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Volume 28: **Caring for others. A challenge for the 21st century**

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This study addresses the need we have during our lives to be cared for in periods when we cannot carry out the basic activities of daily life ourselves. Spanish society is providing different responses, both old and new, to this need that are giving form to a complex and new debate. The first part of the study addresses the concept of care, studying the dimensions that are based on an ethic of responsibility toward others, going beyond family support to the gradual recognition of new social rights that pose new political challenges.

The second part analyses the diversity of needs of the young, the old, the ill and disabled, and even those of caregivers themselves. The third part looks at the response to these demands for care, generally provided by family caregivers, either in exchange for pay or not, and in growing form by institutional measures, although these are still inadequate.

The challenge is to define a model which integrates a plurality of perspectives, positions and interests and oriented toward the egalitarian family in the context of the widespread incorporation of women in the labour market. Faced with traditional or liberal options, Spain seems to be opting for the spread of public services. However, factors such as financing, the inertia of family care or the very territorial structure of the country may end up shaping a different model.