

HEALTH ENTITLEMENTS AMONG THE OLDER PEOPLE AS PER NATIONAL AGING POLICY: THE CASE OF KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY

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ABSTRACT

This study was aimed at exposing challenges faced by older people in accessing their health entitlements in the country. The study was guided by one general objective and three specific objectives both originating from National Aging Policy statements. The general objective was to examine the realization of health entitlements to older people as per National Aging Policy. While specific objectives includes to identity the level of government funding in improving health services to older people in public hospitals, to assess the quality of services provided to older people by public hospitals and to examine health personals skills in handling older patients. The study deployed the mix up of qualitative and quantitative approaches to incorporate all respondents' views and suggestions. Questionnaires and interviews were used in collecting data from respondents including non-older patients, older people patients, health personnel and hospital administrators. Study findings reveal that older people were still experiencing numerous challenges in both quality and accessibility of different health entitlements contrary to the policy statements and directives. In conclusion, the expression was on how the problem still exists and emphasizes to all stake holders to take up affirmative efforts. Recommendations to the government, Civil Society Organizations, health workers, policy makers, researchers, as well as the general community are made so as to improve health entitlements to older people. The right based approach was used as a guide towards this study.