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| *Pre-conditions**ageing process* as a condition predisposing to a significant performance declineimpaired health status = chronic illness conditions due to the onset of serious physical and/or psychological and cognitive problems; deterioration in quality of life following such disabling problems1growing need for long-term care among older people; most of them can only rely on *informal* long-term care, provided by adult children or other **family caregivers**2*Dynamics and factors under observation* **socio-economic deprivation**3 of older people afflicted with ADL limitations and their **families**4 (both the direct and indirect costs of informal caregiving, e.g. *work-related costs* of providing unpaid care) likelihood that *informal* caregivers will support older people *as front-line care providers* = likelihood that they will experience long hours of caregiving, associated with social deprivation, and economic hardships due to having to pay medical expenses availability and affordability of *formal* long-term care services among impaired older people  **DEPENDENT VARIABLE****INDEPENDENT VARIABLES** *social skills among family caregivers as buffering factor*  |

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