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SWK554

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Reflection 13

Name two implications of the fact that average women live longer than men.

Statistics show that women live about 5–6 years longer than men, which means that women can expect to live longer than men. (Ashford, 2018, pg. 458). Researchers found that among people who were 85 or older, 15% of older women were married, and 76.2% were widows. On the other hand, 60.4% of older men were married, and 34.2% were widows. The difference between marriage and widowhood for both men and women show that women can expect to live longer than men.

But there are a few things that women must deal with because of their longer life expectancy. For example, they must live alone for the rest of their lives and are more likely to have chronic diseases like sadness, which is not the case for men. When these things happen, women are often sent to care homes, where they have a hard time of it.

Describe the differences between crystallized and fluid intelligence and give an example of each.

Crystallized intelligence is connected to the experiences and education of individuals. This form of intelligence refers to the intelligence and information humans have learned through their accumulated knowledge and experiences. This form of intelligence increases in age. In contrast, Fluid intelligence refers to the ability to swiftly grasp information in order to solve issues

without relying on existing knowledge and experience. “This form of intelligence declines, but if the cognitive skills are used, the longer they will maintain.” (Ashford, 2018).

How might an older person’s depression present differently from that of a younger adult?

In late life, depression, Anhedonia, is the loss of pleasure in things that used to be pleasurable. Also, it can include emptiness, withdrawal, loss of interest in usual activities, self-neglect, and changes in appetite, such as concerns about being a burden. In the younger adult, depression is just feelings of sadness.

Name three red flags for elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation that social workers should be aware of.

The three red flags for elder abuse are physical, financial, and emotional. Neglect involves the incapability to care for themselves, being dirty, or living in an unsafe environment. Also, if an elder suffers from dementia, depression, or living in an unsafe environment is abuse. Social workers should be aware of the risk factors of the elderly in the care of caregivers under stress. They should check for family members with any mental health issues and if the elderly person has any cognitive impairment. Another sign to watch out for is if the older person is isolated from friends and family.