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THE GENERATIONAL OF AGEING IN PLACE DECISION- MAKING PREFERENCES IN MALAYSIA

**Hafiszah Ismail¹, Robiah Abdul Rashid², Nor Haziyah Abdul Halil³,
Faridah Muhamad Halil⁴, Wilson Ranga Anthony Jiram⁵**

^{1,2,3} School of Real Estate and Building Surveying,

⁴ School of Construction Management and Quantity Surveying,

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM),

40450 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia

⁵ Faculty of Built Environment,

UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK,

94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia

Abstract

Housing fulfils a person's physical, psychological, social, and economic needs. Housing choices are made by maximizing satisfaction with the home by focusing on various factors, whether external or internal and this varies between generations (i.e. Baby Boomers, Generation X, Generation Y) or by age group. As age increases, an individual's needs and preferences also change due to the ageing factors. This study aims to identify the Malaysian generational Ageing in Place (AIP) housing decision. AIP refers to a person's preference to remain in the same place for as long as possible, which links to their sense of attachment towards a place. This study also aims to provide an overview of the AIP decision-making preferences of the generations in Malaysia. Thus, the objectives of this study are: (i) To identify the factors influencing AIP housing decisions and (ii) To determine the generational AIP decision-making by the generations in Malaysia with Johor Bahru, Johor as the case study. This study adopted a mixed methods of research strategies (qualitative and quantitative). The main findings revealed four (4) main ageing in place preferences such as (1) Economics, (2) Help and Support, (3) Dwelling characteristics, and (4) Neighbourhood. The findings are significant to the public and private sectors in understanding the housing consumers better. The in-depth information gained will help narrow the demand and supply gap between housing consumers and housing providers.

Keywords: Generation, Housing decisions, Ageing in place (AIP), Ageing-In Place Housing Decision, Place Attachment

¹ Corresponding Author Email: hafiszah@uitm.edu.my

INTRODUCTION

Each generation has unique characteristics that is linked with individually diverse needs and preferences (Ismail et al., 2020). Generations are distinct categories of population that differ based on their age cohorts or birth year. Lack of knowledge about what the science of generations tells us leads to misunderstandings of the evidence about generations, their existence, and their purported impact. In relevance, age and ageing research are neither remedy nor equivalent approaches to studying generations (Rudolph et. al., 2021).

Older adults are generally more active, healthier, wealthier, and highly educated than the previous generations. Older adults are also more often to be single and childless (having no child). Due to the changes of their life cycle stages including the retirement or the age-related losses incidents (e.g., death of partner or friend), along with the declining of health and the increasing of mobility limitations, more older adults experience feelings of loneliness and social isolation (Von Hippel et al., 2008). Therefore, interest in subjective aspects of the Quality of Life (QoL) in older adults, such as well-being, happiness, social satisfaction, and loneliness, is expanding.

Grimmer et al. (2015) stated that Ageing in Place is mainly about the opportunity for older people to remain in their homes for as long as possible without moving to a long-term care facility. Horner and Boldy (2008) defined Ageing in Place as a positive approach to meeting the older person's needs, supporting them to live independently, or with some assistance, for as long as possible. When people age in place, it somehow shows some bonding (attachment) to a place or location. However, the mechanisms of how people-place bonds play in the decision-making processes of taking pro-environmental behaviours still need to be explored (Wan et al., 2021).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Generations

Generation refers to the population categorized by age cohorts and their birth years. The name of each generation and their distinctive birth years are as follows: (i) Baby Boomers - born between 1946 and 1961; (ii) Generation X (Gen-X) - born between 1962 and 1976; Generation Y (Gen-Y) - born between 1977-1999; and Generation Z (Gen-Z) - born after 1992 (Ismail et al., 2019). The concept of generation is utilized both as an approach for grouping age cohorts (defined as groups of people born at a similar time), and for analysis of tracking people on a range of issues, behaviours and characteristics (Mahmoud, 2021). Significantly, generations are influenced by their generational characteristics, beliefs, experiences, lifestyles, ideals, and demographic backgrounds (Ismail et al., 2023).