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CITY FEATURES IN EMBRACING AGE FRIENDLY CITY CONCEPT IN MALAYSIA URBAN AREA

Siti Noorhawa Azyze Ellah Azyze [1], Kushairi Rashid[2] and Thuraiya Mohamad[3]
[1]Faculty of Architecture, Planning and Surveying, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Perak Branch, Seri Iskandar Campus, Seri Iskandar, 32610 Perak, Malaysia

Abstract

Malaysia is projected to become an ageing nation in the year 2035. Due to this, planning and design approach should be adapting an age friendly environment in built environment development to meet the needs and requirements of the ageing population mainly in urban areas. The age-friendly concept that put great emphasis on outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information and health services, had been implemented by many cities in the world. Thus, it can be promoted and adapted to suit Malaysian socio-cultural background. Therefore, this research emphasis is to determine the key features of the age-friendly city concept based on Malaysia's social-cultural condition. Reviewing literature using content analysis in addressing aims to identify best practices of age-friendly cities globally. Deductive research approach applies in this research that includes descriptive analyses to cluster age friendly city practices into main city features. Findings of research will contribute to the body of knowledge by suggesting key city features space particularly in urban areas. In addition the study is also able to provide general guidelines for local authorities in identifying city features to adapt to existing cities to accommodate an increasing ageing population.

Keywords: c*ity features; age-friendly city; urban area; content analysis.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Globally, the number of elderly expected to reach more than 2 billions in 2050 (Hamid, 2015). Malaysia is predicted to be an ageing nation in 2035 when elderly group reaches 15% of the population (Tan et al, 2016). Despite that, adverse effects of ageing related to infrastructure, services and facilities planning are still lacking (Tobi, Fathi, & Amaratunga, 2018) as there is limited understanding and involvement from stakeholders. Meanwhile, ageing population are vulnerable groups that have unique physical and social needs to be included in the community environment (Steels, 2015). As people age, they require more specialized facilities so that they can be more mobile and lead a healthy lifestyle. Apart from that, developing strategies that consider diversity and capacity needs of the elderly as in housing, community participation as well as health and well-being are also important (Ismail et al., 2015).

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Ageing and Elderly

Distinct definitions of elderly were used by different researchers. Ageing was defined as mental, physical, social, economy and psychology shifting (Tobi et al., 2018). Malaysia adapts the definition from WHO (2007), which defines elderly as people aged 60 years and above. While, study from Ainoriza (2016), defined elderly as persons who aged 50 years and above.

2.2 Definition of Urban Area

Urban area is a complex setting in promotingwellbeing of people in cities (Steels, 2015). Urban area is a physical environment that has a high density of individuals engaged in compact activities. Urban areas are defined in many ways such as based on population density (Balk et al., 2018), infrastructure and facilities development (Williams, 2014), economic development and technologies (Turok & McGranahan, 2013). This suggests that there are no universal acceptable terms that could be used to define urban areas.

2.3 Related Approach

Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide (WHO, 2007) was developed for developed and developing countries in creating age friendly cities. The checklist of key areas includes: i) building and outdoor spaces, ii) transportation, iii) housing, iv) social participation, v) respect and inclusion, vi) civic participation and employment, vii) communication and information and viii) community support and health services.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research adopts qualitative research approach using content analyses as main research strategy to determine key features for age friendly city. In achieving that, age friendly report was identified in stage one as well as age friendly dimensions from the existing framework. Literature review on related definitions, approaches and concepts were undertaken in creating the basic requirement for data collection. Stage two implemented content analyses as data collection and analysis. Deductive content analysis approach applied to identify city features that involved information clustering and integrating. The aim of the research will create an output of Malaysia potential age friendly city framework based on existing global age friendly city framework by WHO.

Documents related to age-friendly cities were searched from the open source by using keywords, such as, age-friendly cities, age-friendly community, age-friendly concept and best practices of age-friendly. The search was also focused to identify guidelines, toolkits, best practices and development plans that were prepared between 2010 to 2020 to ensure the latest information was collected. Eight reports were identified as relevant for the study material from across the globe such as from North America, United Kingdom and Asia. The reports adapt global age friendly cities framework but two of the reports included their own features in meeting their own city's needs.

Related reports identified from the previous exercises, were analysed using content analysis software to determine important city features for age friendly city. The purpose of content analysis is the output and understanding of the key data about the phenomenon from all the documents gathered. Content analysis was performed in multi-stages consisting of 5 steps which are i) data display, ii) code identification, iii) information reduction, iv) category for relations data matrices and pattern matching (Tobi et al., 2018).

Content analysis was performed by using a qualitative based software, Atlas.ti 8. Figure 1 shows the examples of data display and code identification process using the software. Processes of data display based on their cluster were done. The content analysis result will determine features for each dimension. The process shown in Figure 1 below will determine the features for Theme 3 – Housing.
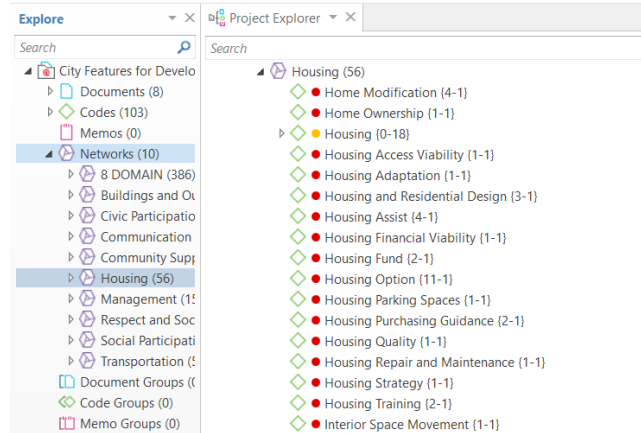
Figure 1: Theme 3- Building and outdoor spaces analyses using ATLAS.ti 8

Cross-sectional content analyses shown in Figure 2 were part of the analysis process in creating code identification, information reduction as well as category for relations data matrices and pattern matching based on all selected documents.

Housing Option			
Document 3 (3:26)		Option for home-sharing, both intergenerational and among residents age 50+	Install restrooms
Document 5 (6:1)		A range of appropriate and affordable housing options is available for older people	Sufficient toilet
Document 8 (8:2)		Awareness of housing options for older adults	Access to toilet

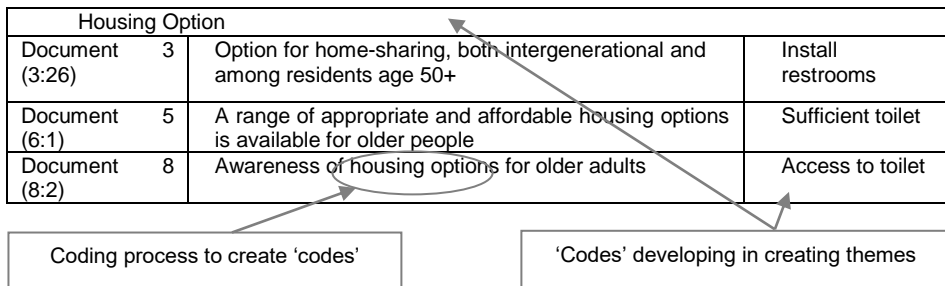| Coding process to create 'codes'	'Codes' developing in creating themes

Figure 2: Cross-sectional content analyses process

Cognitive map was derived by using ATLAS.ti 8 based on a data analysis method. Illustrated figures shown in Figure 3 was based on Theme 1 identified.
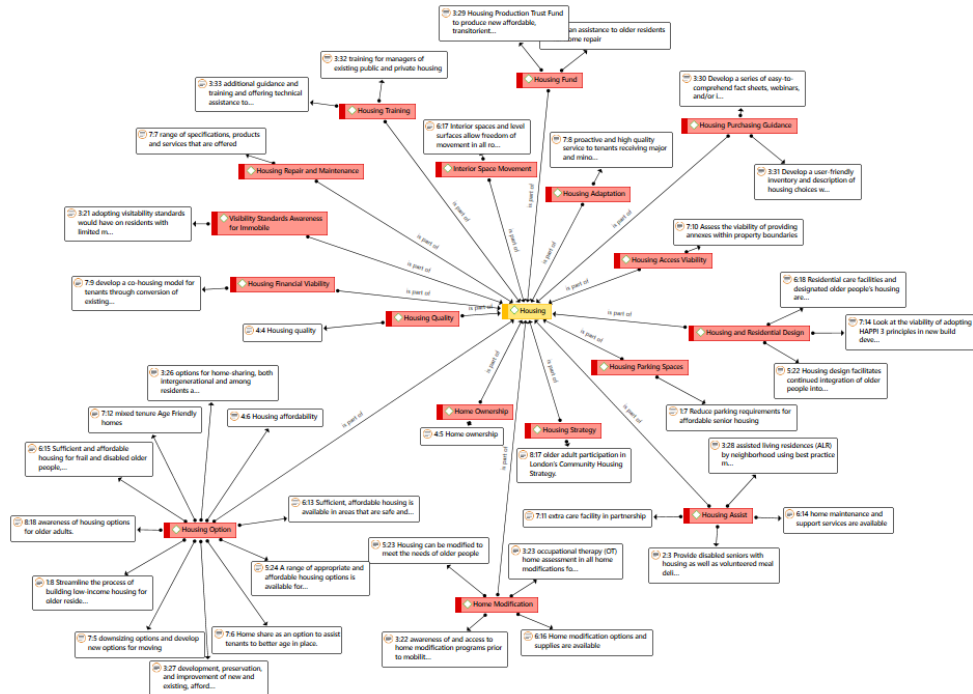
Figure 3: Theme 3 – Developed cognitive map using ATLAS.ti 8

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regarding all eight dimensions in Global Age friendly Cities (WHO, 2007), 302 quotations (features) were identified. Quotations were reviewed thoroughly, and clustered based on eight dimensions of global age friendly city framework from all eight documents.

Integration of data and pattern matching had significantly reduced the quotation to 103 quotations (features). Next, based on frequency analysis, the study identified public transport as well as support services as the most frequent features quoted. Conversely, civic participation and employment and communication and information were features with the lowest codes.

Final potential features were selected based on two numbers of frequency and resulted in 60 suitable features. Features that resulted in more than one (1) frequency will be included as part of the framework. The highest number of features is transportation that is commonly stated. Lowest features stated with six features which were civic participation and employment, communication and information.

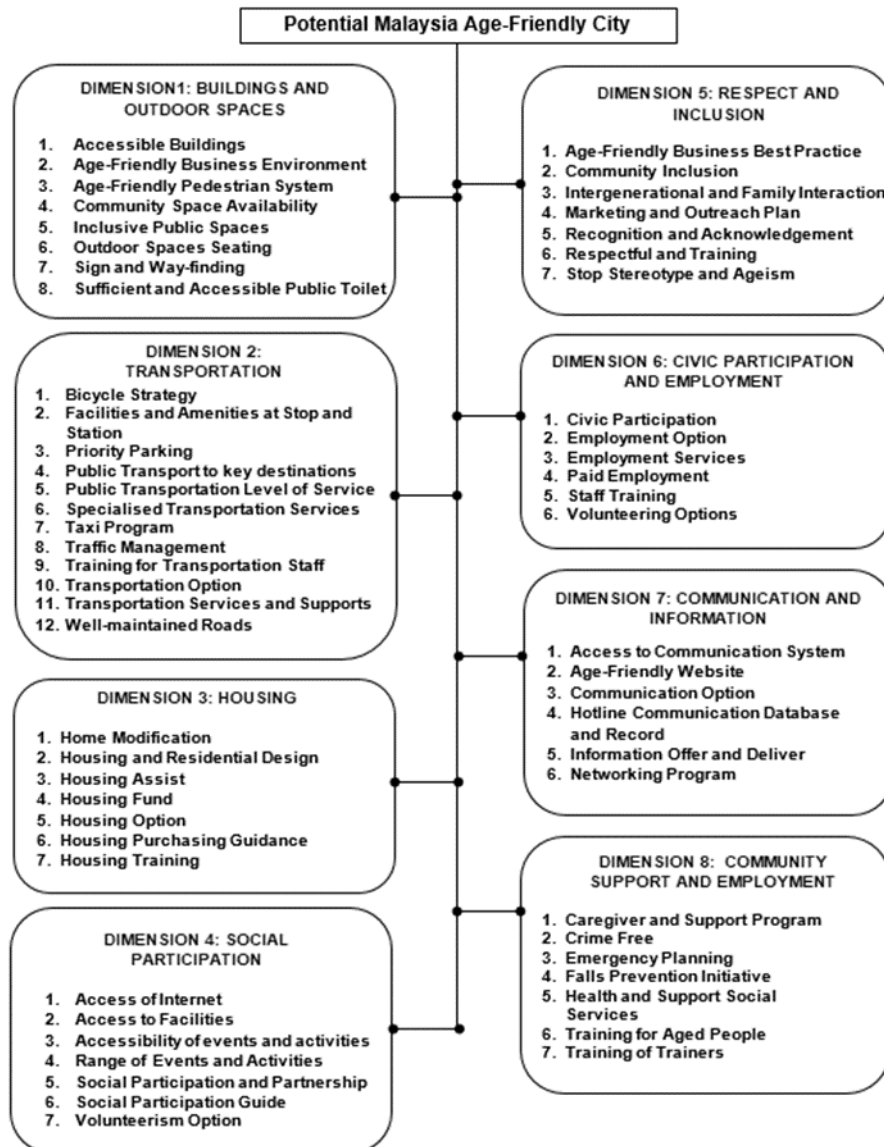### 4.1 Proposed framework for age friendly city in Malaysia

Figure 4: Potential Malaysia Age-Friendly City Framework

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Older people in urban areas were the focus of this research. Data collection used were age friendly cities best practices report from open source data. The total of eight reports were used in content analysis by using ATLAS.ti 8 as qualitative data analysis software. From a total of 103 quotation results from the content analyses, only 60 features were identified relevant from the analysis after selecting features that have more than one (1) frequency. The frequency shows that the common occurring in all eight documents selected. Every dimension

shows crucial features to be part of the framework by high frequency as well as the lowest features that might also need to be considered.

Most of the criteria show physical support features for aged people's social needs. Eight (8) dimensions will be set as the theme prior to eight topic areas used in age-friendly city concepts. Thus, this shows that the final 60 features will be part of the formation of key city features of Age-Friendly City Framework in Malaysia. However, more investigations need to be carried out to strengthen and refine the final result of Malaysia age friendly city framework as shown in Figure 4.

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Prof. Madya Dr. Nur Hisham Ibrahim
Rektor
Universiti Teknologi MARA
Cawangan Perak

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Sekian, terima kasih.

"BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA"

Saya yang menjalankan amanah,

Setuju.

27.1.2023

PROF. MADYA DR. NUR HISHAM IBRAHIM
REKTOR
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
CAWANGAN PERAK
KAMPUS SERI ISKANDAR

SITI BASRIYAH SHAIK BAHARUDIN
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