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

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(CUGP060180)

BEING A RESEARCH WORK CARRIED OUT IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF Ph.D DEGREE IN DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES,

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,

COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES,

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MAY, 2014
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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.

AKANBI, Moses Ayokunle

..............................................................
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

This thesis is dedicated to God Almighty who was with me and preserved me throughout the programme; “Faithful is he that calleth you, who will also do it” (1 Thessalonians 5: 24).

Also, to my Loving and Caring wife; Assistant Pastor (Mrs) Akanbi Olukemi Abigail and children (Fiyinfoluwa, David and Isaac); who supported me with their ceaseless prayers and encouragement right from the commencement of this programme to this final point and finally to the Aged people that are currently residing in South-western Nigeria.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis was borne out of personal concern for the aged people who are destitute in the streets that the author observed in Ibadan precisely in 1994. The growing concern for this vulnerable group of people in Nigerian Society made it a reality for the author to undertake this research on variations in old age support in an urbanising society of South-western Nigeria (Lagos and Oyo states).

I thank my highly esteemed supervisor, Prof. T.O. Fadayomi, for his kindness, moral and financial assistance, patience and his invaluable contributions to this work. Words cannot express my appreciation. The good Lord will preserve you in sound health to reap the fruits of your labour on earth in Jesus name. Amen. To my co-supervisor, I wish to express my deep appreciation for being there for me when I needed you. Thanks for your tangible contributions towards the improvement of this thesis. Your reward is guaranteed in Jesus name. Amen.

I cannot forget to appreciate the immense contributions of Dr. Amoo Emmanuel in his regular assistance and support throughout the duration of this study. No doubt, Dr Tinuola Femi (an Associate Professor in Demography and Social Statistics programme) also contributed towards the clearance of this work for external examination stage. To my colleagues in Demography and Social Statistics programme which include: Dr. Dominic Azuh, Mr. Fasina, Mrs. Olawole-Isaac and Miss. Adetoro Gbemisola; thanks for your concern and encouragement towards the completion of this programme. To the entire members of staff of the Economics and Development Studies department led by Professor I. O. Olurinola and ably assisted by Dr. P. O. Alege (The Head, Department of Economics and Development Studies and Coordinator of Post-graduate Programme), I thank you for the efforts, patience and assistance towards the finalisation of this work. I appreciate your humbling contributions. God bless you all and your families.

At this juncture, I would like to extend my appreciation to my amiable lecturers, senior colleagues and colleagues in Demography and Social Statistics Department, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. These people include: Professor Alfred Adewuyi, Late Professor J.A. Ebigbola, Professor A.K. Omideyi (my former supervisor), Professor P. O. Ogunjuyigbe (my Master’s thesis supervisor), Dr. S.O. Bamiwuye, Mr. Sola Asa, Dr. Luqman, Dr. A I. Akinyemi, Dr. Gbenga Oyedokun and Dr. Ambrose Akinlo. Also, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the following people for their academic counselling and assistance with useful materials: Prof. Clifford Odimegwu (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa), Dr. Gbenga Adeyemi (LASU), Dr. A. I. Akinyemi, Dr. Wahab Elias (LASU), Dr. Ibidunni (HOD, Business Administration, CU), Dr. Abiodun Joachim (Business Administration Department, CU), Dr.
(Mrs) Adeniji (Business Administration Department, CU), Mrs. Mercy Ogbari-Isiavwe (Business Administration Department, CU), Mr. Ogunnaike (Business Administration Department, CU) and Mr. Segun Joshua (Political Science Department, CU).

To my parents; Retired Major. O.M. Akanbi and Late Mrs. E. T. Akanbi, thanks for giving me the privilege to come to this world and to fulfil this higher academic level, the Lord will reward you abundantly for this accomplishment in Jesus name. Amen. To my elder sister and late elder brother: Mrs. Modupe Florence and Mr. Adekunle Akanbi; I deeply appreciate you and freshly remember you at this moment. To my step-mother, Aunt and First Cousin; Mrs. O. A. Akanbi; Mrs. Florence Oriade and Mr &Mrs Charles Ibikunle; thanks for all your contributions toward my success in life. To my parents-in-laws: Pastor G.A. Ajayi and Deaconess E. B. Ajayi, thanks for your concern, moral and spiritual supports which has led to the successful completion of this work. Also, my thanks go to Pastor & Mrs Ogundeji (my-in-laws in Osogbo) for their useful advice, prayers and financial assistance.

To my paternal and maternal siblings, Pastor Ajayi Solomon and his wife, Mr &Mrs Oladosu, Mr &Mrs Timothy Ajayi, Bimbola Ajayi, Mr &Mrs Lanre Akanbi, Mr &Mrs Wale Oriade, Mr Lanre Oriade, Mr Biyi Oriade, Mrs Adeola (nee Oriade), Tolulope Oriade, Mrs Bukola in United Kingdom (nee Akanbi), Segun Akanbi, Ayorinde Akanbi and Abayomi Akanbi; special thanks to you all for your love, prayers and encouragement. My sincere appreciation goes to my Father in the Lord, the Chancellor, Bishop (Dr.) David Oyedepo; the Vice Chancellor, Professor C.K. Ayo, The deputy Vice Chancellors (Academics and Administrations); Professor Charles Ogbulogo (the Dean, School of Post-graduate Studies) and the entire Management of Covenant University.

More importantly, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the following persons who assisted me during the field works of this study in Lagos and Oyo states. They include: Prof. Joel Babalola, Mrs. Babalola, Mr Nelson (Mass Communication Department), Bro. Segun Ojetunde, Bro. Mike Babalola, Sister Babalola, Taye Ajanlekoko, Miss Bukola Ajanlekoko, Mr. Femi Ajanlekoko, The staff of Ore-Ofe Oluwa Secondary School, Ife Road Ibadan; Mrs Adunmo, Abiola Adunmo, Bro Seyi Babalola, Bro & Sister Reuben Faoye, Bro Jude Ijeoma (Ile-Alaafia, Ibadan); Mrs Victoria Adeleke (Omi-Adio, Ibadan), Mrs Victoria Adeleke (Omi-Adio, Ibadan), Mrs Modupe Robinson (Winiseph care home, Lagos), Barrister Olayiwa (Maryland, Lagos), Rev. Isaac Fagade (SWBC, Ilasamaja-Lagos); Isaac Adebabu (DSS Part IV 2012/2013 Session); Kunle Omoniyi, Adeojo Adetola, Funmilayo Adegbite, Obasi Chinwe, Mr Tolulope Joseph (now in United States), Salami, Sarah, Omolola Okoya, Alo-Aimat Shadia, Falade Busayo, Ray Nwokocha, Opeyemi, Mayowa, James Ohiomoba, David Laleye, Adewuyi Ayomide, Onome Edenojie and Uyi Osadolor (DSS Part III, 2012/2013).
To my Family Friends, Prophet Micheal Babalola, Pastor Abiodun Oladele & family, Pastor Adebayo Thomas & family, Pastor Aderonmu & family, Pastor Ayodele Adejumobi & family (in Canada), Elder Adeniyi Titus & family, Bro Babatunde (JABU), Mr & Mrs Agbesanya, Mr & Mrs Bukola Faoye, Mr & Mrs Fagade, special thanks for keeping in contact with me. To all my Pastors, Ministers and Brethren in RCCG City of David, Shining stars Area, Victory Area and Glorious stars Area headquarters, I appreciate you all for standing in the gap for me in the place of prayers up till this moment. The Lord will renew your strength in Jesus name. Amen. Big thanks to my co-labourers in RCCG Victory zone which include: Pastor (Mrs) Remi Elegbede, Pastor Niran Adegbamigbe, A/P (Mrs) Okereke and Deacon Akinduro. The Lord will bless you and your family in Jesus name. Amen.

Special thanks to my Spiritual Fathers-in-The-Lord which include: Pastor E.A. Adeboye (General Overseer, R.C.C.G WorldWide); Pastor D.K. Adeleye (PICP, Ogun Province 3, Ota); Pastor John Ajiboye (APICP, Ogun Province 3, Administrations); Prof (Pastor) Daramola (APICP, Ogun Province 3, Church Growth); Pastor (Mrs.) Daramola (Mummy APICP, Ogun Province 3, Administrations); Rev. Isaac Fagade (SWBC, Ilasamaja-Lagos); Prof. (Rev) Olusegun Ekanade (OAU, Ife), Prof. (Pastor) Adeolu Ayanwale (OAU, Ife), Dr. (Pastor) Femi Osunbitan (OAU, Ife); Pastor Elijah Olatunbosun, Pastor Isaac Edoja (Golden-Gates Foundation, Ifon-Osun), Pastor Agbanigo, Pastor Akomolafe, Pastor Olushola Ibrahim and other pastors whose names were not mentioned. The Good Lord will remember you in Jesus name. Amen. Above all, I give ultimate thanks to God Almighty, the King of Glory for keeping his covenant with me by his divine backing to complete this thesis. His Holy name is praised for ever. Amen.

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 Southwestern 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.