

CHAPTER FOUR

ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION IN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

4.1 Introduction

The active participation of older persons in family and community activities is indeed to allow them to play a major role and continue to contribute to the family and society. Their invaluable experience would benefit all generation in the family and community. In this chapter, we will begin with the living arrangement of the older persons and followed by types of activities they participated as well as their roles in family and community.

4.2 Living Arrangement

About 41 percent of respondents are living in nuclear family, 56 percent in extended family and 3 percent living alone (Table 4.1). Females tend to live in extended family than their male counterparts (60 percent versus 52 percent), this is partly due to many of them are widowed and they tend to stay with their married children.

The increasing number of older persons living alone or in nuclear family (a couple and their dependent children) is evidenced in this survey as the percentage of those in the younger age group (49 percent) is higher than the older age group (39 percent). Among the different ethnic groups, Indians report the highest percentage of living in extended family; unlike Malays, more than 50 percent are staying in nuclear family. The Indonesians have the highest percentage of living alone compared to other groups.

The mean household size is 5.8 persons, both males and females have the same household size (Table 4.2). Most households have a larger composition of adults to youth and children. On average, each house hold would have 4 adults and 1 to 2 children and youth. Indians seem to have the highest number of adult and children staying in the household as most of them are living in extended family.

Table 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Family Type and Selected Valuables

Selected Variables	Type of Family			Total	n
	Single	Nuclear	Extended		
Sex					
Male	1.1	47.4	51.6	100.0	95
Female	5.3	35.1	59.6	100.0	94
Age Group					
Below 60	5.9	43.1	51.0	100.0	102
60 and Above	0.0	39.1	60.9	100.0	87
Ethnic Group					
Malays	1.1	53.8	45.1	100.0	91
Indians	0.0	20.7	79.3	100.0	58
Indonesians	12.5	42.5	45.0	100.0	40
Total	3.2	41.3	55.6	100.0	189

n = number of cases

Table 4.2: Mean Number of Household Members by Selected Variables

Selected Variables	Adult	Youth	Children	Total	n
Sex					
Male	3.6	1.1	1.1	5.8	95
Female	3.6	0.8	1.4	5.8	94
Age Group					
Below 60	3.5	1.0	1.2	5.7	102
60 and Above	3.7	1.0	1.3	6.0	87
Ethnic Group					
Malays	3.5	0.9	1.0	5.4	91
Indians	4.2	1.1	1.7	7.0	58
Indonesians	3.1	1.0	1.1	5.2	40
Total	3.6	1.0	1.2	5.8	189

n = number of cases

4.2 Family and Leisure Activities

The respondents' participation in leisure activities would also indicate their role and status in family and society. From the various leisure activities that are being carried out by the respondents, show that the older persons are still active in their daily life. However, the favourite past time activities are mostly passive activities such as watching television/video and listening to radio. A fair percentage (more than 60 percent) of respondents engaged in social activities such as receiving visitors, visiting friends and relatives and attending religious activities. Other more active activities such as engaged in hobby, attending social/community meeting, go for outing are less likely to be carried out.

Table 4.3 shows that as the respondents getting older, they are less likely than younger respondents to engage in most of the listed activities, except listening to radio and a slightly higher percentage of them take a walk in neighbourhood and engage a hobby. This may indicate the tendency of older persons to withdraw from the society as they aged. Further research should be done to find out the reasons for their withdrawal where programme and activities can be organised to encourage their participation in community activities.

Males generally show a higher proportion of involvement in out door activities such as walking in the neighbourhood, attending religious activities, visiting relatives, visiting friends, and going to social or community meeting compared to their female counterparts (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Percentage of Respondents Participated in the following Leisure Activities by Age Group and Sex

Activity	Age Group		Sex		Total
	Below 60	60 and Above	Male	Female	
n	102	87	95	94	189
Watch Television/Video	91.2	88.5	88.4	91.5	89.9
Take a walk in neighbourhood	80.4	81.6	83.2	78.7	81.0
Listen to Radio	71.6	77.0	72.6	75.5	74.1
Received Visitors	65.7	65.5	63.2	68.1	65.6
Visit Friends	70.6	58.6	68.4	61.7	65.1
Visit Relatives	63.7	60.9	66.3	58.5	62.4
Attend Religious Activities	64.7	59.8	70.5	54.3	62.4
Go Shopping	52.9	44.8	48.4	50.0	49.2
Read Newspaper	50.0	43.7	58.9	35.1	47.1
Go to Social or Community Meeting	33.3	23.0	35.8	21.3	28.6
Engage in a Hobby	24.5	26.4	23.2	27.7	25.4
Go on an outing	25.5	20.7	23.2	23.4	23.3
Read Magazine/Book	22.5	20.7	25.3	18.1	21.7
Attend Sports Event	9.8	6.9	7.4	9.6	8.5
Go to Movie, Theatre or Concert	11.8	4.6	6.3	10.6	8.5
Participate in Sports	3.9	1.1	5.3	0.0	2.6
Other Activities	7.8	14.9	9.5	12.8	11.1

n = number of cases

Each ethnic group seems to have different leisure activities, this may be partly influenced by their background such as the education level, income, religion and culture too (Table 4.4). The Indonesians seem to be different from other ethnic group as they are more active in activities such as taking a walk in the neighbourhood, attending religious activities, visiting friends and attending and participating in sport activities. Malays also have similar inclination except they are more likely to have more passive activities, such as watching

higher interest to participate than the females (73 percent versus 52 percent). Thus, any programmes or activities should encourage both gender to participate together. Both the younger and older age group shows similar interest to participate in the listed activities. Malays are more interested in participating than the other ethnic groups.

Table 4.5: Percentage of Respondents Interested in Participating in Any of the Listed Activities by Selected Characteristics

Selected Characteristics	Percent
Total	63.5
Sex	
Male	72.6
Female	52.3
Age Group	
Below 60	64.7
60 and above	62.1
Ethnic Group	
Malays	67.0
Indians	60.3
Indonesians	60.0
Education	
No Schooling	50.0
Some Schooling	71.1
Health Status	
Good	71.3
Fair	61.0
Poor	40.0
Work Status	
Currently Not Working	57.0
Currently Working	73.3

Those who have some education seem to show significantly more interest than those who have no schooling. This may partly due to the language

problem faced by the non-educated respondents. It is therefore propose to have activities to cater for different groups of people.

The likelihood of respondents to participate in the listed activities reduces as the health condition worsened. However, about 40 percent of those reported “poor” health are still willing to participate in activities. About 73 percent of respondents who are working are interested to participate compared to only 57 percent respondents who are not working.

Some 44 percent of older persons are interested in participating in social and community functions or health talks and 22 percent interested in attending handicraft and other hobby classes. Only a small percentage of respondents are interested in other activities (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: Percentage of Respondents' Who Would Like to Participate in the Following Community Activities by Age Group and Sex.

Activity	Age Group		Sex		Total
	Below 60	60 & Above	Male	Female	
Social & Community Function	47.1	41.4	60.0	28.7	44.4
Health Talks	42.2	47.1	55.8	33.0	44.4
Handicraft and Other Hobby Classes	23.5	19.5	16.8	26.6	21.7
Education/Tuition Class	8.8	11.5	13.7	6.4	10.1
Language Classes	15.7	11.5	18.9	8.5	13.8
Technical Classes	13.7	8.0	17.9	4.3	11.1
Sports Activity	12.7	4.6	15.8	2.1	9.0
Music & Dancing Classes	6.9	5.7	6.3	6.4	6.3

Younger respondents tend to attend language and technical classes, participate in sports activities and social and community function while older respondents tend to attend health talks, and education/tuition class. Males are

more actively participated compared to females in all the listed activities except in attending handicraft and other hobby classes (Table 4.6).

The Malays reported higher percentage of interest in social and community function and health talks compared to other ethnic groups (Table 4.7). The Indians on the other hand show a much lesser interest in most of the activities except in attending music and dance classes. The ethnic differential in the participation in community activities may due to the language problems of the older persons as most of them do not speak and write in Malay or English, especially the Indian respondents.

Table 4.7: Percentage of Respondents' Who Would Like to Participate in the Following Community Activities by Ethnic Group

Activity	Ethnic Group			Total
	Malays	Indians	Indonesians	
Social & Community Function	49.5	37.9	42.5	44.4
Health Talks	48.4	37.9	45.0	44.4
Handicraft and Other Hobby Classes	20.9	22.4	22.5	21.7
Education/Tuition Class	9.9	6.9	15.0	10.1
Language Classes	12.1	12.1	20.0	13.8
Technical Classes	12.1	5.2	17.5	11.1
Sports Activity	9.9	6.9	10.0	9.0
Music & Dancing Classes	2.2	12.1	7.5	6.3

Coordinating of Community Activities

The invaluable talent and experience of the older persons can be put into use by coordinating or leading some of the community activities which allow everyone to interact and communicate and further strengthening the relationship especially among family members. For each of the activities

listed, males tend to show more interest than females, except in the provision of child care services and handicraft and hobby classes where females hold bigger interest (Table 4.8). The older respondents are more interested in organising/coordinating social and community function, health talks and education/tuition classes compared to the younger respondents who are more in favour of child care services and sport activities.

Table 4.8: Percentage of Respondents Interested in Coordinating or Leading the Following Activities by Age Group and Sex

Activity	Age Group		Sex		Total
	Below 60	60 & Above	Male	Female	
Childcare Services	19.6	13.8	8.4	25.5	16.9
Social & Community Function	2.9	10.3	9.5	3.2	6.3
Health Talks	2.0	9.2	9.5	1.1	5.3
Sports Activity	4.9	2.3	7.4	0.0	3.7
Handicraft and Other Hobby Classes	3.9	2.3	2.1	4.3	3.2
Education/Tuition Class	1.0	3.4	4.2	0.0	2.1
Language Classes	0.0	3.4	3.2	0.0	1.6
Music & Dancing Classes	1.0	2.3	2.1	1.1	1.6
Technical Classes	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1

Compared to other ethnic groups, the Malays are more interested to coordinate and leading most of the activities except child care services and handicraft and hobby classes (Table 4.9). Meanwhile, Indians seem to have most interest in providing childcare services and conducting handicraft and hobby classes. The Indonesians have the least interest in coordinating and leading any activities may be due to their background as immigrants.

Table 4.9: Percentage of Respondents Interested in Coordinating or Leading the Following Activities by Ethnic Group

Activity	Ethnic Group			Total
	Malays	Indians	Indonesians	
Childcare Services	13.2	27.6	10.0	16.9
Social & Community Function	8.8	1.7	7.5	6.3
Health Talks	7.7	0.0	7.5	5.3
Sports Activity	5.5	1.7	2.5	3.7
Handicraft and Other Hobby Classes	2.2	6.9	0.0	3.2
Education/Tuition Class	3.3	0.0	2.5	2.1
Language Classes	2.2	1.7	0.0	1.6
Music & Dancing Classes	2.2	1.7	0.0	1.6
Technical Classes	2.2	0.0	0.0	1.1

It is interesting to note that 24 percent of older persons are interested in coordinating and leading any of the activities listed with 20 percent being male and 29 percent being female (Table 4.10). This indicates that females are willing to continue to play their role in providing childcare services as shown earlier. Some 26 percent of those in their fifties were willing to coordinate such activities compared with 23 percent for those who are older. Some 35 percent of Indians are willing to coordinate such activities, followed by the Malays, 22 percent and Indonesians, 15 percent.

Respondents with some schooling have slightly higher percentage of willing to coordinate and lead in any of the activities listed compared to those who have no schooling. Better health condition does provide confidence for the respondents to volunteer their times in coordinating and leading the activities. Working respondents are less likely to have time to coordinate/lead any of the activities.

Table 4.10: Percentage Respondents Interested in Coordinating or Leading Any Activities by Selected Variables

Selected Variables	Percent
Total	24.3
Sex	
Male	20.0
Female	28.7
Age Group	
Below 60	25.5
60 and above	23.0
Ethnic Group	
Malays	22.0
Indians	34.5
Indonesians	15.0
Education	
No Schooling	22.1
Some Schooling	25.6
Health Status	
Good	27.6
Fair	23.2
Poor	15.0
Work Status	
Currently Not Working	26.3
Currently Working	21.3

4.5 Household Decision Making

It is found that the majority of older persons still have a say in making decisions on household spending, buying properties and household durables. However, they have limited influence on grandchildren's education.

Overall, males have more influence compared to their female counterparts. They have significantly higher influence compared to female in the decision on buying properties. The younger age group seems to have better influence than the older age group (Table 4.11). This indicates that older

persons tend to relinquish their say in major decisions at advanced ages. Overall, Malay and Indonesian respondents have much bigger influence compared to the Indians (Table 4.12).

Table 4.11: Percentage of Respondents Who Influence the Following Decisions by Sex and by Age Group

Decision	Sex		Age Group		Total
	Male	Female	Below 60	60 & Above	
Household Spending	66.3	59.6	67.6	57.5	63.0
Buying Properties	64.2	36.2	57.8	41.4	50.3
Buying Household Durables	65.3	52.1	62.7	54.0	58.7
Grandchildren's Education	27.4	26.6	25.5	28.7	27.0
n	95	94	102	87	189

n = number of cases

Table 4.12: Percentage of Respondents Who Influence the Following Decisions by Ethnic Group

	Malays	Indians	Indonesians	Total
Household Spending	62.6	62.1	65.0	63.0
Buying Properties	53.8	46.6	47.5	50.3
Buying Household Durables	57.1	58.6	62.5	58.7
Grandchildren's Education	26.4	31.0	22.5	27.0
n	91	58	40	189

n = number of cases

Currently married respondents are in better position in influencing decision in household matters (Table 4.13). In general, respondents with some education have more say than those who have no schooling. This shows that education plays a part in determining the status and role of older persons in the family as they are able to give more sound advices.

Table 4.13: Percentage of Respondents Who Influence the Following Decisions by Marital Status and Educational Level

Decision	Marital Status		Educational level		Total
	Currently Not Married	Currently Married	No Schooling	Some Schooling	
Household Spending	50.0	68.7	54.4	67.8	63.0
Buying Properties	37.9	55.7	35.3	58.7	50.3
Buying Household Durables	43.1	65.6	47.1	65.3	58.7
Grandchildren's Education	24.1	28.2	17.6	32.2	27.0
n	58	131	68	121	189

n = number of cases

Currently working respondents have more says in all the listed household decision making compared to those who are not working. This again support our earlier findings that those who are working maintained a higher status (in term of decision making) in the family and also society at large. Table 4.14 shows that those with some chronic diseases seem to have lesser says in the family. However, the difference is not very apparent compared to work status.

Table 4.14: Percentage of Respondents Who Influence the Following Decisions by Work and Health Status

	Work Status		Health Status		Total
	Currently Not Working	Currently Working	No Diseases	Have Diseases	
Household Spending	50.9	81.3	68.3	53.6	63.0
Buying Properties	36.8	70.7	54.2	43.5	50.3
Buying Household Durables	45.6	78.7	65.8	46.4	58.7
Grandchildren's Education	25.4	29.3	26.7	27.5	27.0
N	114	75	120	69	189

n = number of cases

4.6 Multivariate Analysis

The influence of the respondents on the household various household decisions will be used in a multivariate framework to estimate their independent effect (with control for other variables) on their role and status in the family. Logistic regression model is used to estimate the effects. Four multivariate models, using different decision making variables and contribution to household maintenance would be used. The dependent variable is defined as follows:-

SPEND is 1 if respondent has influence on household spending decision, 0 otherwise.

PROPERTY is 1 if respondent has influence on decision in purchase of property, 0 otherwise.

DURABLE is 1 if respondent has influence on decision in purchase of durable goods, 0 otherwise.

CONTRIB is 1 if respondent has contribute to household maintenance, 0 otherwise. This variable will also be used as explanatory variables for Model 1 to 3.

The explanatory variables in the estimated models are defined as follows:

AGE representing age group of respondent, AGE = 1 if age is 60 and above, 0 otherwise;

SEX representing gender of respondent, SEX = 1 if male, 0 otherwise;

MALAY representing ethnic group of respondent, MALAY = 1 for Malay, 0 otherwise;

MSTAT representing marital status, MSTAT = 1 for currently married, 0 for otherwise;

EDU representing education level of respondents, EDU = 1 if respondent has some schooling, 0 otherwise;

Model 1 .

Model 1 uses decision making on household spending together with other explanatory variables such as gender, age group, ethnic, marital status, and contribution to household expenses. The result of the logistic regression equation is as follows:-

$$P(\text{SPEND}=1) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-Z}}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} Z = & -0.2487 - 0.4499\text{SEX} - 0.0348\text{AGE} + 1.5198\text{CONTRIB}^* \\ & (0.3952) \quad (0.3840) \quad (0.3410) \quad (0.3840) \\ & - 0.1408\text{MALAY} + 0.6882\text{MSTAT}^{**} \\ & (0.3701) \quad (0.3846) \end{aligned}$$

* significant at 5-percent level.

** significant at 10 percent level.

The model Chi Square statistic is 25.894 which is significant at 1 percent level, implying that the coefficients for all the terms in the model are significantly different from zero. The χ^2 Goodness of Fit is 8.5083, which is not significant at 1 percent level, which indicates that the model fits the data well. Contribution to household maintenance is significant at 5 percent level and marital status is significant at 10 percent level. The signs of all coefficients of the variables are consistent with expectation. The positive coefficients of a variable indicates higher probability of respondents have influence on household spending. For example, contribution to household maintenance has a positive coefficient, indicating those who contribute to the maintenance of household have more say in the household spending.

Model 1 is a good model to explain the influence of respondents on decision making on household spending. For illustration, a respondent who contribute to the family household expenditure and currently married has a probability of 94 percent that he/she would influence the household spending. The percentage reduced to 77 percent if he/she is not contributing to household expenditure. Table 4.15 shows the estimated probability of influence of older persons on household spending by some combinations of explanatory variables, controlling for other variables in the model.

The model suggests that respondents who contribute to the household maintenance and also those who are currently married play an important role in household spending decision.

Table 4.15: Estimated Probability of Respondents' Influence on Household Spending Decision

CONTRIB	Explanatory Variables	Estimated Probability
	MSTAT	
Yes	Currently Not Married	0.8836
Yes	Currently Married	0.9379
No	Currently Not Married	0.6242
No	Currently Married	0.7676

Model 2

Model 2 uses decision making on purchase of property together with other explanatory variables such as gender, age group, ethnic, marital status, and contribution to household expenses. The result of the logistic regression equation is as follows:-

$$P(\text{PROPERTY}=1) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-Z}}$$

where

$$Z = -0.9399 + 1.0053\text{SEX}^* - 0.7015\text{AGE}^* + 1.2906\text{CONTRIB}^* \\ (0.3864) \quad (0.3778) \quad (0.3502) \quad (0.3396) \\ + 0.4436\text{MALAY} - 0.0439\text{MSTAT} \\ (0.3339) \quad (0.3930)$$

* significant at 5 percent level.

The model Chi Square is 40.382 is significant at 1 percent level, implying that the coefficients for all the terms in the model are significantly different from zero. The χ^2 Goodness of Fit is 5.2462, which is not significant at 1 percent level, which indicates that the model fits the data well. Contribution to household maintenance, age and sex are significant at 5 percent level. The signs of all coefficients of the variables are consistent with expectation. The positive coefficient of a variable indicates higher probability of respondents have influence on purchase of property. For example, contribution to household maintenance has a positive coefficient, indicating those who contribute to the maintenance of household have more says in the purchase of property.

Model 2 is a good model to explain the influence of respondents on purchase of property. For illustrations, a male respondent who contribute to the family household expenditure and aged below 60, has a probability of 80 percent of influence. The percentage reduced to 59 percent if the respondent is a female. Table 4.16 shows the estimated probability of influence of older persons on purchase of property by some combinations of explanatory variables, controlling for other variables in the model.

Model 2 shows that younger male respondents who contribute to the household maintenance have more influence on purchase of property while older female respondents who do not give contribution to the household maintenance have the least influence.

Table 4.16: Estimated Probability of Respondents' Influence on Purchase of Property

CONTRIB	Explanatory Variables		Estimated Probability
	AGE	SEX	
Yes	Below 60 (0)	Male	0.7951
Yes	Below 60 (0)	Female	0.5867
Yes	60 and above	Male	0.6580
Yes	60 and above	Female	0.4132
No	Below 60	Male	0.5163
No	Below 60	Female	0.2809
No	60 and above	Male	0.3461
No	60 and above	Female	0.1622

Model 3

Model 3 uses decision making on purchase of durable goods together with other explanatory variables such as gender, age group, ethnic, marital status, and contribution to household maintenance. The result of the logistic regression equation is as follows:-

$$P(\text{DURABLE}=1) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-Z}}$$

where

$$Z = -0.5374 - 1.254\text{SEX} - 0.0107\text{AGE} + 1.3003\text{CONTRIB}^* \\ (0.3707) \quad (0.3684) \quad (0.3350) \quad (0.3506) \\ - 0.2308\text{MALAY} + 0.7529\text{MSTAT}^* \\ (0.3223) \quad (0.3737)$$

* significant at 5 percent level.

The model Chi Square is 24.817 is significant at 1 percent level, implying that the coefficients for all the terms in the model are significantly different from zero. The χ^2 Goodness of Fit is 2.3864, which is not significant at 1 percent level, which indicates that the model fits the data well. Contribution to household maintenance and marital status are significant at 5 percent level. The signs of all coefficients of the variables are consistent with expectation. The positive coefficient of a variable indicates higher probability of respondents have influence on purchase of durable goods. For example, contribution to household maintenance has a positive coefficient, indicating those who contribute to the maintenance of household have more says in the purchase of durable goods.

Model 3 is a good model to explain the influence of respondents on purchase of durable goods. For illustrations, a respondent who contribute to the household expenditure and is currently married, has a probability of 82 percent of influence. The probability reduced to 68 percent if he/she is not currently married. Table 4.17 shows the estimated probability of influence of older persons on purchase of durable goods by some combinations of explanatory variables, controlling for other variables in the model.

Again, Model 3 suggests that contribution to household expenditure is important for respondents to be influential in the decision making. Those who are currently married also has more say in the family especially on the purchase of durable goods.

Table 4.17: Estimated Probability of Respondents' Influence on Purchase of Durable Goods

CONTRIB	Explanatory Variables MSTAT	Estimated Probability
Yes	Currently Not Married	0.6826
Yes	Currently Married	0.8204
No	Currently Not Married	0.3696
No	Currently Married	0.5545

Model 4

Model 4 uses contribution of respondents to household maintenance together with other explanatory variables such as gender, age group, ethnic, education and work status. The result of the logistic regression equation is as follows:-

$$P(\text{CONTRIB}=1) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-Z}}$$

where

$$Z = -2.1392 + 0.7636\text{SEX}^{**} - 0.8156\text{AGE}^{**} + 3.2627\text{WLW}^{*} \\ (0.4931) \quad (0.4401) \quad (0.4344) \quad (0.4557) \\ + 0.5230\text{MALAY} + 0.7146\text{EDU} \\ (0.4261) \quad (0.4450)$$

* significant at 5 percent level.

** significant at 10 percent level

The model Chi Square is 107.6 is significant at 1 percent level, implying that the coefficients for all the terms in the model are significantly different from zero. The χ^2 Goodness of Fit is 10.4152 which is not significant at 1 percent level, which indicates that the model fits the data well. Work status is significant at 5 percent level while age and sex is significant at 10. percent. level. The signs of all coefficients of the variables are consistent with

expectation. The positive coefficient of a variable indicates higher probability of respondents having contributed to household maintenance. For example, work status has a positive coefficient, indicating those who work has contributed to the household maintenance.

Model 4 is a good model to explain the type of criteria of respondents that contribute to the household maintenance. For illustrations, a younger working male's respondent, has a probability of 87 percent that he contribute s to household maintenance. The probability reduced to 75 percent if the respondent is a female. Table 4.18 shows the estimated probability of contribution to household maintenance of older persons by some combinations of explanatory variables, controlling for other variables in the model.

Model 4 suggests that contribution to household expenditure is highly dependent on the fact that the respondents are working. It is also more likely for males and those in younger age group to contribute to household maintenance.

Table 4.18: Estimated Probability of Contribution by Respondents

WORK	Explanatory Variables		Estimated Probability
	AGE	SEX	
Yes	Below 60 (0)	Male	0.8684
Yes	Below 60 (0)	Female	0.7542
Yes	60 and above	Male	0.9612
Yes	60 and above	Female	0.5764
No	Below 60	Male	0.1005
No	Below 60	Female	0.0495
No	60 and above	Male	0.2017
No	60 and above	Female	0.1053

Overall, it is clear that economy wellbeing of the respondents still play a major role in determining the status of the older persons in regards to decision making in the family except for grandchildren education. Those who are married also tend to have more says in household spending and purchase of household durable goods. Gender differences are prevalent when it comes to decision on purchase of property. Males, younger respondents and more importantly those who are currently working is more likely to contribute to household maintenance.

4.7 Conclusion

It has been found that majority of respondents still live in extended family where the traditional support system remained but it is slowly being replaced by nuclear family.

Generally, the older persons are still actively participating in leisure activities but mostly confined to their home only. Thus, there is a need to have more activities in the community to provide opportunity for them to socialise and be a part of the community. This will improve their self-esteem and their status in the family. The interests of the respondents themselves in participating in social and community activities show a demand for such activities being made available. Some even willing to lead or coordinate the community activities listed.

Economic factors play a significant role in determining whether the respondents have any say in the decision making process in the family.

However, education level plays a important role in the decision making on grandchildren's education.