

Student name: ROSEMOND A. ASANTE

Student ID: 19165561

Module name: Living with Care: The Older Person

Module code: BMHP6009

Lecturer name: Diola Bijlhout

Assignment 2: Supporting paper debate

Date: 12TH AUGUST 2022

Supporting debate paper

Statistics on the UK ageing population and technology

ONS statistics and predictions reveal that the UK's population is aging. In 50 years, there will likely be 8.6 million more individuals 65 and older — approximately the size of London (Holley-Moore and Creighton, 2015). ICT has permeated every facet of everyday life in Britain (Cassell et al., 2018). 4.8 million Persons over 64 have never accessed the internet, raising questions about involvement in everyday life in a digitized culture (Holley-Moore and Creighton, 2015).

Current government service for older people

Since old age is accompanied by diverse health issues, the UK's Technology Strategy Board has funded assisted living initiatives since 2007 to make telecare and telehealth publically accessible, financially efficient, and sustainable (Cassell et al., 2018). SHel is a home monitoring system for elderly adults who live alone and wish to remain independent. SHel is an example of 'ambient assisted living,' settings responsive to individuals (Hossain and Ahmed 2012). It aims to offer non-invasive automated home monitoring for elderly persons.

Impact of COVID-19 on older people and relevant services

Since the COVID-19 epidemic broke out, this activity had become more important. Because the epidemic had the greatest impact on the elderly population (WU, 2020). Lockdowns and other safety measures implemented by the government really made things worse for those with mental health conditions (WU, 2020). The pandemic made elderly individuals feel more alone and isolated (WU, 2020). Due to utilising technology, such as video calling, robotics, etc., to communicate with their friends and family, there has been a rise in older persons using technology. According to 2019 ONS data on internet users, the percentage of individuals 65 and older who use the internet is rising—from 52 percent in 2011 to 83 percent in 2019—and the present scenario is expected to hasten that rise. Nearly half of the UK population is 75 years and over (Haase et al., 2021). This paper will explore views expressed during the group debating session on the subject.

Standpoint for the debate

During the rebuttals portion of this debate topic, I argued that senior UK older population do not need technology. AI is helping doctors in hospitals in a variety of ways, such as by spotting health concerns, anticipating when to provide targeted, life-saving interventions, developing treatment plans for patients with rare conditions, and providing precision medicine (Czaja & Plude, 2018). However, one of AI's benefits might also work against it in the healthcare industry. Although AI is quite good at making simply rational, objective decisions, it is yet unable to completely comprehend

how people's emotional, social, cultural, and physical needs interact (Czaja & Plude, 2018). If treated by a totally AI-driven clinician, the diagnosis and treatment plan may be correct, but the patient may not respond to them favourably.

Other group members views

One of my group members pointed out that technology has tend to increase privacy invasion for some older adults. Older people have less knowledge and skills on how these modern technologies works, tend to have their data being invaded by spam and other scams (Bennett, 2018). For people with a progressive condition like dementia, who lacks the capacity to make decisions about consent to the use of technology are mostly victims of privacy invasion (Alzheimer Society, 2015). Some decision are made for them during care, such the planting of CCTV cameras to check and monitor their movement (Zuboff, 2018). As this is for the betterment of the patients' health, it also tends to invade their privacy as cited by another group member (Zuboff, 2018).

Again, another group member mentioned the increase of obesity and depression as a result of technology in the lives of older people. Some older adults tend to get attached with these technological devices and which tend to consume most of their times (Pereira-Miranda et al., 2017). Spending hours on these devices makes them less active during day, this tend to increase their accumulation of more energy in their system that the body needs and turn it into fat (Pereira-Miranda et al., 2017). Which could lead to overweight and obesity in the long-run and mentioned by another group member.

Reflection on the debate

During the argument, I said that seniors find technology time-consuming. Due to an aging population, the focus has been on efficiency and productivity. This leaves less time for the kinder, softer side of healthcare. Patients who are discharged home from the hospital with irregular follow-up visits may find it challenging to maintain their treatment plans (Mitzner et al., 2010). They may not know what to do and stop taking their drugs because they feel better (Czaja & Plude, 2018). They may forget or lose interest. This is particularly true for older singles. Social isolation and sadness make home health care challenging. According to the opposing organization, more 65-74-year-olds claimed improved online capabilities between 2010 and 2013 (Alzheimer Society, 2015). My other colleagues contended that there is a cohort effect with ICT-related skills: fewer seniors have online capabilities than younger ones. Manually dexterous seniors don't require the internet. This includes arthritis and chronic pain, Parkinson's disease, stroke, dementia (Alzheimer Society, 2015). These diseases prevent people from accomplishing daily duties or using computers or mobile devices, putting them at risk. The opposition again underlined how visual functions deteriorate with aging and how visual acuity slows beyond age 50 (Holley-Moore and Creighton, 2015). One of my

group members said this shouldn't be the case since older people struggle with fine details, distance perception, and estimating the speed of moving objects owing to age-related colour vision and contrast sensitivity deficiencies. Individualized, practical training is preferable for older learners. Slowly and politely teach elderly people how to utilize new equipment or systems to minimize screaming or anger (Holley-Moore and Creighton, 2015).

References

Alzheimer's Society (2015) Assistive Technology - Devices to Help with Everyday Living: Fact Sheet. Alzheimer's Society UK.

Bennett, B. (2018). Technology, Aging and Human Rights: Challenges for an Aging World. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*. 66 /doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlp.2019.

Cassell A, Edwards D, Harshfield A, Rhodes K, Brimicombe J, Payne R, Griffin S (2018). The epidemiology of multimorbidity in primary care: a retrospective cohort study. *British Journal of General Practice*. Apr; 6(669): e245–e251.

Haase, K.R., Cosco, T., Kervin, L., Riadi, I. and O'Connell, M.E., 2021. Older adults' experiences with using technology for socialization during the COVID-19 pandemic: cross-sectional survey study. *JMIR aging*, 4(2), p.e28010.

Holley-Moore, G., and Creighton, H., 2015. *The Future of Transport in an Ageing Society*. [Online] available at: < https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/reports-and-briefings/active-communities/rb_june15_the_future_of_transport_in_an_ageing_society.pdf > [Accessed 1 August 2022]

Hossain, M.A. and Ahmed, D.T., 2012. Virtual caregiver: an ambient-aware elderly monitoring system. *IEEE Transactions on Information Technology in Biomedicine*, 16(6), pp.1024-1031.

Mitzner, T.L., Boron, J.B., Fausset, C.B., Adams, A.E., Charness, N., Czaja, S.J., Dijkstra, K., Fisk, A.D., Rogers, W.A. and Sharit, J., 2010. Older adults talk technology: Technology usage and attitudes. *Computers in human behavior*, 26(6), pp.1710–1721. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2010.06.020>.

Pereira-Miranda, E., Costa, P., Queiroz, V., Pereira-Santos, M., & Santana, M. (2017). Overweight and Obesity Associated with Higher Depression Prevalence in Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Journal of the American College of Nutrition*, 36(3), 223–233. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07315724.2016.1261053>

S J Czaja, D Plude, 2018. The Benefits and Challenges of Technology for Older Adults: Lessons from Create, *Innovation in Aging*, Volume 2, Issue suppl, Page 213.

Wu, B., 2020. Social isolation and loneliness among older adults in the context of COVID-19: a global challenge. *Global health research and policy*, 5(1), pp.1-3.

Zuboff, S. (2018). *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*. New York: Hachette Books.