

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

**BY**

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## **Table of Contents**

Title Page	<b>i</b>
Table of Contents	<b>ii</b>
List of Tables	<b>vi</b>
List of figure	<b>vii</b>
Declaration	<b>viii</b>
Certification	<b>ix</b>
Dedication	<b>x</b>
Acknowledgements	<b>xi</b>
Abstract	<b>xiv</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE</b>	<b>1</b>
1.0 Background to the study	<b>1</b>
1.1 Statement of Research Problem	<b>5</b>
1.2 Justification for the study	<b>7</b>
1.3 Research Questions	<b>9</b>
1.4 Objectives of the study	<b>9</b>
1.5 Hypotheses of the study	<b>9</b>
1.6 Definition of terms	<b>11</b>
1.7 Structure of the Thesis	<b>14</b>
<b>CHAPTER TWO</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>15</b>
2.1.1 Concepts of Ageing	<b>15</b>
2.1.2 Living Arrangements and Well-being of the Older Population	<b>17</b>

2.1.3 Preferences about Living Arrangements of older people in Western Societies	19
2.1.4 Changing family structure and Living Arrangement of Older persons in Developing and Developed nations	20
2.1.5 Changing family structure and Living Arrangement among the Elderly in Nigeria and Africa	21
2.1.6 Old Age Poverty in Developing Countries	26
2.1.7 Policy Supporting the Elderly in Nigeria	27
2.1.8 The demographic dimension of the Aged	29
2.2. Public care-support for the aged in Developed Countries	35
2.2.1 Defining Long Term Care	35
2.2.2 Public care-support for the Aged in Developing World	40
2.3 PUBLIC CARE-SUPPORT FOR THE AGED IN AFRICA WITH EMPHASIS ON NIGERIA	41
2.3.1 Social support for the older Adults in Nigeria	41
2.3.2 Care and Support of the Elderly in Nigeria	42
2.3.3 Effects of Urbanisation on Public Care-Support for the Aged in Africa	44
2.3.4 Capacity and Available facilities for care-support of the Aged in Public-Sponsored Old-People's homes in South-western Nigeria	45
2.4 PRIVATE CARE-SUPPORT FOR THE AGED	46

2.4.1 The nature of family/private care support for the aged in Developed Nations	46
2.4.2 Family/Private Care Support in Asia and Latin America	48
2.4.3 Family/Private Care Support in Africa	49
2.4.4 Capacity and Available Facilities for Care-Support of the Aged in Family/Private Old-People's homes in South-western Nigeria	51
2.4.5 The Current state of Variations in Old-age support in an Urbanising Society of South-western Nigeria	52
2.4.6 Gap in the Literature on Ageing in Nigeria	54
2.5 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CARE-SUPPORT WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD FOR THE AGED	55
2.5.1 Familial Resources for the Aged	56
2.5.2 Familial Resource Transfers to Older people in Developed World	57
2.5.3 Co-residency among Older people in Africa and Asia	58
2.5.4 Caldwell's Theory of Intergenerational Transfers and Wealth flows	59
2.5.5 Pension/Retirement benefits payments to the Aged people; Gratuity; Savings	65
2.5.6 Conceptual framework of the study	71
CHAPTER THREE	71
METHODOLOGY	71
3.0 RESEARCH DESIGN	71
3.1 Study Settings	71
3.2 Determination of Sample Size	75
3.3 Sampling Structure and Selection Procedures	76
3.4 Selection of key Informants	80
3.5 Data Collection	81
3.6 Measurements of variables in the Study	83
3.7 Fieldwork and Problems Encountered	84

3.8 Methods of Data Analyses	<b>85</b>
CHAPTER FOUR	<b>87</b>
UNIVARIATE ANALYSES	<b>87</b>
4.1.1 Distribution of Respondents by Study Location, LGA, LCDA, Residence, Main Spoken Language and Ethnicity	<b>87</b>
4.1.2 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents	<b>89</b>
CHAPTER FIVE	<b>99</b>
BIVARIATE ANALYSES	<b>99</b>
5.2 Variables of Respondents with Little or No Variation in Low Preference for Public Care Support	<b>99</b>
5.3 Respondents' Preference for Family care support by Selected Socio-Demographic Characteristics	<b>102</b>
5.4.1 F-ratios showing the relationship between Preference for Public/Family care support by Selected Demographic Characteristics	<b>108</b>
5.5 Types of care support received by Selected Demographic Characteristics	<b>115</b>
5.6 Preference for Public and Family care support by Types of care support received	<b>125</b>
CHAPTER SIX	<b>127</b>
6.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	<b>127</b>
6.1 Summary of study findings	<b>127</b>
6.2 Conclusions	<b>132</b>
6.3 Recommendations	<b>134</b>
6.4.0 Contributions to the Body of Knowledge	<b>135</b>
6.4.1 Contributions to Literature	<b>135</b>
6.4.2 Contributions to the Body of Research	<b>136</b>
6.4.3 Suggestions for further Studies	<b>136</b>
References	<b>137</b>

APPENDIX I	165
QUESTIONNAIRE	165
APPENDIX II	171
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE	171
APPENDIX III	174
IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW	174
APPENDIX IV	177
ABBREVIATIONS	177

### **List of Tables**

Table 1: Percentage of total population of elderly in different regions of the world: 1988-2020	31
Table 2: Total population of the elderly in 1963 and 1991 population censuses	32
Table 3: Total Population of Lagos State Elderly Persons in 2006 Census figures	33
Table 4: Total Population of Oyo State Elderly Persons in 2006 Census figures	34
Table 5: Selection of Quota Samples of Aged in old peoples' homes	77
Table 6: Sampling Structure	79
Table 4.1: Background profile of the study areas	88
Table 4.2: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	90
Table 4.3: Percentage Distribution of Employment Status and Occupational status, and Currently Working/ Retired Category	92
Table 4.4: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Perception about being aged, Care Support from Co-residence Services rating in Public institution, Preference for care support in Public to Family institution and Care support types	95
Table 4.5: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Accommodation, Cooking Facility, Source of drinking water and Kind of Toilet facility	97
Table 5.1a: Interconnections between Preference for Public care support and respondents' socio-demographic characteristics	102

Table 5.1b: Interconnections between Preference for Public care support and respondents' socio-demographic characteristics	<b>106</b>
Table 5.2a: Preference for Family care support by socio-demographic characteristics of respondents	<b>110</b>
Table 5.2b: Preference for Family care support by socio-demographic characteristics of respondents	<b>113</b>
Table 5.3: One-way ANOVA showing the preference for either Public or Family care support by selected socio-demographic variables	<b>117</b>
Table 5.4a: Types of care support by socio-demographic characteristics of respondents	<b>119</b>
Table 5.4b: Types of care support by socio-demographic characteristics of respondents	<b>122</b>
Table 5.4c: Types of care support by socio-demographic characteristics of respondents	<b>124</b>
Table 5.5: Preference for Public and Family care support by Respondents' Types of care support	<b>126</b>
 <b>List of Figure</b>	
<b>Figure 1:</b> Conceptual Framework showing Relationships between Independent, Intervening and Dependent variables	<b>70</b>

## 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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## 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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## **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.