Housing Options for Elderly People in Singapore
Congregate Housing

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Abstract

Inadequacies of current housing options for older people in Singapore has surfaced in the recent years due to the rapidly ageing population and the changing trends of living of the elders. Consequently, alternative housing schemes for elders have to be investigated and implemented.

One viable housing option for elders is congregate housing. Such housing schemes are particularly suitable for older people who are at the borderline of support and dependency, and are living alone or with their spouse only. Congregate housing is able to offer a purpose-built environment that is compensative to the decline experienced due to ageing for this group of seniors, thus enabling them to live more effectively and independently. Facilities and services supportive of daily living can also be viably incorporated into the housing scheme. As such, problems associated with inappropriate relocation to institutions may also be avoided. Congregate housing also offers opportunities for increased social contact due to proximity to peers, thus catering for the paradigm shift from a family-based support network to one that is community-based.

In view of these apparent advantages and benefits of congregate housing, its actual viability living arrangement for older people in Singapore is assessed based on its ability to fulfil the three basic criteria set out, and the analysis of three case studies in Singapore, which encompass, in spirit, some principles and ideals of congregate housing.

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