

Exploring Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens: A Strategic Gender Needs Analysis Framework in Davao City

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at developing a strategic gender needs framework for the senior citizens in Davao City. The study used a convergence-parallel mixed-methods design and a snowball sampling technique. As part of the quantitative study, a survey questionnaire consisting of 20 items was used to collect data from the 20 senior citizen participants. On the other hand, a qualitative study was also facilitated through the key informant interviews of two elders. The location of the data gathering is in Davao City. The mean and t-test were the statistical tools used in the study. Also, data triangulation was utilized to check the convergence (divergence) of the results.

The study's findings showed that senior citizens' levels of deprivation were high in terms of help-seeking behavior. In the same manner, the participation level in terms of family and community decision-making was very high. Meanwhile, it was found that there is a significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to age. This concurs with the fact that, as they age, they are likely to experience deprivations. On the other hand, the study concurred that there is no significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to sex, primary source of income, average monthly income, and medical history. Given the qualitative data, this study confirmed that the salient and dominant themes triggered in the thematic analysis are: the prolonged turn-around time in the scheduled social pension pay-outs; the insufficient amount of social pension; the lack of livelihood training or programs obtained; and the age discrimination to access work. Furthermore, significant statements about the deprivation experiences of senior citizens were analyzed, which resulted in a common category called "poverty."

Lastly, Senior Citizens on Relevant Enactions (SCORE) is the proposed strategic gender needs framework for the senior citizens in Davao City that aims to provide an avenue to enhance their living conditions through suitable and relevant strategies and programs.

Keywords: deprivation experiences; senior citizens; Senior Citizens on Relevant Enactions (SCORE); help-seeking behaviour; participation

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Problem

In the report of the World Health Organization (WHO, 2022), the year 2019 recorded 1 billion population of senior citizens (60 years old and up) and the numbers are expected to skyrocket globally from 1.4 billion in 2030 to 2.1 billion in 2050. Unfortunately, this sector felt forms of challenges and problems in this accumulating trend. Statistics identified that 1 out of 6 elderly, or 15.7%, experienced abuse in various forms, such as psychological, physical, financial, feeling of neglect, and sexual at both community and institutional levels. In addition, the series of COVID-19 lockdowns accelerated these events. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA, 2002) reported the common factors that influenced the voices and situation of the elderly in South Africa and India. These are severe poverty level, abuse and violence, family neglect, disownership, the elderly relying on caregiving support from children, and lastly, discrimination that leads to economic and social deprivation.

In the Philippines, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA, 2022) presented that the dependent older adults (65 years old and above) are 58.6 million or 5.4% of the overall Philippine population. On the other hand, the same agency identified issues in the well-being of the Filipino elderly, which are health issues and economic issues. In the report, as to the economic issues, generally, the Filipino elderly belong to the low-income level, where senior citizens are greatly dependent on children's support to sustain economically. The scary part is that 55% of Filipino senior citizens have no social pension from the state. (Castillo, 2020)

In Mindanao, the report of Bañez (2019), as cited from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the convergence of economic disparity, issues on reproductive and sexual health, voiceless and misplaced political representation and participation, and lastly, the inequitable access to education, power, and water greatly defines poverty. These factors resonate with the Gender-related Development Index (GDI) rating obtained by Sulu at 0.322 GDI, the lowest rating marked in the Philippines. Also, the study of M. Gascon and McIntyre-Mills (2018) strongly contends that the indigenous people, women, elderly, youth, and physically challenged people in Mindanao region are out-of-the-scene, abused, and corrupted, which weakens the real essence of social participation and capability building for them.

This research study makes a point that senior citizens (SCs) experienced deprivations such as poverty, help-seeking behavior, lack of social participation, and disempowerment due to misfit capability programs. These factors are part of the critical issues in the strategic gender needs analysis at the community level. In the current situation, there are notable experiences of the elderly where they only rely on the social amelioration programs of the government such as the Annual Senior Citizens Social

Subsidy (ASCSS), Social Pension for Senior Citizens (SPSC), 4Ps, and SSS claims or pensions. However, this financial support from the government may not be enough to literally and figuratively sustain their living on a long-term scale. These manifestations resonate with the theory of Chambers (1983) about the deprivation trap. In this theory, marginalized people become more fragile and trapped because they are powerless, voiceless, isolated, optionless, and weak when it comes to the development planning stage. As a result, poverty greatly hits them without any safeguards to fight it. In the same vein, Kabeer's social relations approach also reflects the lack of actionable solutions in terms of gender and development as far as poverty among senior citizens is concerned. This argues that gender and development should be neutral at all levels or forms of participation and decision-making. Also, this should emphasize the individual's quality of life and existence, where they have the liberty to choose security, independence, and survival in the most possible ways. Lastly, in the literature of Nussbaum (2000) about capabilities approach, the capabilities of any individual should not be controlled and manipulated because of the limiting access to various options for them. However, this should create a venue for democratization and equitability in public programs to strengthen what they can do to be socially and economically able individuals. Unfortunately, the capabilities of the elderly seem to be taken for granted due to disempowerment and misfit capability programs.

Although there are studies about the success stories of alleviating from poverty among senior citizens in the case of Canada, South Korea, Japan, and China; however, not all research shows the positive implications of governmental interventions to mitigate these deprivations for elderlies in the Philippines. Some evidence agrees that 55% of Filipino senior citizens have no social pension from the state and still hold prolonged issues in terms of health, economic, and financial aspects. Moreover, in terms of the Gender-related Development Index (GDI), the Sulu region in Mindanao gathered 0.322 which is the lowest rating in the Philippines. In light of these dilemmas, there is a sense of urgency in conducting this study to improve the life chances and well-being of the senior citizens (SCs) in Davao City and to develop a strategic gender needs framework that is appropriate for them.

Research Objectives

The objective of this research study is to formulate a strategic gender development framework. Specifically, the study sought to answer the following questions:

1. To identify the socio-demographic profile of the participants in terms of:
 - a. Age;
 - b. Sex;
 - c. Primary Source of Income;
 - d. Average Monthly Income; and
 - e. Medical History

2. To explore the deprivation experiences of the participants.
3. To determine the level of help-seeking behavior of the participants in terms of:
 - a. Health;
 - b. Social; and
 - c. Economic
4. To find-out the participation level of senior citizens in the decision-making activities at the following platforms:
 - a. Family
 - b. Community
5. To ascertain the significant difference in the level of deprivation experiences among senior citizens when the participants are grouped by:
 - a. Age;
 - b. Sex;
 - c. Primary Source of Income;
 - d. Average Monthly Income; and
 - e. Medical History
6. To formulate a strategic gender needs framework for the senior citizens (SCs) in Davao City.

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the level of deprivation experiences among senior citizens when the participants are grouped by:

- a. age;
- b. sex;
- c. primary source of income;
- d. average monthly income; and
- e. medical history?

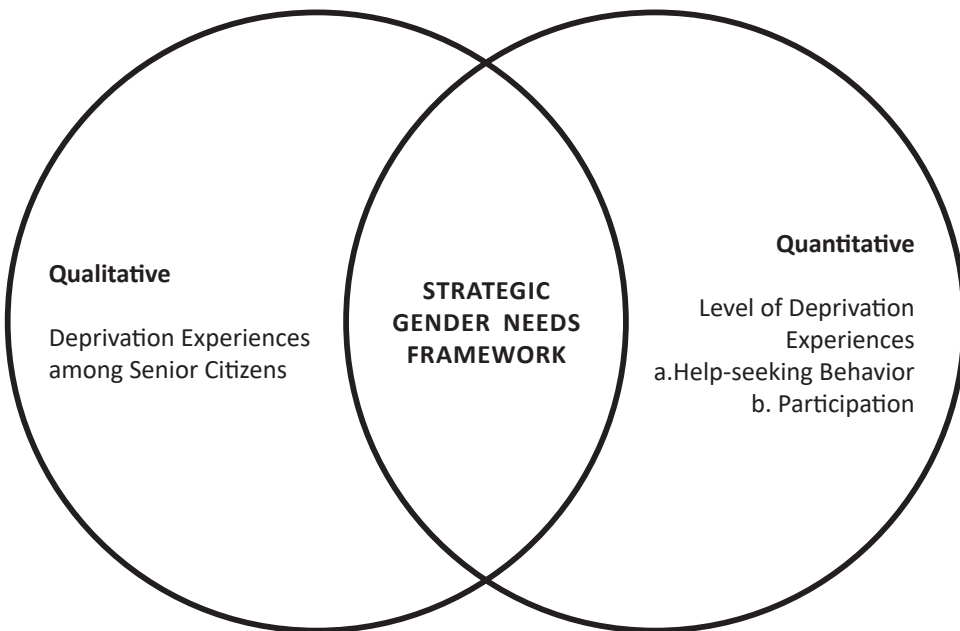
Scope of the Study

This research activity focuses on exploring deprivation experiences in the lens of senior citizens in Calinan, District Davao City. Moreover, the results of the study will be the basis for the creation of the strategic gender needs framework. For qualitative data, the researcher will serve as a tool of data gathering via key informant interviews; therefore, there will be 1 female senior citizen and 1 male senior citizen. Meanwhile for the quantitative data, an adapted and modified 20-item Likert scale survey questionnaire. Lastly, these methodologies are used to facilitate the data gathering from April 2023 until May 2023.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework illustrated in Figure 1 shows the variables of the study. The independent variables in this study are composed of the following indicators: the qualitative part which depicts the deprivation experiences among senior citizens and the 20-item Likert scale to measure the deprivation dimensions in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation. For the survey questionnaire, the moderator variables are age, sex, primary source of income, average monthly income, and medical history. Lastly, the strategic gender development needs framework is formulated based on the results of the study.

Figure 1
The Conceptual Framework of the Study



Theoretical Framework of the Study

This study corroborates on the Participatory Rural Appraisal of Chambers (1994). Moreover, this theory argues that participation must involve sharing, enriching, assessing, and nurturing local living situations. This paradigm helps communities deliberate and act on their common findings. Local residents are the main proponents in the participation aspect. In this respect, participatory methods include mapping, modelling, transect walks, matrix scoring, seasonal calendars, trend and change analysis, well-being and wealth ranking and grouping, and analytical diagramming. Lastly, this approach can be applied

in natural resources management, agriculture, poverty alleviation, social programs, healthcare, and food security.

Development as freedom is the ease of access to public goods, the growth of individuals' sense of humanity, and the equitable sharing of basic human needs are factors that contribute to the enhancement of people's sense of dignity. This theory posits that the pursuit of human happiness is the central objective of development, and identifies several factors that contribute to this goal. (Sen, 2001)

Nussbaum's (2011) capabilities approach can also be intertwined in this study. This ascertains not to constrain, coerce, or supplant disadvantaged communities. This initiative has the potential to establish a platform for promoting democratic principles and ensuring fairness in public programs, thereby enhancing the capacity of individuals to become socially and economically empowered.

In addition, Dobson's listening and deepening democracy theory also affirms this study. This theory makes a point that listening can rejuvenate democratic dynamics and practice. Politics must be examined to determine why people don't listen. This also means proposing ways to improve political processes, particularly democratic ones, and improving our understanding of them, even when they're not working well. Furthermore, this theory describes four ways that good listening skills can help democracy succeed. These include increasing legitimacy, resolving disputes, understanding, and empowerment.

In the same vein, the voice, choice, and agency theory posits that effective social planning for the excluded populations necessitates the use of assertive actions in the policy framing to underscore the importance of prioritizing the process, rather than solely relying on the discourse of the privileged aristocratic and powerful groups. (M. Gascon & McIntyre-Mills, 2018)

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study used the convergent parallel mixed methods. According to Creswell (2017), the fundamental premise of this methodology is that qualitative and quantitative data offer distinct forms of information, such as detailed perspectives of participants through qualitative means and numerical scores through quantitative means. When both results are integrated, these two types of data produce outcomes that ought to be congruent. This also concurs with the Harvard Catalyst (2023) that the convergent parallel design involves the integration of both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, followed by comparison or correlation of the two and subsequent interpretation. The discussion should encompass the points of convergence and divergence that exist between the qualitative and quantitative findings.

In this study, the deprivation experiences among senior citizens are the qualitative aspect and the deprivation dimensions in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation are in the quantitative portion. The convergence or divergence of these results will be the primary basis in the formulation of a strategic gender needs framework.

Research Instrument

The study was expedited using the adapted and modified qualitative questions and quantitative questionnaires. For qualitative data, the modified questions were taken from the study M. G. Gascon, Ortiz, G.F.I., & Badoy, R.C.D. (2023) entitled “Promoting Rights-based Community Drug Rehabilitation Initiatives in Davao City”. Meanwhile for the quantitative data, a 20-item Likert scale survey questionnaire was adapted and modified from the studies Poor People’s Perspectives and Implications for Poverty Reduction (Akindola, 2009), Empowering Indigenous People: Voice, Choice and Agency in Rural Development Planning in Mindanao (Gascon and McIntyre Mills, 2018), and Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data: A Proposal for Internationally Comparable Indicators of Agency and Empowerment (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, 2010). In this aspect, to ensure the suitability of the questions and comprehensibility on the part of the target participants, the questions were validated by a distinguished professor at the University of Southeastern Philippines, College of Development Management, Mintal, Davao City.

The level of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making were scored and measured on the following scale:

Range of Means	Descriptive Level	Qualitative Interpretation
4.50-5.00	Very High	The level of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making is always observed.
3.50-4.49	High	The level of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making is often observed.
2.50-3.49	Moderate	The level of help-seeking behavior and participation in the decision-making is occasionally observed.
1.50-2.49	Low	The level of help-seeking behavior and participation in the decision-making is rarely observed.
1.0-1.49	Very Low	The level of help-seeking behavior and participation in the decision-making is never observed.

Research Participants

The participants of this study were 2 senior citizens for the qualitative method in the form of key-informant interviews and 20 senior citizens for a quantitative survey questionnaire performed in Calinan, Davao City from April 2023 until May 2023. The researcher utilized the snowball sampling technique. Frey (2018) suggests that the snowball technique is performed to collect necessary participants for the study through a so-called referral mechanism by a person who possesses the same traits, attributes, characteristics, or qualifications at the onset of research.

Research Procedures

The steps performed were the following: first, the creation of the research study information consent letter as approved by the research professor in charge. Second, the adaption and modification of the qualitative questions and 20-item Likert scale survey questionnaire were validated and approved by the research professor in charge. Meanwhile, the post-procedural activities like the administration and facilitation of the key-informant interviews and survey questionnaire were performed thereafter highlighting utmost data confidentiality and safeguarding of the information collected.

Kumar (1989) suggests that key informant interviews involve interviewing a chosen group of people with relevant knowledge, viewpoints, and ideas about a topic. Interviews begin with a small group of participants. The researcher chooses informants who can provide information or thoughts. Interview guides provide a detailed list of topics and issues to discuss during the interview. The interviewer subtly elicits more information from the informants and diligently documents it. For qualitative data, the modified questions about exploring deprivation experiences among senior citizens were adapted and patterned from the study of Gascon, Ortiz, and Badoy (2023) entitled “Promoting Rights-based Community Drug Rehabilitation Initiatives in Davao City”.

In addition, data triangulation was employed in this study. Data triangulation refers to the integration of multiple sources of data, investigators, methodologies, theoretical frameworks, or methodologies for analysis within a single investigation (Denzin, 2017); (Kimchi, Polivka, & Stevenson, 1991). The utilization of various combinations such as data triangulation, investigator triangulation, methodological triangulation, theoretical triangulation (Patton, 1990), or analytical triangulation (Kimchi et al., 1991) is observed.

On the other hand, a survey questionnaire is a methodological approach employed to collect statistical data about the characteristics, beliefs, or behaviors of a given population through a predetermined set of structured inquiries according to the International Encyclopedia of Human Geography (2009). For quantitative data gathering, a 20-item Likert scale survey questionnaire was adapted and modified from the studies Poor People’s Perspectives and Implications for Poverty Reduction (Akindola, 2009),

Empowering Indigenous People: Voice, Choice and Agency in Rural Development Planning in Mindanao (Gascon and McIntyre Mills, 2018), and Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data: A Proposal for Internationally Comparable Indicators of Agency and Empowerment (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, 2012). The objectives are to ascertain deprivation dimensions among senior citizens in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation. The moderating variables are age, sex, primary source of income, and medical history.

Data Description and Data Analytic Techniques

First, the frequency count was used to analyze and describe the socio-demographic profile and characteristics of the participants in a simple way of interpretation. In addition, the mean was employed to describe the level of help-seeking behavior and participation level of the participants. Also, the study employed a t-test to ascertain any statistically significant differences in the deprivation experiences of the participants when grouped according to age, sex, primary source of income, average monthly income, and medical history. (Yockey, 2011)

RESULTS, ANALYSIS, AND DISCUSSION

The socio-economic profile of the participants

Table 1 presented the summary of the socio-economic profile of the participants in terms of age, sex, primary source of income, average monthly income, and medical history.

Age. 14 participants belong to the 60–70 age range, while 5 participants belong to the age range of 71–80 years old. However, only one respondent belongs to the age range of 81 and above. In this view, the majority of the participants were aged 60–70 years old.

Sex. There were 13 female participants and 7 male participants; hence, the majority were female or women.

Primary source of income. In terms of the primary source of income, there were 35% of the participants whose main source of income was their livelihood, 25% were from social amelioration, and 20% were derived from employment. Meanwhile, 15% of the participants were dependent on the monthly pension, while 5% of them were dependent on the extra money from their children or relatives.

Average monthly income. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the participants whose average monthly income is reported below PHP 5,000. On the other hand, 15% of them registered an average monthly income of PHP 5,001 and above.

Medical History. In terms of reported illnesses, 50% of them reported other illnesses not on the list, 35% for hypertension, 5% for cardiovascular disease, 5% for diabetes, and 5% for osteoarthritis. On the other hand, in terms of the medical facilities, 60% of them preferred private hospitals; 20% of the participants would like to go to the health center; and 20% of them preferred to access the public hospital. Lastly, 20% of the participants preferred other facilities not listed in the questionnaire.

Table 1
Socio-demographic profile of the participants

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age		
60-70 years	14	70%
71-80 years	5	25%
81 years and above	1	5%
Total	20	100%
Sex		
Male	7	35%
Female	13	65%
Total	20	100%
Primary Source of Income		
Employment	4	20%
Livelihood	7	35%
Monthly Pension	3	15%
Social Amelioration	5	25%
Extra Money from Children/Relatives	1	5%
Total	20	100%
Average Monthly Income		
Below Php 5,000	17	85%
Php 5,001 and above	3	15%
Total	20	100%
Medical History: Reported Illnesses		
Hypertension	7	35%
Diabetes	1	5%
Osteoarthritis	1	5%
Cardiovascular Disease	1	5%
Others	10	50%
Total	20	100%

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Medical History: Medical Facility		
Health Center	4	20%
Public Hospital	12	10%
Private Hospital	2	60%
Others	2	10%
Total	20	100%

Level of Help-Seeking Behavior of the Senior Citizens

The level of help-seeking behavior of senior citizens is composed of three indicators: health, social, and economic.

Table 2 below presents the level of help-seeking behavior in terms of health, social, and economic factors. The indicator on the health aspect has a mean of 4.48 and a standard deviation of 0.74. The level of help-seeking behavior is high, while the social aspect is tabulated with a mean of 3.37 and a standard deviation of 1.06. The level of help-seeking behavior is moderate. Lastly, the economic aspect registered a mean of 3.31 with a standard deviation of 1.01. The level of help-seeking behavior is moderate.

As shown in Table 2, the overall level of help-seeking behavior has a total mean of 3.72 with a standard deviation of 0.66, which results in a high level of help-seeking behavior.

Table 2
Level of Help-Seeking Behavior of the Senior Citizens

INDICATORS	SD	MEAN	DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL
Health	0.74	4.48	High
Social	1.06	3.37	Moderate
Economic	1.01	3.31	Moderate
Overall	0.66	3.72	High

Level of Participation in the Decision-Making of Senior Citizens

The level of participation in the decision-making of senior citizens is composed of two indicators, namely family decision-making and community decision-making.

Presented in Table 3 below is the level of participation in the decision-making of senior citizens, which is composed of two indicators, namely family decision-making and community decision-making. The indicator on the family decision-making aspect

has a mean of 4.88 and a standard deviation of 0.30. The level of participation is very high. Conversely, the community decision-making aspect garnered a mean of 4.73 with a standard deviation of 0.71. The level of participation is very high.

As shown in Table 3, the overall level of participation has an overall mean of 4.81 with a standard deviation of 0.11, which results in a very high level of participation in the decision-making process.

Table 3

Level of Participation in the Decision-Making of Senior Citizens

INDICATORS	SD	MEAN	DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL
Family Decision-Making	0.30	4.88	Very High
Community Decision-Making	0.71	4.73	Very High
Overall	0.11	4.81	Very High

Test on the Significant Difference in the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens

This section presents the significant differences in deprivation experiences among senior citizens. Moreover, this study hypothesized that the given factors in the level of deprivation experienced by senior citizens do not significantly differ when grouped according to age, sex, primary source of income, average monthly income, and medical history.

As presented in Table 4, this is the result of the test of the difference in the level of deprivation experienced by senior citizens in terms of age.

The result revealed that there is a significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to age. It garnered a total t-value of -2.87 and a p-value of 0.01, which is less than the 0.05 significant level. The result is significant; therefore, there is sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis.

The result suggested that, as they age, they are likely to experience deprivations. Therefore, as they get older, they feel more deprived of essential services and support from the government.

Table 4

Test on the Significant Difference in the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in Terms of Age

INDICATOR	60 years-70 years (Mean)	71 years and above (Mean)	t-value	df	p-value	Remarks
Age	3.97	4.36	-2.87	15.28	0.01	Significant

Test on the Significant Difference in the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in terms of Sex

Table 5 shows the result of the test of the difference in the level of deprivation experienced among senior citizens in terms of sex.

The result revealed that there is no significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to sex. It garnered a total t-value of 0.70 and a p-value of 0.50, which is higher than the 0.05 level of significance. The result is not significant; therefore, there is not sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 5

Test on the Significant Difference in the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in Terms of Sex

INDICATOR	Male (Mean)	Female (Mean)	t-value	df	p-value	Remarks
Sex	4.16	4.29	0.70	11.02	0.50	Not Significant

Test on the Significant Difference on the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in terms of Primary Source of Income

Table 6 presents the result of the test of the difference in the level of deprivation experienced by senior citizens in terms of their primary source of income.

The result confirmed that there is no significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to their primary source of income. It garnered a total t-value of 0.05 and a p-value of 0.96, which is higher than the 0.05 level of significance. The result is not significant; therefore, there is not sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 6

Test on the Significant Difference on the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in terms of Primary Source of Income

INDICATOR	Livelihood (Mean)	Others (Mean)	t-value	df	p-value	Remarks
Primary Source of Income	4.25	4.24	0.05	10.32	0.96	Not Significant

Test on the Significant Difference in the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in Terms of Average Monthly Income

Table 7 presents the result of the test of the difference in the level of deprivation experienced by senior citizens in terms of average monthly income.

The results concurred that there is no significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to average monthly income. It garnered a total f-value of 1.06 and a p-value of 0.32, which is higher than the 0.05 level of significance. The result is not significant; therefore, there is not sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 7

Test on the Significant Difference in the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in Terms of Average Monthly Income

INDICATOR	F	p-value	Remarks
Average Monthly Income	1.06	0.32	Not Significant

Test on the Significant Difference on the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in terms of Reported Illnesses

As presented in Table 8, this is the result of the test of the difference in the level of deprivation experienced by senior citizens in terms of medical history and reported illnesses.

The result revealed that there is no significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to reported illnesses. It garnered a total t-value of 1.03 and a p-value of 0.32, which is higher than the 0.05 level of significance. The result is not significant; therefore, there is not sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 8

Test on the Significant Difference on the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in terms of Reported Illnesses

INDICATOR	Common Reported Illnesses (Mean)	Others (Mean)	t-value	df	p-value	Remarks
Medical History: Reported Illnesses	4.33	4.16	1.03	17.9	0.32	Not Significant

Test on the Significant Difference in the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in Terms of Medical Facility

As presented in Table 9, this is the result of the test of the difference in the level of deprivation experienced by senior citizens in terms of medical history and medical facility.

The result revealed that there is no significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to medical facility. It garnered a total t-value of 0.13 and a p-value of 0.90, which is higher than the 0.05 level of significance. The result is not significant; therefore, there is not sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 9

Test on the Significant Difference in the Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens in Terms of Medical Facility

INDICATOR	Medical Facility	Others	t-value	df	p-value	Remarks
Medical History: Medical Facility	4.26	4.23	0.13	14.56	0.90	Not Significant

Participants’ Deprivation Experiences

This section elucidates the perspectives and encounters of the participants regarding their deprivation experiences. In this case, viewpoints can be broadly characterized as an individual’s perspective or stance towards a particular object, predicament, or topic. On the contrary, the experiences pertain to the routine of individual interaction or engagement in any occurrence, which in the context of this investigation pertains to the deprivation experiences of the senior citizens.

Anchoring on the thematic analysis yielded from the key informant interview data from the 2 senior citizens, the following salient and dominant themes converged: the prolonged turn-around time in the scheduled social pension pay-outs, the insufficient amount of social pension, the lack of livelihood training or programs obtained, and the age discrimination to access work.

Figure 2, presents the study to illustrate the procedures and their interrelationships, as per the narratives that constitute the framework of the prevailing themes that have been recognized. As evidenced, the manifestations of deprivation experiences are the result of the interplay between help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making contexts. The present investigation placed greater emphasis on the impact of health, social, economic, and participation factors on deprivation experiences among senior citizens. As to the quantitative analysis, the study findings indicate that help-seeking behavior scored a high level of observation, and participation in decision-making

registered a very high level of observation, which was identified through the survey questionnaire. However, when grouped according to age, it was found that at the 5% level of significance, on average, senior citizens experienced deprivations. This difference significantly matters as far as their deprivation experiences are concerned. Therefore, as they get older, they feel more deprived of essential services and support from society.

Figure 2

Process Coding Structure of Deprivation Experiences among Senior Citizens
(based on the interview data)

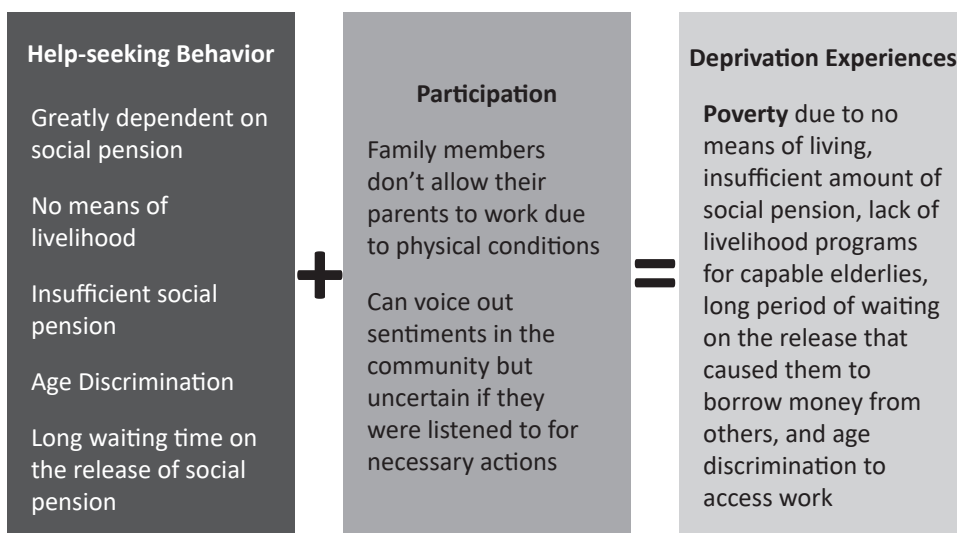


Figure 3

Significant Statements about Deprivation Experiences of Senior Citizens

- | |
|---|
| <p>Prolonged turn-around-time in the scheduled pay-outs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>On the other hand, at times when the next pay-out schedule will take too long, I'll feel helpless and worrisome.</i> |
| <p>No means of livelihood; No access to livelihood trainings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The concept was "cooperative" and they tried to recruit me, but I declined because of the weekly contribution, which I cannot really afford.</i> ● <i>Those programs were only activated once or passed by, and there were no more follow-ups. If these kinds of programs will be initiated once again, and given my current situation, I'd be glad to participate.</i> |

Insufficient social pension

- *The social pension is not enough, and I really need to seek other financial means to cover the entire amount.*
- *In my current situation, the social pension I receive is insufficient. I say so because, for example, beforehand, they release it on a monthly basis for PHP 500.00. And then they added Php 500.00 to make it Php 1,000.00 monthly. In the current economic situation, what do you get or buy with PHP 1,000? For example, if I buy my medicines to alleviate our health condition, it's really not enough. It can't suffice.*

Age discrimination to access work when still capable

- *Also, I don't have any means of livelihood, as I mentioned earlier. If there's someone who asks me to do carpentry work, then I'll do the job because I'm still capable and strong. However, they're scared to offer a carpentry job because they worry a lot since I'm a "senior," and if problems arise, they don't want to be held accountable; hence, there's nothing I can do about it.*
- *Also, my children's current stand point given my current status is not to let me seek any type of job or work. The children are apprehensive in that sense since their main argument is that they can support me.*

Can voice sentiments but feels like nothing

- *As to community decision-making, I'm able to voice my sentiments. Unfortunately, they just listened, and no action has been taken (it was a long time ago).*

The related recent studies and literature on exploring deprivation experiences among senior citizens in Davao City are based on the findings presented in the previous discussion. These will support, reinforcement, and substantiation to the results and analysis in this research study.

To begin with, Republic Act No. 9994, commonly known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," aims to widen and extend the programs for the elderly by supplementing additional benefits and granting privileges for them to ensure that they are well capacitated and empowered geared towards a holistic nation-building. As stated in the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the state's goal is to foster an adequate and flexible social structure that will ensure the country's growth and liberty and empower the population from impoverished circumstances through the provision of adequate social services and encouraging full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life. There are six objectives under this law that are mainly convergent towards recognition of the rights of the elderlies: to emancipate overall quality

well-being and living and promote pro-active participation; to flourish motivation in the aid towards nation-building; to nurture the value of Filipino care mindset for the elderlies; to provide decent provisions for comprehensive healthcare and rehabilitation systems; and to acknowledge the dynamic participation of private organizations as partners in the achievement of the totality of happiness for them. (Official Gazette, 2010)

Second, De Leon's (2014) study showed that the elderly's self-assessments of their quality of life demonstrate a predominantly positive perspective, with an above-average level of satisfaction regarding their familial relationships, physical health, community engagement, access to resources, and amenities, and financial security. However, the geographical location of one's residence has been found to correlate with the accessibility of programs and benefits. Additionally, the level of educational attainment has been identified as a significant determinant of the health status of the elderly population. The primary obstacles to the attainment of a high quality of life for elderly individuals were found to be structural factors about the implementation and coverage of national policies concerning senior citizen welfare, as well as public welfare more broadly.

Third, in the qualitative study performed by Van Leeuwen et al. (2019), senior citizens in Western nations value good health, physical freedom, and self-sufficiency. They also value dignity, independence, and not being a burden. Also, they value meaningful hobbies that bring delight and a sense of purpose and strong connections that provide support and a sense of belonging. Positive thinking, peace, faith, and self-reflection are also crucial. Finally, older folks value safety, accessibility, and financial freedom.

Fourth, the study of Ratana-Ubol (2020) reported that Thai seniors are concerned about their social participation in community activities. This social participation includes improving communication, becoming conscious of their relationships, and feeling valued. In addition, Thai seniors prioritize health and recognize its value. Lastly, Thai elderlies reflect on their lives and self-reliance during life reviews, and seniors were interested in new learning and personal progress to varied degrees.

Meanwhile, in one study explored in the province of Davao Oriental, elderly participants' self-evaluations of their lives as beneficiaries of social pensions are mostly positive, with high levels of contentment in physical health, social connections, psychological and emotional well-being, autonomy, and the domestic and surrounding milieu. However, some domains, such as requiring assistance for daily living, have resulted in relatively small results as far as the quality of life is concerned. This suggests that older people need family assistance in performing everyday responsibilities. (Paña, 2020)

Conversely, in the case study of Falanga, Cebulla, Principi, and Socci (2021) in the context of the participation of senior citizens in the European nations as a guide for policy-making initiatives, the elderly should be involved in policy formation through consultative approaches, whether to identify problems or set goals and priorities. Local

sources agreed that integrating older people in policy implementation and service delivery enhanced resource allocation efficiency. The participation of elderly people in co-decision-making processes underscores the need for institutional frameworks that enable civic engagement, allowing them to express their thoughts and influence.

Lastly, in the study of Monje (2022) that pertains to the DSWD's Social Pension Program, a few senior citizen interviewees claimed that the application process is confusing and causes leakage. Also, one elderly person said some beneficiaries got benefits despite not meeting the legal indigency requirements due to their community influence or familial ties to barangay employees. Furthermore, some older people believe the application process is politicized. According to interviews, senior citizens had various application experiences and some applicants with complete files were not interviewed. However, a few had to go through repeated interviews to get into the program. In Metro Manila, some people on a waiting list were told they were eligible for monetary assistance but not when it would start. Other residents were denied assistance without a local government unit representative's validation. On the other hand, in the Visayas region, the social pension application and pay-out processes were efficient.

Senior Citizens On Relevant Enactions (SCORE)

The strategic gender needs framework named Senior Citizens on Relevant Enactions (SCORE) was formulated out of the convergence (divergence) of the results in the parallel mixed methods design of the study. The main goal of this framework is to improve the life chances and well-being of the senior citizens (SCs) in Davao City through scrutinizing essential, relevant, and timely policies that will mobilize and strengthen help-seeking programs in health, social, and economic aspects and foster pro-active dynamics of participation at the family and community levels. Furthermore, this framework will entail the alleviation mechanisms to minimize or eradicate the deprivation experiences of the senior citizens in parallel to Republic Act No. 9994, commonly known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," which aims to widen and extend the programs for the elderlies by supplementing additional benefits and granting privileges for them to ensure that they are well capacitated and empowered geared towards holistic nation-building.

First, Chambers (1983) suggested the deprivation trap. In this theory, marginalized people become more fragile and trapped because they are powerless, voiceless, isolated, optionless, and weak when it comes to the development planning stage. As a result, poverty greatly hits them without any safeguards to fight it. To address the deprivation trap, Senior Citizens on Relevant Enactions (SCORE) hopes to be a contributing factor in the development of a policy framework that is research-driven to guide policy-makers to dwell on the grassroots of their deprivation experiences.

Second, Kabeer's (1999) social relations approach also reflects the lack of actionable solutions in terms of gender and development as far as poverty among senior citizens is concerned. This argues that gender and development should be neutral at all levels or forms of participation and decision-making. In this light, the Senior Citizens on Relevant Enactions (SCORE) framework should consider and emphasize the individual's quality of life and existence, where they have the liberty to choose security, independence, and survival in the most possible ways.

Lastly, in the literature of Nussbaum (2000) about the capabilities approach, the capabilities of any individual should not be controlled and manipulated because of the limitation of access to various options for them. However, this should create a venue for democratization and equitability in public programs to strengthen what they can do to be socially and economically able individuals. In this view, the Senior Citizens on Relevant Enactions (SCORE) framework should also align with the capabilities of the elderly when they are still able and capable of working and contributing to the aggregate workforce in the country.

CONCLUSION

In line with the quantitative data, this study inferred that the majority of the respondents were 60 to 70 years old and female. They have livelihood as a primary source of income, while the average monthly income is below PHP 5,000. Meanwhile, the reported illnesses belong to other health conditions, and the majority can access private hospitals. Also, this study concluded that the level of help-seeking behavior in terms of health, social, and economic factors was high. In the same manner, the participation level in terms of family and community decision-making was very high. In this discourse, we can infer that senior citizens are less deprived from a general point of view. Meanwhile, it was found that there is a significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to age. This concurs with the fact that as they age, they are likely to experience deprivations. On the other hand, the study concurred that there is no significant difference in the level of deprivation experienced in terms of help-seeking behavior and participation in decision-making among senior citizens when grouped according to sex, primary source of income, average monthly income, and medical history. In this case, we can infer that regardless of sex, the primary source of income, average monthly income, and medical history, all of the participants share equal footing as far as the level of deprivation experienced is concerned.

Concerning the qualitative data, this study confirmed that the salient and dominant themes triggered in the thematic analysis are: the prolonged turn-around time in the scheduled social pension pay-outs, the insufficient amount of social pension, the lack of livelihood training or programs obtained, and the age discrimination to access

work. Furthermore, significant statements about the deprivation experiences of senior citizens were analyzed, which resulted in a common category called “poverty.”

Taking into account the specific aspects in this mixed methods study, the common points of issue on deprivations converge on the following areas: age; social and economic aspects in terms of free training and seminars, and most importantly, the suitable livelihood programs from the government units to strengthen daily income for them; age discrimination to access work when they are still able and capable; the prolong turn-around time in the social pension pay-out schedule; and lastly, voicing out sentiments and concerns at the community level but uncertain if they’re listened to. Marrying the two distinct results obtained from quantitative data where the overall level of deprivation experiences is low and the results from qualitative data where some themes strongly manifested insufficiency in training and livelihood programs to sustain their daily needs, insufficiency in the social pension amount, delayed social pension pay-out schedule, and age discrimination to access work resulted in a gap. This convergence of issues equates to so-called poverty as a result of deprivations and is quite contradictory to the main goal of Republic Act No. 9994 and other common policies for the Filipino elderly.

As a result, the strategic gender needs framework termed Senior Citizens on Relevant Enactions (SCORE) was formulated, aiming at the improvement of the life chances and well-being of the senior citizens (SCs) in Davao City. The SCORE can craft policies and standardize processes such as the establishment of a non-formal school dedicated to elders that promotes free health and social training and course management, financial literacy and economic management, entrepreneurship and capability-building workshops, and learning and immersion.

Senior Citizens on Relevant Enactions (SCORE) has the potential to establish a platform for promoting democratic principles and ensuring fairness in public programs, thereby enhancing the capacity of individuals to become socially and economically empowered. In the same manner, listening and deepening societal discourse can rejuvenate democratic dynamics and practice. This describes four ways that good listening skills can help democracy succeed. These include increasing legitimacy, resolving disputes, understanding, and empowerment. (Nussbaum, 2011; Dobson, 2012)

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the course of the findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are suggested:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development may act as the “nurturing” and primordial agency to ensure that the Filipino elderlies are taken good care of and empowered, as aligned with Republic Act No. 9994. They could be the platforms to encourage and motivate the vulnerable elderlies, especially to push forward accessibility

and equitability of the government services designed for them. The office of DSWD could also act as the “middle agency” in linking the able and capable senior citizens to various government offices, such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), through the establishment of a non-formal school dedicated for them.

The City Government of Davao may adopt the strategic gender needs framework called Senior Citizens on Relevant Enactions (SCORE) and outline policies that will standardize free and equitable access for the elderly down to the barangay level. In addition, the proposed non-formal school, as one of the outcomes of SCORE, will be dedicated to elders and promote free health and social training and course management, financial literacy and economic management, entrepreneurship and capability building workshops, and learning and immersion. As a long-term benefit, the local government can ensure sufficient and empowered elders by promoting self-reliance, self-sustenance, and self-dignity.

The senior citizens may benefit from the strategic gender needs framework called SCORE, which could aid them in becoming socially and economically capable. This could give them justification for their roles in nation-building and also dignify their worth and value.

Future researchers may undertake similar studies to address an identified gap not realized in this study. Also, this may contribute to the continuous development of the body of knowledge as additional recent literature. This could be replicated by the national government to pass as a national policy and be institutionalized in the long term. Moreover, this study would encourage them to also look at other factors that affect the deprivation experiences of the elderly and suggest more recommendations based on the empirical data obtained.

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