

“Sandwich Generation” Women: Balancing Multiple Family Responsibilities in Multicultural Australia

Author/s: Feldman, Susan | **Year:** 2006 | **Publication type:** Conference proceedings | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** Informal Care

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Key Words:

Jewish, informal care, family, cultural norms, females, sandwich generation

Research aim:

The aim of the study was threefold: 1. To gain knowledge about the multiple responsibilities of an under researched group of Australian Jewish women. 2. To develop a research framework for other multicultural communities about family ties & the multiple responsibilities of "women in the middle" & 3. To develop policies & practices that take into account the needs of this group of women.

Results/Conclusion:

The results of the study indicate that these 'sandwich' or middle generation women have a multiplicity of family responsibilities that impact their health & wellbeing, financial & social circumstances. A major finding indicated that there was significant stress associated with the responsibility of caring & supporting multiple generations. Being Jewish brought an extra dimension to the women's sense of responsibility & ties with older family members who were Holocaust survivors. The study revealed that the participants wanted to protect their parents from any further physical or emotional pain that growing old might involve as they had suffered enough. The study also found that the women regarded it as natural that the family should be responsible for its older members, & that this support was entrenched in their personal values.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Jewish

Location of study:

Age group:

40-69

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Jewish women

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: