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The Lived Experience of LGBT Older Persons in a Geriatric Home Facility

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Purpose:

The study aim to unravel the life stories of LGBT people in the retirement facility, Home for the Golden Gays. Specifically, the study will answer the following questions:

1. What are the health needs of the older LGBT adult?
2. What concerns the older LGBT adult pertaining to their health and well-being?

Methods:

Ethnography describes and interprets cultural behavior. The type of ethnography to be used in this study is ethnonursing research. This approach involves prolonged immersion with members of the LGBT community at the Home for the Golden Gays. There is direct observation of the everyday life in the study participant's natural setting and participation in their lifestyle and activities to the greatest extent possible.

Results:

Photovoice is a qualitative method used for community-based participatory research to document and reflect reality. It is an empowering and flexible process that combines photography with grassroots social action and is commonly used in the fields of community development, international development, public health, and education. In this regard, it is the health of the LGBT community. Participants include community members of all ages and status including those who are discriminated against due to language, gender, race, class and disability. Through their art, they bring new insights and perspectives that raise awareness of hidden or overlooked issues and aspects of the community.

Conclusion:

The Home for the Golden Gays is a non-profit organization. It was established in the mid 1970's by LGBT rights activist and columnist Justo Justo. He founded a care facility in Pasay, Manila Philippines for the elderly and homeless gays. Its vision is to integrate gay people into retirement homes without having to face discrimination. Their goal is to provide gays and lesbians a community that ensures social acceptance for their choice of lifestyle through their old age. The facility is open to locals and foreigners and aims to provide staff and medical care practitioners who understand each retiree's needs.

The Home for the Golden Gays is also called as an "adoption house for special elderlies". It is located in Pasay City, Philippines

Title:

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Keywords:

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Abstract Summary:

Being in your senior years is a challenge for everyone but more so for the lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender (LGBT) community. As nurses it is important to unravel the life stories of LGBT people in a Geriatric home facility to be able to discover their health needs.

Content Outline:

INTRODUCTION

Being in your senior years is a challenge for everyone but more so for the lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender (LGBT) community. In the UK, an estimated 1 million LGBT Britons, found that those over 55years old are more likely to be single, live alone, have no children and less close to families, compared to the general population. It actually means that they have less support and tend to be more isolated.

In the US, 2.4 million people of age 65years old or older are identified as LGBT. Service providers and care givers of older adults need to be sensitive to the histories and concerns of the LGBT community and to be open-minded, affirming and supportive towards LGBT older adults to ensure accessible and competent quality care. Caregivers for LGBT people may themselves face unique challenges including accessing information and isolation (APA, 2017).

According to Tatchell (2015) many older LGBT people have lived through a lifetime of homophobic victimization. Some have suffered arrest, violent attack or harassment by neighbors. Others experienced the trauma of being rejected by their families, psychiatric treatment to "cure" their sexuality and the distress of partners or friends being queer-based or committing suicide. Some lost their jobs or were evicted from their homes in the era of gay discrimination.

Moreover, with multiple stresses in life Stonewall (2015) found that older LGBTs are more prone to anxiety and depression than their heterosexual counterparts. They are also more likely to smoke, drink and use recreational drugs. This may cause an increased risk of coronary heart disease, cancer, alcohol-related illnesses and mental health problems. In addition, higher proportions of older gay and bisexual men are living with HIV, and older lesbians may have an elevated risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

Clinton (2011) emphasized that the LGBT people are an "invisible minority" who are arrested, beaten, terrorized and even executed. Many "are treated with contempt and violence by their fellow citizens while authorities empowered to protect them look the other way or, too often, even join in the abuse"

For these reasons, the LGBT community has a greater need for health and care services than the non-LGBT population. However, they are much less likely to access them because of the fear of having an unfavorable treatment on the account of their sexual orientation. This includes not just explicit prejudices but more often being avoided and not included in activities and conversations (Tatchell, 2015).

In the Philippines, USAID, UNDP (2014) report shows the need to highlight the needs of the elderly LGBT people and individuals who provide services to the LGBT people in order to prevent burn out of care. Shirinmanila (2016) stated “not all families with gay members are accommodating. There is stigma and isolation with being a gay older adult.”

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The study aim to unravel the life stories of LGBT people in the retirement facility, Home for the Golden Gays. Specifically, the study will answer the following questions:

1. What are the health needs of the older LGBT adult?
2. What concerns the older LGBT adult pertaining to their health and well-being?

METHODOLOGY

Study design

Ethnography describes and interprets cultural behavior. The type of ethnography to be used in this study is ethn nursing research. This approach involves prolonged immersion with members of the LGBT community at the Home for the Golden Gays. There is direct observation of the everyday life in the study participant's natural setting and participation in their lifestyle and activities to the greatest extent possible.

Leininger (1985) has used the phrase ethn nursing research defined as “the study and analysis of the local or indigenous people's viewpoints, beliefs, and practices about nursing care behavior and processes of designated cultures”. Thus, ethn nursing as a research method is the study of human cultures, with focus on a group's beliefs and practices relating to nursing care and related health behaviors (Polit, 2001).

Ethn nursing methodology focuses on the systematic study and classification of nursing care beliefs, values and practices as cognitively or subjectively known by a designated culture (or cultural representatives) through their local emic people-centered language, experiences, beliefs and value system about actual or potential nursing phenomena such as care, health and environmental factors.

Study setting

The Home for the Golden Gays is a non-profit organization. It was established in the mid 1970's by LGBT rights activist and columnist Justo Justo. He founded a care facility in Pasay, Manila for the elderly and homeless gays. Its vision is to integrate gay people into retirement homes without having to face discrimination. Their goal is to provide gays and lesbians a community that ensures social acceptance for their choice of lifestyle through their old age. The facility is open to locals and foreigners and aims to provide staff and medical care practitioners who understand each retiree's needs.

The Home for the Golden Gays is also called as an “adoption house for special elderlies”. It is located in Pasay City.

Sampling and recruitment

The participants will be selected through purposeful sampling. Purposeful sampling denotes a commitment to observing and interviewing participants who have had direct experience with the

phenomenon of interest. It is the position of the investigator that individuals who take part in the research are not acted upon but are active participants (Morse, 1991). The participant's active involvement in the inquiry helps others to better understand their lives and social interactions (Streubert, 1999).

The participants will be 8 older persons belonging to the LGBT community. The number of older person participants was derived from the number of available camera's that will be given to them to use on the Photo voice approach.

The recruitment details for participation in the study are as follows:

1. The older persons from the list provided by the Home for the Golden Gays will be invited for study participation.
2. An orientation will be given by the principal investigator and the following will be discussed:
3. Disclosure of the principal investigator
4. Orientation to the study objectives
5. Program design
6. Program study benefits
7. Recruitment details

e.1 Voluntary participation

e.2 Informed consent form

1. Orientation to Photo voice approach

f.1 Use of camera

f.2 Ownership of the photos

f.3 Intended use of the photos

1. Orientation to one on one In depth Interview

g.1 Interview schedule

1. Orientation to Focud Group Discussions

h.1 FGD Schedule

1. Incentives for participation

i.1 Ownership of camera

i.2 Food during interview and FGDs

1. Open Forum

j.1 Questions/clarifications

1. Signing of informed consent
2. Signed informed consent forms of older persons served as the contract for study participation.

Inclusion criteria

The inclusion criteria for study participation are the acknowledgement of invited participants of their willingness to talk about their life stories in the Home for the Golden Gays.

Older persons were chosen without regard to medical diagnosis and co-morbid medical conditions. The investigator will note if the participants have disease characteristics, type of condition and geriatric symptoms present, as necessary.

Instrumentation and data collection procedures

The approaches and data collection procedures for use will have the following sequence:

Photo voice Approach

Photovoice is a qualitative method used for community-based participatory research to document and reflect reality. It is an empowering and flexible process that combines photography with grassroots social action and is commonly used in the fields of community development, international development, public health, and education. In this regard, it is the health of the LGBT community. Participants include community members of all ages and status including those who are discriminated against due to language, gender, race, class and disability. Through their art, they bring new insights and perspectives that raise awareness of hidden or overlooked issues and aspects of the community.

Participants are asked to express their points of view or represent their communities by photographing scenes that highlight research themes. Common research themes include community concerns, community assets, social issues, and health barriers. In this study, those are health needs and concerns. These photographs are collaboratively interpreted, and narratives can be developed that explain how the photos highlight a particular research theme. These narratives are then used to promote dialogue to help change-makers (like policymakers) better understand the community, thereby developing effective solutions and programs that address the issues and needs.

In depth Interviews

All participants will have a one on one in depth interview with the principal investigator after the photos are taken. This is to give a description of their health needs and concerns based on the photos taken.

The in-depth interview will be scheduled at a time most comfortable for the nurses, either in the early morning or mid-afternoon. The participants are allowed to freely speak of their health needs and concerns. Each in-depth interview will take an average of 30-50 minutes depending on the number of photos taken. The language of choice is bilingual or Filipino and English. When issues needed to be clarified from the interviews, the investigator will facilitate a follow-up interview. The data collection will be considered complete when the participants had described fully their experiences and no further clarifications are needed.

The interview guide developed by the investigator will be used. These consist of open-ended questions for use in the in-depth interviews and the FGDs pertaining to health needs and concerns. The guide will be used to elicit comprehensive responses and rich descriptions from the participants. This will be audio tape-recorded.

Focus group discussions (FGDs)

The 8 study participants will have one to two FGDs in the study after the in depth interviews. Focus group discussion is the instrument of choice to elicit the response of older adults as a group because it is a carefully planned method to obtain perception on a definite area that is non-threatening to the participants. The relevant and important topics like health needs and concerns are determined to keep the older adults on the discussion topic. The questions in the focus group discussions are also written in a guide consisting of open-ended questions that aim to generate ideas and responses from the participants that can be commented on for further discussion. It had the intention of promoting self-disclosure and the investigator's task is to listen, observe, and moderate as necessary. The medium of the discussion will be mostly in Filipino or, sometimes, bilingual--whichever was best suited for the older person's ability to understand. With the older persons' permission, the investigator will use a tape recorder and microphone, while a research assistant documents significant statements with the use of a paper and pen.

Data processing and analysis

Data analysis followed the phases of data gathering. Phase I Conceptualization consisted of data generation. Phase II Integration consisted of data analysis. Phase III Assimilation consisted of data presentation.

The data analysis of qualitative findings in this study started after the participants have selected the photos. The In depth interviews of each of the participants will be done with the principal investigator, this will be tape recorded and transcribed. During the transcription of data, the analysis of findings will begin while listening to the older persons' description of their health needs and concerns. The tape-recorded interviews will be listened intently into and the verbatim transcripts will be read entirely. These transcripts will be continuously compared with the recording for accuracy. The investigator will use careful scrutiny to what is heard, seen, and experienced to enable the discovery of reality among the participants. The investigator will immerse and dwell with the data in order to identify the significant statements. This will be the same process that will transpire after the focus group discussion of the group to be able to verify what the participants have said.

The process will require a full understanding of what the data contains. The investigator will be prepared to read, analyze, synthesize, and to use intuition to report what is seen in the photos and discovered through the in depth interviews and the FGDs. It was in questioning the previous conclusions that the light of discovery is seen in the context of the whole (Streubert, 1999).

When the significant statements are determined, these will be categorized. These categories will be identified across the entries for each question in the interview and FGD guide. Data will then be coded as the process of assigning responses into categories. The coding matrix will consist of a tabulation of words and phrases summarizing the content of the in depth interviews and focus group discussions.

Similar data called themes will then be clustered and this will serve as the structural meaning unit of data. Themes seek the discovery of the reality intended from what is heard during the in depth interviews and focus group discussions. Clustered themes are made into organized formulated meanings and examined into the original transcripts for each theme cluster (Streubert, 1999). Again, the study will use the constant comparative analysis approach and the integrated result will yield a description of the health needs and concerns of the LGBT community at the Home for the Golden Gays.

The analysis of the data will be conducted in accordance with Colaizzi's (1978) phenomenological methodology. The following steps will be followed: (1) reading the transcripts in their entirety so the investigator can acquire a feeling for them; (2) extracting significant statements from each description given by participants; (3) explaining the meaning of each significant statement based from subjective realities, past experiences and relevant literature reviews; (4) organizing the clusters of themes from the formulated meanings and referring it back to each original description for validation; (5) using the constant comparative method whereby comparison and contrasts will be made with each participant's previous and following descriptions; and, (6) integrating the results to yield an exhaustive description of the

phenomenon. A return to the participants for follow up interviews and member checks will be an essential step to determine the validation of descriptions from their original experience (Streubert, 1999).

The data that will be generated from the in depth interviews and the FGDs will be placed in a matrix. The investigator will create a data display of narrative text with a presentation of the results in a descriptive format of tables. The data coding matrix will include the categories that emerged from the interviews. The emic and etic perspectives with quotations from the interviews and FGDs will be included in the matrixes. The themes with formulated meanings will be attached and narratively described after the matrix. The discussion will provide contrast and comparison of the data generated from previous known data about their health needs and concerns with literature reviews. Some quotations will also included in the discussions to showcase the verbatim of the participants. Those to be included verbatim must undergo language translation from the Sentro ng Wikang Filipino-UP Manila and back translation from the same office. Semantics will be observed.

Data analysis will include validation of the realities presented by the older persons. The investigator will return the verbatim transcripts to the participants to ask whether issues or concerns need to be further discussed. A research assistant and another expert will be asked for help in the review of the participant responses. These will serve as audit trail to the key decisions made in the study.

Ethical considerations

The investigator will uphold the protection of the human rights of the study participants. Therefore, the following discussion will focus on the institutional and participant ethical considerations that will be adhered to in the conduct of the study.

Institutional

The study protocol will be subjected for approval from the University of the Philippines Manila Research Ethics Board (UPMREB). The actions and recommendations of the Research Ethics Board are facilitated through the consensus of expert panel members. The UPMREB functions in accordance with the requirements set by the University of the Philippines Manila, the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB); in compliance with the WHO Standards and Operational Guidance for Ethics Review of Health-related Research with Human Participants (2011), the International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (1996), and the National Ethical Guidelines for Health Research (2011).

The investigator will also procure permission from the partner institution, Home for the Golden Gays. The letter of intent will be sent and the study will not be conducted without their approval. The communication letters to the research locale will affix the signature of both the principal investigator and the thesis adviser.

Participant

All the participants will be given a thorough discussion of the research objectives and recruitment details of the study. Initially seeking the participant's verbal consent will be through an orientation program that will serve to ensure that the older adults understand the nature and extent of the study. There will be opportunities to ask questions related to the study during the orientation's open forum.

Once all questions are answered and study participation boundaries are cleared, the participants will be requested to sign an informed consent. A copy of the informed consent will also be given to the participants.

All participants will have to acknowledge that the ethical considerations are well explained before their signatures will be affixed to the consent form. The participants, as expected, must be alert and oriented in the signing of the consent forms, during the in-depth interviews and FGDs.

The chosen participant will be given a standard explanation of the study for the second time before conducting the interviews and FGDs. The investigator will review the permission obtained from them. A review of the right to confidentiality, the right to stop the interview/focus group discussions and process recording at any time, and the right to withdraw from the study will be in mention and reminded again to the study participants. The investigator will assure the older persons that non-participation has no effect on any treatment they will get in the Home for the Golden Gays.

Consensual decision-making will be done throughout the data gathering procedures, wherein both the investigator and the participants will be mutually encouraged to participate in the re-evaluation of the consent form signed at varying points of data gathering process.

In writing the gathered data, participants will be referred to by first names in the interview and FGD notes. Furthermore, the promise of confidentiality and anonymity will be ensured by coding the participant names in the writing of the verbatim transcripts and throughout the study. The investigator will assure the study participants that the gathered data will be mainly for research purposes only.

The incentives for study participation will be discussed in the recruitment details. The investigator will prepare meals during the conduct of interviews and FGDs. The camera to be used in the Photovoice will serve as their tokens for the study participation in appreciation of their cooperation and welcoming attitude. In the end, all the participants will be informed as to where the results of the study can be accessed.

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