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<div align="center">Ageism</div>

The life of human beings is almost predictable. In the society, there is that age where one is considered young or old. Considerably, in the community, people appear to have features they use in defining a person as aged or young. Age should not be a concern for people in the community because it is usual for a normal person to go through developmental stages. When a person goes through these stages, some of the body characteristics change. For instance, there is a difference between the skin of a young person and that of an aged person. Essentially, in the debate about ageism, the focus is not on ageing but the discrimination that is associated with people in such a developmental stage. When someone's age increases, others try to treat him or her differently. The issue of ageing is not bad but what makes people have fear is the behavior that the community shows for old people.

The community thinks that old people are not useful and that they are weak. For this reason, people who are old develop fear because of the bad things that the society relates to this type of age. The society has a bad attitude towards old age, and this has made this stage in the life of a person to be feared by many. People engage in many activities that will make them look young even if they are approaching old age. Instead of people enjoying their old age, many are ashamed and try to use things such as lotions that prevent ageing of the skin. When people attain old age, they should be happy because at this stage they get time to rest. In the society, people have made old age to be fearful. The treatment that people direct to the aged is not the same to

that given to young persons. For the old, people feel that they are outdated or boring and in most functions, they are ignored (Barrett 102). Therefore, the negative perception that is related to old people is because of the context of the society.

The society has placed new definition for old age. The society has created ways of defining the old people. Nowadays, people do not define age from the basis of years but using characteristics of the body. For instance, Applewhite indicates that people tend to describe old people using features such as wrinkles or aching knees (n.p). The situation here is that the society focuses on the negative factors when describing people who are of advanced age. One of the things to note is that everyone has wrinkles when they get old. The meaning is that the society by using wrinkles as the method of describing old age it brings fear among people who are aged. Therefore, in case one gets wrinkles before the old age such a person will start using products that help in the removal of wrinkles. The indication, in this case, is that the presence of wrinkles on the face of a person that is ageing which is bad. Wrinkling is a skin process that is associated with other body activities. However, since it is common among the ageing population, then the society has decided to make it a characterization of old age. Elsewhere, experiences such as pain in the knees are also connected to the issue of old age. However, in her presentation, Applewhite reveals that there are cases where one will feel pain in one knee in the other and not the other (n.p). Applewhite wonders that if it were that the sickness of the knees is because of oldness, then the pain would be in the two knees (n.p). In this example, it is difficult to understand because the pain of some knees could be on one leg. The confusing part is if one knee gets old than the other. From this situation, one realizes that the medical condition that is associated with old age is not true. The confusion of that exits in this situation is that the society decides to define age from the perspective of failing health.

In the present society, aging is a general term that addresses certain physical features. The society tends to think that every person that stays in care homes is old. Applewhite reveals that in some nursing homes there could be individuals who are yet to reach the old age limit (n.p). From this situation, one notices that the community appears to have formed a particular perception about certain symbols in the society. Therefore, the society seems to suggest the facilities such as care homes are related to people whose age is advanced. The attitude that the society creates makes the issue of ageing not to be but a condition. The society focuses only on some of the common situations which are common among the aged and uses them as the point of definition. One of the issues that the society fails to consider is that some of the medical conditions that the community attaches to old people can actually also attack the youth. For instance, some young people have issues with joints, but they are young, but that does not make them to be grouped among the old population too.

Ageism depends on the gender of a person. For one to realize that ageism is an aspect that is created by the community, he or she should study issues of old people based on their gender. The society gives a lot of respect for men who are aged because they are believed to hold wisdom. However, on the part of the women, the community judges their physical features such as wrinkled faces or change in body color. For instance, Applewhite reports that most products that fight ageing such as body lotions target the female population (n.p). For most companies, women are the best customers that are concerned with issues such as skin color or texture. Ageing is an issue that is universal, and one's age should guide it. However, because of the tendencies of the community, ageing is more related to women than the male. If ageing is a universal factor, then it should create the same feeling among people. As a result of different

attitudes in the society, this makes the issue of ageing to become a concern for women rather than the entire human population.

The society concentrates on creating situations that distance the old from normal issues in the community. Although most people consider respect as one way of treating the old people, however, some people use this as a way of ensuring that the old are not part of the day to day issues of the society. For instance, there is a way that people will react to an old person in a social environment. Barrett narrates how in some social environment she found herself isolated from others (105). It was not a deliberate act, but it is because the society has trained people to treat the old with some form of distinctiveness. Therefore, the society instead embracing the old, it ends up widening the gap between the old and other generations in the society. The resulting situation is that people in the society end up fearing old age because of the separation that they are likely to experience when they get old. One notices that for the aged, the concern is not the age but the treatment that the society will give to them. For instance, there is a way that the society will treat an aged woman or a man in a social setting.

The society has moved away from aging and has created ageism. It is important to realize the difference between ageing and ageism. For ageing, it is a biological experience that human beings cannot avoid. For ageism, the society creates a particular attitude that is directed to the old. Applewhite says that the problem is not aging, but ageism since people have developed particular definitions to people of advanced ages (n.p). People in the society have created situations that frighten others about aging. Some people in the society think that old age is a disease. Many diseases are considered to be old aged. When someone has wrinkles or pain in the knees, the society believes that they are aging. For this experience, people become afraid of being old since they fear sickness. Also, people are fearful because of the separation that the

society gives them. People who are old are considered weak. They are not allowed to participate in some activities and because of this people remain alone. They cannot join people in doing other things, and this makes people look for ways of remaining young. For example, women use beauty products so that they avoid being aged. It is not easy for people to avoid being old but because the society has a negative attitude to ageing, most people fear to become old. The discussion finds that the fear is not about ageing but the bad treatment that the society gives to the old.

Works Cited

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