

# Awareness of Private Nursing Homes among Urban Seniors and Development of Private Nursing Home Models in Vietnam

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**Abstract:** With the current rapid population aging, Vietnam is facing many challenges in securing social security, especially for older persons. In this context, the presence of a private nursing home system, in addition to the state and the family the traditional pillars of social security for older persons, is considered an essential support to move toward active aging. The survey results of 100 older persons in Hoàng Mai district, Hanoi, indicate a positive shift in attitudes toward private nursing homes, with them viewing this as one of the ways for children to show filial piety to their parents in modern families. However, economic factors have become a barrier for older persons and families with modest or below-average incomes who wish to live in private nursing homes. Therefore, public-private partnership mechanisms in the development of Vietnam's private nursing home models are essential to aim for equity in access to elderly care and to ensure an active and sustainable adaptation to population ageing.

**Keywords:** Older persons, private nursing homes, awareness, active aging.

**Subject classification:** Sociology.

## 1. Introduction

With the highest rate of population aging in the region, Vietnam is forecasted to become an aging society by 2038 with people aged 60 and over comprising more than 20% of the population (The Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee, 2019). It is also forecasted that by 2069, the proportion of the older population would account for more than 27% of the total population and the

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increase in the older population would be primarily driven by the growth of the middle-old and the oldest-old age groups (UNFPA, 2021a). Rapid population aging over the past two decades poses a policy response challenge to the state, as well as an adaptation challenge for society as a whole and for the elderly population in particular (Đặng Thị Việt Phương & Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2022). As one of the countries with a rapid aging rate, the coverage of the healthcare system for older persons in Vietnam remains quite limited. In that context, setting the task of strongly developing types of services that meet the needs of older persons in the approach of public-private partnerships, encouraging the private sector to invest in and develop facilities, types of services, and care for older persons has been a direction reflected in policies in recent times (Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2021). However, the older persons' awareness of private nursing homes remains an issue that has received limited attention. Given this situation, it is necessary to explore their awareness of living in private nursing homes, as it contributes to assessing the development trend of private nursing home models in Vietnam.

## **2. Research overview**

The limited capacity of the public healthcare system to meet the needs of older persons due to financial constraints is one of the reasons why approximately 13% of older persons did not visit a doctor for medical care when feeling sick in the past 12 months (Vũ C.N. et al., 2020). Vietnam's system of healthcare facilities for older persons remains quite limited with only about 438 social protection/social work centers and 54 centers providing social work services for groups eligible for social protection, including older persons (The Population and Labor Statistics Department, 2019). There are still about 2% of older persons who have healthcare needs but have not been able to access care services (Kowal et al., 2023). Among older persons who need care/support and have received it, the majority are still cared for by family members (spouses, children or grandchildren), while the proportion receiving care in the community or at care facilities is insignificant (UNFPA, 2021b; Van et al., 2021). According to UNFPA (2021a), Hanoi and Hồ Chí Minh City are two of the five provinces/cities with the largest number of older persons in need of care and support. Care for older persons is still primarily provided by family members (spouses, children or grandchildren), however, these caregivers are often not formally trained or specifically guided in how to care for older persons (UNFPA, 2021b).

From another perspective, the role of the family institution in caring for older persons has witnessed changes. Analysis of data from the Vietnam Household Living Standards Survey (VHLSS) conducted by the General Statistics Office

(GSO) in 2002, 2006, 2012, and 2016 showed a decline in the proportion of older persons living with their children compared to previous periods (Trần Thị Thúy Ngọc, 2020; Vũ, C.N. et al., 2020). In current times, the increasing number of older persons choosing to live independently of their children and grandchildren, together with changes in family structures, raises a number of important issues regarding the selection of appropriate living arrangement models for older persons (Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2023). The co-residence model of older persons living with their children as a norm in earlier periods (Knodel & Truong Si Anh, 2002) has changed, and economic and social conditions have also affected today's family structures (Nguyen Thi Thuy Hang & Dang Anh Dung, 2020). The trend of change by age (the older the person, the higher the proportion of older persons living alone but near their children) (Ministry of Health and other organizations, 2021) and by residential area (living alone but near their children) (UNFPA, 2021b) among older persons has become increasingly evident today. A significant proportion of older persons responded that they and their families are willing to pay for elderly care services. Although the demand for institutional care remains modest, the changing trends in living arrangements among older persons indicate that the preference for both semi- residential and full- residential care is expected to increase in the near future (UNFPA, 2021b).

In the past, the common perception was that older persons went to nursing homes mainly because their children did not have time to care for them, or because they had chronic illnesses requiring special care (Lê Minh Đạt et al., 2017). Nowadays, older persons' perceptions of nursing homes have become more positive. Given the relatively high costs at nursing centers today, living in such facilities requires households to have sufficient economic means. Therefore, placing older persons in nursing homes could be seen as an expression of filial piety or children's care for their parents, reflected in the choice of care conditions that are appropriate for the psychological and health needs of older persons (Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2024). Living in nursing homes not only provides older persons with better care opportunities, but also offers them the chance to interact and meet with peers. Besides, living in nursing homes is considered the best form of support for their children as this helps alleviate the caregiving burden traditionally placed on families. For older persons who have no one to take care of them, nursing homes are seen as a suitable option (Đặng Thị Việt Phương et al, 2024).

The above data indicate that there are many factors that influence older persons' awareness of living in private nursing homes, however, these are all objective factors related to the population aging process: the social security system, changes in the way older persons organize their family life, or their current care needs. There has not yet been a focused study aimed at assessing the development prospects of the private nursing homes from the perspective of older persons'

perceptions, as an indicator of the current active aging process. Therefore, research on the elderly's awareness of living in private nursing homes and pointing out the development trend of private nursing homes in Vietnam is necessary and meaningful in the context of research as well as practice on the population aging process in Vietnam today.

### **3. Theoretical framework and research methodology**

#### ***3.1. Theoretical framework***

The World Health Organization defines active aging as “the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation, and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age [...]. It allows people to realize their potential for physical, social, and mental well-being throughout the life course and to participate in society according to their needs, desires, and capacities, while providing them with adequate protection, security, and care when they require assistance” (WHO, 2002: 12). Older persons' awareness of living in a nursing home is one of the important aspects for assessing their active aging process. Awareness refers to an individual's accurate and in-depth understanding, expressed through their own knowledge and thinking (Papaleontiou-Louca, 2003; Carden et al, 2021). In particular, older persons' awareness of living in private nursing homes has become an important and meaningful indicator for the assessment of active aging in Vietnam. Living in nursing homes remains a topic considered quite sensitive within the Vietnamese cultural tradition of respecting and honoring the elderly. Therefore, research on this issue would contribute to a clearer assessment of the practical realities of how older persons adapt to the process of active aging, while also offering evaluations and forecasts on the development trends of private nursing home models in Vietnam in the near future.

A lifestyle-based approach allows for a clearer assessment of the active aging process among older persons through their awareness of living in private nursing homes. This theoretical perspective holds that particular lifestyles related to aging and health are reflected in life chances, status differences, health outcomes, and lifestyle choices (Katz, 2013). Applying this theory allows us to understand and explain how perceptions of living in a nursing home are associated with certain personal characteristics of older adults, such as age, marital status, health status, etc. According to this approach, the human lifespan is increasingly liberated from external influences (Giddens, 1991) and instead comes under the control of individual factors. Therefore, the study of older persons' perceptions of living in private nursing homes, from the perspective of active aging, was examined through older persons' concept of nursing homes and the reasons why they live in nursing

homes, thereby indicating the development trend of private nursing home models in Vietnam in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 2 of the Law on the Elderly (Law No. 39/2009/QH12), the elderly in this study are defined as Vietnamese individuals aged 60 and above. According to Article 2 of the Government's Decree No. 103/2017/ND-CP, which regulates the establishment, organization, operation, dissolution, and management of social assistance establishments, social assistance establishments for older persons include both public and non-public ones. Among these, non-public social assistance establishments are those whose facilities are built and whose funding for operational activities is ensured by domestic and foreign individuals and organizations. Accordingly, in this study, private nursing facilities/institutions/homes are defined as establishments in which domestic and foreign individuals or organizations invest in building infrastructure and ensure funding for the purpose of providing nursing services, medical examination and treatment or centralized care for older persons.

### ***3.2. Research methodology***

The article's database is based on research conducted in 2024 includes 100 survey questionnaires collected from older persons living in Hoàng Mai District, Hanoi, in which there were 16 individuals aged 60-64 (16%), 25 individuals aged 65-69 (25%), and 59 individuals aged 70 and above (59%), residing in two wards - Hoàng Văn Thụ ward (50 people) and Lĩnh Nam ward (50 people). This classification was based on the assumption that differences between age groups in terms of opinions and health are related to life-cycle decisions in the post-retirement phase of older persons: the early stage (ages 60-64); the middle stage (ages 65-69); and the stage in which individuals are entirely beyond the influence of retirement status (age 70 and above). In addition, Hoàng Mai district is home to Diên Hồng Nursing Home, branch 3 - a private nursing home - which was one of the reasons we selected these research sites. Having the opportunity to access or regularly observe the private nursing home might be a contributing factor to older persons in this area showing greater interest in the topic of nursing homes compared to those in other areas. In the survey, the proportion of female respondents was higher than that of male respondents (64% compared to 36%); a significant 88% of older persons were non-religious, 72% were married, 22% were widowed/divorced/separated, and only 6% had never been married. 49% of older persons rated their household's standard of living as average, while only 19% rated it as well-off and 32% rated it poor. These surveys were conducted in person, either at the respondents' homes or in the meeting rooms of the district or ward's Association of the Elderly to ensure privacy and a familiar environment.

## 4. Older persons' perceptions on living in private nursing homes today

### 4.1. *Perceptions of private nursing homes among older persons*

The emergence of private nursing home models in recent times is a positive sign indicating that the socialization of elder care services has made significant progress and is increasingly aligned with the current global perspective: “more and more countries have been developing measures to adapt to population aging, particularly through the establishment of elderly care models” (Sakota, 2022). Living in private nursing homes is no longer a new concept in modern society. However, how older persons think about and understand private nursing homes remains an issue that has received limited attention.

The survey results revealed that, compared to the study of Lê Minh Đạt (2017), older persons have developed a more positive view of private nursing homes: 40% believed that private nursing homes are places that provide care for older persons in place of their families when the families lack capacity or have limited capacity to do so; 31% considered private nursing homes as general care facilities for older persons; while only 12% viewed them as places for older persons without children, relatives, or who are lonely.

In terms of gender, there was little difference between older men and women in viewing private nursing homes primarily as places that support families in taking care of older persons when the families do not have or lack the necessary conditions (41.7% and 39.1%, respectively). This view was also shared among those aged 65% and above (48% and 39%), while among the group under 65, private nursing homes were more commonly viewed as general elderly care facilities (43.7%). This difference in perspectives between age groups could be an initial indicator and partial explanation for an emerging trend: older persons under the age of 70 who are still in good health are increasingly seeking information about or deciding to live in private nursing homes.

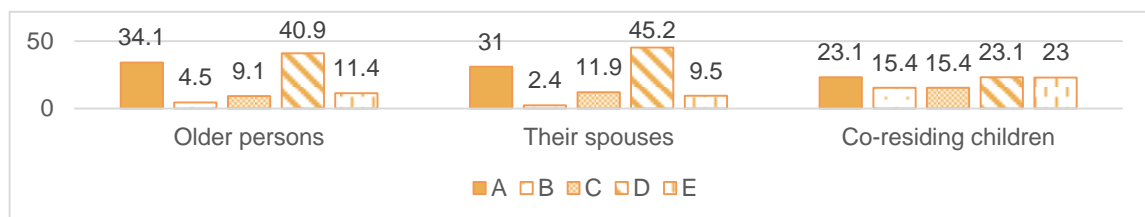
Meanwhile, older persons' religious affiliation appeared to be associated with their perceptions of private nursing homes (Chi-Square = 0.036). Among those who followed a religion (12%), 66.7% considered nursing homes as general elderly care facilities, while among those with no religious affiliation (88%), 43.2% considered nursing homes as places that provide care for older persons in place of their families when they do not have or lack the necessary conditions to do so. This difference might be explained by the general similarities across religious beliefs regarding humanity and all living beings, which could lead religious older persons to hold a more inclusive view of private nursing homes - less defined by specific categories of residents - compared to the other group.

The perception of living in a private nursing home in relation to household living standards is a noteworthy point. Most older persons believed that living in a private nursing home is an option primarily for families with a well-off or higher standard of living (over 72% across age groups), however there were still differences among the age groups. Older persons in the oldest group (aged 70 and above) tended to view household living standards as a less decisive factor compared to the other two groups: the household could be either well-off (72.9%) or of average means (20.3%). The two younger groups of older persons considered household living standards as a relatively important factor (76% and 75%). With basic costs ranging from VND 8,000,000 to VND 15,000,000 per month, excluding additional care expenses ranging from VND 500,000 to VND 2,000,000 per month, older persons and their families must have fairly good economic conditions. State-run nursing homes are reserved only for individuals in special priority groups. The emergence of private nursing homes could be seen as a necessary form of support and compensation for the shortcomings of the public social security system in caring for older persons (Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2024a). However, the fact that nursing homes are primarily located in major cities and cater to well-off individuals (Van et al., 2021) presents a challenge in the care of older persons, especially for older persons and their families with limited financial capacity. That is why, when it comes to the problems that households with older persons living in nursing homes would face, the majority of older persons considered financial problems as the main problem (accounting for 56.5%) while other social concerns, such as negative judgments from relatives, friends, or the community, only accounted for a relatively low percentage (18.3% and 13.7%). The imbalance between supply and demand might lead to inequality in access to care services for older persons today (Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2024a).

From another perspective, older persons' views on private nursing homes were notably influenced by their position and role within the family - particularly whether they were the ones who made financial decisions in the household:

**Figure 1: The Relationship between the Household's Financial Decision-Maker and Older Persons' Perceptions of Nursing Homes**

Unit: %



Note: A: Private nursing homes are places of general care facilities for older persons.

*B: Private nursing homes are places of care facilities for older persons with health problems.*

*C: Private nursing homes are places of care facilities for older persons who are unable to take care of themselves.*

*D: Private nursing homes are places of facilities that provide care for older persons in place of their families when the families lack capacity or have limited capacity to do so.*

*E: Private nursing homes are places of care facilities for older persons without children, relatives, or who are lonely.*

*Source: Survey data, 2024*

The results revealed that when older persons or their spouses were the decision-maker regarding household expenditures, their perceptions of private nursing homes did not differ significantly: private nursing homes were primarily viewed as facilities that provide care for older persons in place of their families in place of family care (over 40%) or general care facilities for older persons (over 31%). Meanwhile, if household spending decisions were made by co-residing children, older persons' perceptions of nursing homes were much more diverse with no single option dominating the others and they seemed to be more negative: nursing homes were seen as care facilities for older persons with health problems or those unable to take care of themselves (15.4%) and as places for older persons without children, relatives, or who are lonely (23%). It is a reality that many older persons today, due to no longer being able to control their health, declining labor capacity, and having no or unstable income, need to rely on their children as a source of support in the event of unforeseen circumstances (Đặng Thị Việt Phương, 2022). Along with this, 51% of older persons believed that those who moved into private nursing homes were in a condition where they were unable to take care of themselves already in a dependent state (Diễn Hồng Nursing Center, 2024). It seemed that not having decision-making power over household spending, or, in other words, not holding financial control within the family, might be a reason why older persons perceive the types of nursing home residents as more diverse, particularly those who are dependent on family care, who might face a higher "risk" of having to live in a private nursing home compared to those who retain financial control. Dependence on children and family would probably still be one of the factors influencing older persons' social and emotional well-being.

Older persons' perceptions of nursing homes are shaped by a blend of both traditional and modern mindsets. The traditional mindset, which is quite popular, views nursing homes as places for older persons who are lonely, without children or grandchildren, or who have health problems. From another perspective, a modern mindset toward nursing homes has been adopted by a segment of older persons,

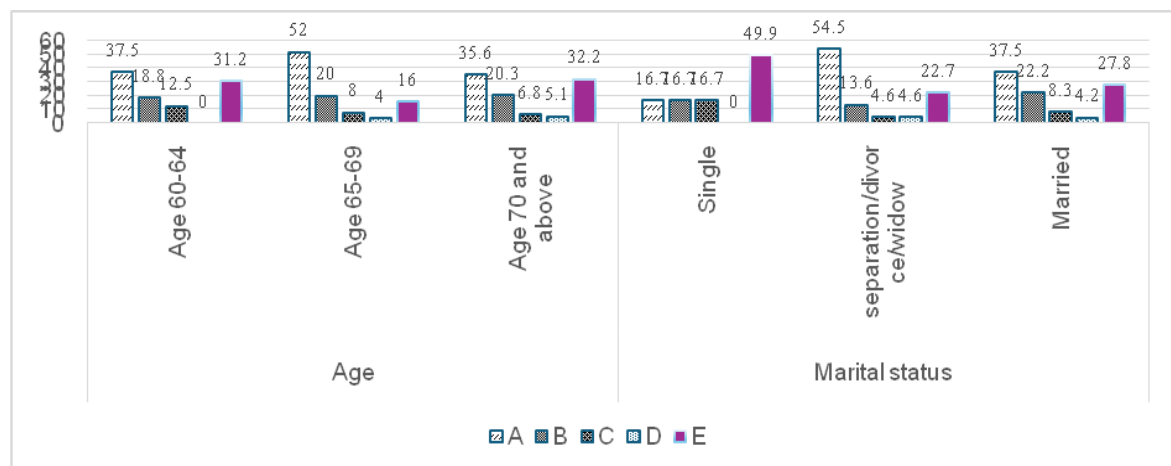


who view and evaluate them in terms of economic considerations and the benefits they offer, such as structured daily routines, orderly living, and having companions for social interaction and emotional support, etc. (Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2024). However, older persons' intertwining of traditional and modern perspectives on nursing homes does not actually stem from a need to live with their children and grandchildren, but rather from a desire to offer support or to avoid becoming a burden to them.

#### 4.2. Reasons older persons live in private nursing homes

The majority of older persons believed that those without a partner or whose partner was no longer present would be the ones who would move into private nursing homes when having health problems or not having someone to provide care (approximately 50%) - this rate was significantly higher than among those who had family. Moreover, this perception showed little variation across age groups.

**Figure 2: Reasons Older Persons Moved into Nursing Homes by Marital Status and Age Group**



Note: A: Health problems.

B: Recommended by a specialist doctor.

C: No appropriate caregivers in the family.

D: Poor treatment by children.

E: Loneliness/living alone/no caregivers/no children.

Source: Survey data, 2024

Health-related reasons were considered the primary and most common factor for older persons moving into private nursing homes (40%). The increasing demand for elderly care among Vietnamese families is a current reality, yet it has received

little attention. UNFPA's research (2021b) revealed that approximately 36% older persons responded that they and their families are willing to pay for elderly care services. Meanwhile, a study conducted seven years ago showed that the most common reason for older persons moving into nursing homes was the lack of caregivers (63.6%) followed by health-related problems as the second most common reason (29.6%) (Lê Minh Đạt et al., 2017). This indicates a significant shift in the perceptions of older persons and their families regarding private nursing homes. The data above reflect the reality that declining health is the primary reason prompting older persons and their families to choose private nursing homes in the current context. Consequently, the family's limited ability to provide medical care to care for older persons was considered the main reason why nursing homes were viewed as necessary by older persons (27.7%).

Families having fewer children, along with migration processes, are key factors driving changes in today's family structures (Bùi Nghĩa, 2016; Nguyen Thi Thuy Hang & Dang Anh Dung, 2020; Đặng Thị Việt Phương, 2022). In this context, family members fulfilling their roles, particularly in caring for older persons, becomes increasingly difficult as the resources available to support families in elderly care are becoming more limited (Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2024). Given this reality, it is likely that many people, especially older persons themselves, have become more understanding or accepting of the idea of families placing elderly members in private nursing homes.

In assessing the advantages of living in private nursing homes, 35% of older persons identified five advantages, 23% identified four, while 20% believed that private nursing homes offered only one advantage. The most commonly cited advantage was not being a burden to their children or grandchildren (24.6%); followed by having peers of the same age (23.4%) and having professional caregivers (22%). The fact that older persons considered not being a burden to their children or grandchildren the greatest benefit of living in private nursing homes shows that there have been significant changes in older persons' perceptions in Vietnam today. The traditional belief that "children rely on their parents when young, and parents rely on their children when old", which has long been embedded in the mindset of many Vietnamese people - especially older persons - is now showing signs of changes. This change also reflects the increasing autonomy and independence of older persons within both the family and the society. Survey results further support this trend, with as many as 71% of older persons expressing a preference or desire to live in a private nursing home.

Having a caregiver was the most common reason older persons gave for both liking and disliking the idea of living in a private nursing home (34.1% and 47.1%). Clearly, elderly care is no longer viewed as "burdensome" as it once was, but is now approached more openly by older persons themselves. Placing older persons in

private nursing homes is no longer seen as a reflection of moral values concerning how children treat their parents. The fact that 34.1% of older persons liked to live in private nursing homes because there is someone to take care of them every day was a clear demonstration of the openness in thinking and the positive attitude toward private nursing homes among older persons today. Furthermore, nursing homes provide an environment where older persons have the opportunity to interact and connect with others, especially with peers of the same age (43.5%). This is considered a major advantage in supporting the emotional well-being of older persons, particularly in the context of a common phenomenon in many families today - a growing tendency to become distant from older persons, which we refer to as the “unconscious limitation of communication with the elderly” in family life (Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2024). There was no difference in older persons’ attitudes toward liking or disliking living in private nursing homes based on age or marital status. Notably, in terms of gender, older women were more likely to express a preference for living in private nursing homes (67.1%), while among those who did not prefer nursing home living, older men accounted for the majority (56.3%). Prejudices and gender norms with traditional beliefs might be the reasons for this reality. Women in the family are often seen as the ones responsible for looking after other family members, especially their husbands.

## **5. Discussion**

Developing private elderly care models is becoming an inevitable need as family structures have undergone changes, the role of the community remains limited, and the social security system has yet to achieve adequate coverage. Modern facilities and professionally trained caregiving staff are key reasons why many families choose private nursing homes as a way of “fulfilling their filial duty” (Đặng Thị Việt Phương et al, 2024). Meanwhile, public nursing homes only focus on a few specific groups of older persons: those in difficult circumstances; those living alone with no place to rely on; those eligible for social welfare or recognized for their contributions to the country; those in need of end-of-life care due to poor health or severe physical decline; and others. The fact that there are only a few dozen state-run facilities dedicated to elderly care in the context of rapid population aging in Vietnam shows the insufficiency and limitations of public nursing homes. Therefore, the growth and development of private nursing homes is to meet the changing and growing societal demand for this type of service.

The majority of older persons have a fairly positive perception of nursing homes, which is an important foundation for the future development of elderly care models in Vietnam. Along with that is the reality that families who need to hire

caregivers for older persons face many difficulties related to caregiver qualifications, financial constraints (especially for older persons with serious illnesses requiring special care), and ethical concerns (Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, 2024). On the other hand, our assumption that social prejudice might have a great influence on families placing older persons in nursing homes is actually not a big concern for older persons and their families. Modern thinking is gradually replacing traditional beliefs, along with changes in current family arrangements and structures, which are the reasons why social prejudices against nursing homes have decreased or are no longer as influential as they once were. It was also assumed that age groups divisions in the study might directly influence older persons' perceptions. However, in reality, age did not appear to have an impact on the choice of living in nursing homes of older persons.

Economic factors have become a major barrier for older persons and their families when considering moving into a nursing home. With costs averaging around VND 10 million per month for mid-range facilities, this is considered quite high compared to the current living standards of older persons in particular and the living standards of Vietnamese families in general. According to the General Statistics Office (2024), the average monthly income per person in the country was VND 7.7 million. Therefore, with the current service fees, the majority of older persons using private nursing home models mostly come from families with quite good or higher economic conditions. This poses a problem for older persons with low or middle incomes who are in need of care services at nursing home facilities. As a result, building a model of elderly care that ensures coverage for all elderly groups, aiming toward equality in access to elderly care services, is an urgent issue, especially in the context of population aging in our country today. The lack of state incentives and support policies for non-public elderly care facilities is one of the limitations and challenges currently faced by private elderly care facilities (Nguyễn Thị Lê Thu, 2021). One of the reasons why facilities could not reduce costs is the high expense of premise rentals, combined with the lack of preferential policies (Nguyễn Tuấn Ngọc, 2022). Lack of incentives in terms of taxes, fees, land use, etc. is one of the main reasons why it is difficult to reduce costs at private nursing homes to match the needs and living standards of older persons and their families. Therefore, during the survey, financial constraints remained one of the main reasons preventing older persons from living in nursing homes.

Experiences from other countries have shown that building an effective elderly care model requires the involvement of both the public and the private sector: China has implemented a comprehensive set of preferential policies, including preferential policies on taxes, fees, land use, infrastructure, support policies from the state budget, foreign investment attraction policies, public-private partnership policies and other relevant policies. Financial resources for elderly care

services in Nordic countries are financed through taxation or long-term care insurance schemes (Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, etc.); and social welfare subsidies (UK, New Zealand and the US) (Nguyễn Thị Lệ Thu, 2022). In Vietnam, relying too heavily on the state social security system to support older persons is an impractical and unsustainable approach given the limited availability of resources. On the other hand, the changes in the way older persons organize their family lives have also reflected a change in the way social security for older persons is ensured in the family today (Đặng Thị Việt Phương et al, 2024). The emergence of private nursing home models in recent times is a positive sign, showing that the socialization of elderly care activities has made new progress, reflecting the adaptation to the current aging population situation in Vietnam.

In addition, a series of socialization policies, incentives for land lease, tax reductions, support for registration procedures, training to improve staff capacity, etc. have been introduced, reflecting the attention to and encouragement of investment in the development of private nursing home facilities in Vietnam. According to the Government's Decree No. 69/2008/ND-CP dated 30 May 2008, activities in certain sectors are eligible for preferential policies in areas such as taxation, land allocation, and credit access. However, elderly care is not among the sectors specified in this Decree. Therefore, it would be difficult for private nursing homes to lower their costs in order to better meet the needs of older persons. Considering an amendment to this Decree to include elderly care within the scope of application of this Decree is both necessary and appropriate in the context of Vietnam's rapidly aging population.

## **6. Conclusion**

Population aging is a real problem in Vietnam today. Addressing population aging requires us to have appropriate implementation orientations to ensure that all older persons have the right to access care within the social security system, leaving no one behind. However, in the context of a social security system with limited coverage, along with changes in older persons' family structures, the involvement of the private sector is expected to serve as a necessary and timely support in caring for older persons. Older persons in Vietnam have also undergone a shift in perception regarding nursing homes - it is not simply a place for healthcare when family support is limited, but also a meaningful means through which children and grandchildren can express filial piety toward older persons. Placing older persons in nursing homes does not reflect the moral values of children's treatment of their parents. Instead, this reality confirms the trend of modern families today, where members, especially older persons, try to "understand" and "support" one another in

arranging family life. Therefore, developing private nursing homes in Vietnam is an inevitable trend, especially in the context where public elderly care facilities/centers are reserved for specific groups, along with ongoing changes in family structure. However, the financial difficulties currently faced by private nursing homes pose a significant challenge to ensuring equitable access to care services for older persons who are in need but have limited income. Therefore, having public-private partnerships in the construction and development of private nursing homes is an inevitable and appropriate trend in the context of current policies and realities in Vietnam. This highlights the need to build a suitable legal framework to promote this model in the future as well as proactively adapt to Vietnam's population aging.

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