

Familial Expectation and Social Support for the Elderly in Yoruba Communities of South Western Nigeria

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KEYWORDS Elderly. Familial Expectation. Social Support. Nigeria

ABSTRACT The cross-sectional study examined the major social problems confronting the elderly as well as, sources of income and priority needs of the elderly as a result of social and cultural change in various rural Yoruba societies. The study area was spatially clustered into, while the target group was stratified by age consisting of 530 frail elderly aged 70 years and above. Both quantitative and qualitative data were obtained for the study and analyzed utilizing descriptive statistical procedure. Findings of the result revealed that spatial separation of family members' lack of fund, care and support, social isolation and loneliness were major social confronting problems of the elderly. While valued needs of elderly ranged from respect to informativeness. The findings indicate that there is an urgent need to review all health personnel various curricula to include, principle of care and management of old people so as to be able to cope with the increasing rate of hospital admissions of the abandoned frail elderly individuals due to failure of families to provide care and support.