

**HOW MEMORY LOSS IN THE AGING POPULATION IMPACTS SOCIETY:  
CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS****Rohen Maniandan****ABSTRACT**

As the global population continues to age, societies are increasingly grappling with the widespread effects of memory-related conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease. These neurological disorders, which impair memory, cognition, and communication, pose not only medical challenges but also profound cultural, social, and political consequences. This article explores how memory loss among the elderly disrupts the transmission of cultural heritage, strains intergenerational family dynamics, and undermines active democratic participation. Cultural traditions, oral histories, and endangered languages face extinction when elder custodians of knowledge are affected. At the same time, caregiving responsibilities place emotional and financial burdens on families and communities, often leading to burnout and social isolation. Politically, cognitive decline weakens informed decision-making, making aging individuals more vulnerable to misinformation and manipulation. Additionally, institutional memory is threatened as experienced policymakers and leaders suffer cognitive decline, compromising long-term governance. While digital tools and formal recordkeeping offer partial preservation, they cannot fully replace the lived experiences and personal narratives essential to cultural continuity and civic integrity. This paper advocates for a multidimensional response, including improved healthcare systems, targeted policy interventions, community-based support structures, and ethical protections to uphold the dignity and agency of aging populations. By addressing memory loss not just as a medical condition but as a societal challenge, we can foster more inclusive, resilient, and culturally rich communities in an era of global aging.

**Keywords:**

Memory Loss, Aging Population, Dementia, Cultural Heritage, Democratic Participation

**1. INTRODUCTION****1.1 Memory and Self**

The individual identity of a human being lies in memory. It determines the way people comprehend themselves as well as relate with others. This continuity is broken with memory loss (which is a common issue due to neurodegenerative disorders), and this causes confusion, dependency, and isolation (Jahn 2013). Farina et al. (2022) also highlight the importance of this loss being not only of the cognitive nature but also affecting personality relationships and dignity.

**1.2 Aging Populations and Cognitive Decline**

The global population is aging at a speedy rate. In the future, i.e., by 2050, one in six individuals worldwide will be over 65 (United Nations, 2023), and age is the primary risk factor for Alzheimer's and other dementias. This change has led to an increase in memory-related illnesses, causing economic and care burdens. The same researchers (Wimo et al., 2023) put a figure of \$1.3 trillion on global dementia-related expenditures in 2019, which is projected to escalate rapidly.

In India, regional research studies have revealed different prevalence of dementia, indicating the need for local health planning (Lee et al., 2023). Memory impairment can also be caused by decreased senses like hearing, as evidenced in hippocampus studies by Manohar et al. (2022). Such results reflect the complex interactions of environmental explanation and physiological and social aging factors.

**1.3 Purpose and Scope**

The purpose and scope of the survey will be promoted in terms of determining the best way of advising the heterosexual person without the guidance of authority or consultation of the source.

This paper highlights some of the effects of memory loss in older people on society based on cultural, social, and political perspectives. Culturally, it interferes with oral culture, indigenous knowledge, and shared memory (UNESCO, 2022; Li et al., 2022). It reinvents family patterns, isolates the elders, and changes the nature of caregivers (Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015). On the political front, it questions healthcare systems and helps in democracy and policy-making design based on age (Bennett et al., 2022; Ranchordas, 2017).

The current body of knowledge tries to approach the issue of memory loss as a medical issue. However, the work views it as a multidimensional social problem in which the loss of memory holds personal consequences and community identity, generational continuity, and political representation of one community.



*Figure 1: Exploring the Multifaceted Impact of Memory Loss*

#### 1.4 Research Aims

The reasons for the article are:

- Emphasize the cultural implication of rampant memory losses.
- Check how society became restructured in terms of aging and relationships.
- Examine the political measures to old age cognitive loss.

This study paves the way to more comprehensive and accommodative aging by widening the analysis horizons to pathology. It promotes the understanding that older adults must be regarded as receivers of care and cultural and civic donors even when their memory fails.

## 2. CULTURAL CONSEQUENCES OF MEMORY LOSS

### 2.1. Disruption of Cultural Transmission

The elders have played the role of custodians of cultural heritage, who hand over the cultural beliefs, traditions, and general stories via oral transmission. In most cultures where there is a tradition of a strong oral culture, the elderly are very instrumental in transferring knowledge that is not necessarily written (UNESCO, 2022). Nevertheless, this intergenerational transfer of knowledge gets disrupted due to loss of memory related to age, especially when people are affected by dementia. With the increase in the frequency of dementia and other Alzheimer-related conditions (Alzheimer Association, 2023), the older generations lose their stability of reference carriers to the cultures and societies.

This undermining of oral traditions impacts the telling of stories and the use of rituals and dismantles collective identity. They can no longer describe family genealogies, accounts of migration, or moral lessons carried in folktales when older people cannot access their autobiographical and semantic memories (Jahn, 2013). This destruction of the narratives may produce an alienation of youth, making them lose their connection with their culture, drawing the strength of their respective groups and sense of them (Sekeres et al., 2016).

### 2.2. Linguistic Vulnerability and Diversity Loss

Language plays a very significant role as a carrier of cultural identity. Many of the endangered nomenclatures are the heritage language of the elderly peoples of indigenous or marginalized populations (UNESCO, 2022). When these people start to decline in their mental abilities, it becomes both urgent and necessary to lose more than the fluency of the language spoken: the very semantics and contextuality of it, which written notes do not attempt to explain (Zhang et al., 2022).

The cognitive decline makes the languages die faster and undermines the cultural pluralism of the world. The issue of memory loss discourages the use of older speakers in teaching language to the young members of the

community. Also, it hinders their capability to document or record linguistic knowledge properly (Li, Wang, & Xu, 2022). Unless culturally preservative measures are taken, dementia can unwittingly end up being a prime agent of linguistic homogenization and erasure of cultural customs.

Impact Area	Description	Consequences	Supporting Source
<b>Elder Speaker Dependency</b>	Many endangered languages are spoken mainly by elders.	Cognitive decline among elders reduces transmission to younger generations.	UNESCO (2022); Zhang et al. (2022)
<b>Loss of Oral Nuance and Context</b>	Memory loss diminishes ability to recall idiomatic expressions and contextual use.	Leads to loss of depth and authenticity in language preservation.	Li, Wang, & Xu (2022)
<b>Barriers to Language Documentation</b>	Cognitive decline hampers efforts to record linguistic features accurately.	Incomplete or flawed documentation limits linguistic revitalization efforts.	UNESCO (2022); Alzheimer's Association (2023)
<b>Accelerated Language Extinction</b>	Combined effect of demographic aging and memory loss in speaker populations.	Rapid disappearance of entire languages and cultural identity tied to them.	Zhang et al. (2022); Jahn (2013)
<b>Cultural Homogenization</b>	Loss of linguistic diversity narrows global cultural representation.	Diminishes cultural richness and weakens minority voices.	Li, Wang, & Xu (2022); UNESCO (2022)

**Table 1: Impacts of Memory Loss on Linguistic Diversity**

### 2.3. Erosion of Historical Memory and Social Learning

Individual memory is necessary so societies can learn through experiences gained, justice can be served, and commonality in values can be strengthened. Older generations have a role of living memory as a site of what happened that influenced the community or country's awareness of wars, revolutions, displacements, or civil rights campaigns (Rieff, 2016). The fact that this historical memory is slowly fading away because of any mental downgrade in old age undermines the critical capacity of society to analyze itself on the path it has gone critically. This memory decay brings out moral and political difficulties. Whenever immediate observers of past injustices fail to remember them, society will be at risk of recreating the injustices or underrating the injustices. Moreover, the process of democratic engagement can be affected as the elders drop out of the intellectual life that includes meaningful contributions to the discourse of society due to cognitive decline (Bennett et al., 2022; Ottander & Simon, 2021). Without them, the civil society sector lacks the multiplicity of views in the civil society debate and policymaking.

Additionally, the inability to remember personal and collective past violates moral thinking, understanding, and solidarity. Practical experiences offer a sense of feeling and moral understanding to weld community values. With these memories goes the precepts based on them (Sekeres et al., 2016; Jahn, 2013). Therefore, protecting the elder's memory is not a medical issue but a cultural one.

### **3. SOCIAL IMPACTS ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

The ripple effects of memory loss in the older generation have far-reaching consequences that affect the social setup of families and communities. Due to the increased rate of dementia worldwide (Alzheimer Design Aging Association, 2023; Lee et al., 2023), caregiving burdens, accelerated social isolation in older adults, and an opportunity to scale up community-based interventions are becoming pressing issues in societies.

#### **3.1. Shifting Family Dynamics and Caregiving Strains**

Family structure is also changed by cognitive impairments that tend to create the need for adult children or spouses to take up the caregiving roles. This change causes emotional and financial pressure. The informal caregivers, usually females, often cut the working hours or leave the labor market altogether, which worsens financial insecurity (White, Burns, & Conlon, 2018). The impact on the psyche is also acute; caregivers should reflect on their increased anxiety levels, burnout, etc., as well as symptoms of depression, particularly when not having support networks in place (Farina et al., 2022; Jahn, 2013).

Gender stereotypes support unequal division of care. The norms associated with culture tend to shift eldercare onto women and construct old gender dynamics on the small margin of their options, like the choice of employment and education (Marois, Belanger, & Lutz, 2020). Such a dynamic perpetuates further intergenerational inequality and restricts economic mobility.

Besides, family decision-making is being transformed by the increase in memory-related conditions. Moves of legal and financial power, i.e., guardianship and estate planning, occur more frequently and are somewhat pressing, which gives rise to possible disagreement and emotional tension. Family is the key care support team and the negotiating points regarding care, autonomy, and resources provided simultaneously (Gale, Acar, & Daffner, 2018).

#### **3.2. Social Isolation and Mental Health Risks**

A decline in cognitive abilities frequently leads to the isolation of aged people within a social setting and minimizes their participation in the community, cultural, or civic life. This isolation is symptomatic and a stimulus of deterioration. Patients who lose their memory are older and might fear exposing themselves to strangers or misunderstanding them; consequently, they become even more isolated from critical social stimuli (Innes & Sambamoorthi, 2018).

Mental health also has direct implications for social disconnection. Most studies associate loneliness and isolation with a higher prevalence of depression, anxiety, and cognitive decline (Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015; Farina et al., 2022). More disturbingly, there is also an adverse effect of isolation on mortality, which is equal to the detrimental impact of smoking or obesity (Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015).

Older people can also be misled during this digital era, which may add to their confusion, mistrust, and alienation. The aging population is particularly exposed to online misinformation, which can corrode the work of public health professionals or democracy (Guess, Nyhan, & Reifler, 2020). There is a possibility of a loss of memory, which may interfere with media literacy, making it challenging to engage with digital content and prone to critical manipulation.

#### **3.3. The Need for Community-Based Interventions**

Community-based interventions are becoming increasingly appreciated in response to these catastrophic social impacts. Structured activities between younger individuals and older adults help to establish cognitive, emotional, and social contact (or connection) (Chen, Ding, & Wang, 2023). Such models lessen the generational gaps and the stigma attached to aging and memory loss. Other levels of community care are memory cafes, senior centers, and dementia-friendly general places. These areas enable people with memory problems to have autonomy and encourage interaction. Notably, convenient social support systems are fundamental to the individuals who receive the medical condition and the caregivers who need rest and companionship (Alzheimer's Association, 2023).

There is digitally augmented equipment. Such new technologies as virtual/augmented reality have been effectively engaged to maintain cognitive stimulation and serve cultural memory (Boboc et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022). Nevertheless, adoption barriers, such as digital literacy, cost, and accessibility, should be overcome with the help of inclusive design.

The policy frameworks must focus on equal opportunity for access to community-based interventions. The cultural responsiveness of the programs that address linguistic, ethnic, and local needs may enhance engagement during care and minimize care disparities, especially in marginalized populations (UNESCO, 2022; Chen et al., 2023).

Intervention Type	Description	Benefits	Challenges	Key References
<b>Intergenerational Programs</b>	Structured activities linking youth and older adults	Enhances cognitive function, reduces stigma, promotes empathy and connection	Requires sustained funding, program design, and recruitment	Chen, Ding, & Wang (2023); Alzheimer's Association (2023)
<b>Memory Cafés &amp; Senior Centers</b>	Social spaces designed for safe, stimulating interaction	Fosters inclusion, reduces isolation, supports caregivers	Limited reach in rural or underserved areas	Alzheimer's Association (2023)
<b>Dementia-Friendly Public Spaces</b>	Adapted environments for ease of navigation and interaction	Promotes autonomy and social participation	Urban planning and public awareness needed	Innes & Sambamoorthi (2018)
<b>Digital Tools (e.g., VR/AR)</b>	Technological tools for memory stimulation and cultural engagement	Enhances cognitive engagement, preserves memory, offers scalable solutions	Digital literacy, affordability, and accessibility barriers	Boboc et al. (2022); Zhang et al. (2022)
<b>Peer Support and Caregiver Networks</b>	Community groups offering emotional and practical support to caregivers	Reduces burnout, improves mental health, facilitates knowledge exchange	Social stigma, inconsistent funding or access	Farina et al. (2022); Gale, Acar, & Daffner (2018)
<b>Culturally Responsive Programs</b>	Tailored programs reflecting cultural, linguistic, and community needs	Improves engagement, ensures inclusivity, addresses health inequities	Requires cultural competency and ongoing community involvement	UNESCO (2022); Chen et al. (2023)

*Table 2: Community-Based Interventions Addressing Memory Loss*

#### 4. POLITICAL AND DEMOCRATIC IMPLICATIONS

With the aging of populations worldwide, declines in cognition linked with memory loss are a major political and democratic issue. They include the lack of political agency of old age, the structural weaknesses in government organization, and democratic succession.

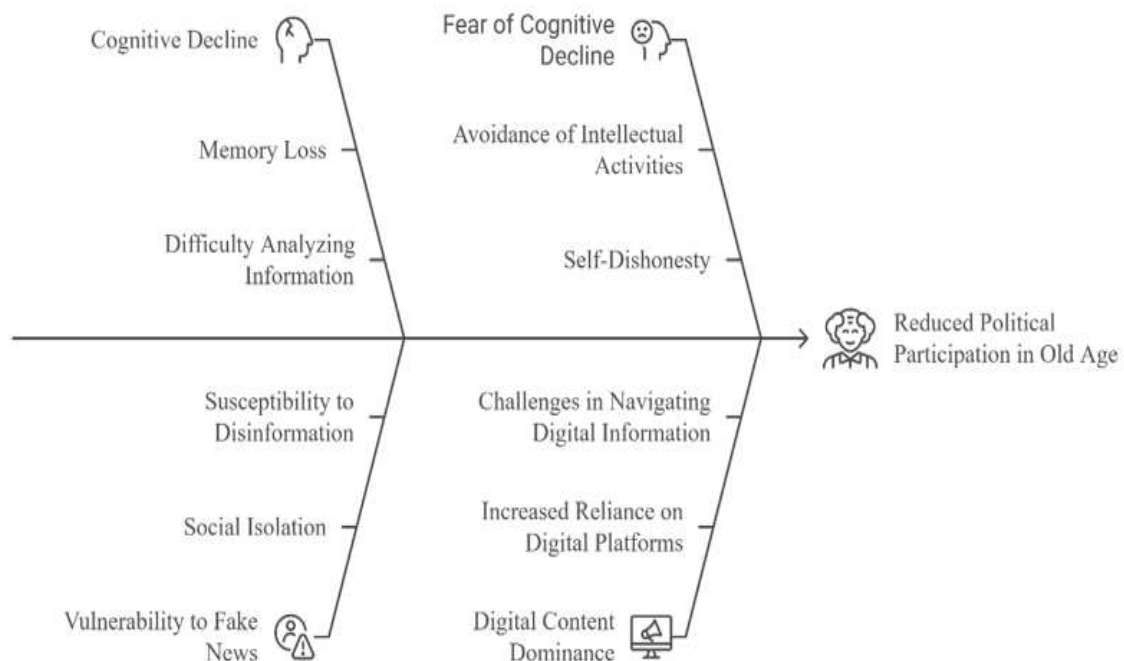
##### 4.1. Cognitive Decline and Informed Political Participation

Loss of memory would reduce the ability of people in old age to process and facilitate the ability to recall and analyze complex political information. This decline in mental powers undermines their ability to make decisions during elections or engage in a healthy societal debate (Jahn, 2013; Gale, Acar, & Daffner, 2018). As political

scenes tend to change dramatically regarding fast-moving issues and policies, a person with memory loss might have difficulty relating the immediate events to a bigger picture from a civic or historical perspective.

One of today's issues is the vulnerability of senior people to fake news. Cognitive decline is enhanced due to increased social isolation, making people more susceptible to online disinformation campaigns, especially social media-based ones (Guess, Nyhan, & Reifler, 2020). These weaknesses jeopardize the quality of democracy as digital content becomes the leading platform through which civic action and dissemination of information take place.

Further, fear about cognitive decline and fear about cognitive decline may have a chilling effect on political participation. Whenever older adults feel that their memory is unreliable, they automatically tend to avoid intellectually challenging activities such as civil participation because they are attacked by various anxieties and self-dishonesty (Farina et al., 2022). This withdrawal excludes an increasing part of the population and dilutes the equality of representation.



**Figure 2: Challenges to Political Participation in Old Age**

#### 4.2. Loss of Institutional Memory

In addition to individual cognition, society's memory in the form of institutions is also endangered. When older people in public service, leaders in civil society, and policymakers retire or experience age-related decline in mental ability, they constitute an invaluable source of institutional memory. This memory covers tacit knowledge of past decisions, informal governance rules, and policies' long-run effects.

Smaller potency of policy continuity and adaptability are brought on by the wearing away of such institutional memory. The results of such decisions without a good grounding in the past run the risks of becoming superfluous or, worse still, repeating past errors (Rieff, 2016). When faced with shifting global environments due to climate change, a digital transformation, or demographic shifts, a lack of institutional understanding that can look at long-term solutions hurts responsive governance.

Moreover, the old age of leadership within the political and bureaucratic structures could create a bias towards the old ideologies or even stand up to changes, notably when the mental capacity to embrace change becomes problematic. There is a fine line between experience and flexibility; losing memory dislodges the equilibrium, which may create a rut or indecision in policymaking (Wilson, Temple, & Charles-Edwards, 2022).

#### 4.3. Safeguarding Democracy in Aging Societies

To reduce these difficulties, democratic societies should adjust to the conditions of cognitive aging. Among the imperatives is inclusive electoral participation, which is carried out through assisted voting. Privacy- and consent-



centered policies supporting trusted others or professionals to assist older voters in voting can increase civic participation without losing integrity (Alzheimer's Association, 2023).

Moreover, there needs to be easy access to civic education. Educational content specific to the older population, written in simplified form, with reinforcement through frequent repetitions and multimedia instructional modes, could support political awareness and engagement (National Institute on Aging, 2022). Such work should not be limited to misinformation prevention by specific digital literacy campaigns aimed at absorbing cognitive-vulnerable groups to control.

Political inclusion can also be maintained with the help of technological innovations. The introduction of cognitive assistants using AI and personalized summaries of the news and memory-friendly digital ballots can be used to reduce the gaps in comprehension and recollection (Chen, Ding, & Wang, 2023). Nonetheless, such tools should be developed with the strongest moral precautions to avert subjugation and guarantee openness.

Furthermore, Intergenerational communication and participatory governance regimes may be promoted to dull the losses of institutional memory. It is connected to joint policy discussions involving older and younger perspectives to keep historical wisdom alive while encouraging creativity and flexibility (Bennett et al., 2022; Saud, Ida, & Mashud, 2020).

In the final analysis, the world needs to understand that memory loss is not just a health or a social problem but also a political problem that should be defended regarding democracy in aging societies. Pol, They can maintain pol by erecting democratic infrastructures that are inclusive and remind societies.

## 5. COUNTERARGUMENTS AND REBUTTALS

### 5.1 The Digital Preservation Perspective

Among the possible refutations is the argument that the degradation of memory experienced by aging communities is offset by the characterization of computerized archives, AI-related recordkeeping, and data banks. Advocates believe that digitalization, like creating virtual museums, augmented reality, and cultural databases, can remember general knowledge without relying on individual mental storage (Boboc et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022).

However, such affinities with digital optimism ignore the lived experience of memory. With digitization, it is easy to record what is said. However, it is difficult to determine what memories are talked about and how they contain emotions about what came up spontaneously during conversation (B1823). The values, identity, and hidden cultural codes are all transmitted orally and largely remain outside formal records (through the family and suspended in the local community), where they are passed on mainly by passing them down (UNESCO, 2022). In addition, access to online archives tends to favor technologically literate individuals, who might be unable to include other groups in their older population (Chen, Ding & Wang, 2023).

Digital preservation is, therefore, not a substitute for the experiences of interpersonal ecology of memory older adults maintain in their daily lives.

Assumption	Counterargument	Supporting Evidence
Digital tools can fully replace memory loss	Digital archives lack emotional and cultural nuance of oral memory	Boboc et al. (2022); UNESCO (2022); Błaszczuk (2023)
Older adults disengage naturally from public life	Seniors remain politically and socially active	Bennett et al. (2022); Saud et al. (2020); Ranchordás (2017)
Memory loss is inevitable and inconsequential	Cognitive engagement remains vital; underestimating elders is risky	Farina et al. (2022); Mills (2021); Marois et al. (2020)

*Table 3: Rebuttals to Common Assumptions*

### 5.2. Assumptions of Natural Disengagement

The other misconception is that the elderly would automatically withdraw themselves from society towards the political arena, and therefore, the loss of their memories would not cause much social disturbance. This perception is premised on the old-fashioned gerontology models, which helped associate aging with the loss of social networks.

However, modern research indicates that growing elderly citizens are still productive in the political, social, and cultural fields, even in deep old age (Bennett et al., 2022; Saud, Ida & Mashud, 2020). Elders regularly form part of local politics, internet activism, and town meeting initiatives, proving they are still active and committed (Ranchordas, 2017; Thew, Middlemiss, and Paavola, 2021). Demographic aging in societies means that older

populations are increasingly numerous and that each, as far as pressure on political forces is concerned, is becoming increasingly more influential (Marois, Belanger & Lutz, 2020).

Failing to recognize this risks policy blind spots and reinforces harmful stereotypes (Mills, 2021). Moreover, fear of memory loss can lead to withdrawal and reduced quality of life, rather than aging per se being the root cause (Farina et al., 2022).

## **6. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS**

With the spread of aging and related memory loss, infected sections of the population are rising, which society has to answer with coordinated policies that cut across all forms of healthcare, law, technology, and urban planning. The recommendations below are acute and promote dignity, self-determination, and social belonging in people with cognitive decline.

### **6.1. Strengthening Health and Care Infrastructure**

Cognitive health service investments are pillared. When memory problems or Alzheimer's disease are identified early enough, the strategy to offer appropriate care can be translated, and the process of cognitive deterioration can be slowed down by early interventions (Alzheimer's Association, 2023). It involves regular cognitive testing, population education, and the placement of memory screening as part of primary care (National Institute on Aging, 2022).

Approaches to cognitive training such as physical activity, mindfulness, and digital training have the potential to improve memory outcomes and postpone dementia symptoms (Chen, Ding, & Wang, 2023). These interventions need to become extensively available, especially in underprivileged areas, where it is common to have a delayed diagnosis (Lee et al., 2023).

The design of dementia-friendly interiors and exteriors is of equal value- physical space that improves orientation and the problems of confusion. This entails using prominent signs, soothing color schemes, and convenient publicly available amenities in favor of independence (Jahn, 2013; Gale, Acar, & Daffner, 2018).

The support of caregivers matters. There is a high emotional and financial cost to informal care providers, usually family members. Policy needs to guarantee respite services, allowances to caregivers, and mental care (Farina et al., 2022). The absence of such structures exposes caregivers to burnout, thereby influencing the well-being of patients and raising the expenses of healthcare services (Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015).

### **6.2. Legal and Ethical Protections**

Memory deterioration affects the ability to make judgments, creating legal and ethical apriorism considerations. The proactive position is to increase the availability of legal knowledge, power of attorney, advance directives, and guardianship choices to the public. Such models safeguard individuals and value their autonomy, particularly at the onset of cognitive decline (Rieff, 2016).

Simple legal avenues should be implemented by governments how to create financial control during such times without getting into bureaucracies that hinder quick action. The increased risk of elderly financial abuse, which disproportionately targets cognitively impaired people, should also be touched on by the policy reform (Wimo et al., 2023).

Social stigma should also be taken into consideration through ethical protections. The fear of memory loss leads to stereotyping social withdrawal and psychological distress during the aging process, along with cognitive decline condition (Mills, 2021; Farina et al., 2022). The language discussed in this paper (respectful and person-centered) must be taught with the help of professional training and messages that may be spread publicly to assure people with memory impairment of their dignity and agency.

### **6.3. Technological and Urban Planning Innovations**

Technology creates a significant possibility of assisting memory-impaired individuals and their relatives. The risks that are typically caused by wandering, which is a widespread and hazardous side effect of dementia (Chen, Ding, & Wang, 2023), can also be mitigated with the help of GPS-enabled devices. The increase in the length of independent living and the alleviation of caregiver burden may be achieved using smart home systems with reminders, alerts, and monitoring capabilities.

Nevertheless, these tools should be privacy-driven, simple, and inclusive. Older users can find complicated interfaces more difficult or opposed to monitoring devices. HCD, including aging persons in the stages of development, is vital (Manohar et al., 2022).

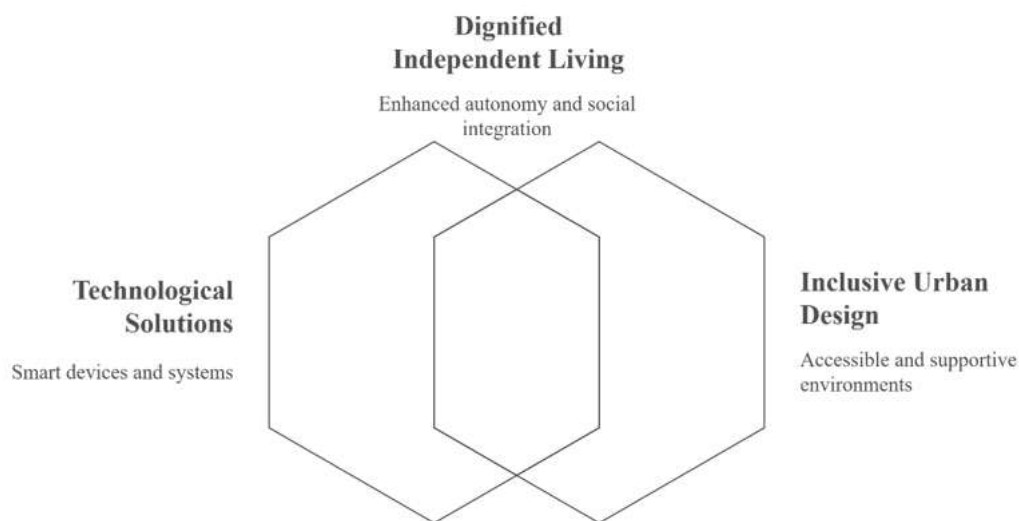
Urban design will need to develop and take care of cognitive accessibility as well. Urban environments are encouraged to invest in inclusive infrastructures, including well-marked transportation systems. These carefully built community centers allow cognitive comfort and immediately present unmolested green areas to promote



orientation and safety (Boboc et al., 2022). The realization of dementia-friendly cities has already demonstrated success in selected regions of Europe and Asia, enhancing social integration and support and alleviating care target massive social revealed to be successful in some of the areas of Europe and Asia, promoting social integration and support and lessening care red dot massive social stress (UNESCO, 2022).

The loss of memory among today's aging population is not only a medical problem but has much broader aspects covering culture, law, and urban issues. Infrastructure reinforcement, the creation of moral safeguards, and taking advantage of innovation are paramount to living with dignity, autonomy, and inclusion since such cognitive decline is experienced among people. All these interventions can potentially remodel the vulnerable state of aging to a stage of empowered adaptation when applied holistically.

Lastly, since cultural heritage and cultural memory go hand in hand, the collective memory spaces in developing a sense of belonging and continuity among people with dementia should be explored by planners. By fusing features of augmented reality and interactive displays, one may assist cognitively impaired people in connecting with the past and becoming a community member (Zhang et al., 2022; Li, Wang, & Xu, 2022).



**Figure 3: Empowering Aging through Innovation and Inclusion**

## 7. CONCLUSION

Loss of memory by the aging population has a wide-ranging relevance in a cultural, social, and political sense. Cultural problems related to it include the threat to continue the traditions, languages, and intergenerational transfer of knowledge (UNESCO, 2022; Boboc et al., 2022). Socially, it leads to isolation, quality of life, and a larger caregiver burden, which further complicates health systems at the community level (Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015; Farina et al., 2022). Politically, the increasing rates of dementia require a rush of policy innovation and enduring healthcare finance with more inclusive activities and involvement of older adults (Lee et al., 2023; Wimo et al., 2023; Bennett et al., 2022).

A societal approach is much needed, and it is necessary to combine efforts of healthcare reformation, digital integration, age-friendly design, and cultural memory care integration (Chen et al., 2023; National Institute on Aging, 2022). Governments, communities, and families need to unite their efforts to address the medical issues and ensure that the agency and the dignity of aging people are still preserved.

It not only raises concerns about a public health challenge, but it is also the test of empathy, equity, and foresight in society. It is now time to act in terms of policy, in terms of innovation, and terms of collective care.

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