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Photography, storytelling, writing and Research

Kibera Day Care Center for The Elderly

Aging, Dignity, Identity, Community

Ethnographic research Manuscript on Aging at the Kibera Day Care Center for the Elderly

By Anwar Sadat Swaka

In many ways, this body of work challenges the reductive narratives that often surround both Kibera and its older residents—narratives that frame informal settlements solely as sites of youth energy or socio-economic struggle, overlooking the **lived realities, wisdom, and agency of the elder** persons who have shaped our communities for decades.

Through the generosity of the Kibera Day Care Center for the Elderly, this work investigates how **elder care models** thrive in resource-scarce environments, how older persons negotiate their identities in public and private spaces, and how the visual portrayal of aging influences societal perceptions and policy conversations. But perhaps most importantly, through this work, I have come to understand that documenting their lives is not just about capturing what is visible. It is about listening deeply, creating trust, and allowing their wisdom, humor, and quiet strength to shape the narrative. Their lives are not defined by poverty or neglect, but by community, grace, and an enduring spirit that refuses to be forgotten.

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Research

I. Title Page

- Title: *#OlderNotOver: Aging with Dignity at the Kibera Day Care Center for the Elderly*
- Author: Anwar Sadat Swaka
- Affiliation: [@sadatphotostories](#) | [@KiberaDayCareCenterfortheElderly](#) | HelpAge International
- Date: 19 May 2023

II. Abstract

- Summary of:
 - Purpose
 - Methodology
 - Key findings
 - Significance and implications

III. Introduction

- Contextual framing: Aging, urban poverty, and invisibility in Kibera
- Introduction to the Kibera Day Care Center for the Elderly
- Key research questions
- Storytelling and visual narrative as research method
- Importance of #OlderNotOver as a thematic and activist framework

IV. Literature Review

1. Global Discourse on Aging in Informal Urban Settings
2. Community-Based Elder Care Models in Africa
3. Representation of the Elderly in Photography and Media
4. Gaps in Narratives About Older Persons in Slum Documentation

V. Methodology

- Research Design: Visual ethnography, oral histories, and observational photography

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- Data Collection:
 - Interviews with elders and stakeholders
 - Participant observations and immersive visits
 - Co-created storytelling
- Ethical Considerations:
 - Consent, dignity, narrative ownership, and photo permissions

VI. Findings & Discussion

1. **Aging as Living Memory**
 - Elders as oral historians and cultural custodians
 - Teaching, mentoring, and memory preservation
2. **#OlderNotOver - Reclaiming Visibility**
 - Challenging ageism through visibility and storytelling
3. **The Day Care Center as Sacred Space**
 - Physical space, rituals, shared meals, and music
 - The role of daily structure in elder dignity
4. **Structural Challenges & Joyful Resistance**
 - Health, food, funding gaps, lack of urban policy support
 - Acts of joy, collective resilience, grassroots solidarity
5. **Visual Narratives**
 - Integrated photo essays and captions
 - Thematic visuals: hands, faces, group scenes, rituals

VII. Case Profiles

- **Community, Culture**
- **Care and Support**
- **Funding**

VIII. Conclusion

- Summary of findings
- Broader implications for community-led elder care

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- Reflections on aging, visibility, and urban dignity
- Future directions for research and advocacy

IX. References

Properly cited scholarly, institutional, and multimedia sources

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