

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF THE
PUBLIC TOWARDS AGING AND ROLES OF
CAREGIVER IN SAFETY MEDICATION
MANAGEMENT AMONG THE ELDERLY
PEOPLE**

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ABSTRACT

Elderly people defined as people at the chronological age of 65 years (WHO, 2009). The number of elderly people is keeping increasing universally and these people experience aging process which leads to reduction in quality of life (Flatt, 2012). Therefore, they need a caregiver who can give support and helps in terms of emotional, spiritual, psychological and physical tasks (Honea, 2008). 52 million caregivers provide care to elderly with a disability or illness in all over the world (Coughlin, 2010). Therefore, this study conducted to determine the level of knowledge and awareness of the public in Puncak Alam towards aging and the roles of caregiver in safety medication management among the elderly people. A cross-sectional study has been applied to 174 samples of the public in Puncak Alam residential areas. The response rate was 51.1%. Data were analysed by using Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 which include Fisher Exact Test and frequency analysis. Distribution of questionnaires had highest in the age group 18 to 30 years old (82.2%) and the majority of them higher levels of education which is a bachelor degree (42.2%). The majority of the respondents (39.7%) agrees that elderly people experience health issues. Most of the respondents agree that elderly people have cognitive impairment. The majority of the public with higher education level (47.5%) disagree that elderly people adapt well on new things. The highest percentage of respondents with higher education (52.3%) being neutral that the caregiver can simply give complementary and traditional to the elderly people. Mostly, respondents disagree (45.4%) that elderly people will always read and understand the label on their medication. Most public has a good level of knowledge and awareness towards aging and the roles of caregiver in safety medication management among the elderly people. However, they need to be exposed and educated more on certain issues to improve elderly's quality of life.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Age of a person can be defined in several ways such as their biological, physiological and socio-culture condition (Cohen 2002). Elderly people can be defined as people at the chronological age of 65 years (WHO, 2009) and caregiver defined as an individual who is among the family members or friends that give support and helps in terms of emotional, spiritual, psychological and physical tasks (Honea NJ et al, 2008). Medication management defined as attitudes and techniques that determine how medication or drugs taken by patients (NPC, 2008). Geriatric is the health care of older persons (AGHE 2001, Butler 2008). There are many ageing features that can define someone's age in terms of their physical factors such as facial looks, hair colour and body strength.

Besides, mental alertness was believed as one of the indication to define an elderly person in terms of the mental factor (Musaiger, 2009). Elderly people are usually possessed common problems, mainly affects both physically and mentally which there is a correlation between the increase in their age and slowness of reflection in both respective marks (Donald H, 2001). Mental marks included cognitive ability, depression mood and mental disorder where physical marks show joint and bone defect,