

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Baseline Assessment of Age-Friendliness for Taiping

Siti Anom Ahmad^{1,2}, Hui Foh Foong¹, Siti Farra Zillah Abdullah¹, Chai Sen Tyng¹, Rahimah Ibrahim¹, Sharifah Norazizan Syed Abdul Rashid¹, Sumarni Ismail^{1,3}, Tengku Aizan Hamid¹

¹ Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing (MyAgeingTM), Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Malaysia

² Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Malaysia

³ Department of Architecture, Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Malaysia

Corresponding email: sanom@upm.edu.my

SUMMARY

Among the states in Malaysia, Perak is the “oldest” state with 14.9% of its population aged 60 and above in 2020. The aim of this work is to promote public participation in local planning to develop an action plan with the aim of creating an environment that age-friendly in Taiping. Baseline assessment was conducted through online survey. 1,114 responses were analysed. Result shows the mean score of perceived age-friendliness level in Taiping is 53, means moderate. Age-friendly environment is already present in Taiping and the local council needs to select an urgent age-friendly domain to address in the immediate future.

Keywords: Ageing population, Age friendly city, Baseline assessment, Age-friendliness

INTRODUCTION

Age-friendly city (AFC) is a concept where a local initiative encouraging active ageing by optimizing opportunities for health, participation, and security to enhance quality of life as people age. Adaptation of structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying need and capacities. An age-friendly city encourages active ageing by optimizing opportunities for health, participation, and security to enhance quality of life as people age (1). This paper presents the baseline assessment conducted in Taiping to assess the age-friendliness and identify key domains for improvement by soliciting opinions from residents.

METHODOLOGY

The baseline assessment will be conducted based on the World Health Organisation Guidelines on Age-Friendly Cities (2). The survey was conducted online, consist of 83 questions. It was opened to Taiping residents or non-residents, aged 18 years and above. The survey instrument was divided into four (4) parts (Table I). A

total of 1,114 usable survey response was used for data analysis.

Table I: Questionnaire structure for the baseline assessment

Part	Topic	No of questions
A	Perceived age-friendliness	20
	Domain 1 Outdoor spaces and buildings	4
	Domain 2 Transportation	3
	Domain 3 Social participation	4
B	Domain 4 Housing	7
(8 domains on AFC)	Domain 5 Communication and Information	5
	Domain 6 Respect and Social Inclusion	3
	Domain 7 Civic participation and employment	6
	Domain 8 Community and health services	4
C	Practices and view related to Covid-19	2
D	Participants' background	7
E	Contact Information	4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1,114 responses were analysed. Fig. 1 shows the age-group, gender, and races information of the respondents respectively.

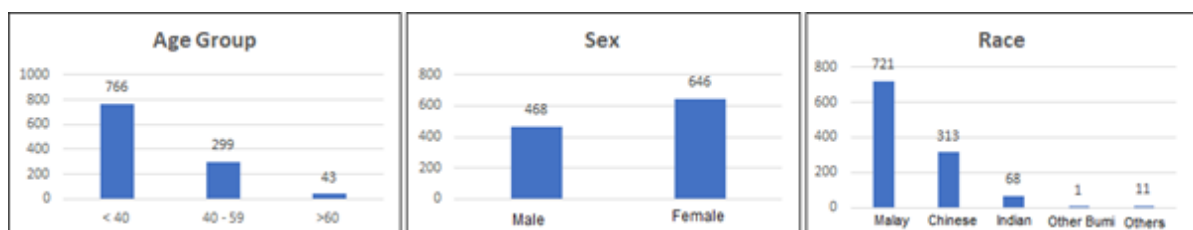


Fig. 1: Left to right – Age group, sex, and race information of the respondents

Fig. 2 shows the mean score of the perceived age-friendliness in Taiping for each 8 domains. The overall mean score is 53 that shows Taiping is in moderate age-friendliness level.

Comparison of average score of perceived age-friendly environment of Taiping against the countries in Thirapat’s study shows Taiping respondents recorded higher scores (mean above 3.5) in feeling safe and secured in their neighbourhood, feel respected and included in the community, and most of them have internet connection at home (3).

CONCLUSION

The baseline assessment used a triangulation approach to provide a comprehensive understanding of the age-friendliness of Taiping, Perak. Age-friendly environment is already presented in Taiping and the local council needs to select an urgent age-friendly domain to address in the immediate future. Some of the issues can be remedied by the local authorities while others require

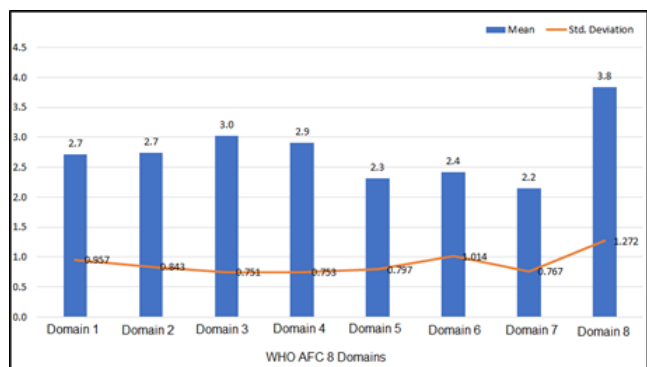


Fig. 2: Mean score and Standard Deviation (SD) of WHO AFC 8 Domains

cooperation with other government agencies from different levels of government, as well as civil society organizations and private sector. Public consultations can promote a strong sense of ownership and buy-in and the baseline assessment has shown that an inclusive all-of-society approach is needed for a feasible local action plan.

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