Family Well Being: Enhancing National Policies Towards Elderly Parents

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Seminar Laws and Policies for Elderly Parents

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Population: A Summary

SCOPE

Going Forward

Issues & Challengers
Population: A Summary

Malaysia: Preparing for an ageing population

Future Generation

Productive Population

Ageing Population

Malaysia will be aged by the year 2030

Source: DOS, Malaysia

Note: * projection
Issues & Challenges

Changing Family Structure

Source: DOS, Malaysia; Several censuses

- Nuclear families is the norm
- MPFS-4 (2004), NPFDB
  - 75% elderly stay with their family members
  - 15% stay with their spouses
  - 10% stay alone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Type</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>2000</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other related member</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended family</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear family</td>
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<td>65.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrelated member</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single member</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Issues & Challenges

Living Arrangements

Suitability of living in old folks home

- Yes: 48.9%
- No: 51.1%

Almost half of the elderly feel it is suitable to stay at old folk’s home if they stay alone and can’t manage themselves.

Willingness to go to day care center

- Yes: 54.7%
- No: 45.3%

51% of them agreed to be sent to daycare when family members work.

Source: MPFS-4 (2004), NPFDB
Issues & Challenges

Long term care of the Elderly

- Overall, 65% of elderly expect their children to care for them when they are sick.
- Men rely more on their spouses while women rely on their children.

Source: MPFS-4 (2004), NPFDB
Issues & Challenges

Loneliness

Elderly women are more likely to be lonely

Loneliness increases with increase in age

Source: MPFS-4 (2004), NPFDB
Issues & Challenges

Health issues among elderly

1 in 4 elderly have poor health

Arthritis & Hypertension are the main medical illnesses among the elderly

Source: MPFS-4 (2004), NPFDB
Issues & Challenges

Financial support & savings:

1. Most of the elderly depend on pension, government mandatory savings & financial aid from their children.

2. Majority have saving in banks and Pilgrimage Fund.

3. Less than 10% have insurance coverage.

4. 1 in 4 elderly who are staying away from their children do not receive financial help from their children.

Source: MPFS-4 (2004), NPFDB
Moving Forward: Productive Ageing

The National Policy for Older Persons, 2011

Objectives:

- To enhance the respect for and self-worth of the elderly in family, society and nation
- To develop the potential of the elderly so that they remain active and productive in national development and to create opportunities for them to continue to live independently
- To encourage the establishment and the provision of specific facilities to ensure the care and protection of the elderly

Areas of Plan of Action:

- Promotion and Advocacy
- Lifelong Learning
- Safety and Protection
- Governance and Shared Reasonability
- Involvement and Intergenerational Solidarity
- Research and development
The financial assistance to families on the demise of a contributor was increased from RM2000 to RM2500 effective from November 2002. This amendment was made to reduce the burden of families of the deceased.

Direct financial assistance of RM300 per person per month is given to older persons to overcome poverty.

Beginning January 2012, older persons also received exemption for outpatient registration fees in all government clinics and hospitals.
To encourage family members to take care of elderly members, current individual tax relief of up to RM5000 for parents’ medical expenses extended to cover expenses to care for parents (care at home, day care centers) with effect from year of assessment 2011.

Beginning 2003, civil servants are entitled to three days of compassionate leave with regards to the demise of their nearest family members including older persons.
To reduce the financial burden on transfer of property among family members, instruments of transfer between husband and wife, parents and children on the basis of love and affection are exempted from 50% of the stamp duty, beginning 2003.
Moving Forward: Strengthening Family Institution

The National Family Policy and Plan of Action, 2010

Policy Statement:
A policy for mainstreaming the family perspective in all socio-economic development efforts to ensure a quality generation.

Goal:
To develop prosperous, healthy and resilient families towards social stability.
Providing holistic support for marginalised groups through the launch of cross-ministerial initiative to address the common needs especially the elderly

Engage older persons / seniors in community-building initiatives and reward them financially for their participation such as:

- Retired teachers tutoring school kids to improve their academic achievement
- Retired doctors serving at 1 Malaysia Clinics to help their communities
Moving Forward: Strengthening Family Institution

Access to Family Friendly Services (Blue Ocean Strategy)

1 Malaysia Mobile Community Transformation Centre

- Launch 1 Malaysia Mobile Healthcare for older persons in low-income households to receive health services in their homes
- Leverage 1 Malaysia For Youth (1M4U) volunteers to provide general health services to older persons in their homes
The Family Health Development Programme, MOH has expanded its scope considerably since 1996 to include health care of special children, adolescent health and community mental health.

The Ministry of Health also introduced health care for older persons into the general health care system. Almost 75% of health clinics have implemented health care for older persons.
Provides activities to support community development, including the elderly in a homely and friendly environment where the activities carried out are therapeutic, interactive and conducive.

Activities conducted in partnership with NGOs and relevant government agencies
Vision 2020

1 Malaysia
‘People First, Performance Now’

Govt. Transformation Programme (7 NKRS’s)

10th Malaysia Plan

New Economic Model

6 Family Outcomes / Domain

Family Perspective in National Development

Core Family Values

Meeting Parenting Needs of Families

Strong Foundation for Adolescents

Strengthening of Marriage Institution

Family Support Services
1st
Malaysia Family First

Thank You
Terima Kasih

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