Role and Challenges of Intergenerationality in Enhancing the Health of Ageing Populations

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Facing an ageing population,

→ “Ageing Well in Place”, improve the quality of life as well as reduce the burden in health system.

→ Intergeneration’s support in different aspects is important to enable ageing well in community and a sustainable manner.
Background

- **Intergenerational**
  “relationships and transactions between generations. These include not only today’s younger and older generations but also those not yet born – the future progeny of people who are alive today”

  WHO: Intergenerational Equity Briefing, 2015

- **Intergenerational Equity**
  “the idea of fairness or justice between different generations”
  “equality in treatment and opportunities for different generations”

  WHO: Intergenerational Equity Briefing, 2015
  Marshall VW et al, 1993
Aims

• To explore the roles and challenges of intergeneration in supporting for older people in community using scoping review
Methodology

Scoping Review method involves five stages:

(1) Reframing the research questions with the PICO Framework

- “P” (Population): different age groups or generations,
- “I” (Intervention): concepts of intergenerational relations and intergenerational equity
- “O” (Outcome): community support, healthcare service, health policy, financing, and health
- “C” (Comparison): varies depending on the context
Scoping Review

(2) Identifying Keywords (134 words/phrases):

- **Elderly** *(Example: older adult* or senior* or elder* or older people or older person* or old-old or old old or young-old or young old or parent* or grandparent* or retire*)
- **Young generation** *(Example: child* or youngster* or youth or adolescen* or teen* or grandchild*)
- **Intergenerational equity** *(Example: ((inter-generational* or intergeneration*) adj3 (justice or injustice or discriminat* or inequalit* or disparit* or equit* or inequit* or equalit* or depriv* or fair* or poverty or disadvantage* or ageis* or stereotyp* or responsib* or right* or ethic* or expect* or dependen* or willingness or filial piety or transfer*))
- **Health policy, healthcare service, policy-making** *(Example: Health Promotion/ or exp Health Care Reform/ or exp Health Care Delivery/ or exp Public Health/ or exp Policy Making/ or exp Health Care Administration/ or exp Government Policy Making/ or exp Health Care Policy/ or exp Health Insurance/ or exp Health Care Services/)
### Scoping Review

#### (3) Identifying database: 14 Databases under three fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>Social Science</th>
<th>Grey Literature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMED (1985-Present)</td>
<td>AgeLine</td>
<td>Academic Search Premier (1975-Present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINAHL</td>
<td>PsycINFO (1806-Present)</td>
<td>Google Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubMed</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reference from WUN team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scoping Review

(4) Selecting Article: was conducted by two independent reviewers

- **3718** articles
- **3588** articles with unique titles
- **3479** articles to be screened
- **286** articles included in the study (24 overlapped with other themes)

**Themes**

1. **Informal Care**
   - 73 (18 Overlapped with other themes)

2. **Formal Care**
   - 53 (13 Overlapped with other themes)

3. **Policy**
   - 105 (8 Overlapped with other themes)

4. **Theories**
   - 28 (7 Overlapped with other themes)

5. **Impact on Health**
   - 51 (6 Overlapped with other themes)

Exclusions:

- **130** articles excluded (104 without fulltext/abstract; 26 duplicated)
- **109** articles in non-English language excluded
- **3193** articles excluded irrelevant to intergenerationality

**Articles Statistics**

- **3588** articles to be screened
- **286** articles included in the study (24 overlapped with other themes)
1. Intergenerationality and Informal care

Pattern of intergenerational support:

Resources Transfer:
- Financial Support (monetary terms, property);
- Instrumental Care (elderly care, attention/care for grandchildren);
- Emotional Support (emotional support)

Challenges:
- Health status
- Needs of parents
- Socio-economic status
- Education status
- Accessibility of formal and informal care
- Composition of family
- Geographical distance
2. Intergenerationality and Formal care

- Limited findings are found
- Mixed views on the quality of formal care
  - Majority are more satisfied with primary care and community service than hospital care
  - Majority are more satisfied with social workers and allied health professions than physicians
  - Long waiting time to access to respite care → burden on family caregiver
3. Intergenerationality and Policy

**Situation 1: As a cause**
- To avoid intergenerational poverty
- In developing countries

**Situation 2: As an outcome**
- Fairness
- Resources allocation

**Social Safety Net Reform:**
Conditional cash transfer program
- **Countries:** Morocco, Mexico, Cambodia, Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Pakistan
- **Education:** To incentivize poor families to send their children to school regularly
- **Health:** To promote healthcare utilization especially for women and children
- **Impact:** Mixed evidence

**Pro-young educational policy/Pro-old health policy**
- **Countries:** American, Canada, European countries
- **Impact:** Unfair
4. Intergenerationality and Underpinning theories

| Elements of Intergeneration exchange | • Direction of resource transfer  
|                                      | • Type of resources  
|                                      | • Impact of formal care on intergeneration  
|                                      | • Intergeneration solidarity  
| Constructs of Intergeneration relationship | • Household structure  
|                                      | • Proximity of the generations  
|                                      | • Frequency and intensity of contact between generations  
|                                      | • Intergeneration transfers and non-kin relationship  
| Justice and Intergenerational Relationship | • Mutual advantage  
|                                      | • Entitlement  
|                                      | • Justice as fair outcome  

5. Intergenerationality and Health Outcomes

- **Psychological Well-being**
  - Better mental health (recipient)
  - Stress perceived in (contributor)

- **Cohesive Relationship**
  - Closer mutual relationship

- **Life Satisfaction**
  - Higher satisfaction (recipient)

- **Self-reported Health Status**
  - Better perceived health outcome (recipient)
  - Deterioration of health (contributor)
Conclusion

• Findings would be important input for the society and policy maker to review the role of intergeneration in health

• Incorporate the concept of intergenerational equity for fair resource allocation across different age groups to better achieve the population health
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