



**COURSE TITLE: LIVING WITH CARE: THE
OLDER PERSON**

COURSE CODE: BMHP6009

ASSESSMENT 2

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CONTENTS

Introduction

The debate

Statistics of the elderly in the UK

Government Policies

Recommendations

Conclusion

Introduction

This paper examines the argument that using technology is not essential for the UK's elderly population or older people in general. Caregiving for the elderly requires meeting their basic requirements and necessities, which includes attending to their unique worries and specific needs. Hospices, nursing homes, care in homes, daily care, and assistance can all offer these services (Definitions, 2022).

The debate

Our team boldly asserted that older individuals may maintain their health without using technology. The following justifications were developed to bolster our position that older people do not need technology.

- In the EU, it has been discovered that 9 per cent of older adults 75 and older have visual impairments, 18 per cent have hearing issues, and a similar amount have a physical or medical condition that makes it difficult for them to read. They have a problem called leathery fingertips, which makes it difficult for them to use touch screen phones or tablets (Eurostat, 2017, in No isolation, 2021)
- Due to their limited technological knowledge, older individuals tend to be apathetic toward it. Up to 77 per cent of elderly adults are thought to require assistance to utilise a smartphone or tablet. Some of them find it challenging to use social networking sites and to become used to using the internet. Most older individuals have little to no experience using technology, making it difficult for them to adjust to new technologies.
- Some older folks who just rely on their meagre pension as income find technology to be quite pricey and unaffordable.
- Older folks worry that technology will keep them from attending the social engagements with their peers that they so dearly value, isolating them in the process. They feel totally cut off from society because of their relatives' refusal to see them in person but instead call them on the phone (ScienceDaily, 2018).
- It is unable to provide for their needs in terms of culture, society, emotion, and physical health. r technology to make deft, unbiased judgements is still a long way off. Older individuals have complex requirements, including social, emotional, cultural, and physical needs, which are beyond the comprehension of technological devices. With the persons they look after, human caregivers develop ties. (Greulich-Smith, 2018)
- Data breach: Due to the prevalence of internet fraud, there is a considerable risk that the personal health information of elderly patients would be compromised (Healthcare Business Club, 2022).

The supporting team offered the following arguments in support of their assertion:

- Telemedicine: This is the practice of diagnosing and treating people across a distance using technology without physically encountering them. The senses of touch and sight, which are essential to an aged person's care, are removed from this approach to diagnosis and treatment.
- Using monitoring equipment Monitoring systems that collect information on things like movement, sleep habit falls, temperature, etc. are included in this. Without meeting

the elderly, caregivers and other support staff can monitor how they are doing daily (Whitley, 2021).

The two arguments centre on care and diagnosis techniques provided by inanimate items that do not consider the psychological, physical, and visual cues that the elderly encounter and which are crucial to their management and care as provided by people.

Statistics of the elderly in the UK

According to figures released by the office of national statistics in 2018, they are broken down as follows; 11.9 million people are above the age of 65 out of which people aged 75 and above number up to 5.4 million people, and those aged 85 and above number up to 1.6 million, those aged 90 and above make up over 500,000 while those aged 100 and above are about 14,000.

In the UK, an additional 8.6 million people will become 65 or older over the next 50 years. According to estimates, 1 in 5 people in the UK, or 21.8 per cent, will be 65 or older. 6.8 per cent of the population will be 75 years or older, and 3.2 per cent will be 85 years or older. Of those 65 years of age and older, 55 per cent are women.

Government policies

The government has put some policies in place to help take care of the elderly. I will mention three of them in this report. They are,

- Equality Act 2010: it aims to clear society of discrimination against vulnerable people, such as the elderly.
- The Care Act 2014: This applies to the safeguarding duties which apply to elderly persons who are unable to cater for themselves and have a need for care and may be facing the risk of abuse or neglect.
- Mental Capacity Act: This act aims at protecting and empowering those who are not able to make decisions on their care and treatment such as people with dementia and stroke.

Recommendations

- 2010 to 2015 government policy: older people. Which among other things came up with numerous strategies aimed at taking care of the elderly. These strategies should be implemented. They include the following:
- Improving recruitment and retention of an ageing workforce: Aimed at keeping the elderly in employment even after retirement.
- Helping older people get online: Aims to familiarise them with the internet.
- Celebrating Older People's Day: celebrated every 1st October of the year which tallies with the UN International Day of Older Persons.

- Improving local services for older people – ‘LinkAge Plus’ Their work is helping to reduce isolation, building up their social networking and bettering their general wellbeing (Toynbee Hall, 2022)
- Supporting councils to provide a better quality of life for older people through local services – ‘Ageing Well’(Dept for Work and Pensions, 2015)

Conclusion

Our group was able to point out that, with the high cost of technology, the complications and sophistication of the equipment, making them feel isolated and their failing health conditions, technology is not necessary for the elderly in the UK.

All the elderly population need is humane, empathetic, and committed care from a dedicated team of carers who can communicate with them and are able to respond to their physical, emotional, and psychological needs. The best technology can never give them the required care that suits their changing needs.

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