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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million (1990–1999) and is projected to increase by a further 1.5 million by 2010 (Office of National Statistics 2000). The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 2.5 million by 2020 (Office of National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to develop strategies to meet the needs of the ageing population. The Department of Health (1999) has identified the need to develop a 'new paradigm' for the care of the elderly. This paradigm is based on the principle of 'active ageing', which is the process of maintaining and enhancing the ability of older people to live independently and to participate in the community. The Department of Health (1999) has identified a number of key areas for action in order to achieve this paradigm, including: (1) promoting the health and well-being of older people; (2) ensuring that older people have access to the services and resources they need; and (3) ensuring that older people are able to participate in the community.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are obese has increased by 100% (Flegal et al. 2002). In the United Kingdom, the prevalence of obesity has increased from 10% in 1980 to 15% in 1997 (Health Survey for England 1997). In the United States, the prevalence of obesity has increased from 15% in 1980 to 23% in 1994 (Flegal et al. 2002).

Obesity is a complex condition, and its aetiology is multifactorial. It is a result of an imbalance between energy intake and energy expenditure. The energy intake is determined by the amount of food and drink consumed, and the energy expenditure is determined by the amount of physical activity. The imbalance between energy intake and energy expenditure is the result of a combination of genetic, environmental, and behavioural factors.

Obesity is a major public health problem because it is a risk factor for a number of chronic diseases, including heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and certain types of cancer. Obesity is also a leading cause of disability and premature death. In the United States, obesity is the leading cause of death among children and adolescents (Flegal et al. 2002).

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has also become an important employer of women, with 60% of public sector employees being women in 1995, compared with 55% in 1980.

There are a number of reasons why the public sector has become an important employer of women. One reason is that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work. Another reason is that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are part-time or flexible, which are more likely to be held by women. A third reason is that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are in the service sector, which is also a sector that is traditionally held by women.

The public sector has also become an important employer of women because of the increasing number of women who are in the workforce. In 1995, 60% of the UK workforce was made up of women, compared with 55% in 1980. This increase in the number of women in the workforce has led to a corresponding increase in the number of women employed in the public sector.

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the 'information' and 'communication' fields. The 'information' field is defined as:

...the study of the processes of information production, distribution, access, use and evaluation, and the study of the social, cultural, economic and political contexts in which these processes take place. (p. 10)

The 'communication' field is defined as:

...the study of the processes of communication production, distribution, access, use and evaluation, and the study of the social, cultural, economic and political contexts in which these processes take place. (p. 10)

The 'information science' field is defined as:

...the study of the processes of information production, distribution, access, use and evaluation, and the study of the social, cultural, economic and political contexts in which these processes take place. (p. 10)

The 'information studies' field is defined as:

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The public sector has also become an important employer of women because of the increasing demand for public services. As the population ages, there is a growing need for services such as health care, social care, and education. This has led to an increase in the number of people employed in the public sector, and a corresponding increase in the number of women employed in the public sector.

There are a number of challenges facing the public sector in the future. One challenge is the need to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Another challenge is the need to attract and retain staff. A third challenge is the need to provide high-quality services. These challenges will require the public sector to continue to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of society.

The public sector has a long history of employing women, and it is likely to continue to do so in the future. As the public sector becomes an increasingly important part of the economy, it will also become an increasingly important employer of women. This will require the public sector to continue to work to improve its services and to attract and retain staff.

There are a number of ways in which the public sector can improve its services and attract and retain staff. One way is to invest in training and development. Another way is to offer flexible working arrangements. A third way is to improve the working conditions. These measures will help to make the public sector a more attractive employer for women.

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the 1990s, the incidence of *S. flexneri* infections in the United Kingdom has increased, and the incidence of *S. flexneri* infection in the United States has increased in the 1980s and 1990s [10, 11]. In the United Kingdom, *S. flexneri* is the most common serotype of *Shigella* isolated from patients with shigellosis [12].

There is a paucity of data on the epidemiology of *S. flexneri* infection in the United Kingdom. In the 1980s, *S. flexneri* was the most common serotype of *Shigella* isolated from patients with shigellosis in the United Kingdom [12]. In the 1990s, the incidence of *S. flexneri* infections in the United Kingdom has increased, and the incidence of *S. flexneri* infection in the United States has increased in the 1980s and 1990s [10, 11].

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