The Target for Change

In this problem of dementia there are a lot of different aspects to consider when trying to creating programs and policies that can be beneficial to the people involved. There are some dementia diseases that only hinder the elderly person’s short term memories while other aspects of this disease can lead to total non recognition of family members. Community members have to figure out a way to accommodate the disease rate of dementia with people who are independent because they are the most vulnerable with the least amount of services available to them. The amount of elderly people living independent with undocumented mental illnesses is growing each year, which makes it difficult for policy makers to create institutions or programs to help them. I believe that in this case there is not enough being done on the governments end to ensure that there is more recognition of the different type of dementia illnesses and how each affects the elderly person’s mental as well as physical ability.

I believe laws, procedures, key governmental officials, and social welfare agencies have to increase their overall attention and effort on the issue of dementia. I believe if more people knew about the different types of dementia they would be better suited to make decisions about the care of the infected elder. I believe that government officials are not putting forth the best effort to educate the public about the severity of each dementia- related disease and what specific functions are deteriorating within the disease. If more people knew the extent in which their loved one is suffering from the mental illness the better equipped they are to take care of them professionally or in the home setting. I believe that the social welfare agencies do not do enough for those individuals who don’t have strong family ties who live with the disease. Also the social welfare agencies should advocate more for those older adults who suffer from this disease but still wish to remain independent. Social agencies simply do the bare minimum in regards to scheduling mental checkups for older individuals leading to so many dementia cases going undocumented and untreated. In the law aspect of the problem I think that more laws could be put in place to ensure the safety of elderly people who don’t have the luxury of having family members take care of them in the home.

A specific policy objective in which I believe would change this growing epidemic would be to provide homecare training programs to more Americans that would be little or no cost. Also, I believe that government officials also should fund more public information about this specific disease and where to get help. I think with this policy more people would be drawn to help the dementia patients who are living with dementia have some clarity on what symptoms accompany each specific type of illness. This policy would promote community members to care about the elderly people and become more involved with their care. It would be both informational experience as well as a social involvement with our elderly population unlike ever before.

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