Ageing at home pays: Calculation model in Sweden and contribution to the elevator market

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The demographic challenge

The number of persons 65+ is expected to grow by more than 1 million by 2060

Källa: SOU 2015:85
The demographic challenge

The costs for nursing homes is estimated to increase from 6.3 billion €/year to 10 billion €/year by 2040.
Fewer young people and more old people until 2030

Annual development of population

20-29 years  65+ years
An ageing population in inaccessible housing

- 75,000 entrances in multi-storey houses have no lifts.
- Every other senior person living in multi-storey houses have no access to lifts.
- Almost half of the seniors with access to lifts have stairs in the entrance to reach the lift.
- 2/3 of the apartments in multi-storey houses are not accessible to persons unable to use the stairs.
- Similar situation in villas.
An ageing population in inaccessible housing

- Unfortunate combination => lower quality of life + increased costs for old people’s care

- Inaccessible housing is today resolved by home care

- When home care is no longer sufficient => far too early move to nursing home

- Nursing home = the most costly type of care
Increased accessibility pays

Cost per year/person in nursing home

Cost per year/person for home care service

73K€/year 23K€/year

Society saves 50 000 €/year if one person can stay living at home with home care service instead of moving to a nursing home.

Property owners in Sweden have no incentive to invest in increased accessibility due to rigid tenancy laws.
Lobbying to get government subsidies for installing lifts in existing buildings

- Project started by the Swedish Lift Association in 2013

- Our message towards politicians: Improved accessibility in the light of an ageing population will decrease public expenses for care of old people and increase quality of life for many in society

- Calculation method for public expense savings has been developed
Every lift installed gives society almost twice back

POTENTIAL PUBLIC SAVING WHEN AN ELEVATOR IS INSTALLED

Saving will increase by 20% if decrease in number of accidents in stairs and lowered costs for mobility service are included.

Net present value, 25 years, interest rate 3.5%. Savings calculated on the assumption that 5% of the persons aged 65 or more live in a nursery home. Costs for nursery home are 73K€ per person/year and home care 23 K€ per person/year, compared to a lower number of persons living in nursery homes if 10% will not need to move at all and the remaining 90% postpone moving to a nursery home by 2 years.
Lift subsidies of €150 million gives a net saving to society of €290 million

POTENTIAL PUBLIC SAVING PER ENTRANCE WHEN AN ELEVATOR IS INSTALLED ACCORDING TO SOU 2015:85

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We have engaged in extensive lobby activities

- Mobilising key stakeholders (pensioner’s organizations, disability organizations)
- Organizing various meetings with politicians and civil servants including a seminar in the Swedish Parliament
- Preparing reports, articles and fact sheets
- Creating an annual Accessibility Arena during the Almedalen Week
Achievements so far

• Government investigation in 2015 proposed gov. funding for lift installation
  – €30 million/ year for 5 years
  – Max 50% per lift

• 2016 government adopted programme that includes subsidies for improved accessibility in existing buildings (not only lifts)
  – €166 million over 2016-2020
  – Max 25%, max €20,000 per project
  – Can be used for lift installation

• March 2018 government adopted subsidy programme for adding storeys to existing buildings
  – 300 M€ per year
  – Idea is that the subsidy will cover the cost for the lift
Key success factors

• United industry focus to grow the market
• Understanding the problem and the political process
• Understanding the stakeholders’ interests and needs
• Joining forces with the right partners
• Developing the arguments for the politicians
• Activity, activity, activity
Now the works begins