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Assessment Debate

Supporting Paper A2-Ageing Population Pose Challenges in Healthcare

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Introduction

The aging population in UK is slowly becoming a great challenger for the health care system of the country. With the increasing population the healthcare system must face issues in the care providing process. This paper will be discussing about the ill effects or specifically(health) of the increasing population on the elderly population on the health industry in UK. In addition to that, this paper provides data and statistics from legit sources that will support the notion that ageing population is indeed a challenge for the health care system. (WHO,2018).

The debate topic “Does population ageing pose challenges for health care systems”

The standpoint that the group had over the topic “Does population ageing pose challenges for health and social care systems?” was in the affirmation of the topic that the ageing population is disproportionate consumer of the health care sources. Increasing population is indeed becoming a challenge for the health care department of a country as it is leading shortage of the resources as well as staff for efficiently fulfilling the care and health needs of the rest of the population of a nation. (Kingston et al.,2018).

As for the data provided by the Government office of science, the average of the population of UK has been increasing since mid 2014s and it is the first time that the average age has exceeded the age 65. This trend is anticipated to continue in such a way that by 2040, every one person in seven will be above the age of 75. (Davies et al., 2020).

This demographic change is observed not only in UK, but all is the scenario observed all over the world. The increase in the number of elderly populations to a number which is even more than the young population of the country has a great impact on the services that have been on the services that have been decided by the government for the public. As the elderly people are more prone to be suffering from multiple health disorder which means they are more prone to be experiencing physical inadequacy. (Davies, et al., 2020).

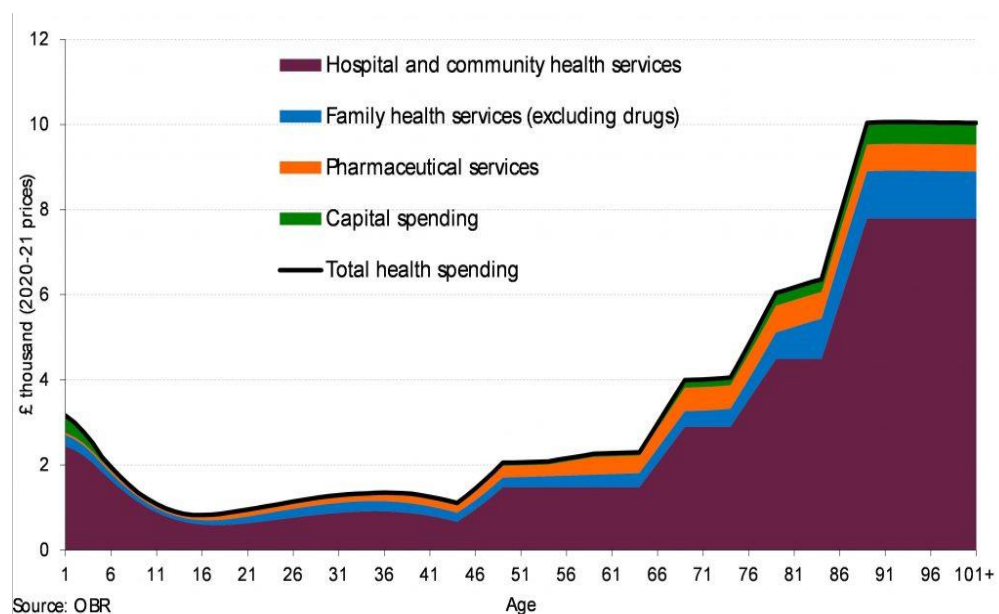
Elderly people suffering from the chronic disorders requires assistance in performing daily activities therefore requires social care services that can help them to live their remaining life with ease and comfort (Davies et al.,2020). This is also an adding factor to the funds required for fulfilling the health and social needs of the elderly population. When the number of old populations will exceed the number of young populations in the country then the health system of the country will be overburdened by the care needs of this group of population. This will also result in young population compromising with health care services they will receive. Therefore, the increasing number of the elderly population not only affects the health care system but also result in less care service provision (Wittenberg et al.,2019).

As the elderly patients usually suffer from multiple disorders at a time therefore, they required multidisciplinary or integrated the care and required a lot of resources for fulfilling the care and health needs of the patients. Increase in the population have also resulted in lack of health care resources with health care system that means more funds are to be allotted to the health department by the government. This group who are now in the age range beyond 60's has been given the term of “baby boomers”.

The health process for acute disorders becomes costly with an increase in the age (Fang and et al.,2018). The elderly group even after receiving treatment for a disorder are

still likely to get readmitted in the hospital and also are the ones who are required to be kept in medical observation for the longest time. This is the reason they are taking up the maximum health care resources of the country. They require extra staff for taking their care and some might require the nursing staff to be with them 24X7 which has also resulted in shortage of the care staff at the health settings. Due to increasing aging of the population, there is an increased observed in the requirement of retirement and care homes for which the healthcare department of the country have to invest an extra amount to the setting up of more old age care homes. Therefore, it can be said that the elder population of the country is disproportionately consuming the health care resources which is further resulting in growth in the demand for health care services. (Fang and et al.,2018).

The impact of Covid -19(The corona diseases (2019) as well as the global health care systems is one of the fundamental issues facing the elderly. Older people suffer the brunt of the response to the pandemic as they have the highest risk of hospitalisation and mortality from Covid- 19 illnesses, but they also negatively impacted by social contact, mobility restrictions, interrupted supply chains, and loss of contact personally in healthcare system. The healthcare system supports the aid of contemporary technologies for instance delivering online prescriptions through emails, pharmaceutical needs. The PHE (Public Health England) also provides vaccination programme for the public to encourage for healthy behaviour. (PHE,2020). The UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) also states age are being driver of the health spending. It also provided statistics that the spent-on health care services increase in the age. Not only the health the health care services but the family health services, pharmaceutical services, capital spending and the total health spending also observes a hike with the process of ageing. The UKHSA states the proximity to death as an important factor that is responsible for the increase in the health for the increase in the health expenditure on an individual (Howdon ,and Rice 2018).



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As per health profile of England provided by the UKHSA declares the life expectancy to be 79.6 and 83.2 for men and women respectively and the population of people above the age of 85 are anticipated to hit 2 million by 2031. This will increase the burden on health care system as with increase in the number of aged populations the number of individuals who required care for chronic diseases treatment of which are costly. For instance, the cost that NHS has to bear for treatment of diabetes is approximately 8.8 billion pounds and is predicted to further increase by 2035. This elevation in the cost is mainly due to the increase in the number of people who are more likely to acquire diabetes that is elderly age group. Along with this increasing age, an individual is also more prone to other serious disorders including cardiovascular disorders like hypertension, mental disorders like dementia, depression and Alzheimer have also become very common among this age group (Pineda-Villanueva and et al., 2019).

CONCLUSIONS

From the above discussion it can be concluded that the ageing population of a country can be challenges to the health care system of the country as it will lead to shortage of health resources and shortage of health care professionals for delivering services to the rest of the population. In addition, for combatting these challenges, the health care system needs to address these issues by incorporating technology in their health providing system. Also deploying multidisciplinary approach will help managing such patients effectively and the health care system should introduce innovative ways in order to accommodate the fluctuating health conditions of the elderly patients. (UKSHA, 2019)

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