The Elderly's Abuse and Its Relationship to Social Competence

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Abstract:

This study aimed to determine the relationship between elderly abuse and social competence. The study was applied to a group of elderly people residing in institutions for the elderly in Giza and Cairo governorates, meeting the conditions of the study. The participants were 279 elderly people. The statistical results showed that there was no statistically significant inverse relationship between the elderly's perception of abuse and their social competence. The findings also suggested potential indicators for the role of the social worker who works with elderly cases to improve their social competence.

Keywords: Elderly's, abuse, social competence.

Introduction:

Old age is a period marked by a decrease in productivity, ability and independence in all areas of life. Society's attitudes toward elderly individuals and ageing are rife with prejudice and stereotypes. Ageism includes beliefs (such as elderly people being considered ugly, contrary, ill, etc.) and attitudes (preferring young people and youth over old age) that can be turned into behaviors. When data about ageism are evaluated, positive and negative attitudes are considered together. Among the negative attitudes associated with ageism are elements such as illness, impotence, ugliness, retardation in mental functions, mental illness, worthlessness, isolation, poverty and depression. On the other hand, positive attitudes include compassion, knowledge, reliability, intelligence, political power, freedom, and happiness (Vefikulucay & Terzioglu, 2011, pp. 259-68).

The number of the elderly is increasing as a result of medical progress. According to 2022 statistics, the number of elderly in the Arab Republic of Egypt for the years 2021 and 2022, for ages from 60 to more than 75, has seen an increase (Central Agency for Mobilization and Statistics, 2022). The elderly go through a stage characterized by physiological, psychological, social and mental changes. Physiological changes include physical weakness, weakened muscles, and nerves. In this stage, the elderly often require help with their daily needs, experiencing psychological pressure due to a sense of weakness and their need for help (Abu Maati, 2009, p. 173).

Older adults are particularly venerable to loneliness, which can lead to elderly abuse. The feeling of loneliness may increase dependency and vulnerability, heightening the risk of elderly abuse. In addition, loneliness is very likely associated with social isolation and a

lack of social support, placing these older adults in potentially abusive situations (XinQi, 2019, p.98).

In a study by Maghawry (2008), it was found out that the elderly often feel isolated and lonely. Therefore, work must be done to get the elderly out of their isolation by multiplying social activities, such as trips and family visits, and organizing multiple and varied counseling programs for the elderly. These efforts aim to satisfy their psychological and social needs, alleviate the feeling of psychological and life pressures, address social problems, and provide them with social skills to help them cope.

Older people are vulnerable to abuse as well as to crime. Inadequate social support is associated not only with an increase in mortality, injury and psychological distress but also with a decline in public health and well-being. Older people are also more likely to lose family members and friends. In most societies, men are less likely than women to receive social support (General Administration of Health Centers and Programs Affairs, 2014, pp. 101-102)

This is confirmed by a study by Sarafaraz & Rehman (2015) that the elderly suffer from difficult economic and social conditions and face many mental health challenges, feeling depressed and stagnant in their relationships with others.

Elderly abuse is a global problem that affects the health and human rights of millions of elderly people worldwide. It is mentioned that about 1 out of 6 elderly people experienced any form of abuse in the last year. Therefore, it is a problem that requires attention 1-3. This is because it is associated with health consequences and enormous social and economic costs (Carmen et al, 2019, p.79).

The WHO further elaborates that elder abuse can manifest as physical, psychological or emotional, sexual, and financial abuses, and can also lead to intentional or unintentional neglect. Negligence can actually lead to isolation, abandonment، and social exclusion, underscoring the importance of the issue, as highlighted by the United Nations in 2002 (p.65).

This is what a study by Singh and Malik (2019) showed: that the elderly are exposed to physical, verbal and material abuse and neglect of personal needs. Furthermore, the most painful thing for the elderly, especially those with high mental abilities or life experiences, is being placed in social institutions for care. If the reasons for their placement in social institutions are explored, it becomes evident that many of their needs can be fulfilled within a family (Abdullatif, 2007, p. 211).

The elderly needs multifaceted social care, represented in the need to strengthen relations with family, relatives, friends and neighbors. Additionally, there is a need to improve society's perception of the elderly and enhance their relationships. The study emphasizes the necessity of strengthening relationships among the elderly within the institutional settings, regulating relationships between the elderly and social welfare organizations, and organizing leisure time activities for the elderly (Samalouti, 2004, p. 35). It is crucial for the elderly to seek the opinions of others, constantly strive to develop their potential and abilities, and express their emotions appropriately.

A study by Abdullah (2011) recommended the provision of social rights for the elderly to strengthen their social relations. However, some argue that the elderly may lack social competence.

Social competence is the feeling of feeling and satisfaction in social situations and making an effort to achieve satisfaction in social relations and a sense of confidence towards social behavior and achieving a continuous balance between the individual and his environment to satisfy the personal and social needs of the individual (Barclay, 2010, p119) .

Social competence represents the individual's effective response in social situations and is represented in the individual's ability to employ the available personal and environmental resources to achieve good development outputs or outcomes. It involves a variety of positive qualities and traits such as affirmation, social self-image, interaction, cognitive, social and popular skills with peers and the like (Elisabeth & Rachel, 2014, p. 128).

A study by Hassan (2011) pointed to the importance of providing social security for the elderly. This is achieved through their sense of role and status in society, followed by cultivating good social relations. It is also essential to provide them with sufficient income to secure their lives and encourage the effective use of their free time by investing in their abilities and seeking consultations in various fields.

One manifestation of lack of social competence is an individual's deficiency in social interaction skills, leading to withdrawal and feelings of isolation. (Mahmoud, 2009, p.9).

Social competence is affected by the beliefs of the elderly. There are four processes through which the impact of self-beliefs is understood in relation to social competence and the behavior of the elderly and thus their life. These processes are the processes of action with an impact, selection processes, cognitive processes, and stimulating processes (Semrud, 2007, p. 53).

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A study by Matos et al (2006) showed the importance of developing programs to raise the social competence of the elderly, link them with their peers, and enhance their personal interactions. Additionally, a study by Al-Sayed (2020) showed the necessity of increasing the awareness among young people to respect the elderly, considering it a social obligation and a religious duty.

The interest in studying the elderly and providing care is an essential aspect of the human capital investment and identifying human potential to work on directing, exploiting, and benefiting from it. The advancement of society is measured by the extent of its interest in the elderly (Attia et al, 2012, p. 303).

Social service has emerged as one of the disciplines that have taken care of this category, especially since it is a profession whose primary interest is the human being, whether in his suffering or in his prosperity. It tries hard to help this person perform his roles to the fullest, benefit from his potential to the maximum extent, and provide him with skills to be able to deal with challenges and problems that he suffers from. It aims to help him satisfy his needs (Mohammed, 2008, p. 245).

Hence, the problem of the study is determined in the following question: What is the nature of the relationship between the elderly's abuse and social competence?

The study objectives:

1- The main objective: determining the relationship between the elderly abuse and their social competence.

From the main objective, there are sub-goals, which are:

A - Determining the extent to which the elderly perceive abuse.

B - Determining the level of social competence of the elderly.

2- Determine the differences between males and females on the scale of abuse and of the elderly.

3- Determine the relationship between the average family income and abuse of the elderly.

4- Reaching indicators for the role of the social worker who works with elderly cases to improve their social competence.

Study concepts:

1- The concept abuse of the elderly's:

As a single or repeated act that causes harm or suffering to an elderly person, or the lack of appropriate actions to prevent it, elderly abuse occurs in a relationship based on trust. It can take various forms, such as physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, financial, and neglect, which can be intentional or not (Carmen et al, 2019, p.79).

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The elderly's realization of abuse is represented in various forms, including physical and verbal abuse, emotional abuse, violation of rights, financial and health abuse, and neglect. The elderly perceive them during caring situations as interaction with others, intentionally or unintentionally.

The measurement of the elderly of abuse is conducted procedurally through the degree to which the scale of the abuse includes the following dimensions: physical, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, violation of rights, financial, health abuse, and awareness of neglect.

2- The Concept of Social Competence

Social competence is defined as the ability to coordinate different responses in a flexible manner so that they conform to different personal demands, and to regulate social behavior in different social situations in a manner consistent with social traditions and norms (Amna, 2013, p. 110).

Social competence defined theoretically defined as the ability of the elderly to interact with others, appreciate their feelings, influence their attitudes, provide assistance, complete assigned tasks, integrate with those around them, hear the opinions of others, and express their emotions.

The measurement of social competence is conducted procedurally through the degree the researcher obtains on the scale of the elderly's social competence, which includes the following dimensions: social isolation, social responsibility, social flexibility.

Theoretical mentor of the study:

To explain the abuse of the social environment of the elderly during their interaction with those around them and its impact on their social competence may weaken their social relations with those around them, reduce their sense of social responsibility, and increase their intolerance to new changes.

An important assumption of ecological theory is that the person and his environment form an integrated system through which they influence each other (Abdul Majeed, 2015, p. 106).

Methodological procedures

1- Type of study and the methodical used:

A descriptive study aimed at determining the nature of the relationship between the elderly's perception of abuse and their social competence, study depends on the social survey methodology by a simple random sample method for the elderly in residential institutions.

2- Study hypothesises:

1-first main hypothesis: there is an inverse statistically significant relationship between the elderly's abuse and their social competence in its various dimensions (social interactions, social responsibility, social flexibility).

2-The second main hypothesis: There are statistically significant differences between the averages of the scores (males, females) on the scale of the elderly's abuse.

3- The third main hypothesis: there is a statistically significant inverse relationship between average of family income and the elderly abuse.

Study Tools.:

A. Elderly of abuse scale: prepared by the researchers

The following steps have been followed to prepare the scale:

1. Eruditeness on references, studies and research in many specializations that dealt with abuse in general to determine the dimensions of the scale, and many tests and scales in different specializations that concern the elderly, including: Psychological stresses scale by the elderly prepared by Shaaban (2020) , Elderly Perception of Abuse Scale prepared by Shehta (2011), Psychological Loneliness feeling Scale for the Elderly by Obaid (2010).

2. The scale was judged by five profession of social work and results were ommitionn and modification of some phrases.

3. Scale description: The scale includes 29 phrases divided into three basic dimensions as follows: the first dimension: physical health abuse 9 phrases(1:9),The second dimension is emotional abuse 10 phrases . Ferries from (10:19),The third dimension of violation of rights 10phrases .phrases from (20:29)

4. **Method of correcting the scale**: To correct the statements of the scale has been developed three responses are (ok , to some extent, disagree) their weights as follows (ok= 3)(to some extent = 2) (disagree= 1)

5. **Validity of the scale**:

The validity of internal consistency: The researchers applied the scale on a sample of the elderly with the same characteristics of the study sample and their number (50) single from outside the cases of the study sample and the calculation of correlation coefficients using Pearson's correlation coefficient to calculate the internal consistency coefficient through:-calculate the correlation coefficient between the scores of the sum of each dimension and the total score of the scale

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Table (1) shows the correlation coefficient between the scores of the sum of each dimension and the total score of the scale

Total dimension	Correlation
Health physical abuse	**0.998
Emotional abuse	**0.999
Violation of rights	**0.996
*indicates D correlation at 0.05 and **D correlation at 0.01	

Table (1) shows that the values of the resulting correlation coefficient range between (0.906) and (0.975) and all these coefficients are high and significant at a significant level of (0.01), which indicates the validity of the scale to an appropriate degree that can be relied upon its results.

The scale consists in its final form of 29 phrases, the first dimension 9 phrases, the second dimension 10 phrases and the third dimension 10 phrases.

7- Scale stability:

a. Half segmentation method:-

the scale was arrlied once on a group of elderly consists of 50 elderly and phrases of the scale were divided according to even and odd numbers and collect the sum of each of them then calculated the correlation coefficient between the odd and even phrases depending on the coefficient of correlation Pearson - Brown .

Table No(2) . Demonstrates stability results using Spearman-Brown Half-segmentation equation for the Elderly Abuse Scale (N=50)

Dimensions	Spearman-Brown Laboratories	Pearson's correlation coefficient and significance
Health physical abuse	0.998	0.998**
Emotional abuse	0.997	0.999**
Violation of rights	0.973	0.996**
Total Scale	0.997	0.998**
*Indicates correlation at 0.05 and **indicates correlation at 0.01		

Table (2) shows that dimension physical health abuse dimension got 0.998 using Spearman-Brown treatment with a correlation coefficient of 0.998 and it is significance at 0.01, and emotional abuse dimension got 0.997 using Spearman-Brown treatment with a correlation coefficient of 0.999 and it is significance at 0.01, and violation of rights dimension got 0.973 using Spearman-Brown equation with a correlation coefficient of 0.996 and it is significance at 0.01, the total sum of the scale has obtained 0.997 using Spearman-Brown equation with a correlation coefficient of 0.998 and it is significance at 0.01

From the above, it is clear that the correlation values are high and significant at a significant level (0.01) in all dimensions and in the total of the scale significance at 0.01, where the researchers can rely on the results of the tool, indicating that the scale has an appropriate degree of stability.

8-Interpretation of grades: scores are interpreted in light of the highest score and lowest score of the scale

The major score of the scale is (29 * 3 = 87), while the minimum degree of the scale is(29 = 1 * 29)

C-Social competence Scale: Prepared by the two researches :-

The following steps have been followed to prepare the scale:

1- Eruditeness on references, studies and research in many disciplines that dealt with social competence to determine the dimensions of the scale, and many tests and measures in different disciplines that are concerned with social competence in general, including: Scale of Emotional Social competence prepared by Al-Najjar & Al-Banna (2023), Emotional competence Scale prepared by Abdulhadi Abdo& Othman (2020), Social Competence Scale for Students prepared by Hamaimi (2014).

2- The scale was judged by five profession of social work and results and resultes were deletion, addition and modification of some phrases.

3- Scale description: The scale includes 30 phrases divided into three main dimensions as follows : The first dimension Social interactions 10 phrases(1:10), The second dimension: social responsibility 10 phrases .phrases from (11:20),The third dimension: social flexibility 10 phrases (21:30).

4- Method of correcting the scale: To correct the statements of the scale, three responses have been developed and each response has been given a weight as follows (OK= 3), (to some extent=2),(Disagree=1)and the negative statements according to the scale are in the statements No (1-2-3-4-7-8-9-10-18).

   5- Validity of the scale:

The Validity of internal consistency: The researchers applied the scale on a sample of elderly people who had the same characteristics as the study sample, and they numbered (50) individuals from outside the study sample cases. Correlation coefficients were calculated using the Pearson correlation coefficient to calculate the internal consistency coefficient through: calculate the correlation coefficient between the scores of the sum of each dimension and the total score of the scale.

Table No. (3) shows the correlation coefficient between the scores of the sum of each dimension and the total score of the scale.

Total dimension	Correlation
Social interactions	**0.802
Social Responsibility	**0.772
Social flexibility	**0.898
*indicates D correlation at 0.05 and **D correlation at 0.01	

Table (3) shows that the values of the resulting correlation coefficient range between (0.772) and (0.898) and all these coefficients are high and significant at a significant level of (0.01), which indicates the validity of the scale.

The scale now consists in its final form of 28 phrases, the first dimension is 10 phrases, the second dimension is 9 phrases, and the third dimension is 9 phrases.

6- Scale stability: The researchers calculated the stability of the scale as follows:

A. Half segmentation method:-

The researchers applied the scale once on a group of 50 elderly and the researchers divided the phrases of the scale according to even and odd numbers and divide the phrases of each dimension into odd phrases and even phrases and collect the sum of each of them and calculated the correlation coefficient between the odd and even phrases depending on the coefficient of correlation Pearson – Brown. Table No. (4) Demonstrates stability results using Spearman-Brown Half-segmentation equation for the Elderly of social Competence N=50

Dimensions	Spearman-Brown Laboratories	Pearson's correlation coefficient and significance
Social interactions	0.841	**0.802
Social Responsibility	0.860	**0.772
Social flexibility	0.775	**0.898
Total Scale	0.900	**0.899
*Indicates correlation at 0.05 and **indicates correlation at 0.01		

Table (4) shows that social interactions dimension got 0.841 using the Spearman-Brown treatment with a correlation coefficient of 0.802 and it is significance at 0.01, and social responsibility dimension got 0.860 using the Spearman-Brown coefficient with a correlation coefficient of 0.772 and it is significant at 0.01, and social flexibility dimension got 0.775 using the Spearman-Brown equation with a correlation coefficient of 0.899 and it is significance at 0.01, the total of the scale

has obtained 0.900 using the Spearman-Brown equation with a correlation coefficient of 0.899 and it a significance at 0.01 From the above, it is clear that the correlation values are high and significant at a significant level (0.01) in all dimensions and the total of the scale significance at 0.01, where the researchers can rely on the results of the tool, indicating that the scale has an appropriate degree of stability. 7-Interpretation of grades: Scores are interpreted in light of the highest score and lowest score of the scale The major score of the scale is (28 * 3 = 84), while the minimum degree of the scale is(28 = 1 * 28)

4-Fields of study:

A- Spatial field: the application was in Cairo Governorate in seven shelters for the elderly and in Giza Governorate in nine residential institutions for the elderly and was applied in total to 15 homes to shelter the elderly**.**

Table No. (5) shows the names of the application institutions in Cairo and Giza

NO	Organization Name in Cairo	NO	Organization Name in Giza
1	House of Our Lady	9	Life Continues Foundation
2	House of the righteous	10	Integrated Services House
3	House of Grace House	11	Awakening House
4	Karma Home for the Elderly	12	Dar Maryam Care
5	Al-Nasr Home for the Elderly	13	Dar Huda Hermina (Anba Abram)
6	House of the beloved	14	Mar Girgis Home for the Elderly
7	Dar Al-Hana	15	Um Hani Home for the Elderly
8	Sulaymaniyah House		

B- Human Field :

Study procedures on a group of elderly people in shelter institutions the elderly in Giza and Cairo governorates, which the conditions of study were arrlied.

Conditions for selecting a sample:

1- To be permanently resident in residential institutions.
2- The elderly must be an age starting from 60 years and above.
3- To have at least an medianly education.

After applying the conditions of the study, the number of study sample reached male and female (279) elderly.

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Characteristics of the study sample:
Table No. (6) shows the characteristics of the study sample

NO	Variables	Categories of change	R	%	NO	Variables	Categories of change	R	%
1	Genre	Male	92	%33.3	2	Age	60 : 65	78	%28.0
		Female	187	%67.0			66 : 70	63	%22.6
		Total	279	%100			71 : 75	55	%19.7
3	Marital status	Married	34	%12.2			76 : 80	38	%13.6
		Absolute	50	%17.9			81 : 85	25	%9.0
		Widower	195	%69.9			86 More	20	%7.2
		Total	279	%100			Total	279	%100
							Average age	68	
							Standard deviation	1.56	
4	Qualification	Intermediate education	133	%47.7	5	Previous career	Public Sector	97	%34.8
		Upper Intermediate Education	51	%18.3			Private Sector	38	%13.6
		University education	88	%31.5			Entrepreneurship	143	%51.3
		Postgraduate education	7	%2.5			Total	279	%100
		Total	279	%100	7	Family income	2000:1000	57	%20/4
6	Place of residence	Countryside	1	%0.4			3000:2000	63	%22.6
		To watch	278	%99.6			4000:3000	41	%14.7
		Total	279	%100			5000:4000	26	%9.3
							5000 More	92	%33.0

It is clear from the previous table that the percentage of elderly males (33.3%) while the percentage of elderly females (67.0%) as the elderly women are more present in residential institutions than the male elderly, and that the highest percentage of the elderly (28.0%) in the age group (65:60) and the median age of the elderly ((2.75) with a standard deviation (1.56), and that most of the elderly in institutions are widows, whether males or females, by (69.9%), followed by divorced (17.9%) and married by (12.2), and it is also clear that most of the elderly have an average education by (47.7%), and that Most of the elderly, both males and females, were self-employed by (51.3%), and it is clear that most of them were living in urban places by (99.6%), and that the highest income of a family obtained by the family of the elderly is 5000 and more by (33.0%).

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c- Duration: The study took ten months, both theoretically and practically, from the beginning of January 2023 to the end of September 2023**.**

4- Presentation and discussion of study results

First: Statistical results of the study:

For the first main hypothesis: there is an inverse statistically significant relationship between the elderly's abuse and their social competence**.**

Table No. (7) shows the correlation coefficients between the elderly's abuse and their social competence..

NO	Elderly abuse / Social competence	Correlation	Significance
1	Social interactions	0.360-	**
2	Social Responsibility	0.120	Non D
3	Social flexibility	0.067	Non D
4	Social Efficiency Scale as a Whole	0.64-	Non D

Table No. (7) shows that there is no statistically significant inverse relationship between the elderly's abuse and their social competence, although there is a relationship between some sub-dimensions of social competence and the elderly's abuse, as it bound an inverse relationship statistically significant between social interactions as one of the dimensions of social competence and the elderly's abuse at level of significance (0.01), as well as there is a direct relationship between social responsibility as one of the dimensions of social competence and the elderly's awareness of abuse, at significance level (0.05) any it mean: The greater the social responsibility of the elderly, the greater their awareness of the abuse, and as it is clear that there is no statistically significant inverse relationship between social flexibility and the elderly's abuse, which makes us reject the validity of the first main hypothesis, and accept the validity of the first sub-hypothesis and reject the validity of the second and third sub-hypothesis.

The second main hypothesis: There are statistically significant differences between the average scores (males, females) on the scale of the elderly's abuse in favor of males.

Table No. (8) shows the differences between the average scores of males and females on the scale of the elderly's abuse.

Variable	Grand Total Elderly Abuse					
genre	Variable classes	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	T coefficient	df degree Freedom	**Significance**
	Male	92	48.16	21.39	3.530	131.301	D at0.01
	Female	187	39.52	14.07			
**Moral at (0.01)				* Moral at(0.05)		

It is clear from Table No.(8) that there are statistically significant differences between the degrees of males and females on the scale of the elderly's abuse as a whole and its sub-dimensions, where the value of t (3.530), which is significant at a significant level (0.01), and therefore we accept the validity of the second hypothesis, which leads to there are statistically significant differences between the average scores (males, females) on the scale of the elderly's abuse in favor of males .

The fourth main hypothesis: There is an inverse relationship statistically significant between the average family income and the elderly's abuse

Table No. (9) shows the link between the elderly's abuse and the average family income.

No	Social values Demographic variables	Link	Significance
1	Average household income	0.146-	*

It is clear from Table (9) that there is an inverse relationship statistically significant between the elderly's abuse and the average family income at significance level (0.05),it means the lower the level of income, the greater the elderly's abuse.

Discussion of the results of the study
the current study found that :

there is no statistically significant inverse relationship between the elderly's abuse and their social competence, and therefore the validity of this hypothesis is rejected, as the elderly's abuse does not affect their social competence, and this contradicts the results of Obaid (2017) in that the patterns of abuse practiced against the elderly by relations are the reason for their coexistent in the elderly, and the results of the current study contradict the results of Othman's study (2007) in that the elderly feel the loss of their hobbies and stability when They are enrolled in care homes and that the loss of home and children represents a painful experience for them and negatively affects them physically and psychologically. This is consistent with the concept of life stresses according to ecological theory In that the elderly are going through many difficult situations that exceed their capabilities, potentials and personal and environmental resources necessary to deal with their stresses as a result of reaching the age of sixty and being in a home for the elderly, and this also contradicts the study results Both of Rasmita, &Chander & Jitendra,2019)Carmen& Claudia.& Abelardo &Fernando (2019) that elderly are exposed to

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physical and psychological abuse, and are exposed to violation of their rights and neglect from those around them, especially widows, so countries must pay attention to this category and care them, This is consistent with what is stated in the theoretical framework In that
 Older adults are particularly venerable to loneliness, which can lead to elder abuse. Feeling of loneliness may increase dependency and vulnerability, which may give rise to increased risk of elder abuse.(XinQi ,2019, p.98) pointed to the need to promote healthy lifestyles in the elderly, develop their skills in dealing with others, cooperate with them, support their competence and help them develop positive health-related behaviors. This is consistent with the concept of competence according to ecological theory in that the elderly were an active force and role model in their environment, but they need to learn new skills that help them adapt to their lives and their environment.

The statistical results showed an inverse relationship between social interactions as one of the dimensions of social competence and the elderly's abuse therefore the validity of this hypothesis is accepted, as the more social interactions of the elderly with others, the more this helps to reduce the feeling of abuse, and this is consistent with the results of study both of Fayed (2020) Manoj (2017) in that there are many social and psychological problems that the elderly feel As a result of abuse directed at him, which in turn may affect his relationships with others, whether from the people closest to him or when he joins a care home, This is consistent with the statements of the standard in which the family ignores the presence of the elderly person, leaves him for long hours alone in his room, ignores his referral to a specialized doctor, apologizes to him when he is wronged, belittles his achievements with them, and respects his opinions and harm their lives and destroy their social relations and abuse can take various forms such as physical, psychological or financial abuse, and this is consistent with the concept of harmonization between the individual and the environment, according to ecological theory where the greater the positive interaction between the elderly and the surrounding environment, the less aware of the abuse, whether physical, health, psychological or violation of his rights. isolation and increases their self-esteem and acceptance of them(M El-Bilsha,2013,p4) .

The statistical results showed that there is no inverse relationship between social responsibility as one of the dimensions of

social competence and the elderly's abuse and therefore the validity of this hypothesis is refused, , This is consistent with some of the statements of the scale of abuse against the elderly, including families and relatives being ignorant of their rights to make their decisions, criticizing their lifestyle, deliberately speaking to them in an inappropriate manner, and depriving them of practicing their favorite activities, and this is consistent with the results of Abdul Hussein's (2019) study that the elderly in the study sample have been subjected to psychological abuse and social by different parties and this is due to the elderly has lost a lot of abilities that were in the past granted status, authority and power to find himself a victim of abuse by family members intentionally or unintentionally and the lack of understanding of the family of the nature of the stage in which the elderly are going through and consistent with the concept of the role according to ecological theory in that the elderly last their abilities perform many of the tasks required of them , which may make them more vulnerable to abuse.

The statistical results showed that there is no inverse relationship between social flexibility as one of the dimensions of social competence and the elderly's abuse and therefore the validity of this hypothesis is refused, as the elderly may be unable to accept the changes and modifications in their social life, and this contradicts the results of the study Parkhide & Mahnaz,& Hamid& Majd Fatemeh (2017) In that flexibility is a key factor to improve health and alleviate the problem caused by chronic diseases of the elderly, and this is consistent with the concept of compatibility according to ecological theory that some elderly last adjustment with the environment ,and this is consistent with the scale's statements in that the elderly have begun to avoid interacting with others, avoid getting to know new colleagues, and rarely accept new changes in their lives.

The statistical results showed that there are statistically significant differences between males and females on the scale of the elderly's abuse in favor of males, which makes us accept the validity of this hypothesis, this may be due to the fact that males by nature love to work and do not want to stay at home continuously and that they were the main source of income for the family and after their old age they became unable to do the same The tasks and roles they used to perform when they were young, so they became more dependent on others, which causes them problems and exposes them to abuse, whether physical, psychological or verbal, or leads to the violation of

their rights. The results of the current study contradict the results of the study of Gyeong & Sung & Kyungwon, & Kwang (2019) in that females are more sensitive and more vulnerable to abuse and depression than males, and also contradicts the results of the study of Abdul Hussein (2019) in the absence of differences in exposure to psychological and social abuse among the elderly study sample according to the gender variable and the results of the current study are consistent with the results of the study Bikash, & Basobi (2018) In that the elderly males are exposed to abuse more than females, especially with their age, they have become unable to perform their tasks or even perform the activities of daily life, which makes them a burden to their family members and these circumstances forced them to reside at home and they are exposed to many violations, whether physical or psychological abuse and may be abandoned and neglected, and this is consistent with the concept of force majeure According to ecological theory in that the elderly feel that they have become marginalized and unable to practice their lives normally and that they became persecuted by those around them because they became dependent on them, whether financially or in order to accomplish some of their lives.

The statistical results showed an inverse relationship between the average family income and the elderly's abuse, the lower the level of family income, the greater the awareness of the elderly of abuse, due to the fact that the elderly after they were the main source of family income, with age, their physical and health abilities weakened, they became unable to perform their work with the same performance The previous and most of them left their jobs, which lasted for decades, which makes them economically dependent on those around them, and the results of the current study agree with the results of the study both of Al-Sharqawi (2018) Kurian (2018) in that the decline in the monthly income of the elderly makes them exposed to abuse, and made them more economically dependent on others, and that made them vulnerable to many violations from those around them and became difficult to earn a decent standard of living amid the high costs of health care, especially the elderly with low incomes, and in that most of the elderly face problems represented in general weakness, economic insecurity, This is consistent with some of the statements of the scale, in that the families of the elderly seize their livelihood and control their economic conditions, and this increases their exposure to abuse.

Indicators of the role of the social worker who works with elderly cases to improve their social competence :

The role of the activist: encouraging the elderly to communicate with others and organize personal relationships such as a social skill through which personal and social adaptation is carried out This is achieved as well as pushing the elderly family to provide them with the necessary support, which helps to improve the emotional state. And dealing without directing abuse to them.

The role of the mediator: provides the social worker for the elderly and their families with information on community institutions that provide services that they can benefit from and that facilitate procedures for obtaining these services.

Therapeutic role: through the development of treatment programs for the elderly aimed at integrating them into society to improve social competence, and dealing with various situations by clarifying the assessment of the situation and steps to solve the problem.

The role of advocator: the social worker helps the elderly to protect his right to receive care and services that meet his needs and achieving his goals, whether by changing programs and services in the institution in proportion to it, reduce the abuse directed at them and provide the opportunity to increase social competence.

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