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## Intergenerational Support and Intergenerational Social Support among Elderly – A Short Review in Malaysian Context

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### Abstract

The current short review encompasses the currently available studies on intergenerational support in Malaysian elders. For the purpose 14 relevant and systematically selected documents are included in this review. Keyword search has been done with ResearchGate, Google Scholar, ScienceDirect, and Scopus databases. The span of documents starts from 1997 to 2014. All the documents are read carefully and bifurcated into literature matrix for better comprehensibility. Further, themes and subthemes are made to categorize the findings. The overall conclusion exhibits that intergenerational support with its all variants positively affects the health of elderly in Malaysia. There is little or no study found directly linked with intergenerational social support among Malaysian old people living in institutional care. Future avenues and implications are also enclosed.

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### 1. Introduction

All over the world, social scientists are in keen interest to address, demographic and cultural effects that influence elderly people. Old age people live differently in various cultures; exemplary forms are independent living, co-residence, and institutional care. The most prevalent style of living among Asian elders is co-residence with different

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generations. Particularly, the East Asia has its unique style to live in for elders, with three generations. The elements of respect, as a cultural value, keep them healthy in terms of mental and physical health. The opportunity to interact among all three generations is a win-win approach; it’s a positive bilateral relationship.

According to Ying-Ling and Fu-Jen (2014) co-resident children are tended to provide more support to older parents and also receive more support from older parents. This is a typical example of inter-generational social support that nourish positively to all generations living combine. Gender wise differences are also reported; greater support giving towards parents is highly associated with a higher level of life satisfaction of female adults. Similarly, receiving more support from their adult children would increase life satisfaction of older parents as well.

In most of the cases this relation is not limited to its psychological benefits, but other forms of give and take (aka inter-generational support) are also involved, such as time resource transfer, financial transfer, educational transfer, and so on.

Intergenerational social support is mutual obligation based on how one feels he is cared for, loved, and feels satisfaction about the quality of communication. Further, significant others play a vital role to positively influence well-being of old age people. Similarly, intergenerational social support has a significant value to promote successful aging (Fillit et al., 2002; Fratiglioni et al., 2004). No part of the world is left behind to benefit technological advancement, urbanization, socialization and globalization, resultantly, amount of time spent with the elderly is decreasing, old age people are bound to be reliant on servants (Fratiglioni et al., 2000; Gow et al., 2007; Hendrie et al., 2006), or they are institutionalized (old-age homes, institutional care).

But, as a matter of concern, social support provided in the home setting and in institutional care does not have equal worth. Particularly, in the countries like Malaysia (where institutional care facilities are on the go) elderly are not visited regularly on weekends, so, their feelings of loneliness might trigger and subjective well-being decreased.

In line with the above scenario, the social scientists realize the importance to address the under-addressed issue of inter-generational social support among elderly people of Malaysia, with special reference to who are institutionalized. Hopefully, this short review would shed a light on the scarcity of research in terms of Malaysia.

**2. Methodology**

To arrive at relevant documents, the literature search has been done by following the keyword search such as “intergenerational social support in Malaysian elders”, “inter-generational social support from institutionalized Malaysian old age people” there were 22 documents found and after narrowing the scope only 14 (13 Journal Articles; 01 United Nations Project Report) documents were finalized according to scope of the study. ResearchGate, Google Scholar, ScienceDirect, and Scopus databases were explored. The range of the documents started from 1997 to 2014. The time of the review process was brief, and started from February, 2015 to August, 2015. To categorize the findings, themes and subthemes were furnished. For this review the guidelines of Hunter and Schmidt (2004) were considered.

**3. Findings and Discussions**

Based on the selected literature the sorted literature matrix is furnished below.

Table 1: Literature Matrix of relevant studies

Studies	Type of Study	Findings
Yusuf ( 2014)	Survey Research	1) Malaysian Old age people extend help in the education and nurturing their grandchildren, regardless of gender, religion and state.
Chuan, Seong and Chau (2014)	Survey Research (Face to face interviews)	1) Altruistic Malaysian adults comfortable with older people’s finance and time resource transfers 2) Older adults who have their bequest motives skewed towards the selfish life-cycle model are negatively related to financial satisfaction and time resource transfers from children, but have a positive effect on financial resource transfers

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