

## Editorial

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Welcome to the second issue of volume three of the *International Journal on Ageing in Developing Countries* (IJADC). In this edition, we continue to explore how ageing is being addressed in different parts of the world. Those of us working in the field of global ageing are familiar with the numbers. Current trends and projections on ageing are unprecedented. The United Nations reported that the number of persons over the age of 60 will more than double by 2050, exceeding 2 billion people and surpassing the number of children for the very first time in history. This change is upon us now and population ageing is a global issue affecting all nations and people. Ageing demands a response in order to be equipped with the best possibilities for a better quality of life. This issue contains six original entries from Africa, Eastern-Europe and Asia, and two book reviews - namely, 'Active healthy ageing in Malta: Gerontological and geriatric inquiries' (Formosa, 2019) reviewed by Mario Barbagallo and 'A Common wealth of experience' (Eyers & Waddington, 2019) reviewed by Nidhi Gupta.

The first contribution, by Susanne Spittel, Elke Kraus, André Maier and Karin Wolf-Ostermann, is titled 'Healthcare challenges of older people with and without dementia in Ghana. An exploratory pilot study'. In Ghana, the proportion of older persons is growing comparatively faster than high-income countries and other parts in Africa. This article highlights the importance of identifying current healthcare challenges facing older people and people living with dementia in Ghana. This was done through a mixed-method approach by using a quantitative and qualitative approach in its explorative, descriptive design. The study revealed that though older persons above the age of 60 are more vulnerable to dementia, Ghana still lacks sufficient structures and adequate programmes to address the needs of older persons. Besides, lack of awareness of the ageing process is resulting in stigmatising older people and of those living with dementia. The authors also reveal that in Ghana, people still associate older people and persons living with dementia to witchcraft and there had been cases whereby the latter live socially excluded lives in witch-camps, are beaten and killed. The article concludes by calling for an urgent paradigm shift in Ghana's healthcare system focusing particularly on ageing and dementia. The latter need to be addressed and placed as a priority on the national agenda. The authors also emphasise the need of public awareness,

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further research in the area, increase in capacity building of health care specialists on ageing and the implementation of programmes and services which addresses the needs of older people and persons living with dementia.

The second contribution, by Friday Eboiyehi Asiazobor and Caroline Okumdi Muoghalu, is titled 'Economic recession, challenges and coping strategies among the rural aged in selected communities in Ile-Ife of south-western Nigeria'. In this article, the authors investigated the impact of the economic recession in four low-income residential rural areas in Ile-Ife namely Abiri-Ogudu and Owena in Ife East and Tokere and Akile in Ife Central Local Government Areas in Nigeria. Research was carried out by using qualitative and quantitative data. Results indicated that the economic recession affected the aged in various ways including their inability to afford food and medication due to high cost; poor living condition increased due to increased unemployment of adult children – therefore they were unable to provide financial and material support. The study revealed that coping strategies adopted by older people included subsistence farming, petty trading, dependence on remittances from offspring, financial and material assistance from religious organizations, working for other people, alms begging and pension. The paper concludes that the economic recession has impacted negatively on older persons living in rural areas. The authors suggest that there is a need for government to address the needs of older people living in rural areas and who are left behind by their adult children since the latter are in search of greener pasture in towns and cities.

The third article in this issue is another paper from Africa. This time it is a study which had been carried out in Uganda and titled 'The Kisoro Elders Project in villages of rural southwest Uganda: A model for geriatric care in developing countries?' The paper is authored by Harrison G. Bloom, Patricia A. Bloom, Moses Iraguha, Sam Musominali, Immaculate Owembabazi and Gerald Paccione. The contribution is a brief report which describes the inception of a healthcare project aimed at offering interventions which are meant to have an immediate impact on the quality of life of older adults living in rural villages in Uganda. The paper speaks about the 'The Kisoro Elders Project', a unique programme in the Sub-Sahara Africa - which aims to screen for and treat major health problems. Screening of older persons in Kisoro resulted in negative quality of life with challenges that included visual impairment, hearing deficits, mobility and pain problems, depression and dementia. What is interesting in this project is that interventions delivered in rural villages were done by trained Village Health Workers. This move eliminated significantly the usual barriers to care. Given the rapid ageing of low-income countries and countries with economies-in-transition, together with the crisis of shortages of health professionals as seen in most countries, the authors hope that this project would serve as a model for similar efforts elsewhere.

'Age-related ageism among social and health care employees' is the fourth contribution which is written by Andrei Ilnitski, Lola Kolpina and Kiryl Prashchayeu. This paper is an attempt to explain age in light of ageism. The authors explained this through representations of discrimination of advanced age population that took place in practices of medical and social

attendance. The study is an analysis of data gathered through an interview carried out amongst healthcare and social employees of regional society in Russia. The study revealed that the youngest group of social and healthcare employees are more aware than others in recognizing the presence of a gerontological ageism in both social and medical practices, but denies any personal participation. Findings revealed that those that fell within the age bracket of 40-49 years, strongly denied the presence of ageism in general and in their own professional activity. However, senior employees age 60 years and over recognized ageism. This paper concludes that there is a difference in identifying ageism amongst social and medical practitioners which is based on their chronological age.

This article, which is the fifth paper in this issue reviews 'A life innovation analysis framework in Asia and the Pacific from the perspective of social quality for older persons: Empowerment by the MIPAA process in the era of the SDGs'. This paper has been submitted by Tetsuo Ogawa and Osama Rajkhan. In view of the fact that the Madrid Internal Plan of Action of Ageing (MIPAA) is reviewed with the concept of *Social Quality (SQ)* as it links the objectives of this normative international instrument with the aims of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda, in this article, the authors argue that the SQ framework is a useful policy tool to monitor the process of empowerment of older persons and raising the level of their wellbeing. The article shows how SQ was designed as a life-time vehicle which monitors human life from birth till advanced age. The authors argue that policies guided by the SQ approach should be considered more coherent and oriented toward nurturing the daily lives and welfare of older persons. The three pillars of MIPAA - that is, development, health, and enabling environments emphasise the quality of life in later life while the SQ platform showed how social systems influence individual and collective aspects of welfare. This paper reveals how the SQ platform can help policy makers to address the right questions about how to address the real needs of older people and hence implement innovative forms of programmes and services.

The last paper in this issue, written by Lochana Shrestha, Shambhu Nath Pant and Sulav Shrestha discusses the 'Nutritional and functional assessment of older people at Health Home Care Nepal'. This study sought to assess the functional activities of daily living (ADL) and nutritional status of older persons admitted to Health Home Care Nepal. With the aim of developing better care management protocol, attention was placed on identifying explanatory factors of functional status among residents and the associations between their socio-demographic variables. As much as 165 residents above the age of 60 (>60 years old) took part in the study. Socio demographic information, comprehensive geriatric assessments, including nutritional and functional assessments, in accordance to a nutritional checklist and the Barthel score index were gathered respectively. Results revealed that there was a significant association of nutrition with age, gender, education and income whilst functional status was significantly associated with education and income. Significant associations were also noticed between specific socio-demographic variables with both nutritional and functional status significantly interrelated too. The paper concludes that the collection of data is deemed important for the planning of care activities and rehabilitation for admitted older persons.

As a conclusion, all six papers making up this issue - coming from different disciplinary backgrounds - are all a welcome addition to research in the field of ageing. Without doubt, findings and conclusions presented in each respective paper show that whilst ageing is increasingly evident on policy agendas in both low-income countries and in countries with economies-in-transition, there are still significant challenges and obstacles that must be recognised and addressed in order to really have a society for all ages. There is a demographic revolution occurring and we are all pioneers on how we evolve our societies to account for this new reality. In the meantime, we do hope that you find this journal's rich and varied content instructive and inspirational.