

It is expected in the near future that there will be a higher proportion of old people compared to younger population in some countries. Is it a positive or negative development? Give your opinion and examples.

While a shift in the distribution of the world's population, known as population aging, is happening, there is a clear disparity between two groups to whether view this as a positive trend.

The instinct for self-preservation is the strongest we possess. Imagine a world without death. It is only the most appealing dream for men, eternity. A life you never feel "it is time to go", nor do you fear to lose your loved ones. However, as mesmerizing as the scene may appear, it will wither momentarily since this may come at a price for both individuals and society. At the individual level, a longer life is often tantamount to biological changes among which various disorders such as hyper-pressure, cardiovascular disease and senile dementia. As the sand goes in the glass, one's body and mind start to lose their power, functioning far worse than they used to. For society, it has been always a taxing task for governments to protect the elderly. Vulnerable to various diseases, unable to work and meet their expenses and even incapable of running their own lives, senior citizens are considered by many to be a massive burden on governments' shoulder.

However, there are benefits brought about by the elder generations which a community would enjoy. From the wisdom they can bring to the expertise they can provide, albeit perhaps too old to change their own lives, older people are now to make an enormous contribution to the other generations and therefore their society. Human history is replete with key scientific and artistic figures without whom no one knows what the world would have come to by now. If only our global society could have enjoyed their existence more. Akira Kurosawa, as an outstanding example, managed to create the majority of his masterpieces in his 70s and 80s. Moreover, experiencing the late decades of life should not necessarily mean the end of the world. It is only the time to rejoice at the knowledge, fortune and respect one has gained so far in one's life. Beyond its biological problems, aging is associated with more time to spend with whom you love, visit where you have always dreamed to be toin, and pursue activities which you never have had the time for.

To conclude, aging may, on the surface, seem to cause disadvantages to individuals and society, but to me, the silver lining is far more brilliant.