

Title: Smart Home for the Elderly: A qualitative study of the services needs of older adults in Hong Kong

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Abstract:

With rapidly ageing population, Hong Kong elderly services demand became more and more urgent. Hong Kong government has promoted the utilization of gerontechnology to tackle the services needs of the older adults in their daily life. This qualitative study investigated the service needs of the older adults in Hong Kong in relation to the utilization of smart-home products, which is an important category in gerontechnology. The experiences of and aspirations to the utilization of smart-home products by the older adults have also been explored. The research team conducted 7 focus group interviews in three local elderly service centre to collect the relevant information of the study. Results revealed that respondents had positive attitudes towards the utilization of smart-home products in enhancing their quality of life, but they had not acquired sufficient information on the related products. They hoped of smart-home products can improve their daily life by alleviating difficulties like household cleaning, danger notice and grasp at height. A point to note is that the respondents generally thought friends and workers of elderly centres were more helpful than their family members in providing supports to the utilization of new technology appliances. The experiences of the respondents confirmed the important role of elderly services centre as the facilitating conditions of the utilization of gerontechnology products by the older adults. Policy implications are discussed.

Keywords

Hong Kong Chinese, Smart Home products, gerontechnology, elderly, facilitating conditions