

Reviewer's Comment-1

This study offers valuable insights into the social participation of elderly men in Taiwan and proposes practical improvement strategies. However, further examining policy implementation challenges and long-term effects would enhance the study's impact and applicability. The advantages and disadvantages of this article are as follows:

Strengths

1. Fills a research gap: Provides a new perspective and in-depth discussion on the issue of social participation among elderly men in Taiwan, emphasizing the impact of gender roles and cultural factors.
2. Appropriate methodology: Utilizes qualitative interviews and participant observation, making the findings more convincing and providing an in-depth understanding of respondents' perspectives.
3. Practical value: Offers concrete policy recommendations, such as designing community activities tailored to male interests and promoting interaction through communal meal programs, which can serve as references for social work and community development.

Weaknesses

1. Lack of quantitative data support: Incorporating surveys or government statistical data could provide a more comprehensive picture of the situation.
2. Insufficient discussion on policy implementation challenges: Issues such as the adequacy of community resources, implementation costs, and the long-term impact of social participation on elderly men should be further explored.
3. Conceptual clarity: The discussion on key concepts such as "male dignity" could be more precise and clearly defined.

Dear Reviewer,

Thank you for your detailed and insightful feedback. We appreciate your careful review and valuable suggestions. Below are our point-by-point responses to each of the identified weaknesses:

1. Lack of quantitative data support: Incorporating surveys or government statistical data could provide a more comprehensive picture of the situation.

Response:

We have added statistical data from the Executive Yuan (2024), which shows that the participation rate of elderly males in community care centers is only 24.68%, significantly lower than that of females. This addition offers a clearer quantitative context and highlights the gender disparity in social participation, supporting the qualitative findings of this study.

2. Insufficient discussion on policy implementation challenges: Issues such as the adequacy of community resources, implementation costs, and the long-term impact of social participation on elderly men should be further explored.

In response to your suggestion, we have expanded the discussion on challenges faced in implementing elderly social participation policies. Specifically, we address issues such as resource limitations in rural areas, shortage of professional staff and volunteers, and financial constraints (e.g., transportation subsidies, space rental, and material costs). These factors are particularly relevant in understanding why some elderly men remain disengaged, even when programs are available.

3. Conceptual clarity: The discussion on key concepts such as “male dignity” could be more precise and clearly defined.

We have clarified and defined the concept of male dignity within the cultural context of elderly Taiwanese men. In the revised discussion, male dignity is described as encompassing autonomy, authority, and social respect—qualities that align with traditional masculinity. We provide examples to illustrate how these values influence participation patterns, such as avoidance of female-dominated activities or preference for roles that emphasize expertise and leadership. This conceptual refinement helps explain the behavioral tendencies observed and informs the design of more inclusive programs..

Reviewer's Comment-2

This manuscript is globally relevant, benefiting not only elderly Taiwanese men online but also others worldwide needing social engagement to improve physical, social, and psychological well-being. It focuses on key aspects of healthy aging and resource access for older men. I suggest expanding the abstract, shortening the introduction, and including a literature review section to improve the manuscript. Dedicate a section to elaborating on the study's findings regarding motivational factors, thus supporting the study's title: "The Motivation and Related Factors of Male Elderly People's Social Participation in Taiwan". The title is acceptable, but a revision for a wider readership is recommended. Additionally, the abstract should define key concepts like motivation and social participation and briefly summarize the study's results.

Dear Reviewer,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful and constructive feedback. We appreciate your recognition of the global relevance of our study and your valuable suggestions to improve the clarity and structure of the manuscript. Below is our detailed response to your comment:

This manuscript is globally relevant, benefiting not only elderly Taiwanese men online but also others worldwide needing social engagement to improve physical, social, and psychological well-being. It focuses on key aspects of healthy aging and resource access for older men. I suggest expanding the abstract, shortening the introduction, and including a literature review section to improve the manuscript. Dedicate a section to elaborating on the study's findings regarding motivational factors, thus supporting the study's title: "The Motivation and Related Factors of Male Elderly People's Social Participation in Taiwan". The title is acceptable, but a revision for a wider readership is recommended. Additionally, the abstract should define key concepts like motivation and social participation and briefly summarize the study's results.

Response:

1. **Expanded Abstract:**

We have revised the abstract to define key terms such as *motivation* and *social participation*, and added a brief summary of the main findings of the study. The revised abstract now better reflects the core results and significance of the research. Changes have been marked in the manuscript.

2. **Shortened Introduction:**

In response to your suggestion, we have carefully reviewed and condensed the introduction to improve focus and flow. Redundant or less relevant background information has been removed to make room for a more structured literature review and discussion.

3. **New Literature Review Section:**

We have added a dedicated literature review section to better situate our research within existing academic discourse. This section highlights previous studies related to elderly men's social participation and identifies research gaps our study addresses.

4. Findings on Motivation – New Section Added:

A new subsection within the Results and Discussion section has been added to specifically elaborate on the *motivational factors* influencing elderly men's social participation. These include social connection, a sense of purpose, health-related benefits, and gender-role perceptions. This expansion aligns the findings more closely with the study's objectives and title.

We sincerely appreciate your insightful recommendations, which have significantly improved the clarity, academic rigor, and relevance of our manuscript. All changes are clearly indicated in the revised manuscript using highlights or tracked changes.

Thank you again for your time and contribution to strengthening our work.