

Analysis Of Old Americans Act Of 1965

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Social Analysis

Problem Description

There were a number of problems faced by the community of older Americans in the second half of the twentieth century. The issues included hunger, poverty, social isolation, affordable housing, and lack of productive and independent living. There was a lack of public assistance and support for these people. These barriers have created a number of obstacles for older Americans to receive proper aid and funding. Most of the early adults were passing their end of life. In 1965, the enactment of the older American Act had provided this population a range of social services. These include meals and nutritional, legal support and services related to the prevention of elder abuse along with the help of caregivers. These services make it easy for older Americans to avoid nursing homes and stay in their homes to live an independent life. Older Americans, beginning at the age of 65 years and older, are qualified for these services. The establishment of the Administration on Aging by the Act also facilitates and oversees the needs of older Americans in today's society.

Lack of proper cooperation in helping older individuals was stumbling the performance of caregivers. The planning and financing of the different programs required organization among the local, state and federal level agencies (Adams, 2017). The inaccuracy and effective audit of the ageing networks were also lacking, and a leadership role at the federal level was required. There were certain efforts to improve cooperation and provide effective services for the older American society. There were traditional ways of supporting these people, such as charity, assets, labour, and the family. The extended family was one of the primary sources of support for the aged individuals (Thomas, 2014). The responsibility laws were applied to look after the older people. The grants and assistance programs have gained positive support for older Americans.

The programs and the services funded through the [Older Americans Act](#) help people maintain their health and independence. Millions of seniors who are above the age of 60 are getting benefits from the act. The act was amended to modify the structure of the national aging and services network. Operating in 56 states, the system provides services to the aging population. There are around 600 area agencies that are performing their functions under this act. In the same way, 260 organizations belong to different tribes, and these represent approximately four hundred tribes. The employees are about ten thousand, along with the volunteers who provide services and support to the aging population. Similarly, the theoretical framework for aged people has extended many behavioural changes.

Theories of Human Behavior

Social scientists have tried to counter the problem of an ageing populace by using certain methods. The Erik Erikson propounded the Activity theory of the aging. He took a particular interest in the behavioural psychology of late adulthood (Eriksson, 2016). Development and ageing are perceived through the study as equal to the occurrence of behavioural changes. Erikson was of the view that ego integrity in older adults while avoiding despair is the main issue among the ageing populace. Those people who develop wisdom at this stage of their lives without having regrets about the past are successful older adults.

According to the theorist, older adults have a positive connection is there between activity and healthy ageing. The theory holds that the withdrawal from social action leads to the escape from the traditional American belief of activity, industry and energy. Growing old means different things for the older adults. Those people who pass active life in their young and middle adult age will remain active as older adults. These older Americans have mostly conducted a review of their life (Eriksson, 2016). Certain ways for older adults to look at their past, like scrapbooks, muse over photo albums and visit their favourite childhood places. Older adults look back at their history and try to find the meaning and purpose of their life. According to Erikson, older adults have an intense need to share memories with their family or with those who are close to them. It will provide them with relaxation in their behaviour and healthy life.

Influence of Aging over Implicit and Explicit Behavior

The implicit and the explicit behaviours unfolded through the changing divergent association of the age factor. The core construction of both types of responses revealed that older adults perceive the severity of their health (Chen, 2014). The implicit action is mostly high in the young, while the older adults have fewer preferences. Regarding explicit attitudes, older adults have a higher choice than young people. The human behaviour of the older adults is reflected through the genetics of the ageing. Ethics are concerned with the activity that influences older Americans and the changes that occur during the late adulthood of the individual. The explicit attitudes consist of the conscious level. These are quickly formed and can readily report to the self. However implicit behaviour is the unconscious level of the individual, and these are mostly not known to us (Gonzales, 2015). The act will assist the experts in devising their policies regarding the change in behaviours of individuals with old age.

Social Values and Conflicts

The Congress, looking at the social conditions and the conflict associated with old age people, has devised the Older American Act. The policymakers were concerned about the lack of community and social services for older adults. The demographics show that the problem of ageing is a serious

concern with the changing trends and situations. The state is challenging to enhance the number of dependent people. Those countries that are less developed have the more significant issue of dealing with the fast-growing older adults. According to the estimates, in Latin America and the Caribbean, there will be 40 million older population. In the same way, by the year 2025, the ratio will increase by 10 per cent (Gonzales, 2015). The stunning growth of older adults would be an enormous challenge for the decision-makers and those who are experts in the formulation of the policy.

The majority of older Americans live in urban areas. The socioeconomic picture of Latin America and the Caribbean requires the attention of policymakers. The social impact of the aging population is involved. The plans and the programs will be the result of social values and conflicts. The economic condition, social relationships, and benefits will impact the policy. The commercial and the cultural competition are profoundly influencing the issue of older adults in the present society. Social productivity, along with the inequalities that hinder class, race, and gender, are the core values that influence the parameters of ageing people.

Short and long-term Goals of the Policy

The quick and long-term goals of the policy will impact future challenges and social competition among the different segments of society. Instead of focusing on the limitations of ageing, the plan will seek the opportunity for older adults. The ways to maximize the well-being of older adults along with their mental and social health will be the priority of the program (Huffman, 2018). According to the study, those older adults who adopt social health behaviour and increase their activity have an independent and meaningful life. The American population has the opportunity to improve the quality of their life by following the programs of the Older Americans Act. An older adult can live more than twenty years by following the social interactions and relationships with the other members of his society. Volunteer work or services by older adults also help them preserve their health and happy lives.

Political Analysis

Major Stake Holders

The support and cooperation of the social members of society help the aging community to have a purposeful life. There are a number of stakeholders involved in the policy planning for the ageing population. Those include the elected officials and the first agency staff of the organization. The town and the urban planner, along with the administrator of public works, are the critical players in determining the values of ageing people. They have the power base to support the aging phenomena. The Metropolitan Planning and Policy Department is also responsible for dealing with the issue of older adults (Lloyd, 2015). The development groups, along with the chamber of commerce, are also critical shareholders in providing better facilities to the ageing populace.

The care centres, along with the area agencies for ageing, have a part in promoting the welfare and well-being of older adults. The policy of the older people also influences the non-governmental organization. The healthcare fitness community is also an important stakeholder in providing support to older adults. The associations and the representatives of the community foundation play an enhanced role in the power base. Lobbies and representatives have the power to oppose any policy that harms older adults. Certain social factors provide opponents and supporters with an active stance on policy decisions of ageing people.

Changing Environment and Decision-Making

Change is a primary and significant part of human lives. It can affect any policies, such as social, ageing, and health care policies. With the changing environment and conflict of interest, communities are required to adopt those changes and to move accordingly. The population of older adults profoundly influences the aging procedure. Ageing adults are more likely to make poor and disruptive decisions than those who are young and have the active power to make decisions (Lynn, 2015). Some are the inconsistent choices that compel older adults to make weak decisions. The study conducted in this regard concludes that healthy adults around 65 years of age made unusual and irrational choices in comparison with young adults. The stunning research further explains that older adults with normal minds show a decline in choosing consistency and rationality. The irrational decisions of the ageing population lead them to a loss in social and financial conditions. The desirable policy intervention can help older people in taking rational and reliable non-conflicting decisions (Thomas, 2014).

Policy Evaluation

Outcomes of Aging Policy

The increasing ageing population of the United States is affecting the socioeconomic positions of policymakers. The policy of aging has provided millions of people with much-needed services and health care. There are approximately eleven million older Americans who are getting the services from the Older American Act policy. The groundbreaking policy for ageing people needs renovation. Those who have the most significant economic and social needs are targeted by the law, which shows that the outcomes are of considerable importance (Ugalde, 2015). The act has also provided employment opportunities for many needy and low-income adults. The community services and the service employment program have benefited ageing people. The applications of the Older American Act are operating in every district and state of the US. People are consistently helping and enjoying a meaningful life.

Unintended Consequences of the Aging Policy Program

The unintentional consequences are the main problems for people with old age. The conflicts between the behaviour and the attitudes of the caregivers will influence the lives of ageing people. Older, depressed and alone adults require certain actions, and caregivers recognize that enrichment activities are essential for them older adults. A number of older adults are suffering from malnutrition and loss of their weight due to the lack of support from the health care centres. High rates of depression, diminishing smell and taste, along with other disabilities, are the leading factors in neglected older Americans. The policy can eradicate such lapses in the health of the aging population. The act has an effective cost, which is easily managed by the average older American.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Older American Act is worth mentioning that it has provided the baseline for the happiness of millions of older Americans. The policy programs of the law have different functions and services for the aging population. The excellent social, nutritional, and healthcare services offered through various programs are continuously serving aging people. It is high time to revisit the policy with innovative and effective decisions. People can get extensive healthcare facilities for happiness, prosperity and an independent life.

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