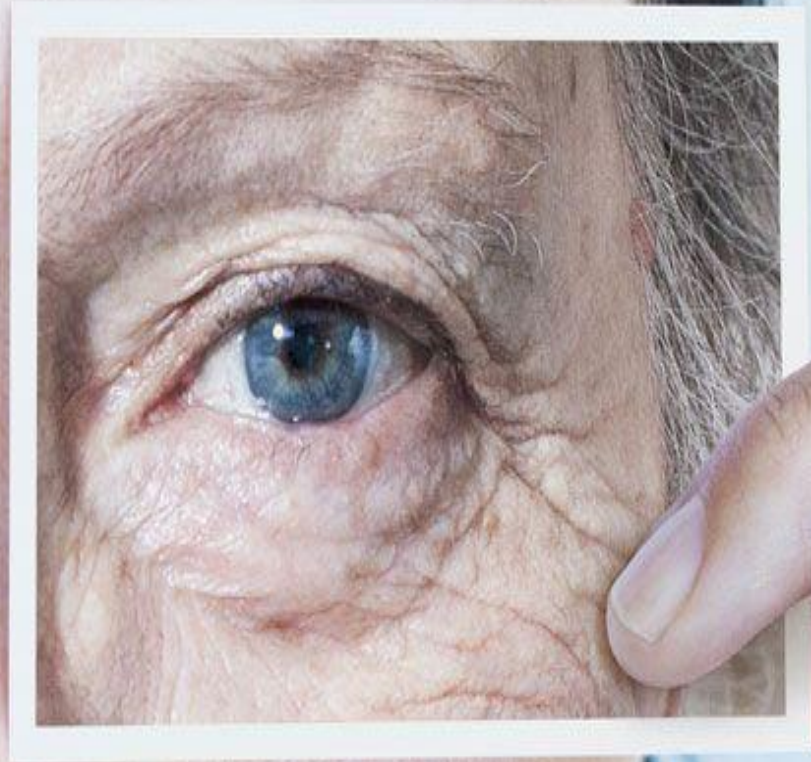


UNIT:V
Gerontological Social Work



Dr. J.O.Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo
Professor and Head
Department of Social Work
Bharathidasan University
Tiruchirappalli-23

Unit V

- Policy legislation and schemes for older persons: National policy for older persons, 1999 schemes for the Welfare of the aged, Institutional care, Day care and mobile Medicare units. Laws affecting older persons. Policy and plan for older persons.

Policy Legislation and Schemes for Older Persons

- Overview of policies supporting elder welfare.
- Importance of social protection for older adults.
- Government's role in elder welfare.
- Understanding various welfare schemes.
- Legislative efforts to protect elder rights.
- Elderly needs for economic and social security.
- Medical support through national policies.
- Community-level support initiatives.
- The future of policy and elder welfare.
- Recognition of family and caregiver needs in policy.



National Policy for Older Persons

- Focuses on social and economic security.
- Healthcare and nutrition support for older adults.
- Ensures elderly have access to shelter.
- Encourages education and lifelong learning.
- Aims to integrate older adults into social programs.
- Promotes elder participation in community activities.
- Emphasis on mental health and emotional support.
- Enhances elder access to recreational activities.
- Addresses unique needs of disadvantaged elderly.
- Seeks collaboration with NGOs and community groups.



Healthcare

Long-term care



Commuting to medical facilities/care facilities



Own home/elderly housing with long-term care



Home-visit care
• Nursing care

Housing

Integrated community care support center/
care manager

Provides consultation and coordinating services



Old people's club, residents' association, long-term care prevention, living support, etc.

Living support

Prevention

Welfare Schemes of 1999

- Healthcare Access: Free or subsidized health services.
- Pension Plans: Financial stability for older adults.
- Housing Support: Assistance in obtaining secure housing.
- Social Inclusion Programs: Promote elder involvement.
- Transportation Aid: Subsidized travel for healthcare visits.
- Income Generation Programs: Encouraging elder employment.
- Insurance Schemes: Affordable health insurance.
- Nutritional Aid: Meal programs for malnourished elders.
- Education and Skill Training: Learning opportunities.
- Targeted at Vulnerable Groups: Poor, rural, or isolated elderly.

Institutional Care Programs

- **Definition and Purpose:** Institutional care provides structured support for older adults who need continuous assistance.
- **Types of Facilities:** Includes nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and residential care homes.
- **Health Services:** Access to medical care, routine check-ups, and emergency services.
- **Personal Care Assistance:** Help with daily living activities like bathing, dressing, and mobility.
- **Social Support:** Provides community engagement, reducing feelings of isolation.

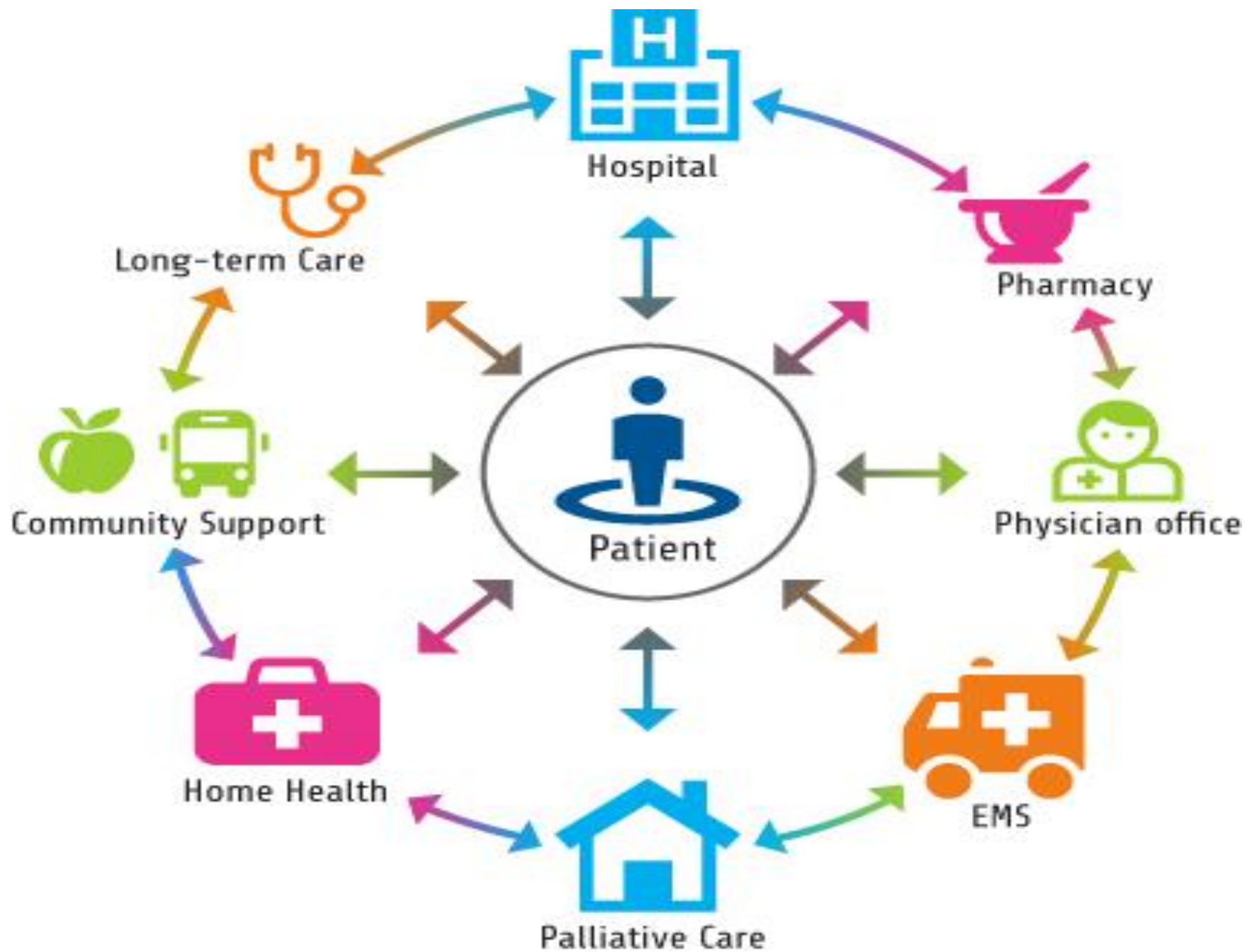


Institutional Care Programs

- **Mental Health Support:** Access to counselors, psychologists, and support groups within the facility.
- **Specialized Care:** Alzheimer's and dementia care programs tailored for cognitive challenges.
- **Recreational Activities:** Organized activities such as games, crafts, and group outings to promote well-being.
- **Nutritional Services:** Provision of balanced meals tailored to the dietary needs of elderly residents.
- **End-of-Life Care:** Hospice services for palliative and compassionate care during the final stages of life.

Day Care Facilities for Older Persons

- **Social Interaction:** Provides a community space where older adults can socialize and avoid isolation.
- **Respite for Caregivers:** Offers a temporary relief for family caregivers, enabling them to attend to personal responsibilities.
- **Health Monitoring:** Regular health check-ups to monitor physical and mental health.
- **Physical Activities:** Exercise programs like yoga, walking, and group exercises to maintain physical fitness.
- **Nutritional Support:** Meals and snacks provided to ensure balanced nutrition during the day.



Day Care Facilities for Older Persons

- Educational Programs: Workshops on health, technology, and skills, encouraging lifelong learning.
- Recreational Activities: Games, music, and art activities to keep elders engaged and mentally active.
- Counseling Services: Access to counselors for emotional and psychological support.
- Transportation Services: Assistance with transport to and from the day care facility for accessibility.
- Preventive Health Education: Information sessions on maintaining health, managing medications, and disease

Mobile Medicare Units

- **Accessibility:** Brings medical services to elderly individuals who are immobile or live in remote areas.
- **Routine Health Check-Ups:** Regular monitoring of blood pressure, sugar levels, and general health.
- **Basic Medical Care:** On-site treatment for minor ailments and first aid.
- **Medication Delivery:** Distributes essential medications to elderly individuals in need.
- **Preventive Health Screenings:** Conducts screenings for conditions like hypertension, diabetes, and eye problems.

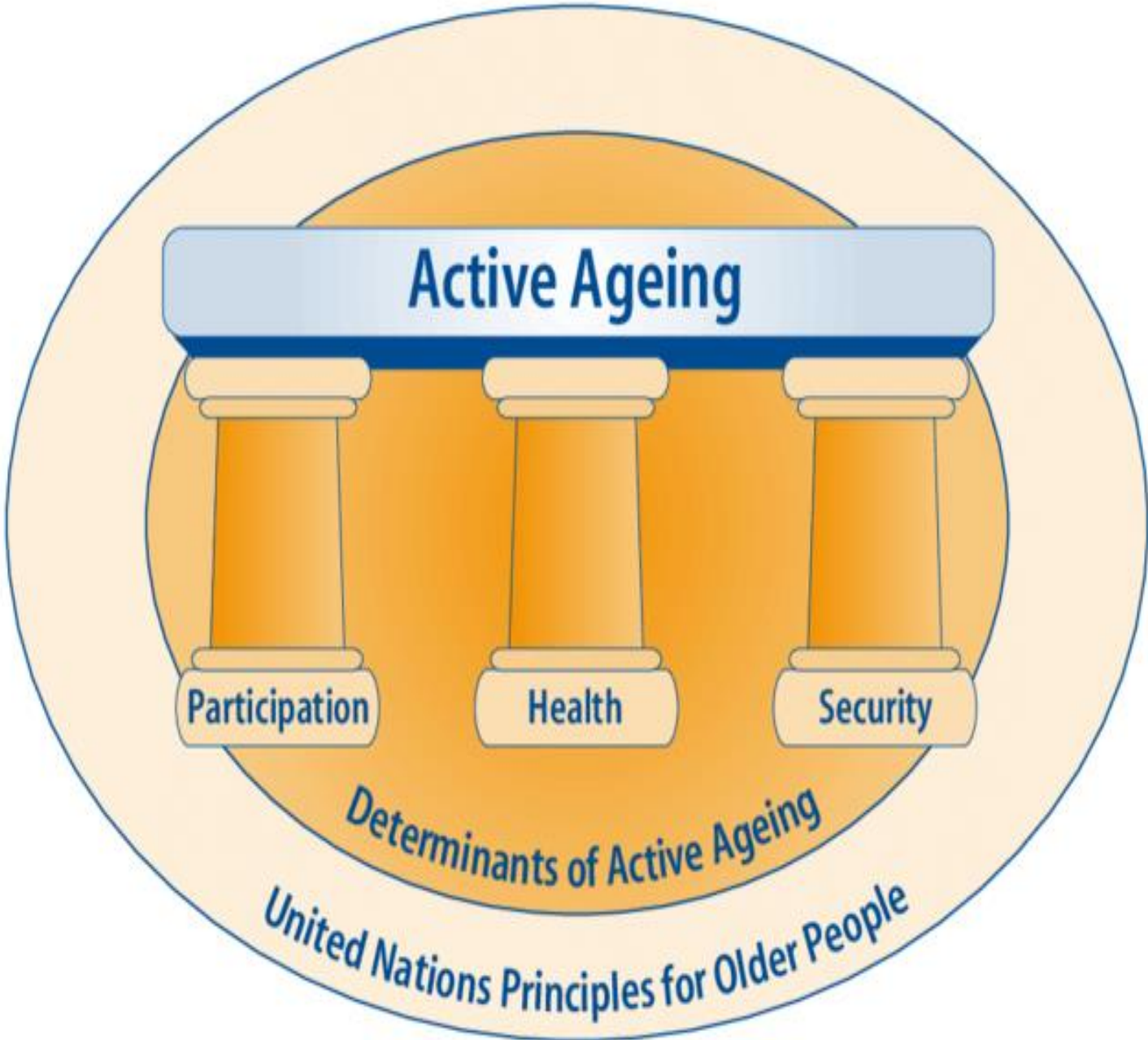


Mobile Medicare Units

- Health Awareness Programs: Educates the elderly on self-care practices and disease prevention.
- Home-Based Care: Provides medical support in a comfortable, familiar environment for bedridden seniors.
- Vaccination Programs: Ensures that elderly individuals receive necessary vaccines like the flu shot.
- Follow-Up Care: Regular follow-ups for elderly patients with chronic conditions to manage their health effectively.
- Collaborative Support: Works with local hospitals and clinics to ensure continuity of care.

Policy Impact on Elderly Well-being

- **Increased Access to Healthcare:** Policies have enhanced access to medical care for many older adults.
- **Financial Support:** Introduction of pensions and financial assistance for economically vulnerable elderly.
- **Social Security Programs:** Implementation of social safety nets to protect the elderly against poverty.
- **Improvement in Living Standards:** Policies addressing housing, safety, and accessibility have improved living conditions.



Active Ageing

Participation

Health

Security

Determinants of Active Ageing

United Nations Principles for Older People

Policy Impact on Elderly Well-being

- **Focus on Elderly Rights:** Policies have strengthened awareness and protection of elderly rights against abuse.
- **Enhanced Community-Based Support:** Development of community centers and resources specifically for elder care.
- **Family Support Policies:** Policies that encourage family caregiving, providing tax benefits and support.
- **Promotion of Geriatric Healthcare:** Policies to improve geriatric training in healthcare facilities.

Challenges in Policy Implementation

- **Funding Limitations:** Inadequate budget allocations can limit the reach and quality of programs.
- **Geographic Barriers:** Difficulties in reaching elderly populations in rural and remote areas.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Many elderly individuals are unaware of the benefits available to them.
- **Limited Resources:** Shortage of trained personnel in geriatric and elder care services.
- **Cultural Stigma:** In some communities, elderly support services are underutilized due to social stigma.

Challenges in Policy Implementation

- **Political Challenges:** Inconsistent support and changing priorities can disrupt continuity of policies.
- **Technological Barriers:** Difficulty for older adults in accessing digital resources or online services.
- **Bureaucratic Delays:** Complicated processes and paperwork can hinder access to benefits.
- **Insufficient Data Collection:** Lack of comprehensive data on elderly needs for targeted policy-making.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Inadequate tracking systems to assess the effectiveness of implemented policies.



INTERNATIONAL
DAY
OF THE
OLDER PERSON

Future Policy Recommendations

- **Increased Budget Allocation:** Advocating for higher government spending on elder care and welfare.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Initiating programs to inform older adults about available benefits and services.
- **Community Outreach Programs:** Expanding services to underserved rural areas for better accessibility.
- **Digital Literacy Programs:** Teaching older adults how to access digital health and welfare resources.

Future Policy Recommendations

- **Streamlining Processes:** Simplifying application processes for elderly benefits to make them more user-friendly.
- **Research and Data Collection:** Conducting studies to better understand the needs of the elderly.
- **Collaboration with NGOs:** Partnering with non-profits to expand elder care services and support networks.
- **Support for Family Caregivers:** Providing financial and emotional support to family members caring for elderly relatives.

Summary and Discussion Points

- Key Takeaways on Elder Care Programs: Recap of institutional care, day care, and mobile Medicare units.
- Importance of Policy in Elderly Welfare: Summary of how policies improve elderly lives.
- Challenges in Policy Effectiveness: Overview of main barriers in successful policy implementation.
- Future Recommendations: Summary of policy recommendations for enhancing elder care.
- Health and Well-being Impact: Importance of these programs in promoting elderly health and social engagement.

Summary and Discussion Points

- **Role of Community Support:** Significance of community involvement in elder care initiatives.
- **Government and NGO Collaboration:** Importance of partnerships to broaden elder care support.
- **Audience Reflection:** Encouraging students to think about areas needing further improvement.
- **Questions for Thought:** Prompting discussions on policy impact and potential enhancements.
- **Closing Remarks:** Recap of the module's focus on elder care programs and policies.

Acknowledgement

I wish to place on record, the sincere appreciation and thanks to Ms. Priya.S.Dev (ICSSR Doctoral Research Scholar), Department of Social Work, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli-23, for the able assistance in the preparation of this Course Material for Gerontological Social Work.

Questions

?

?

Answers

?