

Interview Guides

1. Have any elderly persons passed away in the village in the past two years? Could you tell us about these individuals? (Cause of death, illness, whether hospitalized, costs incurred, the condition of the patient at the time of death, etc.)
2. People often envy those elderly who are considered “blessed”. What do you think constitutes a “blessed” life for an elderly person?
3. For an elderly person with late-stage cancer and no hope of recovery, when their condition deteriorates, do you think they should be sent to the hospital for rescue treatment? Why?
4. If a doctor suggests inserting tubes or performing surgery on a late-stage cancer patient to help prolong life, do you think their family would agree? Why?
5. Are there any elderly persons in our village who are bedridden long-term due to illness and cannot care for themselves? (If so, what is their living condition like?)
6. What do you think would be the best possible outcome for those bedridden elderly in the village?
7. Elderly persons with incurable diseases often suffer greatly at the end. If nearby hospitals (e.g., township health centers, county hospitals) could provide palliative care services—which, while not life-saving, could alleviate the patient's suffering, albeit at some cost—do you think their families would be willing to send the elderly for such care? Why?
8. Cancer patients are often very afraid. What do you think they are mainly afraid of? How do you think they can be made less afraid?
9. If you were in such a situation, would you want your family to send you for palliative care? Why?
10. In caring for terminally ill patients in rural areas, what aspects do you think are done well? Why?
11. In caring for terminally ill patients in rural areas, what difficulties exist? What aspects are

unsatisfactory?

12. Could you briefly share your views on palliative care services?