

CARE OF OLDER ADULTS IN NIGERIA AND FINLAND: CHANGES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL WORK ☒

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Objectives



The aim of the presentation is to present some context and reflection relating to care of older adults in Nigeria and Finland its influence in social work practice.

It is intended to inspire perspectives and help develop ideas in social work.

Background

(Who am I?)

- I was a student and I am still learning

- Background in Gerontology, Bachelor of Social Service (Geronomi) - UAS
- M.Sc in Business Administration & Human Development (University)
- M. Art in Education

- Career

- Profession – Elderly Care & S. Service in Helsinki Finland (Since 2006)
- Administrator (public administration, social welfare issues)
- Consultant on SDG themes

- Perspectives

- Non-conformist (Pink, Amy-Winehouse)
- Socialist ideology

- Research Interest

- Social Policy, Ageing, Gender parity

About Nigeria & Social Work Practice

Country Profile



- >216million inhabitant (2022 NBS)
- To increase to >400M by 2050
- 36 State & Federal Capital Territory
- Multilingual, Multireligious and Multiethnic

Nature of Social Work



- Informal – family oriented, social welfare, communal
- Varies from state to state or region
- Social work as a study programme in the University
- Transition from informal to semi-structured
- Social workers, welfare officers, public administrators
- Role of Non-Government actors (NGOs)

Areas of Social Work



- Child protection
- Gender development (domestic violence, gender abuse)
- Disability
- Elderly care
- Poverty reduction

Older Adults

- Defined as people age 65 or older (National Institute of Ageing)
 - In Nigeria (60years and above) with Life expectancy 55.44years (2022)
 - National Senior Citizen Act 2018 (caters for older citizens 70yrs & above)
- 1 in 6 people in the world will be aged 60 years or over (WHO)
 - In 2050, 80% of older people will be living in low- and middle-income countries. (WHO)
- United Nation Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)
 - Age friendly environment, combatting ageism, integrated care & long term care.

Care of Older Adults


NIGERIA

- Family oriented
- Informal /semi structured
- No functional national policy on care of older person
- Proliferation of care homes / institutions

FINLAND

- Municipal
- Formal care/structured
- National policy (National program on ageing 2030)
- Older person living at home model

Changes & Challenges in Care for Older Adults



▶ Data driven rather than empathy driven (people not numbers)

▶ Impact of low population growth (taxpayers) vs high unemployment

▶ Globalization and Migration

- Pressure on caregivers or breakdown of family structure

▶ Social issues rather than health issues

- Loneliness in old age
- Abuse (discrimination)
- Mental health

▶ Impact of Technology or Cancel culture

Impact on Future of Social Work



More Complex Issues

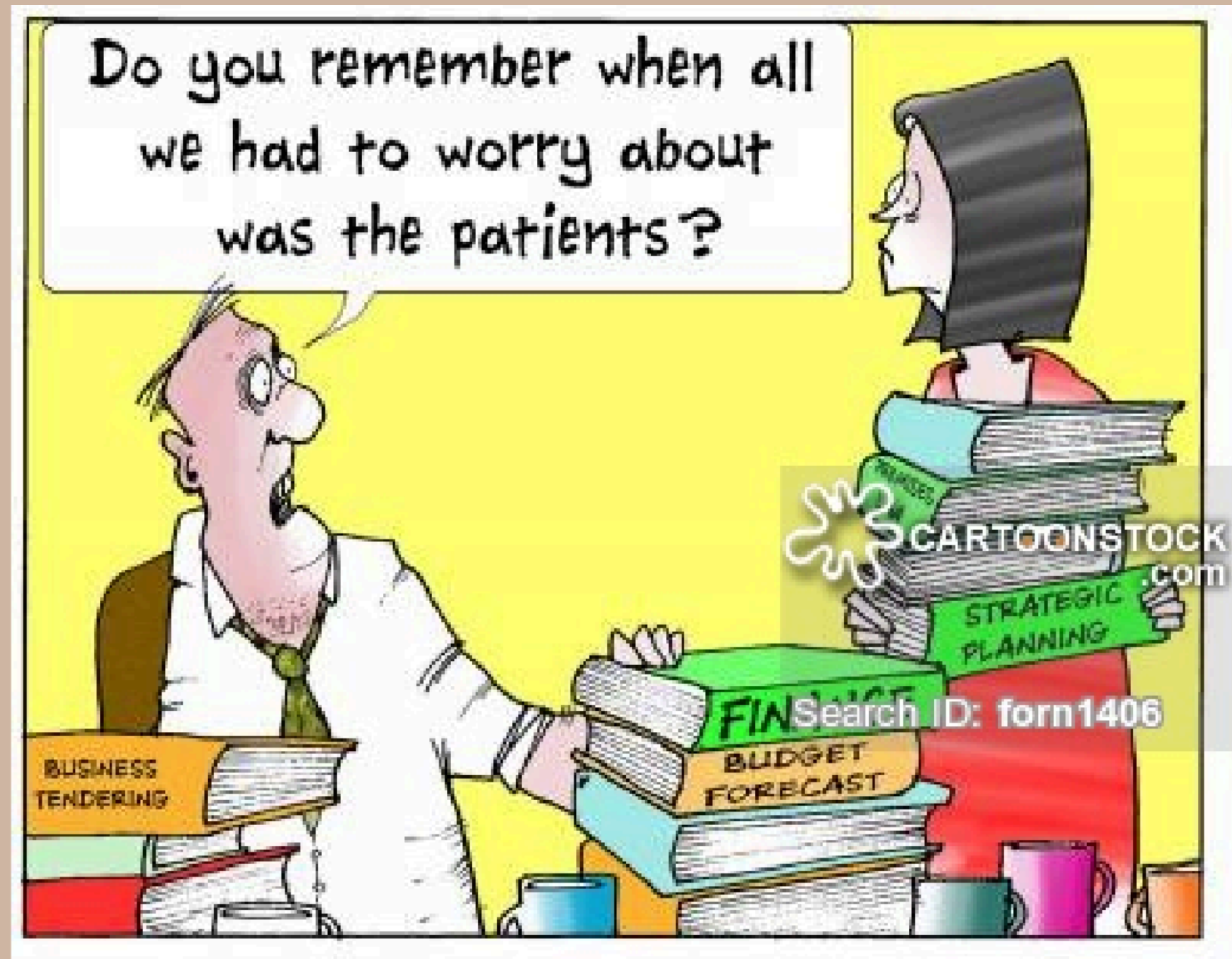
- (social, political, environmental, economic)

Fatigue and Self Preservation

Artificial Intelligence & Older Adult

- Perception, Pattern, Systemic

Reflections



Source: cartoonstock.com

Reflections



► Will care of older adults be a burden or obligation?

► My experience working with the older adults.

► Is the world being stripped off its feelings & empathetic role?



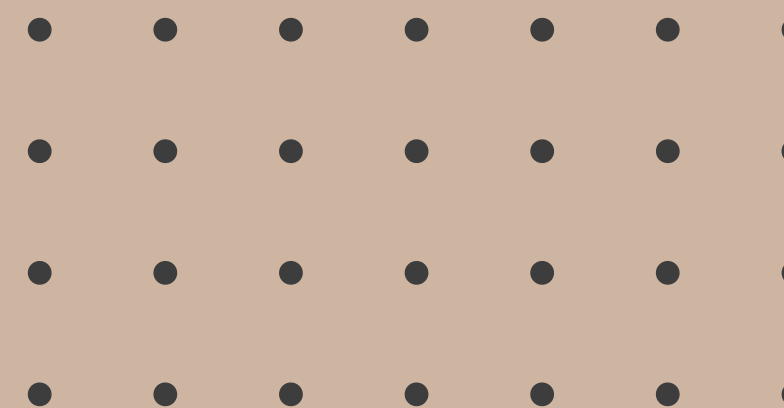
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- ▶ We all come in search of true meaning & find purpose
- ▶ We meet & make friends that transcends location, time and phase

- ▶ Change they say is the only constant thing in life
- ▶ We are all actors and the whole world is a stage”
(Shakespeare)



Memories of ISSSW



Thank You

