

3. Género e condições de vida

OC - (23188) - A KALEIDOSCOPIIC ARRANGEMENT: NEGOTIATING BOUNDARIES IN PAID HOME-BASED ELDERLY CARE IN TURKEY

Gizem Irmak Sel (Germany)¹

1 - Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (University of Bremen & Constructor University)

Turkey, known for its reliance on a family-centric caregiving model, has faced a shift in its traditional care expectations and customs due to socio-demographic changes and the transformation of intergenerational relationships. A noteworthy trend has emerged in parallel with these changes: the increasing employment of migrant care workers (MCWs) in elderly care. Drawing from 39 in-depth interviews with family-employers, care receivers, and MCWs, in this study, I illuminate how actors negotiate the daily practices and personal relationships of care labor and address emerging incompatibilities and struggles. I explore the daily practices of care labour by concentrating on gender, social class, and socio-cultural boundaries. Although, in Turkey, paid home-based elderly care is not usually regulated, it is not also a chaotic arrangement without its principles. In this sense, it has its boundaries- certainly an exploitative one, as in all kinds of labour relationships in capitalist systems, 'mutually agreed' or 'unwillingly' accepted ones. On the other hand, this kind of arrangement is based on the complex intersection of boundaries of 'personal relationships', 'culture', and 'class' and shows us how power dynamics function in this field. The labour relationships are negotiated and experienced along with these themes. Different ways of negotiation are not fixed and stable; at different moments of the arrangement, on various issues, actors adopt different negotiation practices to maintain the relationship. Boundaries of the relationship and actors' bargaining power are not intact; hierarchical positioning can fluctuate from subject to subject and from time to time. In this sense, home-based elderly care is a kaleidoscopic arrangement. Kaleidoscope as a concept reflects the arrangement's hybrid, permeable, and motion characteristics. There is no perfect relationship; actors find ways to handle the arrangement, which has slippery ground and is delicate. I conclude with different ways of negotiation by relating them to these intricate patterns.

Palavras-chave : Migrant Care Labour, Home-Based Elderly Care, Socio-Cultural Boundaries, Negotiation Practices, Bargaining Power, Hierarchical Positioning