

**VARIATIONS IN OLD AGE SUPPORT IN AN URBANISING SOCIETY: A
STUDY OF SOUTH-WESTERN NIGERIA**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, **AKANBI Moses Ayokunle**, hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work and that no portion of the work referred to in the thesis has been or will be submitted in support of an application for another degree or qualification of this or any other university or other institute of learning.

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Signature & Date

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research work was carried out by AKANBI Moses Ayokunle, of Demography and Social Statistics Programme and submitted to the Department of Economics and Development Studies, School of Social Sciences, College of Development Studies, Covenant University, Canaanland, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

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DEDICATION

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AKANBI Moses Ayokunle

Abstract

The study examines variations in old age support in an urbanising society of South-western Nigeria. This study is necessary because old people have numerous problems and are not properly cared for by the Nigerian society. Till date, there is no specific policy implementation that is presently addressing the care of the elderly in Nigeria. The study covered thirteen Local Government Areas and ten Local Council Development Areas in Lagos state and eleven Local Government Areas in Oyo state. In addition, five in-depth interviews were conducted (three and two in Lagos and Oyo states respectively) while four Focus Group Discussions were conducted (two in each state). The In-depth interviews were conducted among the stakeholders (the managers of public, private and church owned old people's homes in South-western Nigeria. The four Focus Group Discussions were conducted among the family care givers in the study areas. In both Lagos and Oyo states, the total sampled aged respondents are 938. Both qualitative and quantitative research techniques were adopted in data gathering. Quantitative data were analyzed using univariate, bivariate and one-way variance analyses (F-ratios).

The four major findings of this study are as follows: The first findings showed that there are apparent variations in the preference for public care support among the selected socio-demographic variables of respondents. In essence, the respondents' age, education, marital status, employment status, religious affiliation, ethnicity and means of livelihood and usual place of residence showed apparent variations in generally low-preferences for public care support in the study areas. The second findings revealed that marriage type ($p=0.000$), educational attainment ($p=0.000$), employment status ($p=0.003$), religious affiliation ($p=0.000$), means of livelihood ($p=0.000$) and usual place of residence ($p=0.000$) are significantly influencing the relatively high-preferences for family care support in the study locations. The third finding shows that there are more significant variations among the elderly in their preference for family care than public care support. In-fact, marital status ($p=0.026$), religious affiliation ($p=0.027$), and means of livelihood ($p=0.015$) have low significant effects on preference for public care support. Fourthly, that the elderly demand mainly medical and physical support vis-à-vis financial support.

In spite of the generally low preference for public care support among the elderly in South-western Nigeria, a major reason why public institutional care cannot be ruled out in the society is because of the stage of its demographic transition where we are experiencing a bulge of the working age population which will soon translate into an ageing population when the extended family support will eventually be inadequate as other family members will likely be away from home, for work or on account of building new nuclear family elsewhere.

Even though this study showed that family care is preferred to public care at this point in time, on account of the factors earlier stated, a form of public care which can be community-based in order to take care of the extended family relations should be considered as a desirable social institution any time from now.