

COMPLETION REPORT

Universiti Teknologi MARA, MALAYSIA

Peck-Leong Tan

Subject of Research Project: Awareness and the Use of Fureai Kippu Concept to enable Elderly People in Malaysia to live independently and Meaningfully: Lessons from Japan

Recent projections for Malaysia indicate a three-fold increase in the elderly population, expected to rise from 2.0 million in 2022 to 6.0 million in 2040. With more elderly individuals opting for independent living, there's an increasing need for both formal and informal assistance. However, formal aid from the government or NGOs is limited and may strain the social care system. This research explores the potential of volunteerism in aiding elderly care in Malaysia. A study conducted over three months using convenience sampling, involving 134 participants, aimed to understand adults' perceptions of elderly living arrangements and their willingness to engage in elderly care volunteerism. The survey focused on three critical areas related to elderly care among adults aged 20 to 60 years: perceptions of elderly living arrangements, awareness and willingness to participate in volunteerism programs, and the type of care required by elderly parents. It highlights the enduring value of children, both sons and daughters, caring for elderly parents and emphasizes the importance of collaborative decision-making between parents and children regarding living arrangements. The study reveals limited awareness about time banking among participants but a strong willingness to participate. However, concerns arise about volunteers' ethnic backgrounds and expectations, prompting questions about the effectiveness of volunteerism in Malaysia's diverse context. While the tradition of filial piety remains strong in Malaysia, work demands highlight the need to prioritize volunteerism as a promising approach for elderly care. To ensure the efficacy of volunteerism, especially the time bank system, comprehensive education and training for both volunteers and recipients are vital. This approach is essential to address the increasing challenges brought about by the ageing population. In Malaysia, the value of filial piety and respect for the elderly remains deeply entrenched, particularly within the Malay ethnic culture. A significant majority of respondents believe that the duty of caring for elderly parents falls upon their children, regardless of gender. However, the evolving landscape, marked by an influx of women into the workforce and improvements in health and wealth, has shifted the dynamics of elderly living arrangements. Increasingly, decisions regarding living situations for the elderly are being collaboratively determined by the elderly parents and their adult children, often resulting in elderly parents residing independently. Although, introducing a time bank as a form of volunteerism to support independently living elderly individuals garners favour among children, it faces challenges when applied to Malaysia's cultural and religious milieu. Unlike in homogenous societies like Japan, Malaysia's multicultural, multi-religious, and multi-ethnic fabric complicates the effectiveness of such initiatives. Notably, gender and ethnicity assumptions regarding volunteers play a pivotal role in the reception of volunteer care by elderly recipients. In conclusion, while Malaysia's filial piety culture persists, the strains from work demands, particularly among women, necessitate the advancement of volunteerism as the preferred course. Essential education and training for both volunteers and recipients are imperative to ensure that volunteerism effectively serves as an alternative to elderly care, addressing the escalating challenges posed by the ageing population.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Presentation at MACFEA-AACIM International Seminar which was held on 15-17 November 2023, at FEB Airlangga University, Indonesia.

Title: Adult Children's Perception of Elderly Parents Living Arrangement and Volunteerism for Elderly Care

<https://digiseminar.id/asset/jadwal/certificate/macfea2023/presenter/892.pdf>

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Journal Name: Jurnal Pengguna Malaysia (Malaysia Consumer Journal - https://macfea.com.my/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/JPM-JILID-2-VOL-39-DIS-2023_lengkap.pdf)

Title: Adult Children's Perception Of Elderly Parents' Living Arrangement And Volunteerism For Elderly Care

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

1. Newspaper article: "Explore time bank volunteerism scheme to care for the elderly" published in New Strait Times Malaysia on 30th November 2023 <https://prime.uitm.edu.my/publication/attachment/e9b0x/download>

2. Newspaper article: "Time banking initiative for senior citizens" published in The Star, Malaysia on 4th December 2023 <https://prime.uitm.edu.my/publication/attachment/b8y1J/download>