

Sunset on the Golden Gays

The Lived Experience of Gay Older Lersons in a Geriastric Shelser Facility



Pearl Ed G. Cuevas, PhD, RN, MAN, FGNLA

1 University of the Philippines, College of Medicine 2 Centro Escolar University, School of Nursing

BACKGROUND

Senior years pose challenges, more so for the lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender (LGBT) community. United Kingdom 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.

INTRODUCTION

This study will center on aging, health & wellness of homeless older gays, because there is little knowledge of the said topic in the Philippine setting. USAID & UNDP (2014) report shows the need to highlight the needs of the LGBT older person and individuals who provide services to them in order to prevent burn out of care.

Shirinmanila (2016) states that "not all families with gay members are accommodating. There is stigma and isolation with being a gay older person." Their service providers and caregivers need to be sensitive to the histories and concerns of the LGBT, also to be open-minded, affirming and supportive towards LGBT older persons to ensure accessible and competent quality care towards them. (APA, 2017).

OBJECTIVES

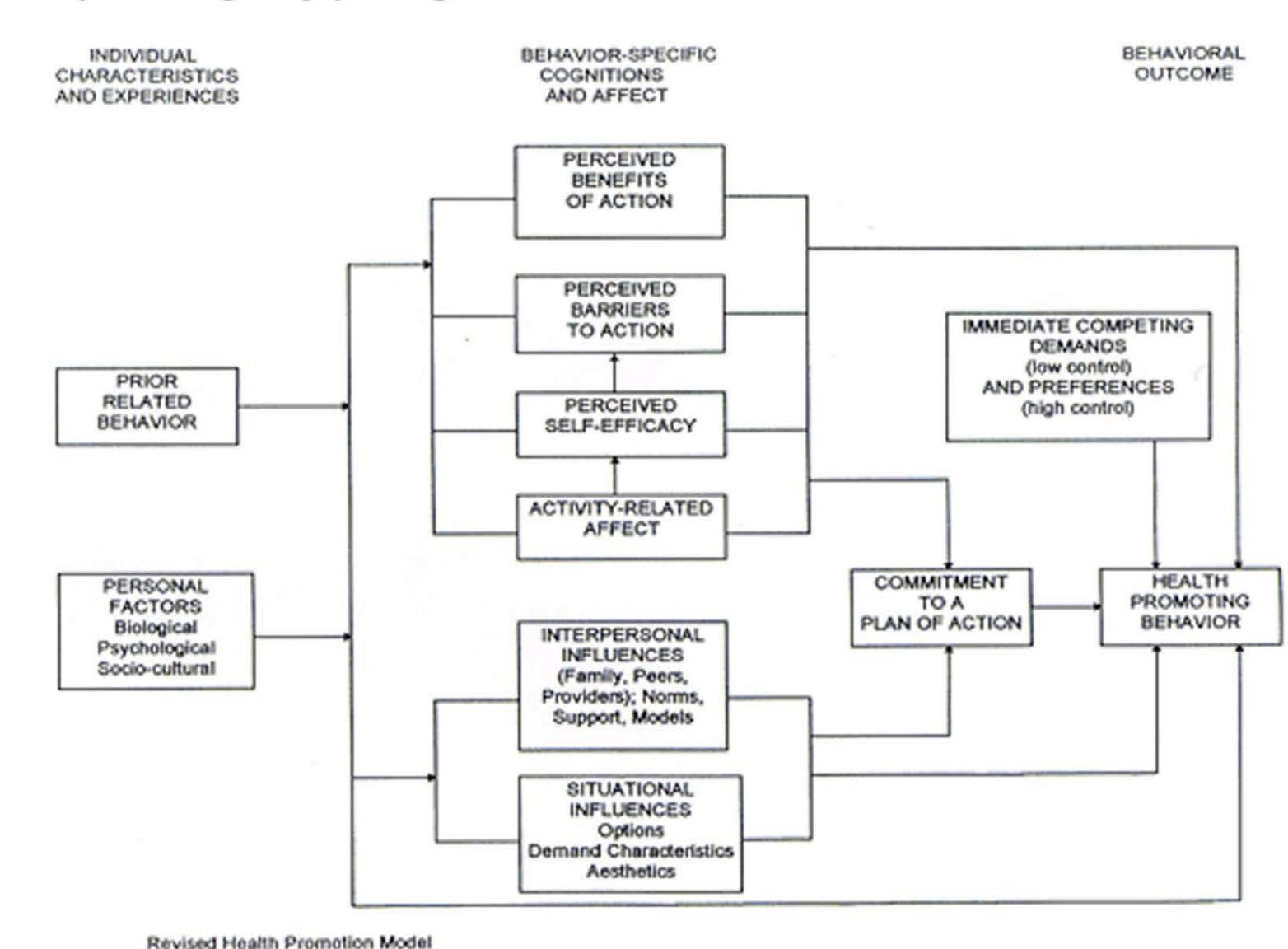
The study aim to unravel the lived experiences of gay older persons in a temporary shelter facility and to uncover their perspectives on aging, homelessness, health and well – being. This is to be able to come up with research- based information that may aid in crafting policies for better allocation of health services to older gays. This is in the hope of increasing accessibility of health services to all- regardless of age, gender or sexual preference.

FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework of the study is anchored on Pender's Health Promotion Model. The said model states that each person has unique characteristic and experiences that affect their subsequent actions. In this study, this is seen in view of aging, homelessness, health and well-being.

Furthermore, this model shows the connection between individual characteristics and experience, behaviour specific cognition, affect and behavioral outcomes. However, the most important aspect of this model is the recognition that individual characteristics, such as sexual preference, and experiences shape how individuals view health. Age is also a characteristic that influences their health behaviors.

Some prior related behaviors such as those related to homosexuality also affects health along with personal factors that may be biological, psychological or socio-cultural in nature.





METHODOLOGY

The study is congruent with the goal of qualitative research, which is to understand those being studied from their perspective or own viewpoint. The branch of qualitative research to be used in this study is ethnography that describes and interprets cultural behavior. The type of ethnography in this study is visual ethnography. In this study, visual ethnography will showcase the patterned activities of the older gays in their daily lives and viewing their photographic imagery is a patterned social activity will elicit a response that reflects their own social realities. This is also shaped by their social context, cultural conventions and group norms.

DESIGN

When presenting photographs to the older gays for photo-elicitation, the investigator acquires some foreknowledge of the respondents group's use of photographs as seen in the internet, social media and media networks. The investigator plans these methodological strategies with her adviser and the resulting photographs are assessed within the context of shared meanings among older gays.

To benefit social research, this use of photographic method is grounded in the interactive context in which photographs acquire meaning through stories from interviews and focus group discussions.

INTRUMENTATION

The study will utilize the following qualitative data gathering instruments:

Field Notes

The investigator will use field notes throughout the data gathering process. At the start, field notes will serve as evidence that gives meaning and will aid in the understanding of this social phenomenon. The Field notes are a record of everything that the investigator find, observe and collect during the course of data gathering. The purpose of doing this is to describe the observation of people, places and/or events and to analyze that observation data in order to identify and categorize common themes in relation to aging, homelessness, health and wellness of golden gays.

Photo Interviews

The investigator will print photographs of the golden gays from Internet sources, news articles and media materials about them. The printed photographs will be used for elicitation during the interview. The investigators field notes will guide decisions about which photographs to print and which to bypass. Photo interviews serve as a means to establish rapport and getting to know the culture of the aging older gays.

In-depth Interviews

As the process of culture immersion and social norming is evolving, all the invited participants will have a one on one in- depth interview with the investigator after the photo interviews. The in-depth interview is scheduled as the process of rapport sets in between the investigator and the participants. The older gay is expected to be speaking more freely about aging, health and wellness in their golden years or at the sunset of their lives during the in-depth interview as they become more comfortable with the investigator.

Focus Group Discussions

The invited participants will have one to two FGDs in the study after the in depth interviews. Focus group discussion is the instrument of choice to verify or validate if the results of the in-depth interviews are resonate to all the participants. It is also a way to integrate all their responses into a meaningful whole that will be ready for thematic analysis.

ANALYSIS

The data analysis of qualitative findings in this study will start after the participants have looked into the photos. The In depth interviews of each of the participants will be done with the investigator, this will be tape recorded and transcribed. During the transcription of data, the analysis of findings will begin while listening to the older gays description of their shared realities.

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. Again, the study will use the constant comparative analysis approach and the integrated result will yield a description of aging, homelessness, health and wellness of older gays.



REFERENCES:

USAID, UNDP (2014) Being LGBT in Asia: The Philippines Country Report.

Bangkok Clinton (2011) cited in USAID, UNDP Being LGBT in Asia:

The Philippines Country Report. Bangkok. p.14.

Shirinmanila (2016) Our Vision on Gay Retirement in the Philippines: The

Golden Gays. https://thegoldengays.wordpress.com/2016/07/20gay-retirement-in-the-philippines/

Publications. http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/aging.aspx

APA (2017) American Psychological Association. APA LGBT Resources and

Pender (1985) cited in Tomey, A.M., & Alligood, M.R. Nursing Theorists and Their Work (5th ed.). Missouri, USA: Mosby, Inc. 2002