

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**EXPLORING THE PERCEPTION,
ACCEPTANCE AND EXPECTATION
OF MALAYSIAN GEN X TOWARDS
FAMILY-FRIENDLY SENIOR
LIVING COMMUNITY**

NORHIDAYAH BINTI MOHD YUSOFF

Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Science
(Hotel Management)

Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management

November 2018

ABSTRACT

Asia's population is ageing rapidly due to the increase of life expectancy and decline of fertility. The number of older people is forecasted to quadruple from 533 million in 2015 to more than 2.45 billion in 2050 worldwide. This scenario presents a challenge to the younger generation in taking care of the elderly and at the same time juggling with their career as well as immediate family. The practice of sending aged or older persons to the Senior Living Community is still a stigma in Eastern cultures, particularly for Malaysians. This due to some issues that are often associated with senior living community in Malaysia such as lack of privacy, isolation and abandonment. Thus, this study was carried out to profile the perception, acceptance and expectation of the Malaysian Gen X towards a more family friendly senior living community concept. In-depth interviews with fifteen respondents with an equal representation of the three main races in Malaysia were conducted. The respondents were recruited using purposive sampling with certain sampling criterias. They must be Malaysian working individuals who aged 40 and above that possess Employee Provident Fund (EPF) or pension scheme. Another recruitment criteria is the respondents ought to reside in Selangor state which is projected to have the highest older population in Malaysia by 2020. The interviews were transcribed verbatim, manually coded and analyzed for themes. Through the thematic analysis, it indicated that Malaysians certainly need a family-friendly senior living community concept as to avoid isolation and abandonment of older persons. Most of them have negative perceptions towards the existing elderly care in Malaysia by describing such centres as a pitiful and unpleasant place for the older persons. The results found that most Malaysian Gen X are able to accept the proposed family-friendly senior living community concept with the main reason not to burden their children. Several different expectations on facilities, services and activities were anticipated by the Malaysian Gen X towards a family-friendly senior living community. Ultimately, this study is important as it could improve older persons' quality of life as the realization of the senior living community may help to reduce the worries of the younger generation towards the welfare and care for their parents or older family members.

Keywords: Ageing population, Senior Living Community, Perception, Acceptance, Expectation, Malaysia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deep gratitude to my family for their great support and patience. This work would not have been possible without the assistance of my main supervisor, Mr Mohd Taufik Zamri; his patience, understanding and remarkable support is highly appreciated. Also, the ongoing guidance and support of my co-supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Norzuwana Sumarjan. Thank you so much for sharing time, knowledge and inspiration. I wish to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all the participants who took part in this study. I am also grateful to my friend Alif Azhari Ismail for his invaluable assistance in editing my work.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the general description of this study. It starts with the background of the study which expresses the overview of senior living community. Next, the identification of research issues is deliberated in the problem statement followed by the research objectives and research questions. Finally, the significance of this study and its contribution towards academicians and practitioners is discussed.

1.1 Background of the Study

Currently, the older population in Malaysia is recorded at 6.2% of the total population (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2017). According to the Malaysian Department of Statistics (2016) under the Malaysia Population Projection 2010-2040, the population of Malaysia is starting to age, with those aged 65 and above is estimated to increase to 7.2% of the population by 2020 and 14.5% in the year 2040. This provides a clear indication that Malaysia is approaching the status of an ageing nation by 2020 (Hamid, 2015). A nation is considered aged when the older population makes up 7% of its total population (Kinsella & He, 2009),

Increasing life expectancy has led to the increase of older aged population. Life expectancy at birth of Malaysia's population reached 75.0 years in 2016 as compared to 74.1 years in 2010 due to excellent medical health care, good diets, and high quality of life (Ali, 2017). Similar to many developing countries, the improvement of health and life expectancy rates in Malaysia are seen to be the indicators of population ageing. The average life expectancy is 72.3 years for male and 77.2 for female (Malaysia Department of Statistics, 2016).

In light of the above mentioned statistics, the current aging population in Malaysia is expected to live longer. This is influenced by the advances in medical technologies to prolong life even with chronic diseases (Lindgren, 2016). However, the fertility rates are low as indicated by the total number of live births recorded where in 2015, it was 521,136 with a decrease of 1.4 per cent as compared to 2014 which was 528,612 (Malaysia Department of Statistics, 2016). Among the factors that