

Challenges in implementing age-friendly cities: A systematic literature review



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Abstract The paper investigates difficulties alongside potential answers regarding the implementation of Age-Friendly Cities (AFCs), focusing on older adult's needs. The research based its analysis on 10 peer-reviewed research articles obtained from Google Scholar, PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science in which the authors followed the PRISMA criteria. Six major challenges exist to implement Age-Friendly Cities (AFCs): ageism, inadequate infrastructure, variable national policies, lack of funds, public ignorance about AFCs, and fragmented government structures. Several challenges within the development process are intensified because of poor policy implementation along with financial restrictions and the absence of coordinated urban planning methods. International organizations strive to develop areas that welcome everyone, yet developed countries stand apart from developing nations in their execution of accessible facilities. Developing nations encounter more significant challenges in funding infrastructure development alongside poor public participation than developed countries do with inconsistent policies. These examples confirm that our societies require immediate action for complete policy improvements together with stable funding systems alongside better urban development techniques. The research demonstrates why urban design must be adaptable and why communities need better social networks and active resident involvement to support healthy, active older adults living. The analysis brings together existing research to determine essential barriers in AFC deployment and elevation while demonstrating the worldwide importance of urban design and policy work to boost older adults wellness. The study reveals that aging-friendly cities must be developed by a harmonious effort between local communities and policymakers and urban planners to create neighborhoods that improve older adults population welfare across the world.

Keywords: systematic literature review (SLR), age-friendly city, PRISMA, older adults, implementation challenges

1. Introduction

Since the beginning of the 21st century, Age-Friendly Cities (AFCs) have been the subject of intense discussion in the fields of urban planning and social policy. In order to create urban areas that would fulfill the requirements of older adults by emphasizing active aging together with social inclusivity and accessibility, WHO launched the Global Age-Friendly Cities Initiative in 2007 (WHO, 2007). Age-friendly cities are designed not only to offer needed facilities and services but also to develop a supportive social and physical environment that coordinates the requirements of older adults. The Age-Friendly City Guide presents two core elements that comprise themes for discussions as well as city features founded through worldwide older adults engagement from 35 cities (World Health Organization, 2007). The focus group discussions produced eight main themes to create an extensive understanding about important features for older adults in the city. Key features include accessible public transportation, secure housing and opportunities for social and cultural engagement (WHO, 2007). Nevertheless, there is still need for investigation towards an established method for achieving the condition of an age-friendly city through realistic and useful characteristics. There are no widely accepted characteristics to create an age-friendly city beyond the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Guide and study process (Steels, 2015). The growing number of localized strategies, rules, and standards for age-friendly city application reflects the diversity of community needs and desires for age-friendly characteristics.

Since 1957, Malaysia has experienced population growth, which resulted in 7.4 million people becoming 32.5 million people with an annual population growth rate of 0.4 percent. The Malaysian population numbered 32.4 million in 2019 but grew to 32.6 million during that year when compared to the year 2018 (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2020). During the year 2019, the annual population growth rate dropped to 0.6 percent after increasing to 1.1 percent in the previous year, 2018. The UN predicts that Malaysia will have 9.7 million older adults by 2050, according to their medium population projection. Better health outcomes and disease resistance have resulted in an increasing trend of life expectancy, which drives to this development. In recognition of the importance of this approach, Malaysia has integrated the age-friendly city concept into its national development framework, aligning with its goal of fostering a diverse and inclusive living environment for its aging population (Farhan, 2024). This approach enhances the quality of life of older adults while promoting their active participation in society. Development guidelines have been produced by state and federal governments, as well as local councils, as best



practices and guidelines to adapt cities to the demands of an aging population (Plouffe & Kalache, 2011). Since the cities in the developed world were originally categorized as cities with an older adults population (Tengku Aizan, 2015), because most of these guidelines focus on these places (Steels, 2015). A clear understanding of the challenges that rising global governments and local authorities will face is provided by the study of development guidelines, which includes a detailed evaluation of municipal features.

In recent years, the concept of age-friendly communities has gained prominence as societies seek to address the needs of aging populations. It emphasizes the critical role of urban environments in enhancing the well-being, accessibility, and social inclusion of older adults. Age-friendly cities adapt their urban infrastructure, building designs, and stakeholder engagement strategies to create environments that support older adults' lifestyles. The key components of this concept include community living, housing, healthcare, and transportation. In addition to physical infrastructure, the social dimension of age-friendly cities is equally vital, as it fosters social participation, promotes active and independent living, and ensures accessible pedestrian pathways and public transportation systems (Buffer et al., 2012).

As of 2020, 8.8% of the global population was aged 65 and above, and projections indicate that this figure will increase to 16.7% by 2050, with the majority residing in urban areas. This rapid increase in the aging population has significant implications for social policies and urban planning, necessitating adaptations to accommodate older adults' mobility and healthcare needs. Consequently, the concept of age-friendly cities has gained traction among policymakers and urban designers, particularly in integrating social support systems and public health frameworks into existing urban infrastructures (Plouffe & Kalache, 2010).

While the age-friendly city concept presents numerous opportunities, it also faces several challenges. Limited financial resources, weak policy frameworks, insufficient public engagement, and inadequate urban planning often hinder the successful development of age-friendly cities (Menec et al., 2011). Additionally, cultural and regional differences pose further complexities, as older adults across different locations have varying needs and require tailored intervention strategies (Scharlach & Lehning, 2013). Therefore, achieving and sustaining age-friendly cities requires cross-sectoral collaboration and interdisciplinary efforts to ensure that older adults can thrive in all aspects of their well-being.

This systematic literature review (SLR) aims to identify the key challenges associated with implementing the age-friendly city concept in real-world communities. Additionally, it seeks to consolidate existing knowledge and propose solutions to address these challenges on a global scale, ultimately contributing to the development of more inclusive and age-friendly urban environments.

2. Materials and Methods

This study adheres to established standards and guidelines for conducting a systematic literature review (SLR). Using a literature review approach, this research examines the implementation of age-friendly cities (AFCs) and explores the challenges associated with their development. To ensure clarity and precision, the study formulates research questions and categorizes findings into specific subcategories on the basis of empirical evidence that meets well-defined criteria. This structured approach is essential for identifying existing research methodologies and classifying them according to empirical findings and eligibility standards, ultimately fulfilling well-defined research objectives.

2.1. Protocol and guidelines

This SLR follows the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) framework, which provides structured guidelines for data collection, literature selection, and findings presentation (Moher et al., 2009). By employing this framework, the study ensures a coherent, systematic, and transparent review process. Each step, from selecting relevant literature to analyzing data, is thoroughly documented, enhancing the reproducibility and validity of the study's findings for future researchers.

2.2. Eligibility criteria

A rigorous selection process was applied to ensure that only high-quality, relevant studies were included in the review. This evaluation process guarantees that the selected literature effectively addresses the challenges of developing age-friendly cities while excluding studies that do not meet the research criteria.

2.2.1. Inclusion criteria

The selected studies had to focus on implementation challenges related to age-friendly cities, be peer reviewed, and address primarily the practical aspects of AFC implementation. Only articles published in English were included to maintain academic accessibility. Furthermore, studies covering a wide range of regions were prioritized to ensure a comprehensive global perspective. To enhance the relevance of the findings, only articles published in the last ten years (2014–2024) were considered, ensuring that the reviewed research reflects current issues and emerging challenges in age-friendly urban development.

2.2.2. Exclusion criteria

Studies that were non-peer-reviewed, non-research-based, or unrelated to AFC implementation were excluded. Additionally, research that did not focus on practical challenges in developing age-friendly cities was removed from consideration. The review excluded articles that appeared in languages different from English for the purposes of language accessibility and academic rigor.

2.3. Databases and sources

This study sourced literature from Web of Science, PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar, as these databases provide comprehensive and high-quality academic publications in the fields of urban planning, public health, and aging studies. Additionally, further searches were conducted on official publisher websites to identify additional relevant sources, ensuring a broader and more contextual understanding of the topic.

Table 1 Four main databases used in the SLR.

Database/Source	Selected articles	Reason for Selection
PubMed	25	Comprehensive exploration of public health and gerontology research relevant to the concept of age-friendly cities.
Scopus	26	A broad collection of peer-reviewed studies in urban planning, social sciences, and environmental research.
Google Scholar	20	Gain access to a diverse range of interdisciplinary studies and supplementary resources on urban accessibility and age inclusivity.
Web of Science	25	Reliable and high-quality sources on the challenges in implementing age-friendly cities.

2.4. Search strategy

Boolean operators were utilized to refine the search strategy by expanding or narrowing the search terms as needed. Keywords such as “age-friendly city,” “barriers in implementation,” “challenges,” and “age-friendly city planning” were strategically combined using the Boolean operators “AND” and “OR” to conduct a comprehensive global search for studies addressing the challenges in implementing age-friendly cities. For example, search queries such as “age-friendly city implementation AND barriers” and “age-friendly urban planning OR urban accessibility” were employed to filter relevant studies in alignment with the review objectives.

2.5. Study selection and screening process

The systematic literature review (SLR) approach incorporates a rigorous screening process to refine the selection of research papers, ensuring that only those with maximum relevance and comprehensive information are considered. Only 28 papers were left for further evaluation after the initial pool of 96 articles that gathered from several databases was reduced by using rigorous inclusion and exclusion criteria. Duplicate publications and research that exceeded the inclusion criteria were eliminated during the exclusion phase. The final selection of 31 papers was based on specific criteria, including subject relevance (focusing on age-friendly cities and implementation challenges), source type (only peer-reviewed publications), and document type (articles, reviews, and empirical research studies). Additionally, language was a determining factor, with only English-language articles being considered, and both open-access and paywalled sources were included in the review. To ensure that the findings reflected current challenges and developments, all selected studies were published within the last ten years. After a final review, a total of 29 papers specifically addressing the challenges in developing age-friendly cities were deemed eligible and relevant for inclusion in the systematic literature review. This rigorous selection process ensured that the review was comprehensive, methodologically sound, and derived from high-quality, peer-reviewed research, enhancing the reliability and validity of the study’s findings.

Table 2 Criteria for inclusion and exclusion in choosing relevant articles.

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Type of Resources	Journal	Nonjournal sources (e.g., reports, books)
Type of Document	Article	Nonarticles (e.g., book chapters, editorials)
Keywords	Age-Friendly cities, barriers and challenges in implementing	Articles not related to these keywords
Language	English	Articles not in English
Type of Access	Open access	Nonopen access (e.g., subscription-only)
Year	2014 – October 2024	Published before 2014

2.6. Eligibility

The final selection of papers for this systematic literature review (SLR) on the challenges in implementing the age-friendly cities framework was determined through a comprehensive full-text examination of 29 studies during the final review stage. Each article was meticulously analyzed to ensure the accurate extraction of relevant information aligned with the research objectives. Following a rigorous application of the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 10 articles were excluded after a critical evaluation. The primary reason for their removal was their failure to adequately address the challenges in implementing age-friendly cities, which was a key focus of this review. This systematic screening process ensured that only the most relevant and high-quality studies were included in the final analysis, enhancing the reliability and validity of the research findings.

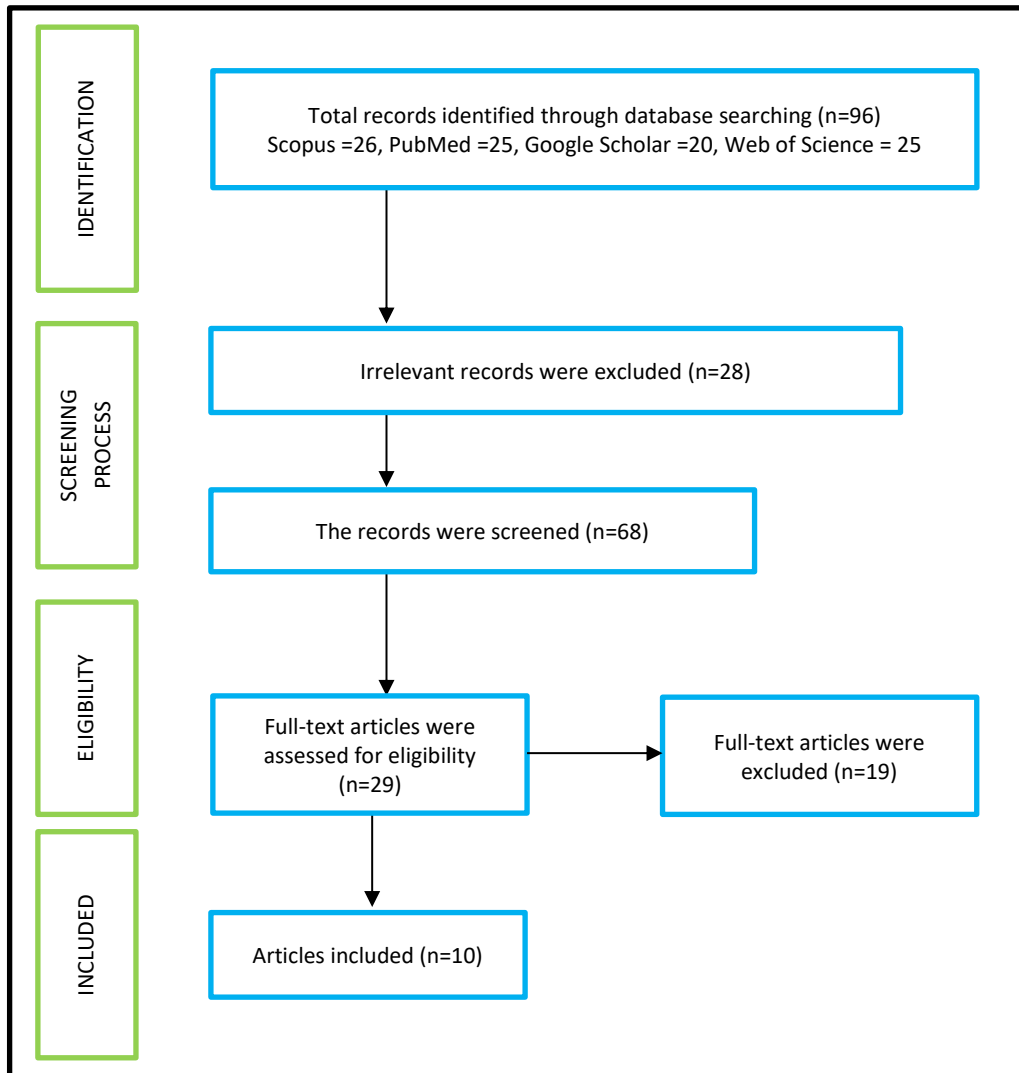


Figure 1 Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews.

3. Results and Discussion

This systematic review included ten studies from diverse geographical regions, encompassing case studies, analytical research, and policy analyses published between 2014 and 2024. These studies examine various challenges associated with the implementation of the age-friendly city concept, highlighting the complex and multifaceted barriers that hinder its successful execution. The findings are categorized on the basis of key challenges, including inconsistencies in national policies and infrastructure, financial constraints, lack of stakeholder awareness, and existing discrimination against older adults. This classification provides a structured understanding of the systemic obstacles that must be addressed to create truly inclusive and age-friendly urban environments.

3.1. Challenges in implementing and adapting the age-friendly city concept

3.1.1. Financial constraints in implementing age-friendly communities



Age-friendly community development and maintenance face obstacles because a lack of funds, particularly in small towns and rural areas. The majority of urban funds in these areas are allocated to first-class essentials, since governments prioritize healthcare, road maintenance, education, and fire safety before investing in age-friendly projects (Golant, 2014). Initiatives targeted to enhance built-space accommodations for older adults cannot be implemented successfully due to a lack of necessary funds (Fitzgerald & Caro, 2015). The main barrier to infrastructure changes is the huge financial restrictions. Due to financial limitations, the majority of small towns are unable to modify their structures and public spaces to meet WHO's definition of accessibility.

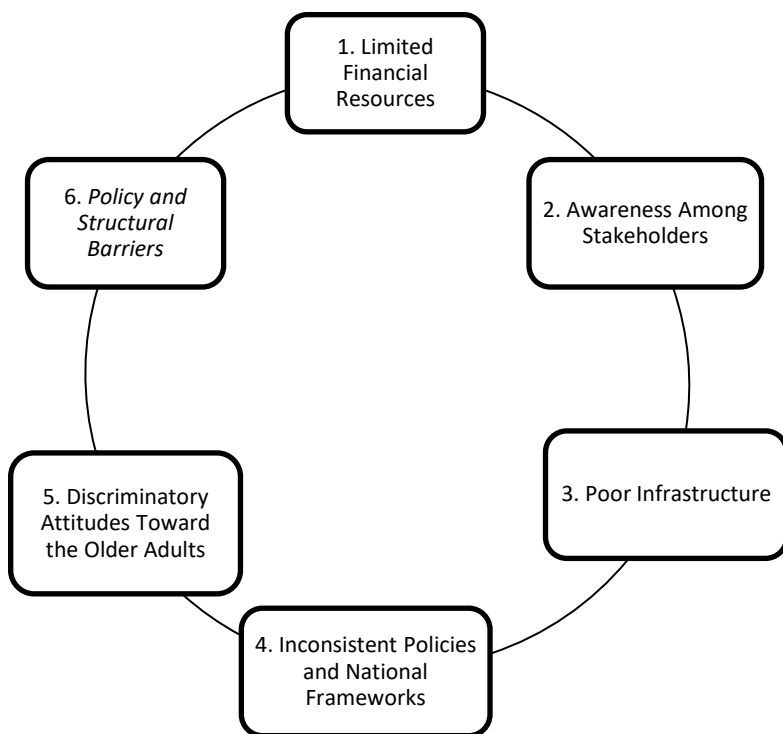


Figure 2 Challenges in implementing and adapting the age-friendly city concept.

Low-cost housing options with specialized medical programs for older adults are among the crucial supporting services that cannot be established due to lack of funds (Buffel & Phillipson, 2017). Insufficient investment causes age-friendly community efforts to develop slowly or become inadequate, making them unable to meet the requirements of elders. For this reason, adequate funding is essential. Due to intense competition among interested parties for limited resources, external funding continues to be an important challenge. Beyond the financial capability of smaller towns, governments provide grants and subsidies through competitive agreements that need matching local government funds (Lehning, Smith, & Dunkle, 2014). Smaller towns are left behind when non-governmental organizations and private sector investments focus their resources on large urban areas with significant economic potential.

When small communities look for funding to carry out their initiatives, they encounter an overwhelming amount of administrative complexity. According to Plouffe and Kalache (2010), rural local governments have major challenges in obtaining applications because of numerous and complex paperwork requirements that call for specialized knowledge beyond their expertise and limited administrative capabilities. Due to the constant need for sustainable financial support, age-friendly organizations confront significant financial obstacles that limit both their initial launch and long-term expansion. According to research by Buffel & Phillipson, (2017), rural towns should make use of creative finance mechanisms such public-private partnerships, social impact bonds, and participatory budgeting initiatives. The government needs to establish better partnerships with non-governmental organizations and private groups in order to build age-friendly communities that are sustainable and accessible in all regions.

3.1.2. Lack of awareness and training in implementing age-friendly cities

Age-friendly city initiatives are a team effort that requires careful planning and a thorough comprehension of the particular requirements of older adults. However, significant barriers exist, particularly due to a lack of awareness among local officials, policymakers, and the community regarding the importance and benefits of these programs. Insufficient information, inadequate planning, and limited training on implementation strategies further hinder progress, leaving older adults without the necessary support systems. One of the key challenges is that local authorities often prioritize visible infrastructure projects



over long-term investments in services for older adults. Many leaders fail to recognize that age-friendly initiatives can generate substantial socioeconomic benefits, including lower healthcare costs, improved social cohesion, and enhanced overall well-being. If policymakers are unaware of these potential advantages, age-friendly policies may not be seen as a priority. The importance of community involvement in the efficacy of age-friendly initiatives has been underlined by the World Health Organization (WHO). However, many communities do not fully grasp how these initiatives benefit all members of society, leading to low public participation and support. Additionally, there is a lack of awareness regarding how these programs can promote workplace diversity and enhance social inclusivity. Another major issue is the absence of specialized training for key stakeholders responsible for implementing age-friendly city planning. Mayors, city managers, and other public officials often lack the technical expertise to assess the needs of aging populations or apply universal design principles in urban development strategies. Training programs intended to improve the competency of small-town leaders are frequently disregarded, which leads to the unsuccessful adoption of age-friendly solutions, according to the International Federation on Aging (IFA). . Additionally, many older adults face logistical barriers that prevent them from actively participating in community discussions and decision-making processes. Owing to these challenges, effectively implementing age-friendly city initiatives and mobilizing community support remains difficult (Pumilio & Steinman, 2023). Some cities have attempted to address this issue by launching outreach programs and awareness campaigns. However, limited financial and human resources make it challenging to expand the reach of these initiatives, restricting their overall impact. Addressing these issues requires greater investment in public education, leadership training, and inclusive policymaking to ensure the successful adoption of age-friendly urban development strategies.

3.1.3. Infrastructure challenges in developing age-friendly cities

The built environment plays a crucial role in the development of age-friendly cities, ensuring that older adults have access to safe, comfortable, and inclusive living conditions. A key component of this is an accessible public transportation system, which remains a significant challenge, particularly for small communities and rural areas. Research indicates that both developed and developing countries struggle with infrastructure-related barriers, including transportation networks, pedestrian facilities, and healthcare accessibility (Artmann et al., 2017). For many older adults, public transport is essential for accessing healthcare, social services, and recreational activities. However, mobility limitations arise because of the poor availability, accessibility, variety, and quality of transit systems. Many public transportation services are poorly equipped, have limited coverage, or lack essential accessibility features. Efficient and well-organized transport systems enhance social participation and reduce the burden on caregivers. However, logistical and budgetary constraints in small cities make implementation difficult. For example, the lack of low-floor buses and inaccessible public transport options, such as nonwheelchair-friendly vehicles, significantly restricts mobility for older adults with disabilities. In rural and small urban areas, mobility is further hindered by unpredictable transport schedules and limited routes. Similarly, pedestrian infrastructure is essential for promoting social engagement and physical activity among older adults. However, many small towns lack well-maintained, safe, and accessible sidewalks, making it difficult for older adults to navigate their communities safely. Poorly designed walking infrastructure presents serious risks, as dimly lit pathways, steep slopes, and the absence of proper ramps can lead to accidents and injuries. The World Health Organization (WHO) has highlighted how inadequate pedestrian facilities discourage older adults from going outdoors, increasing the risks of social isolation, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases. Another critical aspect of age-friendly urban design is affordable and accessible housing solutions. While housing policies often set structural requirements for older adults, there are few affordable housing projects that cater specifically to their needs, particularly in small towns and rural areas. Essential features such as single-story homes, barrier-free access, and proximity to essential services are necessary modifications to ensure that housing meets the needs of older adults. Such adaptations would significantly improve their ability to live independently and comfortably, enabling them to access the resources and amenities they require in daily life. Addressing these infrastructure challenges requires strong policy support, investment in urban planning, and inclusive design strategies to create truly age-friendly cities that prioritize the mobility, safety, and well-being of older adults.

3.1.4. Challenges related to national laws and policies in implementing age-friendly cities

A significant challenge in the development of age-friendly cities lies in the formulation and implementation of national laws and policies. While various ministries in different countries have introduced specific policies, long-term national commitments are essential to ensure the sustainability and success of age-friendly urban development. However, political leadership plays a crucial role in these initiatives, and governance in smaller towns often struggles with policy continuity because of shifting priorities and changes in leadership. For instance, a new administration may discontinue age-friendly city projects if they are not institutionalized within national policies. Without strong governmental support, such initiatives may be perceived as nonessential, and risk may be phased out. One of the primary obstacles is budget allocation, particularly in small towns and rural areas where financial resources are limited. Local governments often face competing priorities, with infrastructure, education, and economic development taking precedence over age-friendly urban planning. For example,

addressing damaged bridges or water supply shortages may be deemed more urgent than funding accessible housing or transportation systems for older adults. As a result, age-friendly initiatives frequently receive insufficient funding or are deprioritized in municipal planning owing to the perception that elder care is a secondary concern. Another major issue is the instability of local governance in smaller towns. Frequent restructuring of municipal administrations and leadership changes have contributed to the discontinuation of age-friendly programs. Since many political leaders operate in different electoral cycles, age-friendly initiatives often lose momentum when new governments redirect resources to projects aligned with their political agenda. In some cases, elected officials may lack awareness or understanding of the significance of these programs, leading to funding reallocation to other sectors. Additionally, some countries provide insufficient legal and policy frameworks to support age-friendly urban development. Political shifts and changing national priorities add further complexity, as support for age-friendly initiatives may fluctuate depending on the administration's goals and vision (Han, Chan, Yung, Qian, & Lam, 2022). Without consistent legal and financial support, the successful implementation of age-friendly cities remains a major challenge, particularly in regions where policymakers do not prioritize aging populations in urban planning. Addressing these challenges requires stronger national policy frameworks, bipartisan support, and dedicated funding mechanisms to ensure that age-friendly initiatives remain a long-term priority regardless of political changes.

3.1.5. *Ageism and policy challenges in implementing age-friendly cities*

The biggest challenge to the effective implementation of age-friendly cities is still ageism, or discrimination based on age. In order to prevent older adults from participating in decision-making processes, society develops ageist viewpoints that characterize them as helpless, dependent, and uninterested people (Officer & de la Fuente-Núñez, 2018). Age expectations have negative impacts on development of community planning, resource management, and policy development, which lowers the efficacy of programs that encourage age friendly cities. When authorities make judgments regarding governance and urban development, older adults are underrepresented, which makes the adoption of ageist policies apparent. Developers neglect to take into consideration the unique needs of older adults in city planning since they are underrepresented in policy-making conversations (Ayalon & Tesch-Römer, 2018). The idea that persons age inactive rather than participating fully in their communities is maintained by this exclusion. By prioritizing younger demographic groups over older adults, ageist policies engage in systematic discrimination against the older adults by failing to provide the necessary modifications to public places, accessible transit, and age-friendly housing (Buffel et al., 2017).

A challenge to legislators consider encouraging age-friendly initiatives is economic assessment. Despite the significant societal worth of older adults, governments oppose supporting age-friendly projects because they uncertainty the economic advantages. Older adults can significantly grow regional economies, promote unity in society, and progress their communities with the help of inclusive policies and easily accessible infrastructure. Ageism has a major influence on how social assistance programs and healthcare initiatives are implemented. According to Khan et al., 2017, health care organizations are unable to encourage active aging and independent living since they prioritize basic treatments over illness prevention. Sustainable age-friendly development struggles by reactive rather than proactive solutions created by inadequate policies between national and local governments. Numerous types of discrimination affect older adults, preventing them from fully engaging in society when they engage socially, work, and while seeking medical treatment (Swift et al., 2017).

Participation of older adults in policy discussions and improved intergenerational communication are both necessary components of the fundamental response. According to Buffel & Phillipson (2016), the establishment of advisory committees composed of older adult contributes their valuable expertise in age-friendly urban design. By raising knowledge that neutralizes ageist myths and highlights the important role that they play in society, efforts may be made to improve the public perceptions. For urban areas to effectively meet the demands of an aging population, government decision-makers must embrace the long-term benefits of investing in the development of age-friendly infrastructure. Age-friendly cities should be successfully created by educational institutions that provide priority to ageism policy initiatives. The design of inclusive aging places will remain limited until these prejudices are effectively addressed. In order to guarantee that the aging population is acknowledged as significant contributions rather than burdens, societies advocate towards democratic policies with discriminating attitudes.

3.1.6. *Policy and structural barriers in age-friendly city development*

The age-friendly city framework aims to create urban environments that are inclusive, accessible, and supportive of older adults. As societies adapt to aging populations, this approach has gained greater attention. However, achieving truly age-friendly cities presents significant challenges. One major issue is the fragmented policy landscape and complex regulatory structures, which make it difficult to implement coordinated, multidimensional, age-friendly policies in urban areas without consistent political support (Buffel & Phillipson, 2016). In many cases, limited awareness and a lack of advocacy campaigns further prevent the active involvement of older adults in urban planning and decision-making (Remillard-Boilard et al., 2017).

The successful implementation of age-friendly city initiatives is also influenced by political, cultural, and economic factors. Developed countries often have established social security systems and financial resources that enable them to allocate funds to age-friendly projects. In contrast, developing countries frequently face budget constraints and competing policy

priorities, making it more difficult to invest in age-friendly urban development. Furthermore, policy synergy and cross-sector collaboration are essential for advancing age-friendly urban planning. In surveys conducted across Europe and North America, legal and policy barriers were cited as key challenges to implementing age-friendly initiatives. In contrast, studies in Asian countries have identified cultural expectations of family-based care as a significant barrier, limiting the autonomy of age-friendly city programs (Buffel & Phillipson, 2020). Despite these differences, universal access, long-term governmental support, and community-driven integration strategies are critical for ensuring that urban environments meet the needs of an expanding geriatric population. To overcome these challenges, stronger policy frameworks, sustainable funding mechanisms, and inclusive urban planning strategies must be established. This will ensure that age-friendly initiatives remain a long-term priority, regardless of political and economic shifts.

3.2. Solutions and adaptations

This study proposes several strategies to address the challenges associated with implementing age-friendly cities. One key solution to budgetary constraints is fostering collaboration between local businesses, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and government agencies to support age-friendly initiatives. Establishing public–private partnerships (PPPs) can provide integrated financial solutions, ensuring sustainable funding and long-term project viability. These sector-wide collaborations promote better coordination and resource allocation, facilitating the growth and expansion of age-friendly urban developments (Buffel & Phillipson, 2016). Additionally, forums and community outreach programs play crucial roles in encouraging public participation and fostering greater awareness of age-friendly initiatives. Strengthening community engagement efforts can lead to greater involvement of older adults in urban planning, ensuring that their voices and needs are effectively represented. To improve accessibility, existing infrastructure should undergo modifications to meet universal design standards, while enhancing public transportation options can further support mobility and independence for older adults. By implementing these strategic adaptations, cities can create inclusive, accessible, and age-friendly environments that enhance the quality of life of older adults.

3.3. Suggestions

More research should look at the advantages and disadvantages of the age-friendly city framework to solve some of the needs of further research to explore the strengths and limitations of the age-friendly city framework to address existing challenges effectively. The following key research questions can serve as a foundation for future studies:

1. How does the government contribute to the development and implementation of age-friendly city initiatives?
2. Which stakeholders play a crucial role in advancing age-friendly city projects, and how do they influence their success?

By investigating these aspects, future research can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of policies, stakeholder involvement, and implementation strategies, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of age-friendly urban environments.

4. Final Considerations

The AFC concept is essential for promoting sustainable urban living, especially in light of the rapidly aging global population. However, the successful implementation of age-friendly cities requires several key challenges, including insufficient funding, a lack of awareness among stakeholders, inconsistent national policies and regulations, inadequate infrastructure, and discrimination against older adults. By embracing age-friendly city development, governments, organizations, and communities can ensure that the rights of older adults are recognized, respected, and protected while simultaneously fostering healthier and more inclusive environments. It is important to raise public awareness of the significance of age-friendly cities in considering the world's aging population. Furthermore, these initiatives should not be limited to large metropolitan areas but should also be extended to rural regions and smaller communities, where aging populations often receive less attention and fewer resources. Expanding the age-friendly city framework to all urban and rural settings will help create more equitable, accessible, and supportive living environments for older adults, ensuring their well-being and active participation in society.

Ethical Considerations

Not Applicable.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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