Some reflections on intergenerational approaches in Asia
Concepts and questions

- IG Solidarity/Reciprocity
- IG with temporal dimension
- Generational clash in Asia?
Eight areas for intergenerational action

- Workforce
- Communities
- Homecare
- Housing
- Climate and environment
- Technology
- Social behaviours
- Families, communities and traditions
Communities

Community-based organisations evolved in the last ten years:

- Multifunctional
- Intergenerational
Workforce

• Last year, four in 10 companies hired people aged 70 or more, Nikkei reported, citing the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

• But…. 62% of Asia’s workforce is in the informal sector (largely multigenerational)

• What each generation brings:
  • Crystalised abilities
  • Fluid abilities
Home and community care

• RoK – ASEAN project with volunteers for Homecare service
  • Project run for ten years
  • Adopted as a practice in seven ASEAN countries

• Sri Lanka - young volunteers working with SCCs

• India – Every Elder Self-Help Group (ESHG) works with Youth volunteers

• Thailand - Young volunteers provide Homecare, complemented with Buddy Homecare, a social enterprise model from FOPDEV
Social behaviours – Ageism in times of COVID

- Duterte’s spokesman prompted outrage by saying people over 60 would need to stay at home even after measures were lifted. Duterte is 75.
Social behaviours - Ageism

- COSE – in the Philippines - initiated a campaign against ageism and COVID enlisting young students from De La Salle University
- Extensive use of social media, video, case studies, infographics
- What did we learn?
  - Younger people change attitudes once they connect with older people
  - It takes time to change attitudes
  - In certain contexts blended or mixed tools may work better (local radio, flyers, posters)
Social behaviours - Ageism


The National Commission for Older Persons of Indonesia implemented intergenerational workshops for young and old activists with a view to changing images of ageing and tackling ageism.

In the I. R. Iran, an educational intervention with an intergenerational element was conducted among school and University students focusing on issues relevant to ageing and the life course. This intervention included dialogues with older people.

In Tamil Nadu, India, dialogue is carried out in the ESHGs with old and young persons, to discuss community issues of common concern.
Climate and environment

- Designing jointly projects for tackling extreme weather events (adaptation, DRR)
- Intergenerational in longer term perspective
- Action at community levels
- IG advocacy at national and global levels
Co-design in Thailand

Co-designing projects, all generations together
DRR in Thailand

- Older people’s local knowledge and life experience can contribute to successes in DRR and CCA.
- Interaction with younger people ensures better protection and support in emergencies.
- IG interaction improves the mental health and well-being of older people.
- Age-inclusive approach reduces negative perceptions/attitudes towards older persons.
Tree-planting in Sri Lanka

HelpAge Sri Lanka started a tree planting programme:

• Awareness programmes among school children and Senior Citizen Committees (SCCs) on climate change and environmental issues.

• Discussion with SCC national leadership to adopt the initiative and select possible SCCs and Schools to do tree planting programmes.

• Training of five SCCs to do plant nurseries to prepare forest plant nurseries and other beneficial tree plants. They produced 5,000 tree seedlings of Jack trees, Mahoganies trees, mango trees....

• Seedlings were distributed to the other SCCs and Schools to do tree planting.

• This programme was conducted in Gampaha and Kalutara Districts

• More than 750 elders and 500 school students have participated in this programme.
Technology
Digital literacy training in India

Training of 20 hrs provided by HelpAge India to 4183 elderly who had been excluded from the official Prime Minister Grameen Digital Saksharata Abhiyan (PMGDishA), because they were over 60 years old. Now being replicated.

“Digital Gurucool” programme
Families, communities and traditions
teaching children how to draw calligraphy in Republic of Korea
Families, communities and traditions

teaching children how to knit coasters
Families, communities and traditions

Low-income older people donate to youth from low-income families
Families, communities and traditions

Older people makes wooden clothes to protect the trees in winter. And they dress the village trees in wooden clothes with young people.
Families, communities and traditions

Women Elderly tie “Rakhi” a sacred thread to the right hand wrist of the elderly men on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, at an event organised by the Village Level Federation of the Elders Self Help Groups in India.

Grandchildren are involved to learn about the tradition and carry on the culture.
Lessons learned

Generational reciprocity is not a matter of policy or legislation

Sectorial policies can benefit from intergenerational considerations

There is an economic rationale for IG approaches in all spheres of life

Ageism can be better dispelled by direct interaction between older and younger

IG action can imply support from older to younger or vice versa

IG action can engage all age segments (not only extremes)
New knowledge is emerging to better understand relations between generations and its trends.

The National Transfers Accounts (NTAs) study economic flows between generations and show how diverse these are between contexts.


Thank you