



International Journal of Aging Research (ISSN:2637-3742)



The Wellbeing of the Heterogeneous Older Persons: The Analysis of 'Going in Style' Gerontological Comedy Film and Real-life Malaysian Elderly

Rajeswary S. Rajaratnam

University of Malaya, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

While ageing has become a global phenomenon and received prominent attention due to the rapid increase in the older population, including Malaysia; There has also been an increase in comedy films focusing on old people. Therefore, this study aims to analyse how older persons represented in a gerontological comedy film 'Going in Style'. This study also aims to relate how older persons represented in this comedy film with real-life situations of Malaysian older people. In meeting these aims, a qualitative research approach through thematic analysis has been adopted. The findings of this study shows how the older person represented in 'Going in Style' is similar to real-life situations experienced by some of Malaysian older people. The comedy highlights that ageing is not a single dimensional concept concentrated on physical aspects but is multidimensional, consisting of social, psychological, spiritual and economic and environmental aspects.

Keywords: older person, wellbeing, gerontology, multidimensional

*Correspondence to Author:

Rajeswary S. Rajaratnam
University of Malaya, Malaysia

How to cite this article:

Rajeswary S. Rajaratnam. The Wellbeing of the Heterogeneous Older Persons: The Analysis of 'Going in Style' Gerontological Comedy Film and Real-life Malaysian Elderly. International Journal of Aging Research, 2020, 3:64

 eSciPub
eSciPub LLC, Houston, TX USA.
Website: <https://escipub.com/>

Introduction

The increasing number of older persons has become a global phenomenon and is becoming a vital topic around the world (Autchariya, Suchitporn & Supawadee, 2019; Hadeel et al., 2018). As highlighted by the United Nations (2015a), the number of older persons was reported to increase substantially in most countries and regions whereby one in eight people worldwide was aged 60 years old or overreached 901 million in the year 2015. Not only that, the number of the older population worldwide in the year 2010 has been forecasted to be almost threefold from the older population in 2050 which are from 865 million to 2, 403 million (United Nations, 2009). In Asia, the numbers of the older population have increased and according to Westley, Sang-Hyop, and Mason (2000), this situation is at a rate unprecedented in human history. The old population aged 65 and older in Asia is expected to grow fourfold, from 250 million in the year 2012 to about one billion by the year 2050 (National Research Council, 2012). In Malaysia, a similar situation is occurring where in less than a decade, the growing population of the older person is transforming this country to be an aged nation by 2030 (Abdul Hamid, 2019; Adnan, 2017; Harun, 2017).

Aim

While the increasing number of the older person has become a global phenomenon, it is becoming an important topic around the world (Hadeel et al., 2018; Brown, 2011; McDaniel & Rozanova, 2011); including on the rise of the gerontological comedy films (Queenan, 2017). While comedy film is one of the most popular movie genres (Kaimann & Pannicke, 2015; Vandaele, 2002; Georgakopoulou, 2000; Zillmann, 2000), this study aims to analyze how the older person is represented in a comedy film 'Going in Style'. This study aims to relate how the older person is represented in this comedy film with the real-life situations of Malaysian older persons. According to Anderson, Carnagey, and Eubanks (2003) as well as

Gerbner and Gross (1976), there is a link between what is seen in film and television and the development of viewpoints and beliefs by viewers. The Cultivation Theory also highlighted that the more frequently something is portrayed on the screen, the more likely the viewers will come to believe it is true. Both positive and negative stereotypes of ageing, have enabled and constrained effects on the attitudes, actions, decisions, performance, and consequently the holistic health of the older persons (Dionigi, 2015).

Literature

'Going in Style': Directed by Zach Braff in 2017, this comedy film casts by Joe, Willie, and Albert as older persons in New York begins with the conflict when the company they worked for sees a change of ownership and they are facing an insolvent pension fund. This tense situation upsets their daily life whereby Joe, his daughter and granddaughter will be homeless in less than thirty days. Other than that, this situation also saw Willie who is facing renal failure much needing a kidney transplant urgently. Due to his financial circumstances he is forced into a long distance relationship with his daughter and granddaughter. Finally, in helping them get their monies back, they have decided to rob the bank. However, they are soon arrested on suspicion by FBI but they all adhere to their alibis. A child witness also refuses to identify Willie and leaving them innocent. Resulting from the success of the bank robbery, the three friends are able to solve their immediate financial needs at the same time help their community of aged people.

Malaysian Older Persons: As reported worldwide, Malaysia as a developing country is also experiencing a growth in the number of older persons (Abdul Hamid, 2019; Adnan, 2017; Harun, 2017; Muhammad Nur et al., 2017; Christina & Yuen, 2017; Momtaz et al., 2016; Abdul Rashid et al., 2016). In Malaysia, the older person is referred to as an individual who is 60 years old and above (National Policy for Older Person, 2011; Devasahayam, 2014; Muneeza & Hashim, 2010). According to Doris, Idris and Abu

Bakar (2010), the growth rate percentage of Malaysian older population can be seen to be higher as compared than the growth rate of the total Malaysian population. This situation is a cause of alarm to every Malaysian' especially

the elderly. Figure 1 illustrates the population growth rate between the older person and the total Malaysian Population from the year 1991 until the year 2020.

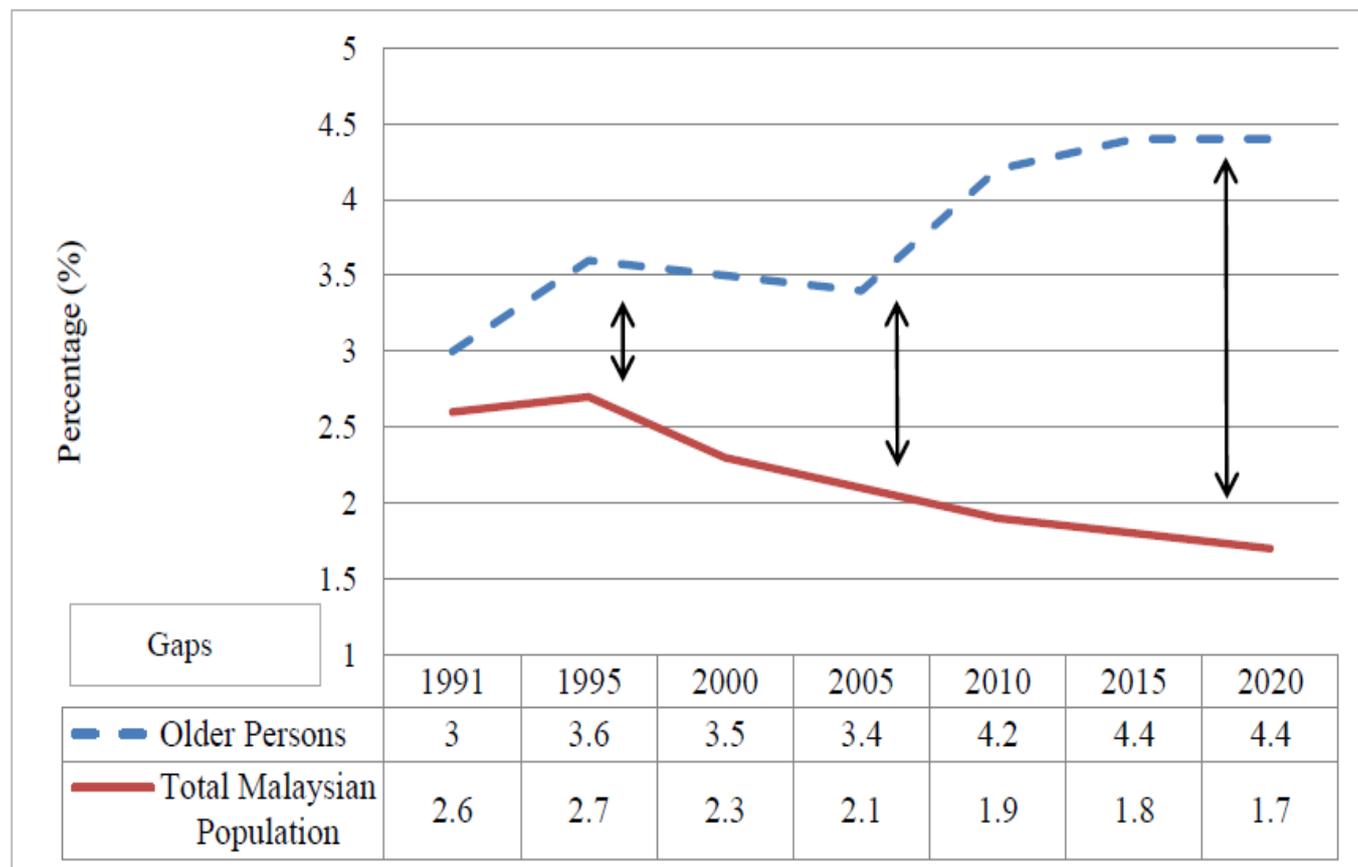


Figure 1 The Growth Rate Comparison between Malaysian Older Population versus Total Malaysian Population Source: Doris, Idris, and Abu Bakar (2010)

However, this increasing population portrays good governance in the health care system, yet further attention is needed in optimizing the wellbeing of older persons. Indeed, this study believes the quantity should not censure quality. The larger the number of older person population, the larger the concerns should be given in optimizing their wellbeing. Hence, the optimization of their wellbeing should be focused according to their unique characteristics since older persons are not relatively homogeneous but rather heterogeneous. As illustrated in Table 1, the statistical data of the Malaysian older person has been classified into their heterogenous characteristics by the National

Population and Family Development Board Malaysia (2016). The heterogeneous characteristics include their ethnicity, marital status, religion, strata, education level, age, state, and gender. As argued by Ramely, Ahmad, and Mohamed Harith (2018a), the understanding of the variations of the older person is useful to develop necessary measures or approaches. The examples of these approaches or measures are related to the social, employment, retirement, and health care to be suited with the unique needs, characteristics, and nature of the older person and the assumption on one-size-fits-all approach should be repealed.

Table 1 The Dispersion of Malaysian Older Persons Based on Socio-Economic Profile Forecasted Population

Number	Percentage (%)	
Ethnic		
Malay	1, 566, 784	61.0
Other Bumiputera	226, 739	8.8
Chinese	523, 690	20.4
Indian	241, 529	9.4
Others	11, 567	0.5
Religion		
Islam	1, 684, 276	65.5
Buddha	406, 602	15.8
Hindus	185, 755	7.2
Christian	226, 480	8.8
Others	67, 187	2.7
Marital status		
Never married	75, 102	2.9
Married	1, 731, 607	67.4
Widow/ widower	716, 323	27.9
Divorce	38, 254	1.5
Separate	9, 013	0.4
Education Level		
Not schooling	452, 393	17.6
Primary	1, 206, 987	47.0
Secondary (Lower)	352, 975	13.7
Secondary (Upper)	365, 025	14.2
Pre-University	41, 630	1.6
Tertiary	143, 168	5.6
Others	8, 121	0.3
Strata		
Urban	1, 796, 699	69.9
Rural	773, 601	30.1
State		
Johore	309, 701	12.0
Kedah	208, 099	8.1
Kelantan	151, 899	5.9
Melaka	89, 300	3.5
Negeri Sembilan	110, 400	4.3
Pahang	140, 151	5.5
Pulau Pinang	185, 200	7.2
Perak	318, 448	12.4
Perlis	26, 800	1.0
Selangor & Federal Territory of Putrajaya	391, 399	15.2
Terengganu	89, 100	3.5
Sabah & Federal Territory of Labuan	159, 399	6.2
Sarawak	244, 801	9.5
Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur	145, 601	5.7
Age		
60-64	1, 001, 481	39.0
65-69	735, 949	28.6
70-74	439, 941	17.1
75 and above	392, 929	15.3
Gender		
Male	1, 170, 063	45.5
Female	1, 400, 237	54.5

Methodology

While this study aims to analyse how the older person is represented in a comedy film 'Going in Style'; and aims to relates how the older person is represented in this comedy film with real-life situations of Malaysian elderly. This study adopted a qualitative research approach through a thematic analysis in analysing this film and real-life situations of Malaysian elderly. The film was chosen for analysis as this film has been watched with subtitles five times to facilitate the important scenes and to give ader platform for analysis. The script was also being printed to facilitate the understanding of the dialogue. Then, a qualitative data analysis software (NVivo 11 Pro) was also being used to identify patterns in the scripts. It helped to find connections and understand underlying themes and patterns and helped look out for emerging themes. The script as a mere tool has been read and analyzed thematically. In other words, all

keywords were classified into similar categories and code. The real-life situations of Malaysian elderly have been analysed based on the literature from scholars and reliable organizations. As mentioned by Sekaran and Bougie (2013), the analysis of qualitative data is aimed at making valid inferences from often-overwhelming data.

Findings and Discussion

The thematic analysis conducted by this study on 'Going in Style' gereontology comedy film and the real-life situations of Malaysian elderly has been classified into five multidimensional wellbeing dimensions. In other words, these five wellbeing explains how the older persons are being represented in 'Going in Style' and in real-life of Malaysian elderly. As illustrated in Figure 2, these five wellbeing dimensions are the social dimension, the economic dimension, spiritual dimension, health dimension, and environmental dimension.

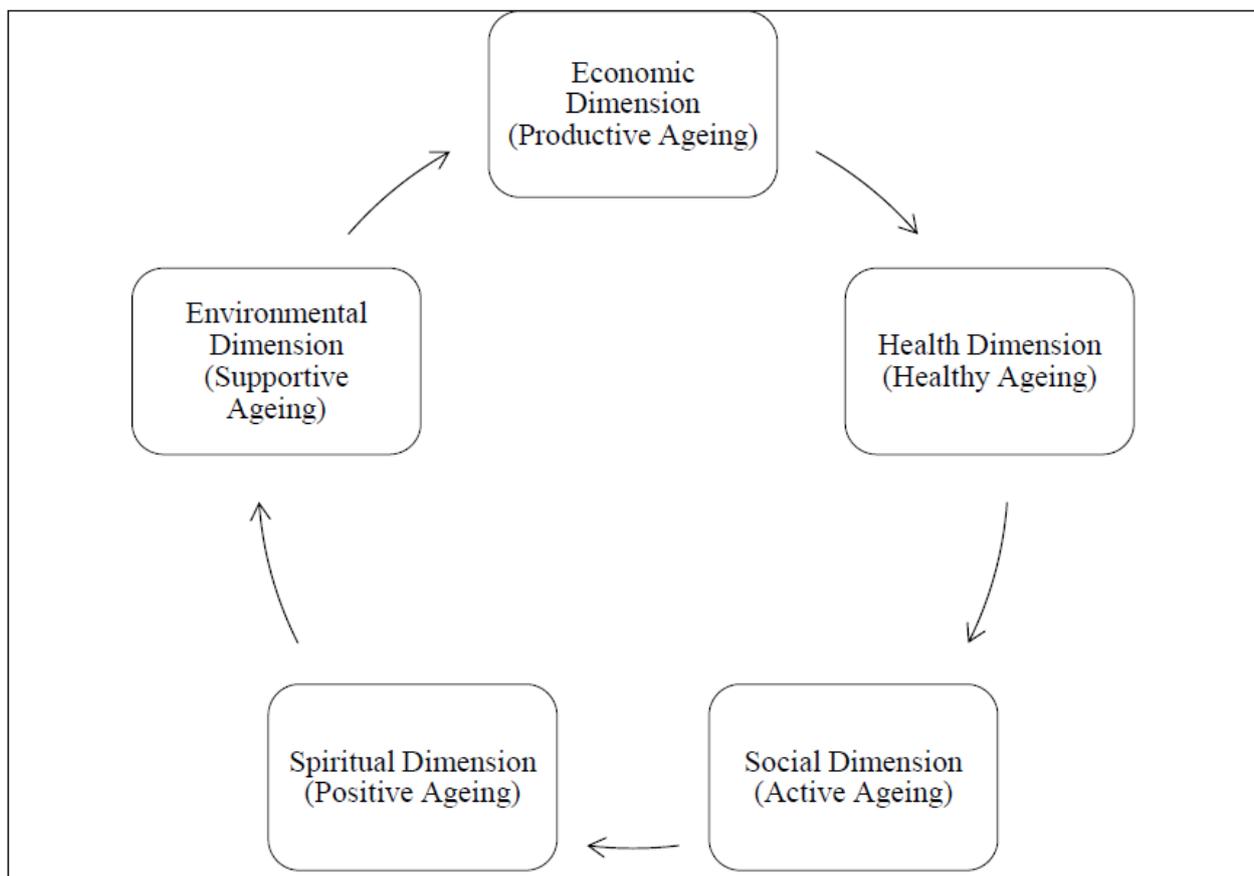


Figure 2 Five Wellbeing Dimensions of the Older Persons Represented in 'Going in Style' Comedy Film and the Real-life situations of Malaysian Baby Boomers

Economic Dimension (Productive Ageing):

The National Policy for Older Person Malaysia (2011) referred productive ageing as the participation of the older person in paid activities that give satisfaction and meaning to them. However, there are scenes in 'Going in Styles' that do not show this. For instance, the older persons in this film cast by Joe, Willie, and Albert face financial difficulties when the company they worked for is bought out and has restructured their pensions. Their financial difficulties have been portrayed via Scene 1 and Scene 2 as well as Scene 4 and Scene 5. This situation therefore, shows the government has to be aware of the financial difficulties of the elderly and restructure a good financial plan for the elderly in their twilight years. However, Scene 3 shows the culture of productive ageing practice by the older person when they keep working. For example, Albert who still works as a saxophone teacher in trying to earn a decent living and keeping himself occupied.

Scene 1:

I'm seeing an overdrawn balance in your daily checking.

Seems like your direct deposits haven't been received in a few months. From...

Wechsler Steel.

Yeah, I've been phoning them for weeks.

I couldn't get a straight answer [...] My mortgage payment tripled. Overnight.

Scene 2:

What's going on with our pensions?

Semtech Steel has frozen all pension payments during this transitional period.

What does that mean? Frozen?

Wechsler maintained a fund to honor all pre-merger pension plans, which was eventually to be married with the new pension fund under the new labor contract.

For God's sake, can you say that in English?

No U.S. operations, no fiscal responsibility for Semtech.

The pension fund is being dissolved.

With all due respect, Donald, thirty years of hard work means shit to you people!

Without my pension money, I can't even pay rent this month.

Scene 3:

Get off. I'll go find your grandma.

She's still got to pay me for the session.

Scene 4:

They're taking your house and you didn't tell us?

What are you gonna do? Lend me money?

We're all broke. The three of us combined.

These banks practically destroyed this country.

They crushed a lot of people's dreams.

Scene 5:

In 20 days, I will not have a roof over my head.

My social security check is a joke and my pension is tits up.

In Malaysia, the economic dimension of the older person is quite worrisome. As addressed by scholars, the older person in Malaysia is experiencing financial problems with inadequate savings for old age as it has been their culture to depend on their children, which can no longer be practiced (Harun, 2017; Adnan, 2017; Abdul Hamid, 2015; Melissa, 2015; Mohd, 2014; Yusof & Zulkifli, 2014; Zawawi, 2013) and live in poverty (Masud, Abdul Hamid, & Haron, 2014; Mohd, 2014; Abd Samad & Mansor, 2013). According to Doris, Idris, and Abu Bakar (2010), the older person who is facing the inadequacy of financial saving is having problems supporting their medical costs, daily expenses, health treatment as well as other social activities. As reported by Berita Harian (2016), only 22% of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) members have adequate savings for their retirement. However, the financial savings of these EPF members also are believed to be depleted in 3 years of retirement as the average life expectancy grows (Chan et al., 2010). A study done by Masud, Abdul Hamid, and Haron, (2014), as well as Mohd (2014), prove the high

poverty incidence headed by the older persons in Malaysia. Doris, Idris, and Abu Bakar (2010) also found the percentage of older persons who live in poverty increased from 3.9% to 52.1%. This disadvantage in economic wellbeing will be contributory to inadequate medical treatment, poverty and eventually poor quality of life. (Doris, Idris, & Abu Bakar, 2010; Mafauzy, 2000). The study by Ariokiasamy (1997) discovered psychological disability can lead to loss of confidence, depression, anxiety, hypochondriasis, suicidal tendencies which can lead to a big demand on financial and medical treatment.

Health Dimension (Healthy Ageing): Based on the National Policy for Older Person Malaysia (2011), health dimension that upholds the concept of healthy ageing is the fortitude in developing a better health system, promoting a healthy lifestyle, as well as the existence of a healthy environment and local community that surround the older person. In the film 'Going in Style', there are a few scenes that are related to health dimension. While all of these health dimension scenes focus on the illness experienced by these older persons such as in Scene 4 and Scene 5. This film also highlights the importance of the healthy lifestyle practiced by these older persons in Scene 2. This situation shows the old age means finding new things you enjoy, learning to adapt to change, staying physically and socially active, and feeling connected to your community and loved ones. This film also portrays on a better health system that concerns the health welfare of the older person. This can be seen in Scene 1, Scene 3 and Scene 6 that focuses on good health care given to the older person by providing them necessary medicine and treatment required based on their state of health.

Scene 1:

I'm going home and sort out my pills.

Scene 2:

Are we going to play or what?

Ask the man in charge.

Scene 3:

Hey, Willie. How are you feeling?

Partly cloudy, Doc. Partly cloudy.

Well, I'm not going to lie to you. [...] The dialysis is working marginally. You know, a kidney is all that's going to get you well.

Scene 4:

We got skills, experience. Smarts.

Arthritis, gout, shingles.

Scene 5:

I can't breathe when I wear masks, neither.

Scene 6:

Willie's in full renal failure. He needs a kidney transplant. [...] Uh, let's just say, he won't leave here without one.

Indeed, all these six scenes send messages to the audience on the common health situation experienced by the older person. In Malaysia, the government health services are based on a system devised by the Ministry of Health. According to Poi, Forsyth, and Chan (2004), the government health services provide access to basic health services to as many, if not all, the citizens, despite geographic and natural barriers. Poi, Forsyth, and Chan (2004) also added that the delivery of health care in the rural areas is achieved via a network of mobile teams and health centers, supported by the presence of secondary referral state general hospitals and district hospitals. However, as portrayed in this film, the similar real-life situation also occurs in Malaysia when there is a large number of older person living with several diseases and health problems even though many older persons consider themselves to be in good health (NIPH, 2011). As illustrated in Figure 3, the number of Malaysian older person from 2015 until 2020 is increasing and is expected to keep to an alarming rate until the year 2030.

Meanwhile, John-Siop (2017) mentioned that the awareness of health security or health insurance among Malaysian older person is largely lacking. His findings showed that 84.3% of the respondents did not have any insurance

coverage. This situation, therefore, requires full health concern from all parties including the healthcare organizations as well as the individual regardless of their age. In avoiding the biological precursors of chronic disease in later life, Al-Nakeeb et al. (2015) mentioned that the transitional period from school into university is critical for lifelong healthy attitude development

and practices. Therefore, it is no longer possible to ignore the importance of health insurance policies to address the growing needs. As such, all players in the foods and beverages industry also should be responsible for introducing healthier foods and beverages options in the market. Only then, a healthier wave of the older person in coming years is possible to be retained.

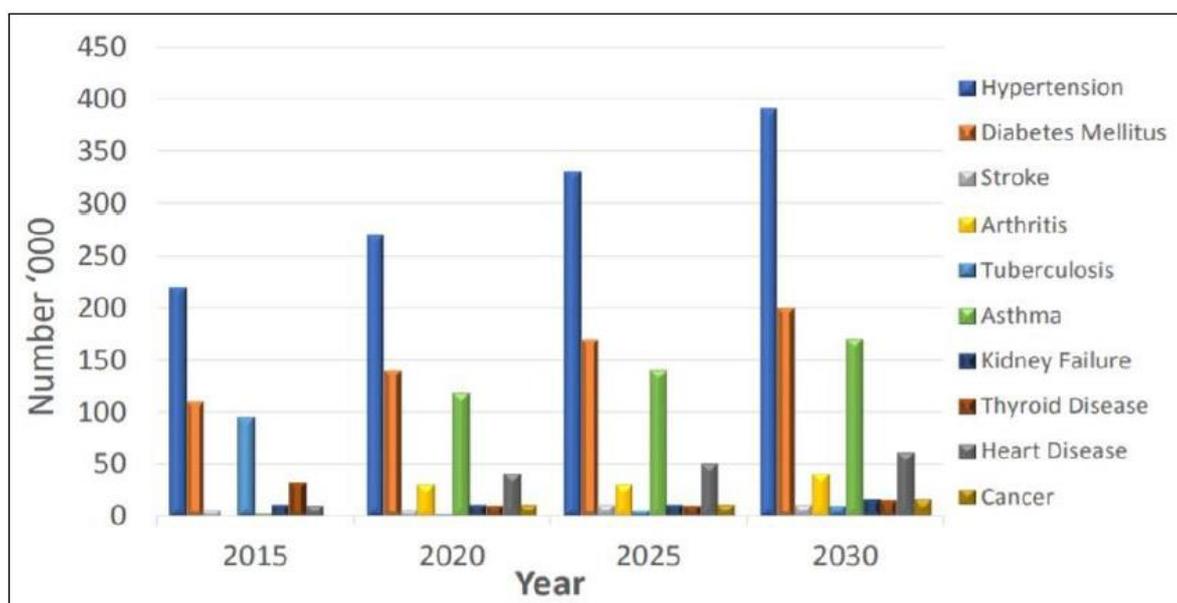


Figure 3 Projection of Older Persons with Chronic Diseases in Malaysia 2015 – 2030 (Source: John-Siop, 2017)

Social Dimension (Active Ageing): According to Ramely, Ahmad, and Mohamed Harith (2018b), social dimension proposes the older person to actively participate in society. As addressed by National Policy for Older Person Malaysia (2011), the social dimension that upholds the concept of active ageing is referred as the optimization process of the older persons involvement in family and community for the purpose of empowering their wellbeing. In 'Going in Style' film, there are at least six scenes that can be related to the social dimension that brings the older community closer to the society, as enlisted below. All these scenes show how the elderly participate in the local community. The examples of older person acceptance in society activities accentuated in this film are shown in sport event, at the dining, the daily

routine transaction as well as a party celebration. It's important to find ways to reach out and connect to others, regardless of whether or not you live with a spouse or partner. Along with regular exercise, staying socially active can have the most impact on your health as you age. Having an array of people, you can turn to for company and support as you age is a buffer against loneliness, depression, disability, hardship, and loss.

Scene 1:

Are we going to play or what?

Ask the man in charge.

Scene 2:

Okay, boys. I got a half a rhubarb left.

We got the blueberry crumble, which is a little stale.

And I got the mud pie.

So, what's it gonna be?

Uh, not today. Thank you.

Scene 3:

Tomorrow, gents.

That was a great meal tonight.

Scene 4:

Um, hey. I'll see you at the store, okay?

See you at the store. [...] See you tomorrow!

Scene 5:

Happy Birthday, young man,

Didn't expect you broke bastards to get me anything.

Temper your enthusiasm. It's not much.

That's just what I needed.

Scene 6:

It's a carnival day. Lots to do.

In Malaysia, the enculturation of life-long learning under the Ninth Malaysia Plan is one of the approaches introduced by the government in encouraging the older person to remain active in society. Following this approach, the first University of the Third Age U3A has been set up in affiliation with the Institute of Gerontology at the University Putra Malaysia in 2008. In addition, Mohd Salleh (2017) also highlighted the establishment of 51 activity centers as a socialization platform for the older person throughout the nation. Outdoor and indoor games, religious studies, therapy and health services, economic empowerment program, and skills training are among the activities provided at these centers. These activities are believed to enable the empowerment of the older person in enhancing the culture of active ageing which is the social dimension. As a result of this approach, the active involvement of the older person in the Malaysian society can be escalated and hence, lead to the creation of an aged friendly society that strives for the equality and autonomy of the older person.

Spiritual Dimension (Positive Ageing): The National Policy for Older Person Malaysia (2011)

refers positive ageing as a spiritual dimension as where the belief and positive value becomes the self-identity of the older person. The National Policy for Older Person Malaysia (2011) also classified the positive ageing as possessing positive attributes and decent views on ageing. In 'Going in Style' film, there are several scenes that portray the spiritual dimension that highlighted the genuine culture of productive ageing among the main casts. For instance, Scene 1 and Scene 4 show on the belief and positive value of the older person by providing shelter in assisting their family members as well as his confidence in taking care of his teenage granddaughter regardless of his advanced age. In Scene 2 and Scene 3 also show self esteem of the older person by expressing his view in assisting the FBI officer in solving a robbery case as well as his positive value in giving an honest opinion as a brilliant saxophone player to who needed to know the truth. Scene 5 and Scene 6 also highlighted the spiritual dimension of the older person. There are emphasis on self esteem, confidence and strength.

Scene 1:

My granddaughter and my daughter, they live with me.

She is a nurse's aide, you know, low pay and all that.

She wanted her kid to go to a better school, so they moved in with me.

Scene 2:

That looks like a gang tattoo to me. Very detailed. I imagine the artist did them all.

So, if you find the tattoo parlor, then you'll find the artist, and you've got yourself a bank robber. Sounds pretty standard to me.

Right. Well, thanks a lot, old-timer.

Scene 3:

Oh, Jesus Christ. Ezra! Ezra!

You gotta stop this. I can't listen anymore.

I've been practising!

Yeah, but it doesn't matter 'cause you get worse every week.

*It's kind of a miracle. I don't know how you do it.
So what's the point? You're no good, you don't
like it, you're not gonna be a professional.*

Scene 4:

*You know, at some point, I'm gonna have to start
walking home on my own.*

I'm 14.

*Not on my watch, love. This neighbourhood is
not the same as it was 40 years ago.*

Right. It's safer and more gentrified.

Scene 5:

Are you feeling good?

Yeah. Yeah. Good as gold.

Scene 6:

*Sure, Joe. But only because you're my best
friend.*

I love you, kiddo. You're going to do it all.

*What's going with you today? Do you have
cancer or something?*

No! No, no. I'm as strong as an ox.

According to Mat Saad, Hatta, and Mohamad (2010), spirituality plays an important role in Malaysian society across all ages. However, Mat Saad, Hatta, and Mohamad (2010) also added that when an individual gets older, the role of spirituality becomes more prominent as based on Yahaya et al. (2012), factors such as spiritual beliefs can also help to increase mental power function and maintain the health of the older person. The study by Mat Saad, Hatta, and Mohamad (2010) suggest that spiritual intelligence was positively associated with general health. Zimmer et al. (2016) also identifies religion and spirituality as key components of health within the context of global ageing and expanding life expectancy. Aziz and Ahmad (2017) also agreed that spirituality is a major predictor of the quality of life of Malaysian older person. Therefore, this study believes the positive ageing upheld by spiritual dimension as portrayed in the film should continue to be empowered among our aged friendly society.

Environmental Dimension (Supportive

Ageing): Supportive ageing as defined by National Policy for Older Person (2011) is the external and internal of friendly environments that allow the older person to function independently and effectively. In other words, the supportive ageing should be optimized in assisting the older person in overcoming their weaken physical or mental abilities. In 'Going in Style' film, there are scenes highlighted on the culture of supportive ageing such as on the gerontechnology used in Scene 1 and 6. For instance, an aged friendly caller button used by bank is going to light up and vibrate with spinning red lights that will not allow the older person to miss their turns as well as on the aged friendly internet features that allow the older person to use it to search for any information. Besides, this film also shows the supportive ageing culture practiced by the society in robbery Scene 2, Scene 4, Scene 5, as well as Scene 7 until 9. These scenes portray the aged friendly society towards the older person by putting forth their comfort and respect as the first option. The sense of gerotranscendence also being highlighted in Scene 3 and Scene 9 that illustrates on the transition of the materialistic perspective to a more transcendent view upon old age such as the importance of family as compared to a workaholic career as well as happiness during the twilight years. These scenes are as below.

Scene 1:

What happens with this?

*Oh, it's going to light up and vibrate. The red
lights spin around in a circle. You won't be able
to miss it.*

Scene 2:

Gentlemen, it's best to remain silent.

I'm cramping.

Relax, please. You can sit up. [...]

It's not much, but it's all yours.

*No, my friend. Not from you. It is a culture's duty
to take care of its elderly.*

Are you Chuck?

Yes. I'm Chuck. I'm Chuck.

Are you the one taking this man's house?

I'm not, personally.

Give me your wallet.

Scene 3:

You get your presents, Boppa?

You send something?

Wait a minute, the postman brought me this box right here, but that can't be it.

That's it, that's it! Open it already! [...] All right. Let's see what else is down in here.

You're getting real big, K.

Grew an inch in a month, Boppa.

Hey, you tell your mom that her career isn't as important as seeing her family.

I Will.

Scene 4:

I gotta get some chicken thighs.

Oh, let me help you.

Give me the big one.

The whole thing?

The whole damn thing.

You're the Boss.

Annie, just let me have the thing.

Come on, you have your own work to do now.

No, no. It's my job. There's no problem.

Scene 5:

Look, you guys are old. And I'm gonna be there in 40, or 50 years, I get it. Here are some coupons. And we double them on Tuesday, but I'm sure you already know that. So don't steal. It's wrong.

Scene 6:

The average police response time to a robbery in progress is between two and four minutes, depending on how near a unit is to the scene and how many other police calls are in the vicinity. Everything's on the damn Internet.

Scene 7:

So, what's going on, Willie?

You don't come to us, you don't tell us you're sick.

We're your friends, man. We're all you got. [...] I would have given you my kidney last week.

Yours is probably no good.

I still would've given it to you.

We're friends, Willie. We're supposed to look after each other, aren't we? Well, let us do it. Okay?

Scene 8:

But, if I do, I just want to say that you've been a terrific roommate and friend for...

25 years. [...]

If you're lucky, you get couple of great friends.

The people who are right with you to the end.

You grow old together, see it all together, do it all together, laugh and cry together.

Al Garner was one of those guys for me.

There will not be many men like him.

Willing to risk all for others.

Give you a kind word or a kidney.

And complain about it every step of the way.

That's you.

That's not altogether true.

Scene 9:

Good luck. May you enjoy every minute of every moment you have.

We love you. We love you too, young man.

Cheers! Cheers, everyone.

Let's give it up for the wedding party! [...]

My face is killing me. I never had to smile so much in my life. [...] I'm experiencing this very odd feeling. I think it might be happiness.

Indeed, all these scenes send inputs to the audience on the actual internal and external supports that should be given to the older person. This study also believes there is room for improvement in providing proper treatment for the older person in Malaysia. For instance, a study conducted by Bidin and Mohd Yusoff (2015) shows the incidence of abuse among the

older person. Their study found that the provisions in the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) reveal the existing legislation is not sufficient to give full protection to the older person from neglect misconduct and abuse. Hence, Bidin and Mohd Yusoff (2015) suggested major amendments that need to be done to DVA in ensuring that the rights of the older person is well protected. At the same time, the supportive ageing in terms of facilities also requires further improvement. According to Zaid, Abu Yamin and Mohd Yaacob (2019), design solutions for housing accessibility was not used in the design practice and construction of Malaysia housing projects which are not aged friendly. The relevant government organizations need to be aware of these situations and steps should be taken to overcome these situations.

Conclusions

The way the older person is represented in the comedy 'Going in Style' comedy film is similar to the real-life situations experienced by some of the Malaysian elderly. While these include areas on economic, health, social, spiritual and environmental, Malaysia; Malaysia on her journey in becoming an aged nation by the year 2030 should take positive measures in protecting the aged persons. Although this comedy film is far-fetched, it still plants a troubling seed which is successfully robbing a bank is possible, survivable and maybe even justifiable. The movie aims to be sympathetic toward older people while subjecting them to merciless ridicule. As in this film, the unfulfillment of the economic dimension where the company they worked for is bought out and restructuring their pensions led to a robbery. Ultimately, this is a film that speaks for voiceless old people, and one that seemingly suggests that there is still hope against the abuses of power committed by overarching international corporations. Policies that promote active and healthy ageing are important. The government also needs to provide more elderly-friendly facilities at public transport hubs and improved walkways and parks. Social, physical and economic aspects

interact with each other which ultimately determines the optimal quality of life. This study believes the fulfilment of all these dimensions will assist Malaysian older person to optimize their wellbeing and turn this country as a fully aged friendly country by 2030.

References

1. Abdul Hamid, T. A. (2019). *Ageing in Malaysia - Expert Group Meeting on Measuring Population Ageing: Bridging Research and Policy*. Retrieved from https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/expert/29/session3/EGM_25Feb2019_S3_TengkuAizanHamid.pdf
2. Abdul Hamid, T. A. (2015). *Population ageing in Malaysia: A mosaic of issues, challenges, and prospects*. Serdang, Selangor: University Putra Malaysia Press.
3. Abdul Rashid, S., Ab. Ghani, P., Daud, N., Ab Ghani Hilmi, Z., Nor Azemi, S. N. A., Syed Wahid, S. N., & Razak, M. R. (2016). Malaysia's Ageing Population Trends. In M. Abdullah, W. Yahya, N. Ramli, S. Mohamed, & B. Ahmad (Eds.), *Regional Conference on Science, Technology and Social Sciences (RCSTSS 2014)*. Singapore: Springer.
4. Abd Samad, S., & Mansor, N. (2013). Population ageing and social protection in Malaysia. *Malaysian Journal of Economic Studies*, 50(2), 139-156.
5. Adnan, A. S. (2017, April 25). Malaysia bakal dipenuhi warga tua miskin dan sakit. Berita Harian Online. Retrieved from <https://www.bharian.com.my/node/275715>
6. Anderson, C. A., Carnagey, N. L., Eubanks, J. (2003). Exposure to violent media: The effects of songs with violent lyrics on aggressive thoughts and feelings. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 84, 960–971.
7. Al-Nakeeb, Y., Lyons, M., Dodd, L. J., & Al-Nuaim, A. (2015). An investigation into the lifestyle, health habits and risk factors of young adults. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 12, 4380-4394.
8. Atrokiasamy, J. T. (1997). Social problems and care of the elderly. *Medical Journal Malaysia*, 52(3), 197-201.
9. Autchariya, P., Suchitporn, L., & Supawadee, P. (2019). Active ageing level and time use of elderly persons in a Thai suburban community. *Occupational Therapy International*. doi:10.1155/2019/7092695

10. Aziz, N. A. & Ahamd, Y. (2017). The quality of life of aging population: A study among older person who received long term care services at old folks' home, Penang. *Journal of Administrative Science*, 14(3).
11. Bidin, A. & Mohd Yusoff, J. Z. (2015). Abuse of the Malaysian elderly: An analysis on the adequacy and suitability of the Domestic Violence Act 1994 (Act 521) to protect the elderly victim. *Journal of Management Research*, 7(2), 71-81.
12. Briandana, R. & Dwityas, N. A. (2018). Comedy Films as Social Representation in the Society: An Analysis of Indonesian Comedy Films, *International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies*, IV(V), 107-118.
14. Brown, R. L. (2011). Economic security in an aging Canadian population. *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 30(3), 391-399.
15. Christina, C., & Yuen, M. (2017, February 5). All the single ladies. The Star Online. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2017/02/05/all-the-single-ladies-with-a-bigger-percentage-of-single-women-in-malaysia-today-sunday-star-celebra/>
16. Devasahayam, T. W. (2014). Gender and ageing: Southeast Asian perspectives. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.
17. Doris, P. S., Idris, N. A., & Abu Bakar, N. (2010). Warga emas di Malaysia: Ke arah kesejahteraan ekonomi dan social. Bangi: UKM Press.
18. Georgakopoulou, A. (2000). On the sociolinguistics of popular films: Funny characters, funny voices. *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, 18(1), 119–133.
19. Gerbner, G., & Gross, L. (1976). Living with television: The violence profile. *Journal of Communication*, 26(2), 173-199.
21. Hadeel, H., Synneve, D. I., Ulla, S., & Carin, W. (2018). Perspective of older adults on aging well: A focus group study. *Journal of Ageing Research*, 1-8. doi:10.1155/2018/9858252Harun, 2017
22. Harun, S. (2017). Warga emas terabai. Retrieved from <http://www.myhealth.gov.my/warga-emasterabai/>
23. John Siop, S. (2017). Older people health: Issues and challenges. Retrieved from http://www.conference.unimas.my/2017/phs2017/images/download/Topic_6_APDrSidiah.pdf
24. Kaimann, D. & Pannicke, J. (2015). Movie success in a genre-specific contest: Evidence from the US film industry. *Ilmenau Economics Discussion Papers*, No. 98, Technische Universität, Institut für Volkswirtschaftslehre, Ilmenau. Retrieved from <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/142323/1/84418649X.pdf>
25. Mafauzy, M. (2000). The problems and challenges of the aging population of Malaysia. *Malaysian Journal of Medical Science*, 7(1), 1-3.
26. Masud, J., Abdul Hamid, T. A., & Haron, S. A. (2013). Economic well-being of Malaysian elderly: Inequality amid prosperity. Retrieved from <https://www.mier.org.my/presentations/archives/pdf-restore/presentations/archives/pdf/Jariah.pdf>
27. Mat Saad, Z., Hatta, Z. A., & Mohamad, N. (2010). The impact of spiritual intelligence on the health of the elderly in Malaysia. *Asian Social Work and Policy Review*, 4, 84–97.
28. McDaniel, S. A., & Rozanova, J. (2011). Canada's Aging Population (1986) Redux. *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 30(3), 511-521. National Research Council, 2012
29. Melissa, C. (2014, October 5). Retirement crisis brewing as EPF savings suggest pensioner poverty. The Malay Mail Online. Retrieved from <http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/retirement-crisisbrewing-as-epf-savings-suggest-pensioner-poverty>
30. Mohd, S. (2014). Poverty issues among Malaysian elderly. Proceeding of the Social Sciences Research ICSSR 2014. Retrieved from <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/51ca/e2b4d188f3a4b952ec4848525e31c7dede98.pdf>
31. Mohd Salleh, M. F. (2017). Ageing in an inclusive society: Social support system for older persons in Malaysia. Retrieved from https://www.kpwkm.gov.my/kpwkm/uploads/files/Muat%20Turun/MOST/S4_P1_Tuan%20Hj_%20Fazari.pdf
32. Momtaz, Y. A., Abdul Hamid, T. A., Haron, S. A., & Bagat, M. F. (2016). Flourishing in later life. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 63, 85-91.
33. Muhammad Nur, A., Aljunid, S. M., Ismail, N., Haron, S. A., Shafie, A. A., Mohamed Nor, N., Salleh, M., ... Maimaiti, N. (2017). Provider cost of treating dementia among the elderly in government hospitals in Malaysia. *Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine*, 17(2), 121-127. Muneeza & Hashim, 2010).
34. National Population and Family Development Board Malaysia. (2016). Fifth Malaysian population and family survey 2014. Kuala Lumpur:

- National Population and Family Development Board Malaysia.
35. Poi, P. J., Forsyth, D. R., & Chan, D. K. Y. (2004). Services for older people in Malaysia: Issues and challenges. *Age and Ageing*, 33, 444-446.
 36. Queenan, J. (2017). 'Contrived, vulgar and stupid': Going in Style and the rise of the geriatric buddy movie. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/apr/21/geriatric-buddy-movies-going-in-style-contrived-vulgar-stupid-michael-caine>
 37. Ramely, Ahmad, and Mohamed Harith. (2018a). Socio-demographic characteristics of Malaysian elderly: Which characteristics should be inextricably intertwined with late-life employment? *International Journal for Studies on Children, Women, Elderly and Disabled*, 5, 47-55.
 38. Ramely, Ahmad, & Mohamed Harith. (2018b). Understanding Socio-demographic Patterns and Wellbeing Dimensions of the Elderly in Malaysia: The Way Forward in Reaching an Age Nation by 2030, *Journal of Administrative Science*, 15(1).
 39. Soriano, C. A. F., Sarmiento, W. D., Songco, F. J. G., Macindo, J. R. B., & Conde, A. R. (2016). Socio-demographics, spirituality, and quality of life among community-dwelling and institutionalized older adults: A structural equation model. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 66, 176-182.
 40. Springfield. (2017). Going in style 2017 Movie script. Retrieved from https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/movie_script.php?movie=going-in-style-2017
 41. United Nations. (2015a). World population ageing. Retrieved from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2015_Report.pdf
 42. United Nations. (2009). World population prospects: The 2008 revision. New York, NY: United Nations. Retrieved from <http://esa.un.org/unpp>
 43. Vandaele, J. (2002). Humor Mechanisms in Film Comedy: Incongruity and Superiority.
 44. *Poetics Today*, 23(2), 221–249.
 45. Westley, S. B., Sang-Hyop, L., & Mason, A. (2000). Policy options to support Asia's growing elderly population: Asia-Pacific Population & Policy. Honolulu: East-West Center. Retrieved from <https://www.eastwestcenter.org/node/33420>
 46. Yahaya, N., Momtaz, Y. A., Othman, M., Sulaiman, N. & Mat Arisah, F. (2012). Spiritual well-being and mental health among Malaysian adolescents. *Life Science Journal*, 9(1), 440-448.
 47. Yusof, S. N., & Zulkifli, Z. (2014). Rethinking of old age: The emerging challenge for Malaysia. Paper presented at International Conference on Linguistics, Literature and Arts. Retrieved from <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/85db/bb4a51c524dd9ce4185c626e136c8ae15152.pdf>
 48. Zaid, S. M., Abu Yamin, A., & Mohd Yaacob, N. (2019). Ageing in place: The design practice compliance to accessibility legislation and standards in Malaysia for elderly home environment. *Ekoloji, Online-First Article*, e107027, 1-12.
 49. Zawawi, R. (2013). *Active ageing in Malaysia*. Retrieved from <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/shingi/2r98520000036yla-att/2r98520000036yql.pdf>
 50. Zillmann, D. (2000). The coming of media entertainment. In D. Zillmann & P. Vorderer (Eds.), *Media entertainment: The psychology of its appeal* (p. 1–20). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.
 51. Zimmer, Z., Jagger, C., Chiu, C, Ofstedal, M. B., & Saito, Y. (2016). Spirituality, religiosity, aging and health in global perspective: A review. *SSM Population Health*, 2, 373-381.

