The study of participating intergenerational community activities and successful aging of elders: Example from a collaborative intergenerational program in Taiwan

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Introduction

MOE announced:
• Program Offering the Elderly Mini Classes on College Campuses
• Service Learning Programs in Universities

• Toko University
• Pu-tzu City in Chia- Yi County
Literature Review

Intergenerational Program

Successful aging
Method

Participants:
8 elders and 5 college students who participating the community intergenerational activities.

Data Sources:
- field observation notes
- Semi-structured interviews

Analysis:
an inductive method to analyze the qualitative data
Views of successful aging of the elderly, including health, social and learning aspects.

• "After retirement, I try to exercise to stay healthy, and is often involved in activities, so I will not be divorced from the society, I think the most important thing is to continue to learn, in addition to the idea of live and learn, I really feel that learning to bring me a lot of fun, my friends always said to me: how do you not get old ... uh ... "
• "Participate in the activities are really good, and I are here every Friday, other times I would in other places. I take the bus to participate in the activities and learned a lot of knowledge ..."
To participate in community intergenerational activities can promote the successful aging of elderly, and they have good development in their health and social ability.

• "I learn with you young people are really good, I feel I'm getting younger ..."
• "I learn with you each week, so my health is better. I eat a lot of drugs before, and now eat the fewer the medicine ..."
• "From home, to come here and with young students learn together. It makes me feel younger, but also like to come here to attend the activities, let me more and more like to get along with my neighbors."
University students to participate in intergenerational activities in the community to change their stereotype of the elderly.

- "To participate in intergenerational community activities, I became aware of the elderly is not as physical as we think is not good ..."
- "I think them (the elderly) of the physical good, is also very dynamic, and sometimes I feel like I have lost them ..."
- "I thought they were rural elderly, people could not imagine them so wise, I learned lot knowledge from them ..."
University Students designed community intergenerational activities for the elderly, and to lead the elderly to join in activities. It enabled them to further integrate into the life of the elderly, to understand different lives of different generations. And get a sense of achievement through service learning.

- "I am looking forward to coming here with the activities, because my sense of achievement, let me get the service learning activities designed for the elderly."
- "Sometimes I do not sure what my future, but I am now clear that I like to come here, because the old man feedback to my sense of achievement, not exclude the future to continue to serve the elderly."
Conclusion

a) If the community and university planning intergenerational programs together, it will increase the number of learning activities to meet the spiritual needs of the elderly.

b) Views on successful aging of the elderly, with particular emphasis on the importance of health and social dimensions.

c) Promoting intergenerational understanding through community intergenerational activities, and to help older people towards successful aging.

d) Through the community intergenerational activities of service learning, university students can practice the theories learned in school, and early services for the elderly. Service learning also can inspire them to a different point of view of an aging society.
Thank You!