imagined their own death, the proportion of those who felt a sense of purpose in life was significantly lower, and the proportion of those who felt they did not belong and the proportion of those who felt lonely (all three UCLA Loneliness Scale items) were significantly higher, indicating a gender difference.