

# **Caregiving by different generations to persons with severe motor and intellectual disabilities living at home, as observed by visiting nurses**

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## **Background**

In Japan, as parents caring at home for children with severe motor and intellectual disabilities become older, issues have arisen that make it difficult to use social service resources and to continue care within the family.

## **Aim of the study**

To understand the current situation as perceived by visiting nurses who have experience in visiting nursing care for persons with severe motor and intellectual disabilities.

## **Methods**

Semi-structured individual interviews by Zoom of four visiting nurses.

## **Results**

In Japan, family caregiving has involved family members becoming caregivers to take care of their own child, but as the caregivers age, physical and mental illnesses become more common. In some cases, older caregivers were confused about utilizing social resources that they had never used before. On the other hand, young mothers did not hesitate to utilize resources for their children, and showed a positive attitude toward seeking social connections.

## **Conclusions and implications**

A few decades ago in Japan, social resources for children with disabilities to receive medical care at home were limited, and it was common for them to be cared for within the family. This may have resulted in a situation where people became concerned about caring for each other and did not easily make use of social resources. On the other hand, mothers of today's younger generation use various tools for information exchange and take a positive attitude toward the experience of caring for their own children.