

ABSTRACT

The Perspectives of an Older Person (Female), Post-Transition From the Family Home to Institutional Care at a Home For the Aged in Trinidad

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This biographical case study explored the perspectives of an 82-year-old female elder person as she transitioned from the family home to an institution that provides long-term assisted care in Trinidad and Tobago. The biographical method gave “voice” to the unique perspectives of the subject on the gains and losses brought about by the change, the precipitating factors that influenced the transition decision, and the opportunities for relationship and spiritual development. Themes generated by the study were: 1) precipitating factors, 2) social support, 3) “the home”, 4) feelings about “the home”, 5) losses and gains, 6) adaptation and coping, and 7) myths about aging.

Keywords: Case studies; Biographies; Health needs; Elderly people; Institutionalized persons; Attitudes; Trinidad and Tobago