

Being Elderly in Tillo: Space, Social Relations, and Aging Processes

Figen Kanbir |  0000-0003-2094-399X |  f.kanbir@siirt.edu.tr

Siirt University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology, Siirt, Türkiye

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Abstract

Place of residence, social structure, and personal characteristics are among the important parameters that explain aging as an advantage or a disadvantage. At both the macro and micro levels, the characteristics stemming from belonging to a particular place and aging there are variables that add meaning to an individual's experience of old age. Tillo, a small district near and administratively connected to Siirt, possesses traditional cultural characteristics. This situation makes it possible to understand the continuity of life. In this study, semi-structured interviews, one of the qualitative research techniques, were conducted with 14 participants (2 men and 12 women) aged 65 and over residing in Tillo in order to understand what aging and old age mean. The results of the study show that intergenerational solidarity networks constitute a common pattern in the district. When this is insufficient for both women and men, elderly individuals receive financial and emotional support from their immediate social environment (consisting of relatives and neighbors). However, a closer look at life stories has revealed that old age displays differences in terms of gender. It was concluded that women have a more disadvantaged life due to their lack of access to education and employment opportunities throughout their lives.

Keywords

Old Age, Aging, Rural Area, Space, Everyday Life

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