

Abstract

Social Strategies for Productive Engagement of Older Adults in Singapore

As one of the social investment or welfare strategies, most ageing/aged countries in Asia have implemented diverse ways to increase older adults' productive engagement in their own ways. Such strategies have been expected to strengthen families and communities through older adults' well-being and contribution to their societies. However, the critical review and empirical evidence of these strategies for productivity in late life are not well-developed in Asian contexts. Therefore, the scholarly research on the analysis of effective strategies and its dissemination are imperative to promote productive ageing societies across Asia.

As a case study, Singapore's experience on the productive engagement strategies for older adults is analyzed in terms of three perspectives: working (employment), volunteering, and family caregiving. Demographic and social changes are presented to understand why Singapore has recognized societal ageing as a new social risk and how the productive engagement strategies can function as social interventions to cope with ageing-related issues in the local context. Next, overall developmental stages of productive engagement strategies and their specific examples are introduced and discussed. Focusing on the key features of Singapore's strategies for productive engagement in late life, the institutional gaps between the current strategies and individual needs of ageing cohorts and baby-boomers are critically analyzed in order to suggest future directions for the institutional development of productive ageing society in Singapore.