INFLUENCE OF FAMILY STRUCTURE ON PLACEMENT OF OLD PERSONS’ IN SAGANA HOME FOR THE AGED IN KIRINYAGA COUNTY, KENYA

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Presentation Outline

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Background of the Study

- According to the World United Nations World Population the number of people aged 65 or older is projected to grow from an estimated 524 million in 2010 to nearly 1.5 billion in 2050, with most of the increase in developing countries. This is due to falling fertility rates and increased life expectancy.

- This pace has not been the same in increasing health care, homes for the aged and especially for those who have social security at retirement.
In Kenya the number of older persons, 60 years and above has risen from 270,000 according to the first National Population Census Report in 1949 to 1.9 million during the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census.

Projections by the year 2020 there will be a rise of the total population to 43.1 million with that of older persons rising from 1.9 to 2.6 million (Republic of Kenya, 2012).
Problem statement

- The elderly person in the traditional family was taken care by the extended family who were the young, women and other family members.

- The extended family has since reduced in size, women and the young have migrated to towns in pursuit of education and employment, leaving the old alone to take care of themselves.
Purpose of the study

➢ To established the influence of family structure on placement of old persons in Sagana home for the aged
Study objectives

➢ To examine whether the old person have live-in relatives.

➢ To assess if the old person have emotional bonding with other family members and the community.

➢ To describe the extent of stigmatisation among the old persons placed in homes for the aged.
Literature review

- Old persons seek Long Term Care (LTC) services when their ability to manage and care for themselves changes. (Nakashima, Chapin, Macmillian & Zimmerman, 2004).

- Research carried out by Bebbington, Darton and Netten (1996) showed that the probability of admission to a care home is higher particularly for women than it is for men.
**Literature review**

- A study by Davis (2007) showed that African American, Asian and Hispanic families are more likely to keep their loved ones at home and provide care informally. This scholars focused on African Americans, Latinos and Whites hence leaving out on Africans.

- Gitonga (2013), argues that as the quality of life improves, more people in Kenya are able to afford nursing care for their elderly which includes placement in homes for the aged.
Working Theory

- The Disengagement Theory of Cumming & Henry (1961) states that both the elderly and the society disassociate from each other.

- Therefore, the elderly need to be placed in the home of the aged to continue aging with a similar elderly population.
Conceptual Framework

Independent Variable

Family Structure
- Live-in relatives
- Family community emotional bonding

Government policy

Intervening variable

Placement of old persons in the foe the aged

Dependent Variable
Research Methodology

- This study adopted a descriptive survey design.

- A census was conducted for all the 109 members of Sagana home for the aged who included the administrators, social workers and the elderly persons.

- Data were collected by use of questionnaire and structured interviews.

- Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, frequency tables, percentages, and graphs.
The study showed that 80% of the respondents indicated that the aged were not frequently placed in the home while 20% were not sure.

Findings on leaving the home showed that 60% implied no aged person had left while 40% said some had left.
Live-in with Relatives

- Results showed that live-in relatives are family members who lived in the same compound with the elderly person.
- Eighty percent (80%) said that the old persons placed in Sagana home for the aged did not have any live in relatives while only (20%) said that they had live-in relatives.
Does old person have live in relatives?

[Pie chart showing a large 'No' segment and a small 'Yes' segment]
• **Family cohesion**

- Family cohesion was operationalized also to mean family emotional bonding between the old person and their families.
- Fifty per cent (50%) said there was no emotional bonding at all, 35% said it was not strong, 10% were neutral while only 5% said they had emotional bonding with other family members.
Family cohesion of old persons admitted in the home for the aged
Community Cohesion

- Community cohesion of the old person was examined and 45% of respondents said their communities were strong, 35% said it was not strong while 20% said it was not there at all.

- Further probing indicated that some respondents felt the communities took care of the elderly.
Community cohesion of old persons admitted in the home for the aged

- Very strong
- Strong
- Neutral
- Not strong
- None at all

Frequency
Social stigma on the elderly

- The respondents 88% felt that the community stigmatized those admitted in the home for the aged while 12% said there was no social stigma.

- Further probing showed that the community referred the elderly in the home as irresponsible and dirty.
Social stigma towards old persons placed in the homes for the aged

- Yes: 88%
- No: 12%
The study findings that 80% of the old persons placed in Sagana home for the aged did not have any live-in relatives while only 20% had supports the observation made by Kersting (2001) that living below the poverty line, difficulty with activities of daily living, increased age and lack of relative caregivers contributes to placement of elderly in homes for the aged.

Family cohesion lacked in most of the elderly persons and they felt abandoned and neglected. This attributed to significantly placing the elderly in the home for the aged other than being aged.
Conclusions and recommendations

✓ As family structures changes, more aged persons shall be placed in homes for the aged. It is therefore necessary to have a home placement policy to enable introduction of homes for the aged insurance cover.

✓ The government stakeholder and families need to have a long term budget line for the aging population if they have to age in dignity and live well according to the sustainable goal number 3.
Conclusions and recommendations

✓ The community need to appreciate the wisdom, experience gained by the elderly over the years and therefore consider them as stakeholders during project design and implementation and community events such as nurturing the youth and young adults.
Conclusions and recommendations

✓ The universities should partner with homes for the aged to harness the knowledge with the elderly

✓ The study further recommends an in-depth research on what makes the aged placed in homes for the elderly content especially here in Kenya.
Elderly Woman in Sagana Home for the Aged
A section of Elderly Women in Sagana Home
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING