



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



DIVISION OF AGEING

Under the Auspices of Senator The Honourable Donna Cox

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY (WEAAD) ONLINE Webinar Series: 15, 22, 23 & 30 July 2021

@MSDFSTT FOLLOW US ON
www.social.gov.tt    

Socioeconomic Determinants of Ageing in Trinidad and Tobago

Don Bethelmie

Dr. Althea La Foucade



What is Healthy Ageing?

1

To develop and maintain
Functional Ability (FA) in
older age (WHO)

2

Functional Ability is about
having capabilities to:

Meet Basic Needs
Make Decisions
Contribute to Society

3

Not necessarily the Absence
of Diseases

What Determines Functional Abilities?

Intrinsic

Physical and
mental
capacities of
person

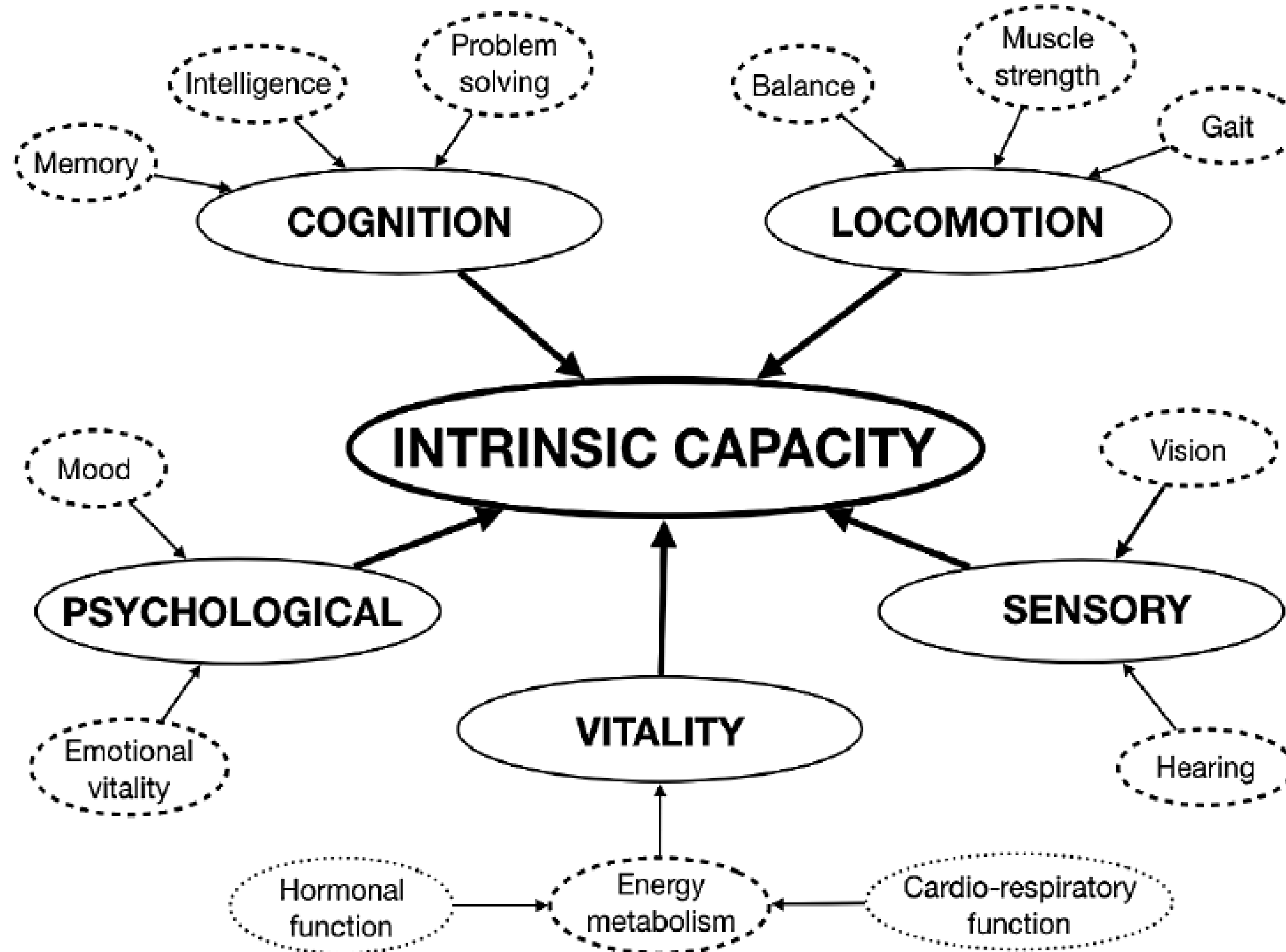
Environment

Home,
Community,
Relationships,
Health Policies

Functional
Ability is about
Maintaining
Independence

Desire High
levels of
Functional Ability
for Health Ageing

Domains of Intrinsic Capacity Construct





Why Healthy Ageing is Important?

01

Reduce Cost of Ageing for Family and Society (Gramenos, 2005)

02

Healthy Ageing can Mitigate the Impact of Population Ageing (Oxley, 2009)

Socioeconomic Characteristics of 60+

Gender

Mostly Female (56%) with Male (44%)

Education

Most have Primary Education (67%)

Ethnicity

43% African and 36% East Indian descent

Marital Status

At least 42% live alone and 50% live in common-law relationships

Income Category

Low Income (4.2%)
Middle Income (54%)
High Income (42%)



Functional Disability by Socioeconomic Characteristics

Table 1: Socioeconomic characteristics of persons with disability that prevent them with performing an activity by age group (%)

	Age Group			
	18-49	50-59	60+	Total
Gender				
Male	56.8	49.2	39.1	46.2
Female	43.2	50.8	60.9	53.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Education				
None	22.8	6.1	8.7	12.7
Primary	34.8	68.0	75.1	61.5
Secondary/Univeristy	42.4	26.0	16.2	25.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ethnicity				
African	35.9	30.6	42.7	38.7
Indian	42.9	51.9	36.4	40.8
Mixed	21.2	17.5	20.9	20.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Marital Status				
Never married/never had a patner	62.6	22.5	12.2	29.5
Maried or Had Partner but now living alone	12.1	25.8	52.1	35.6
Married living with spouse/Livng Common law	25.3	51.6	35.7	34.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Income Category				
Low	27.1	6.0	12.1	15.9
Middle	57.9	64.5	56.5	58.2
High	15.0	29.5	31.3	26.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sensory Domain of Intrinsic Capacity (Vision/Hearing)

Education

70% Primary Education
15% Secondary/Tertiary

Gender

60% Female
40% Male

Income

Most in middle income

Marital Status

Mostly married/common law
55% Vision impaired
60% Hearing impaired



Locomotive Domain of Intrinsic Capacity

Education

75% Primary Education
15% Secondary/Tertiary

Gender

66% Female
34% Male

Income

57% Middle income
32% Higher Income

Marital Status

53% Live Alone
37% Married/Common Law





Cognitive Domain of Intrinsic Capacity (Dementia)

23% of 70+
diagnosed with
dementia

54% in the 90+
diagnosed with
dementia

41% of 85-89 age
group diagnosed
with dementia

23% males and
25% females
(Davis et. al.,
2018)



Cognitive Domain of Intrinsic Capacity (Dementia)

48% of those with
no formal
education
diagnosed with
dementia

12% of those with
secondary
education
diagnosed with
dementia

26% of primary
educated
diagnosed with
dementia

9% of tertiary
educated
diagnosed with
dementia

Table 2: Multivariate analysis of Socioeconomic Characteristics on Disabilities (Logistic model)

	Disability			Multiple Disabilities		
	Coefficient	95% CI	p-value	Coefficient	95% CI	p-value
Gender						
Male	1.00			1.00		
Female	0.94	[0.77, 1.14]	0.538	1.27	[0.88, 1.85]	0.202
Age Group						
60-64	1.00			1.00		
65-69	0.87	[0.66, 1.14]	0.306	0.85	[0.49, 1.48]	0.567
70-74	1.38	[1.04, 1.81]	0.023	1.33	[0.78, 2.28]	0.292
75-79	1.43	[1.05, 1.93]	0.022	1.60	[0.91, 2.81]	0.101
80-84	2.19	[1.57, 3.05]	0.000	1.93	[1.05, 3.54]	0.034
85-89	3.08	[2.06, 4.60]	0.000	3.14	[1.64, 6.00]	0.001
90+	3.89	[2.29, 6.60]	0.000	4.03	[1.90, 8.56]	0.000
Education						
Secondary/Univeristy	1.00			1.00		
None	1.49	[1.00, 2.20]	0.050	2.53	[1.30, 4.94]	0.006
Primary	1.59	[1.24, 2.05]	0.000	1.64	[0.98, 2.72]	0.057
Marital Status						
Married living with spouse/Livng Common law	1.00			1.00		
Never married/never had a partner	2.29	[1.67, 3.15]	0.000	1.28	[0.65, 2.50]	0.476
Maried or Had Partner but now living alone	1.53	[1.24, 1.88]	0.000	1.70	[1.15, 2.51]	0.008
Income Category						
High	1.00			1.00		
Low	5.46	[3.73, 8.01]	0.000	4.28	[2.43, 7.54]	0.000
Middle	1.35	[1.10, 1.64]	0.003	1.33	[0.91, 1.93]	0.144

What do We Know? Summary Results



GENDER



EDUCATION



ETHNICITY



MARTIAL STATUS



INCOME



Thank You!