

Elderly Satisfaction in Multi-generational Family Living in Kuala Lumpur

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ABSTRACT

The lifestyles in a city and the rural areas are different in Malaysia. Within the family living in the city of Kuala Lumpur, the different races and religions necessitate multigenerational relationships. The lifestyles in a city and the rural areas are different in Malaysia. Those who live in rural areas own a house with land where their relatives are within their surroundings, giving a sense of well-being. In contrast, those living in the city would rent or buy a family-size house that is

designed for only one family generation. The aim of this research is to focus on the well-being of multigenerational families living in the city of Kuala Lumpur and their lifestyles in landed property or high-rise housing. The research's objective is to identify the level of satisfaction with the facilities housing multigenerational living in Kuala Lumpur. The findings that are discussed in this research focus on the level of people's satisfaction and well-being with multigenerational living in a city where the surrounding has fewer facilities for senior citizens. A new generation living in the city needs to develop a social family who are living together, comprising parents, adults and children, whereby relationships are more intimate. This research has shown the impact of the situation of multigenerational living in Kuala Lumpur housing area where the house design is not suitable for multigenerational families living together because some people need privacy in their lives.

Keywords: Satisfaction; Facilities; Elderly; Multigenerational family

INTRODUCTION

Living in a multigenerational setting in a city refers to the practice of multiple generations of a family, i.e., grandparents, parents, and children, living together in the same household or within proximity to each other in an urban environment. In Malaysia, the multi-racial and multi-religious cultures within the family have different beliefs. This arrangement, particularly in urban environments, offers a range of benefits, including economic advantages, enhanced support networks, shared responsibilities, social and emotional well-being, cultural preservation, and intergenerational learning. Some studies find the evaluations of parents' problems between generations suggest a discrepancy, with children tending to overestimate their parents' problems while parents may underestimate their own (H. J. Lee et al., 2020).

Elderly individuals often face a range of physical and mental health challenges that require attentive care. This indicates that residing with an adult child could potentially act as a protective element against the adverse effects of living alone on the well-being of elderly individuals. The present study aims to spark ideas that could lead to the development of community-based care solutions tailored to the needs of our modern, aging society (S. R. Lee & Kim, 2022).

According to Sarkisian, N. and Gerstel, N. (2004), the arrangement fosters strong family bonds and provides a framework for mutual support and growth. Living in a multigenerational setting, where multiple generations of a family reside together or close, is a practice that has gained significant attention in recent years. It fosters strong family bonds and provides a framework for mutual support and growth. Rapid urbanization and population growth over the years have led to changes in housing patterns and family structures in Kuala Lumpur (Zakaria & Sulaiman, 2019). Economic considerations also play a role in multigenerational living

arrangements, with high living costs prompting families to share resources and living spaces to mitigate financial burdens (Ariffin et al., 2020). Traditional values and cultural norms influence the prevalence of multigenerational living, with respect for elders and the importance of family cohesion deeply ingrained in Malaysian society (Yeoh & Huang, 2007). In the Malaysian context, the Multi-Generational Housing Concept is regarded as the most appropriate housing model to incorporate features conducive to elderly-friendly design (Ismail et al., 2020).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

This paper determines the satisfaction of facilities in community and family homes. Living in a flat means the satisfaction level is highly unsatisfactory due to the housing and neighborhood conditions (Bangdome-dery & Eghan, 2013). Accordingly, based on the level of understanding in Malaysia about multigenerational families, people know about it but they do not practice it in their lives. In a previous study, (Pilkauskas et al., 2020) has found race or ethnicity to be a small sample and limited to analyses among Asian American children, regardless of the variation within the racial or ethnic groups.

The perspective of Asian people on multigenerational is different from that of Western countries. Social institutions transcend individual lives, to help support the multigenerational continuity of a family in social inequality. The tandem nature of demographic and socioeconomic reproduction is close to the multigenerational effect of families (Mare, 2011). The new generation's perception has changed as more lifestyles are private with no sharing of social, economic, and cultural identities among the different generations, Zhou et al. (2022) studied intergenerational co-residence and young couples who have a high time cost of adult care in China, those who are living in rural areas with elderly parents. Corresponding to this, future recommendations in China's family policy should be given more attention to the community phenomenon (Hu & Peng, 2015).

Studies in the USA have found links between race or ethnicity and the socioeconomic status, and multigenerational coresidence between 1980 and 2018 (Pilkauskas et al., 2020). Previous studies show aspects of multigenerational societies that require a few factors to establish consistency before studying community multigenerational families. Different countries face different community and individual issues. Correspondingly, this study explores the racial differences in kin support systems, including multigenerational living arrangements among black and white families: the study sheds light on the prevalence and implications of multigenerational living in urban contexts. In a previous study, (Pilkauskas et al., 2020) has found race or ethnicity to be a small sample and limited to analyses among Asian American children, regardless of the variation within the racial or ethnic groups. According to reports in the US, the prevalence of multigenerational living in the U.S. has surged over the past five decades and continues to rise, with Americans frequently citing practical motives such as

financial considerations or family caregiving when explaining their decision to cohabit with relatives (D'Vera Cohn et al., 2022).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Satisfaction Multigenerational family

The literature review of this study underscores the significance of occupant satisfaction within multigenerational families, particularly for those residing in urban settings where the well-being of elderly occupants is paramount. Professionals have a crucial role to play in designing affordable housing solutions that cater to the wellness needs of multigenerational households (Ismail et al., 2017). Additionally, Paris and Kangari (2005) have identified and categorized issues pertaining to satisfaction among residents of multifamily affordable housing, contributing to a systematic understanding of challenges in this context.

Satisfaction within multigenerational families, where different generations coexist and share a household, is influenced by a complex interplay of factors encompassing family dynamics, caregiving responsibilities, and cultural values. Research suggests that high levels of family cohesion and support can contribute to greater satisfaction among members of multigenerational households (Fingerman et al., 2009). However, conflicts arising from differing expectations and roles within the family can also impact the overall satisfaction (Hughes et al., 2019). Cultural contexts significantly shape the experiences of multigenerational families; for instance, in collectivist societies, the emphasis on interconnectedness and mutual support may contribute positively to satisfaction, while in individualistic societies, concerns about autonomy and personal space might lead to potential conflicts (Kagitecibasi, 2018). Understanding these nuanced dynamics is crucial for fostering harmonious and satisfying multigenerational living arrangements.

Ensuring adequate facilities for aging individuals is paramount for promoting their well-being and quality of life. These facilities encompass various aspects, including healthcare services, accessible infrastructure, and social support networks. Healthcare services tailored to the needs of older adults, such as geriatric care clinics and specialized treatment centers, play a crucial role in addressing age-related health concerns and promoting healthy aging (Bryant et al., 2017). According to Morita et al., (2021) the community-based study highlights the significance of implementing multigenerational exchanges as a vital activity for community building, as it correlates with heightened communication among generations and strengthened connections within the community.

Facilities housing for elderly

Facilities at home for aging individuals are crucial to ensure their comfort, safety, and independence as they age in place. Modifications such as grab bars, non-slip mats, and handrails in bathrooms help prevent falls and enhance accessibility (Gitlin

& Mann, 2013). Similarly, features like lower countertops, pull-out shelves, and lever-handled faucets in the kitchen promote ease of use and reduce strain while cooking or preparing meals (Niemeier et al., 2018). Installing mobility aids such as walkers or wheelchairs facilitates movement around the home, while home security systems with emergency buttons provide quick assistance in case of accidents or emergencies (Czaja et al., 2016). Widening doorways, constructing ramps, and ensuring comfortable seating further contribute to enhancing the home environment for aging individuals, promoting their overall well-being and quality of life (Johnson & Richardson, 2017). These facilities encompass a range of options, including nursing homes, assisted living residences, and retirement communities, which provide various levels of care and support that are tailored to individual needs.

According to Nabees Khan et al. (2021), the research reveals four primary categories of senior housing: family homes, care centers, health facilities, and retirement homes, with the selection of a housing option for senior citizens being contingent upon their comfort and adaptability. The design of elderly housing facilities should prioritize ensuring the comfort of residents in carrying out their daily activities. In China, they provided design guidelines and presented evidence aimed at enhancing privacy in small, compact care facilities for the elderly (Mnea & Zairul, 2023; Tao et al., 2018).

The study on the satisfaction of a multigenerational family in the city with facilities housing for the elderly has facilities that are provided for residential occupants; however, it is not catered to elderly people living together with a family of younger generations. Therefore, this paper's study objective is to define the satisfaction of housing design facilities for those who are living with elderly parents.

METHODOLOGY

This paper employs a quantitative method to conduct a pilot study using a questionnaire, targeting individuals who work in Kuala Lumpur and have experience living with their parents. The survey was administered by randomly selecting workers from office areas in Kuala Lumpur to participate. Feedback was collected from a sample of 30 respondents who had recently relocated to Kuala Lumpur and started working there within the past week at the time of the survey. A closed-ended questionnaire with a Likert scale is a structured survey instrument used to gather quantitative data by presenting respondents with a series of statements or questions to which they must indicate their level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction on a scale. The study aims to examine the well-being of multigenerational families living in Kuala Lumpur from the perspective of individuals who have recently joined the workforce in the city while also considering their familial living arrangements.

The questionnaire is divided into two sections: (1) demographic information about the respondents; and (2) satisfaction with multigenerational family and facilities. The satisfaction levels of the respondents are measured using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied). The satisfaction levels are determined as percentages based on the assigned values. Consequently, any value above 3 is considered an indicator of a higher level of satisfaction, while any value below 3 indicates a lower level of satisfaction among the respondents.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Demographic household

The first section of the questionnaire revealed that 51.60% of the respondents working in the Kuala Lumpur area reside in terrace houses near districts within Kuala Lumpur. Additionally, 19.40% of the respondents are indicated to be living in semi-detached houses. This choice is primarily influenced by the fact that areas that are located 10 to 20 km away from Kuala Lumpur offer a plethora of landed properties, coupled with convenient transportation options to their workplaces in Kuala Lumpur. A smaller proportion, specifically 9.70% of the respondents, have mentioned that they reside in condominiums within Kuala Lumpur. This preference for condominium living is attributed to the elevated quality of life that is associated with such accommodations.

Table 1: Types of Houses

Type of House	Percentage
Terrace House	51.60%
Semi-D House	19.40%
Bungalow House	12.90%
Condominium House	9.70%
Apartment House	6.50%

Referring to Table 2 shows that 48.4% of the respondents have lived in Kuala Lumpur for more than 11 years. Among these long-term residents, a significant 48.4% possess extensive working experience in Kuala Lumpur, spanning over a decade. Conversely, 29% of the respondents have lived in Kuala Lumpur for less than 5 years. This demographic reflects the younger generation's inclination to adapt to the urban lifestyle of Kuala Lumpur. Overall, this trend reflects the dynamic nature of urban living in Kuala Lumpur, where individuals are finding innovative ways to adapt traditional family values to modern urban contexts. Another segment, comprising 22.60% of the respondents, have been residents for 6 to 10 years. This duration signifies a phase where individuals start to establish stability within the Kuala Lumpur environment.

Table 2: Years living in Kuala Lumpur

Years	Percentage
11-20	29%
6-10	22.60%
21-30	19.40%
1-2	16.10%
3-5	12.90%

Table 3 shows that 80.60% of respondents live together with 1 to 5 people in the same household, and they find the living space to be not too crowded. About 16.10% live with 6 to 10 people, indicating an intermediate level of satisfaction, which suggests that the size of the house is suitable for their family's needs. Only 3.2% of households in Kuala Lumpur have more than 11 people living in one house.

Table 3: Household

Persons	Percentage
1-5	80.60%
6-10	16.10%
11-15	3.20%

Upon examining households living together in one house, it becomes evident that they often share their space with elderly individuals. Table 4 that 38.70% has no elderly persons living with them, as these elderly individuals are merely visiting-temporarily, perhaps for vacations to see their grandchildren. About 29% has two elderly individuals living with them, as their health condition necessitates physical and mental support from their children. Another 25% has only one elderly person living with them in Kuala Lumpur. In such cases, the elderly individuals rely on their children for everyday assistance.

Table 4: Elderly Living in Kuala Lumpur

Persons	Percentage
None	38.70%
2	29%
1	25.80%
More than 3	6.50%

Satisfaction with Multigenerational Family and Facilities.

This section examines the satisfaction levels that are related to multigenerational family living in Kuala Lumpur. Table 5 displays the satisfaction levels of living

together with elderly family members and grandchildren. Almost 50% of the respondents have reported feeling satisfied, while 13.30% has expressed very high levels of satisfaction with their multigenerational living arrangement. Additionally, 20% of the respondents have indicated that they felt comfortable and natural with the situation. On the other hand, 16.30% of the respondents have reported feeling either very dissatisfied or are dissatisfied, expressing a need for more privacy in their lives. It's important to note that individual preferences in this matter depend on their lifestyle, family background, and cultural factors. In some cases, newer generations may seek greater privacy from their parents.

Table 5: Satisfaction Multigenerational Family Living in City Kuala Lumpur

Persons	Percentage
Very Dissatisfied	3.30%
Dissatisfied	13.30%
Neither	20%
Satisfied	50%
Very Satisfied	13.30%

In some cases, parents opt to live with their children either because they are alone or facing health challenges, necessitating the support of younger family members for their well-being. In Kuala Lumpur, specific housing options offer commendable facilities tailored for disabled and elderly individuals. As depicted in Table 6, a substantial 46.70% of respondents find the provision of such facilities natural, especially when there are no elderly individuals residing with them. Moreover, 40% of respondents express satisfaction with the amenities for the disabled, with an additional 3.30% reporting very high levels of satisfaction with the provided environment. Conversely, only 10% of respondents express dissatisfaction with the disabled facilities, potentially due to their absence or outdated housing structures failing to meet the requirements for disabled-friendly facilities.

Table 6: Disabled Facilities in Housing

Persons	Percentage
Dissatisfied	10%
Neither	46.70%
Satisfied	40%
Very Satisfied	3.30%

Multigenerational family living in a city necessitates a house design that caters to the needs of a large family, accommodating both elderly and young generations. Among the respondents, approximately 51.60% have reported satisfaction with the house design tailored for multigenerational families. Table 1 highlights a significant number of respondents who are residing in terrace houses. Furthermore, 16.10% of

the respondents have expressed very high satisfaction with the house design, emphasising its comfortable living space for families. Approximately 22.60% of respondents have remained neutral regarding the suitability of the house design for elderly family members cohabiting with them. Table 2 also reveals a correlation between the duration of respondents' stay in Kuala Lumpur and the diversity of house types and designs, influenced by lifestyle, size, and land prices.

However, 9.70% of the respondents have expressed dissatisfaction with house designs that they consider to be unsuitable for elderly residents, as illustrated in Table 3, which represents households with 6 to 10 members sharing a living space. When there are more than 5 people living in a single household, it can become overcrowded, making it less comfortable for multigenerational families, particularly those with elderly members. The design of the house significantly influences the well-being of the elderly, particularly in terms of accessibility and circulation within the home, with notable differences between past and present approaches. Additionally, the size of the house is a crucial factor in determining its design considerations.

Designing houses for multigenerational families, particularly those with aging members, necessitates prioritizing features such as step-free entrances, wide doorways, and accessible bathrooms to enhance mobility and safety. Incorporating adaptable layouts and universal design principles not only fosters independence and dignity but also ensures a comfortable and inclusive living environment for all family members.

Table 7: Design House for the Elderly

Persons	Percentage
Dissatisfied	9.70%
Neither	22.60%
Satisfied	51.60%
Very Satisfied	16.10%

CONCLUSION

Our research highlights the significant impact of urban social life on the life satisfaction of multigenerational families, emphasizing the importance of nurturing environments and cultural awareness, particularly for younger generations living with elderly family members. Therefore, prioritizing the design of living spaces that cater to the needs of both elderly individuals and young children becomes imperative. This includes providing facilities for the disabled, which are crucial, especially for elderly family members with health conditions. A well-designed house can greatly enhance the overall living environment, promoting the concept of multigenerational families in urban settings. Furthermore, governmental support for

families in two-generational households includes providing guidelines for planning and designing houses that accommodate multigenerational living.

To enhance satisfaction with elderly and disabled facilities in multigenerational families living in Kuala Lumpur, it is imperative to establish a comprehensive support ecosystem aligned with universal design principles. This ecosystem should encompass physical accessibility, emotional well-being, and community engagement, thereby promoting inclusivity and enhancing the quality of life for elderly residents. Implementing universal design principles ensures that facilities are accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities, facilitating seamless navigation and usability.

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