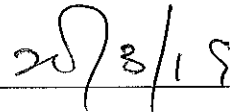PERCEPTION OF YOUNG ADULTS ABOUT THE AGED AND IMPLICATIONS ON THEIR CARE AND SUPPORT IN SELECTED TOWNS IN EKITI STATE

BY

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MATRIC NO: SOC/14/2095

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IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc) IN SOCIOLOGY.
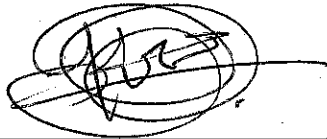
NOVEMBER 2018

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that ROLEOLA OLUWATOBILOBA FUNMILOLA with Matriculation Number: SOC/14/2095 carried out this project in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of the social sciences, Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State. In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in Sociology

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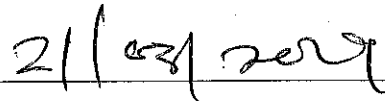Dr. B J Omotosho   DATE
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ABSTRACT

The overall aim of this study is to examine the perception of young adults about the aged and its implication on the care and support of the aged in Ado and Oye Ekiti. This study was necessary due to the stereotypes, high rate of poverty and abuse of the elderly in our society. This study is also interested to know how the perceptions of the young adults affect the care and support of the aged. This study used a mixed method of data collection which entails the distribution of questionnaire survey of two hundred sample size and an in-depth interview of 15 participants (12) aged who were age 65 and above and (3) young adults who were between the age range of 18-35 and resides in Ado and Oye Ekiti. Non-probability sampling technique, convenience or opportunity sampling was used to gather data from respondents. The quantitative data gathered was analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) which runs the data and calculate chi square and simple percentages while the in depth interview used verbatim method in analyzing. The Study found out that the young adults do not have a fixed perception of the aged but rather has both positive and negative perceptions of the aged depending on the aspect of the aged that is being examined, the study also revealed that family influence the perception of the young adults the most about the aged, the study also revealed that there is a decline in the care and support of the aged which was evident in the way the aged are perceived. This Study therefore, concludes that there is a significant relationship between the young adults' perception of the aged and their care and support of the aged. Based on these findings, it is therefore recommended that there should be proper socialization of children especially by the family according to the cultural values of respect and reverential treatment of the aged. The young adults and members of the family should be encouraged to the see the aged in a positive light; this should be encouraged through public enlightenment campaigns.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background To The Study

The population of the aged is increasing globally although this occurs at diffrent rates in diffrent part of the world. Nigeria like other nations of the world is currently witnessing rapid aging of it's population. The elderly aged 60 and above makes up 5.3 percent of the country's total population, in numbers they are over 9 million (National Population Commission, 2010). The population of the aged in nigeria is projected to reach 16 million people by year 2025, making the nation constitute one of the largest population of the elderly (World Bank, 1994). This increase in the population of the aged is as a result of the decrease in the crude mortality rate. Aging in Nigeria is occuring despite the socio-economic hardship, wide spread poverty, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the rapid transformation of the traditional extended family structure.

The elderly play a very significant role in the social fabric of our society they are the custodians of culture and tradition, mediators during conflict resolution and contributors in enforcing peace in their various communities. Though they may be weak in body, their strenght of experience can act as a light house for policy makers, the society needs their guidiance for a strategic and stronger future. The younger generation will know little or nothing about culture and tradition if the elderly who are toeducate them are not been properly preserved. Therefore the wellbeing of the elderly is of paramount importance, also as people live longer and begin to have health challenges provision of care and support becomes essential. In high income countries the care and support comes from a combination of the public and private sectors, provisions are made and capacity exists for the care of the elderly. However in low income countries like Nigeria social support of the aged

is yet to receive any geniune considerable attention especially from the government, there is no viable policy or social security mechanism addressing the welfare of the elderly people, most elderly are not covered by any social security scheme. The pensioners in the formal sector have pension benefit which are often delayed due to corruption in the pension system, poor planning and management coupled with lack of interest in the general welfare of the elderly, the ones who served through out their youthful days in the informal sector suffer after their retirement. The health care system spends a small fraction of the budget on treating older adult illnesses and access to care is not a policy piority. The attitude of health care providers towards older people makes their situation even more difficult. Many older people do access health services due to inability to prove their age, aggravated by the limited availability of health services, equipments and expertise in Nigeria. poverty is rife among the elderly especially among the rural elderly, poverty and poor infrastructural development which perpertrated the rural communities where most elderly people reside constrains them from achieving good wellbeing.

Traditionally the elderly are expected to rely primarily on their families for economic and emotional support, at times if family support mechnism fails, community help may be available. According to Oluwabamide (2005) the care of the aged post no problem in African traditional societies this responsibility was assigned to the younger generation in the family. African societies created conditions of comfort, adequate care and respect for the elderly. Futhermore African cultures prescribe that the age be revered and respected by the young adult in the community, repect towards kingsmen was a viture which every one must practice (Oluwabamide 2005), this involved being polite to senior kin members, listenning to their opinions and wishes, this practice and belief ensure the care of the elderly. Egbigbola 2000 for instance, stresses the importance of childeren in the financial support of parents in Nigeria. According to him, because majority of Nigerians live at

subsistent level with the result that they are unable to support themselves in their old age, children continue to give support to their parent whether or not they have moved away, have married or have children of their own. According to Okumagba (2011), the family still account for a large proportion of the wellbeing of the elderly. Thus most elderly persons expect support form their relatives, friends but most especially from their children as living in aged people home is alien to our culture apart form the non provision of such. Sadly, the traditional family system of care and support of the aged is on decline in recent times and this has brought about a lot of challenges to the aged. According to Gesinde, Adekeye and Iruonagbe (2011) the lives of the elderly people in Nigeria are marked by increasing inadequacies in the customary family supports social exclusion and non exsistent social security. Today, the aged in different families suffer abandonment, neglect and maltreatment from their family members. Some really aged persons are abandoned in the house and left to die with no food nor care from the family members. This neglect has lead some poor elderly to delve into many unimaginable areaas such as begging in public functions and parks, destitution, engaging in hard labor to mention a few.

Research studies have also revealed that the values associated with old age and the aged are changing in the modern society. In the traditional African society, the aged were percieved to be the representatives of the ancestors and the creator and guardians of the cultural traditions. Africans also believed that the aged were the mediators between this world and the next, old age was seen as an ancestral blessing bestowed on those who lived righteously. It was thus culturally imperative that the aged who were unable to fend for themselves must be catered for by the young if they (the young ones) expects to grow old. People in the society today hold diffrent ageist and stereotypical views of the aged, peoples' perception about the aged is increasing towards negativity. Research studies has also revealed that most of these perceptions andsterotypes are being reported by the younger

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generation. It is therefore essential to identify the family care givers' attitudes and perception towards the aged in contemporary society bacause how the aged are pecieved may well affect the way they are treated in the family and the society at large

1.2 Statement Of The Problem

Globally, one of the most significant realities of population dynamics in the last decade relates to the increasing population of the aged, challenges of aging and its associated problems (Ajomale, 2017). Old age is a very sensitive phase in the life of humans, it is inevitable. Aging is associated with different economic, social and health challenges such as dementia, arthritis, heart disease and diabetes as a result of thisthe elderly care and support is important. The care and support of the aged has become a public concern globally. The problem associated with aging has received considerable research and policy attention in high income countries where aging population issues have existed for much longer and capacity exists to deal with a social, economic, nutritional and physio-psychological demands (Bosscher & Deeg, 2002. Brumer, 2005). For low income countries however population aging has not been given considerable attention in population studies and policy circle.

The implication of such neglect for the aged people living in African countries is that their concerns are not been seriously addressed, while other specific wellbeing needs continue to go unmet(National research council 2006). The lives of the elderly people in Nigeria are characterised by increasing inadequacies in customary family support, social exclusion and non existent social security. The government spends little or none at all for the care of the elderly especially for those who spent their active life in the informal sector where pension is limited. The pensioners in the formal sector have pension benefit which are inadequate and often delayed due to corruption in the

pension system. There is dearth of studies on gerontology and particulaly care and support of the aged in Nigeria. Lack of welfare service, non inclusion in national population policy as well as educational and economic programs characterized the elderly population. Most of the older people in Nigeria have unmet meterial and policy needs, socially, the aged are in a vulnerable group that is largely excluded from development planning.

In a bid to remain alive, most of the older people in Nigeria are still in active labour force about two thirds of older people age 60 and above are actively participating in the labour market which further makes them to be vulnerable to chronic conditions because of the degenerating state of their body (Nation Population Commission, 2010). Many aged people do not have access to qualitative health services just like some other groups within the general population for instance the kind of attention given to the provision of maternal health services is near absent as the case with old people in most hospitals there are no experts who specialize in the care of the aged.

Although this cohort is among the poorest of the poor, poverty alleviation programs do not target them. According to Ajomale (2011), the Nigerian government and political leaders believe that the provision of care for the elderly is the responsibility of families and hence policy emphases is more on children, young people and women. However the traditional system of care and support of the aged by the family is fading out unlike in the past where they were adequately taken care of by the family. Today the aged in different families are exposed to different forms of abuse which include physical violence, rape, neglect and denial of basic neccessities (food, water, shelter and health care). Preference is given to the burial of the aged than care while alive. The burial of the aged people who were denied care and support are usually marked with colourful family dresses, expensive social parties, expensive entertainment and shring of gifts. The problems of the aged are futher aggravated by the vulnerability of the age to stereotype and agism. Research studies revealed

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that the perception of people about the aged is increasingly moving towards negativity and many of this negative perception tends to be reported by the younger aged groups(Woolf 2006, Cottle & Glover 2007) who are supposedto be responsible for the wellbeing of the aged in the family.

A study carried out by Phillip Sijuwade (2009) reveals that the younger generations believed that the aged are always nagging and they become obstinate. The younger generation start to stereotype the aged and believe that whatever the aged is thinking or doing is because of old age, their sterotypical view of the aged includes boring, wrinkled, forgetful, grumpy depressed, greedy, close minded, the elderly have also been described as pessimistic, difficult, grouchy and irritable.

It is perceived that the aged in the society even though they are the repositry of wisdom through the years are weak, frail, incompetent and generally slow (Lockenhorf et al 2009). These percepton of people about the aged may complicate the social, nutritionlal, psychological and health conditions of the elderly.

1.3 Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to examine the young adults' perception of the aged and the effects of such perceptions on the care and support of the aged in Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria. The specific objectives are;

i. To examine the young adults perception of the aged

ii. To examine the factors that influence the young adults perception of the aged.

iii. To investigate the implications of such perceptions on the care and support of the aged.

iv. To identify the nature of changes in the care and support of the aged.

1.4 Research Questions

i. What are the young adults perception of the aged?

ii. What are the factors responsible for the young adults perception of the aged?

iii. What are the implications of these perception on the care and support of the aged?

iv. What are the nature of changes in the care and support of the aged?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

HO: There is no significant relationship between young adults perception of the aged and their care and support of the aged

H1: There is a significant relationship between young adults perception of the aged and the care and support of their aged

HO: There is no significant relationship between young adults' age, gender, ethnicity, level of education, marital status and their perception of the aged

H1: There is a significant relationship between young adults' age, gender, ethnicity, level of education, marital status and their perception of the aged

HO: There is no significant relationship between young adults' age, gender, ethnicity, level of education, marital status and their care and support of the aged

H1: There is a significant relationship between young adults' age, gender, ethnicity, level of education, marital status and their care and support of the aged

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1.6 Purpose Of The Study

This study purposes to investigate the perception of young adults about the aged and its implication for the care and support of the aged

1.7 Relevance Of The Study

In view of the increasing neglect, maltreatment, abandonment, abuse and the challenges of the aged which was not common in the past and the stereotypes and increasing negative perceptions of the aged. This study seeks to advance/improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the elderly particularly those who reside in the rural areas where they are most beset by poverty and poor health conditions. It also seeks to address and improve the views/stereotypes of people especially the young adults about the aged because the way the aged are perceived may as well influence the way they are treated in the society. Various researches have dealt with the issue of aging and the aged, some research studies have focused on the perceptions of people about the aged and individual differences in the perception of the aged. However there is still a gap in knowledge and dearth of information regarding the effect of peoples' perception of the aged on the care and support of the aged or how the perceptions held by people about the aged affect their care and support of the elderly. This study therefore seeks to fill this gap.

The study takes another approach in improving the wellbeing of the aged in the society by examining the young adults perceptions of the aged because they are the ones given the responsibility of the care and support of the aged and the factors that influence such perceptions in other to be able to understand the source of such perceptions and to address the negative perceptions and stereotypes of the aged by this cohort, the study also examines the effect of such views and perceptions on the lives of the elderly. The resulting information of this study will provide an insight

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into the mechanism for examining the relationship between the perceptions of the young adults about the aged and the care and support of the aged.

This study will also address the misconceptions of people about the elderly, it will help improve the way the family and members of the society sees the aged and make them see the aged in a positive light as important people in the society. The study will also bring about proper understanding of the aged; the problems associated with aging and the aged and in turn make the family and government see the need for the increased care and support of the aged. The study will help the government in policy making on issues concerning the aged and enable the government to implement relevant policy which will help to cater for their needs and other necessities of life.

Findings in this study will also help other researchers interested in any of the variables mentioned in this work to source for information and insights.

1.8 Limitations of the study

The researcher would have loved to use more towns in Ekiti but due to constrain of time and lack of resources, the study was carried out in only two towns in Ekiti state. Further studies should consider using a larger sample size and also multiple local government areas in Ekiti state so as to establish a higher level of ecological validity. Another limitation faced while conducting the research was language barrier as majority of the aged in the research are illiterates, they could only communicate using their local dialects and this made it difficult communicating and obtaining information from them. Also due to the nature of the topic, some aged persons were reluctant to give information as to people's perception of them

1.9 Definitions Of Terms

For better understanding of these research work, some terns that will be used continiously as this work unfolds are defined below:

Perception: The way you notice things especially with the senses. An idea, a belief or an image you have as a result of how you see or understand something.

Attitude: It is an individual's predisposed state of mind regarding a value and it is precipitated through a responsive expression towards a person (the attitude object) which in turn influences the individuals thoughts and action.

Attitude can be formed from a persons past and present and it ranges from extremely positive to extremely negative. It is the way you behave towards a person that shows how you think and feel.

Youn adult: A young adult is generally a person ranging in age from their late teens or early twenties to their thirties. The definitions and opinions regarding the term young adult vary. In this study the young adult is reffered to as an individual ranging in age from 18-35.

Aged: Having lived for a specified length of time or existed for a long time, a person who has been subjected to aging. There is no general agrement on the age at which a person becomes aged. However in this study the aged is reffered to as individuals ranging in age from 65 years and above.

The term aged would be interchangebly used with the term elderly, old people.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter deals with the review of relevant scholarly literatures and theoretical framework in relation to this study "perception and attitude of young adults towards the aged and its implications for the care and support of the aged". The literature review is thematized as follows:

(i)   YOUNG ADULTS

(ii)   THE AGED

(iii)   FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE OF YOUNG ADULTS TOWARDS THE AGED

(iv)   PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE OF YOUNG ADULTS TOWARDS THE AGED

(v)   CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE AGED

(Vi) THEORECTICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Defining Young Adults

Although definitions and opinions regarding the term young adults vary, the term young adults generally refer to individuals ranging in age from their late teens or early twenties to their late thirties. However, there are several factors (legal, maturational, occupational, sexual, and emotional etc) which accounts for these diverse definition. According to the constitution of Nigeria, young

adults include citizens aged 18-35 years. With a youthful population of thirty three million six hundred and fifty two thousand (33,652,424) these numbers boasts one of the largest populations of young adults in the world.

In the united states, the age of legal adulthood differs by state but is typically 18 years, after which they are regarded as independent, self sufficient and responsible under the law however, although no longer adolescents, many individuals ages 18-24 are emerging adults who are not fully independent and have not completed transition to adult roles in families, household or the workforce. Conclusively in the United States, young adults are person ages 18-24. However for statistical purposes the United Nations defines those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 as youths without prejudice to other definitions by member state.

2.2 The Aged

The process of ageing is a biological reality which has its own dynamics and is largely beyond the control of humans. It is also subject to various constructions by which different society makes sense of old age. Although, scholars, Nongovernmental organizations and several other parastatals have defined old age in various ways, there is no general agreement on the age at which a person becomes old, this is because there is no universally acceptable criterion for defining certain categories of people as old (Oluwabamide 2005). Therefore the categorization of people as old is quite arbitrary. However, according to Wikipedia (2011), divisions are made between the young old (65-74 years), the middle old (75-84 years) and the oldest (85 years and above). The agreed cutoff age for an older person according to the united nations is 60+ years, however most developed countries have generally accepted the chronological age of 65 years as the definition of an 'older person' (World Health Organization (WHO) 2009). While the core (developed) countries have

accepted the chronological age of 65 years as a definition of the 'elderly' or an older person, this definition does not adapt well to the situation in Africa. An international anthropological study carried out in the late 1970's which included multiple areas in Africa provides a basis for the definition of old age (Glascock, 1980). According to the study, definition of old age in Africa can be grouped into three; (1) chronology; (2) change in social role (i.e. change in work patterns, adult status of children and menopause); and (3) change in capabilities (i.e. invalid status, senility and change in physical characteristics). In Nigeria, the National Population Commission (2004) defines elderly persons as "those aged 65 years and above". Historical perceptions and cultural norms have also been known to influence what constitutes being considered old.

What entails being old can also differ between countries. For example, old age is perceived to begin much earlier in Turkey than in North America and Germany where old age is considered to begin at a comparatively later chronological age (McConatha et al. 2003; McConatha et al. 2004). The studies reveals that no general agreement has been reached as to what constitutes being 'old'. Factors such as the age and gender of both the perceiver and the perceived, physical appearance including time and cultural differences contribute to whether or not a person is perceived as being 'old'.

2.3 Factors That Influence the Perception and Attitude of Young Adults towards the Aged (Socialization of Young Adults about the Aged)

A hindrance to the society's comprehensive understanding of the aged is that people rarely understand it until they reach old age themselves. (In contrast to childhood, for instance, which we can all look back on) Stereotypes, Myths and assumptions about aging and the elderly are common. Various assumptions and stereotypes exist regarding the realities of being an older person. While

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individuals often encounter stereotypes associated with race and gender and are thus more likely to think critically about them, a lot of individuals accept stereotypes about old age without question (levy et al 2002). There are certain set of expectations and assumptions about aging embedded in each culture which are part of our socialization. Our upbringing and socialization, outlook on life, and personal experiences all play a role in the way we view each other. Young adult's perception about the aged and their attitude towards them are sometimes largely influenced and shaped by several agents of socialization. Socialization is the process whereby 'an individual qualifies for interaction in a given social system by learning appropriate roles (O.O Fasoranti 2015). There are several agents of socialization such as; Family, School, peer group, mass media, religious institution, however this study will be looking at only a few agents of socialization and also this sections will be looking at other factors gotten from different studies that influence the perception and attitude of young adults towards the aged.

2.3.1 Mass Media and the Aged

Mass media is a channel of communication, a means through which people send and receive information. Mass media refers to channels of communication that involve transmitting information in some way, shape or form to large numbers of people.

The world in which we live today is a global village, and due to the fact that we live in a commercial and media driven society, television shows, movies, cartoons, advertisements, music, etc affects our perception about the world, our view about life as well as ageing and the aged. As written by gerontologist Laurie Hatch (2005) "Immersed in a world surrounded by the media, people in our society absorb impressions, ideas, images, and sounds that reflect society's attitudes toward aging. Also, the media is a reflection of the dominant values in a society: Whether, and how, older people are portrayed represents a measure of how ageism and sexism are rooted in the social fabric". From

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the inception of mass media, its representation of the aged has not been a favorable or positive one. According to Dail (1988) the aged in the society suffer from all forms of negative stereotyping than any other social group. She affirms that preconceived notions about cognition, physical ability, health, sociability, personality, and work capability perpetuate these negative stereotypes.

Mass media, particularly the television, form the common mainstream of contemporary culture. They present a steady, repetitive, and compelling system of images and messages. For the first time in human history, most of the stories are told to most of the children not by their parents, their school, or their church but by a group of distant corporations that have something to sell. According to Swayne and Greco, "due to the ability of television advertising to influence and shape attitudes, television advertising can play a major role in the socialization of the elderly and in influencing younger audiences' view of the aged. A media outlet like the television, known for its emphasis on the young, beautiful, strong, athletic, fast motion and quick edits, is bound to aggravate a potentially negative or even non-existent image of the elderly on television. Mass Media portrayals of the elderly were rare during the 1970s, a survey of more than 9,000 television characters discovered only 3.7% of them to be elderly, and they were reflected as "ineffective, unattractive and unhappy.

The mass media have had a negative effect on the attitudes of individuals and the society at large towards ageing and the aged over the past four decades,. The young, energetic and virile are most portrayed in the media, and this one sided portrayal brings alongside with it misconceptions and problems for both the young adults and the aged. The young adults can ultimately be influenced by this one sided representation of the media and make them less respectful of the elderly. This could have a potential effect in their attitudes towards providing love and support to the aged who may be in crucial need of their help. In North America, society tends to glorify youths, associating it with beauty and sexuality. People often associate the elderly with grumpiness or hostility in comedies.

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Most of the mass media portrayal of the elderly reflects negative cultural attitudes towards aging. Both Moore and Cadeau 1985 and Swayne and Greco 1987 examined how the elderly are represented in television comercials and both found underrepresentation of elderly persons and significant underrepresentation of elderly women in proportion to elderly men. Advertisers ignore older consumers or perpetuates negative stereotypres, thereby alienating a large market segment with powerful economic clout.

In nigeria, Stereotypical protrayal of elderly people is very common in the media, especially in the nollywood (that is, the Nigerian movies industry) movies. The aged are usually potrayed in negative light as 'witches' and 'wizard', to the extent that only the image of an old person is conjured in peoples mind when this two words are mentioned (Stabell, 2010). The aged persons are rarely depicted as holding powers outside of witchery or other forms of mystical or diabolic powers when cast in nigerian movies. Even with this powers, elderly characters usually appear unfed and dressed shabilly when compared to other age groups in the nollywood movies

Without this powers however their conditions are even worse: they suffer abuse, abandonment and neglect; aged mothers are abused by daughter-in-laws; children who are not performing well in the society persecute aged parents for their misfortunes and troubles; pastors and muslim clerics receive revelations that place blames at the feet of old, weak and extremely poor mothers. This stereotype and misconceptions are learned over a long period of time. For both the aged themselves and other members of the society who exhibit ageist behaviours, wrong notions about olld people and the negative perceptions and attitiude that accompany them are subtle and hidden from view when acquired and usually become embedded and taken for granted once internalized (center for confidence and wellbeing). In the age of globalization and information and communication technology (ICT), the media, as an informal education tool, has been at the forefront of transmitting

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some of these stereotypes and transffering them across spaces. People learn informally through what they read at leisure time, from what they view or listen to in the media and through various activities they engage in daily (Eshach, 2007, Maier 2011, Malcolm, Hodkinson & Colley, 2003; Shimie, 2012).

Scholars have argued that the relative worth and powers of groups within any given society are deducible from the extent of exposure they receive in the media and by determining whether they are presented in negative or postitive light (Harwood, 2007; Singer, 1973). This is buttressed by (Donlom, Ashman & Level, 2005) in an intervention study that there is a relationship between television exposure and more negative image of aging. Analysis of a study on stereotype of aging and representation in mass media reveal that media representation contribute to stereotype and misunderstanding (Mason, Darnell & Prifti, 2010). They also suggest that children and young adult may develop belief about aging based on what they see in the media. The media which reflects and shapers the culture of any society (Mason et.al, 2010) is consumed by a very large segment of the population. In this age of globalization, children in particular are exposed to movies at early stage in life and as they grow older it becomes difficult for them to differenciate reality from acting as what they view has the tendency to construct their social reality (|Donlom et,al, 2005). Since the stereotype surrounding belief about the aged are learned through informal, everyday practices of people including television programs and radio jingles, the elderly in Nigeria may be perceived as having less worth based on the manner they are represneted in the media which may create stereotype threat.

2.3.2 Religion and the Aged

Religion in its broadest sense has existed everywhere and always (O.O Fasoranti 2015). Emile Durkheim (1947) saw religion as a unified system of beliefs and practices related to sacred things.

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In traditional African society, the aged are perceived to be the mediators between this world and the next, the representatives of the ancestors and creators and the guardians of the cultural traditions. This belief made people cater for them and hold them in high esteem. The belief of Africans is that old age is an ancestral blessing gifted to those who live a righteous life. It is however culturally expected that the aged who are unable to fend for themselves must be taken care of by the young if they (the young ones) want to grow old. Thus, the ability of the aged persons to cope with changes in health, income, social activities depends to a very large extent on care and support they get from the young family members. No wonder children take care of their aged parents no matter what their perceptions and feelings towards them may be. There are repercussions and sanctions for people who do not take care of their aged parents. According to Camaroff (1985), negative perception of an aged parent was regarded as estrangement from the most potent source of effectiveness in everyday life. The values associated with old age are changing in the society, while the perception of the young family care givers are changing, the effectiveness of the traditional caring system has also been impaired due to the ways in which old age and the aged are perceived by the young family members. Ancestral worship was being practiced in traditional African society; people worshipped their ancestors and the aged. However during the 19th century the Christian missionaries gave the traditional Africans a new outlook on life that is not mono-sectional (Schmidt, 2005). They taught Africans that the visible world is clearly separated from the invisible world, and after death there are heaven and hell. The spiritual world (God, angels, demons or the devil) can interact with people, but the role of African ancestors is unknown to Christianity and the main actor in Christianity is God who gives or destroys life. It is he who blesses or punishes. There is no room for ancestral curses or visits from living-dead or any place for the aged in this flow of thought. No wonder the aged are in most cases depicted as a social problem and a burden to society and are often neglected.

In an article by (Farhan Azeez 2011), one of the major factors influencing our perception is religion and ethnicity. People who belong to different religions treat their elders differently and have their different family values. For example in Christianity and particularly in the west family bonds are weak and mostly there is a neutral family structure. The elderly people are looked upon as burden on the family and are easily left to spend their last years in old folks home. Whereas Muslims and people belonging to the east value family relationships and special care and attention is given to senior citizens.

2.3.3 Societal And Cultural Influences On Perception Of The Aged

Edward B. Tylor defined culture has that complex whole which includes knowledge, values, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society. The perception of people about the aged differs, the difference is not determined by whether a country is developed or developing but across cultures. According to Harre'(1986 as cited in Stam, 1998) our social, cultural and linguistic interactions influence our morals, rights and commitments but more importantly they shape the way we perceive age and aging in our communities. The world has become a global village in which people belong to different societies and culture as well as different ethnicities and races. Therefore there is no doubt in the fact that the attitudes and behavior of people belonging to different societies and culture are different towards their fellow people. Due to this fact, senior citizens or elderly people all over the world are treated differently in the society.

The perception of people about the aged can frequently stem from the culture within which they are embedded. For instance, these can include the household and familial beliefs, social influences,

popular culture, the media, literature, and even the environment (Gilbert & Ricketts 2008; Robinson et al. 2008; Musaiger & D'Souza 2009).Various studies revealed that perceptions of the aged are not the same across all cultures, or even within countries (Gilbert & Ricketts 2008). For example, the aged are believed to have a devalued status in American society, while in other cultures older people are respected and admired for their experience and wisdom (Cuddy et al. 2005; Barrett & Cantwell 2007; Musaiger & D'Souza 2009). Palmore (2004) asserted that older adults in America and Canada often encounter incidents of ageism and are treated by others as ailing and frail. In contrast, Tan et al. (2004) argued that a sample of younger people in China held more positive attitudes towards all categories of older people when compared with findings from studies in the US, Singapore and Trinidad. Some researchers ascribe these differences in perceptions to the individualistic nature of North American and Western European culture, which value and emphasize the rights of an individual as an autonomous self, free to express themselves, and act in their own self interest free from the constraints of others (Cuddy et al. 2005; Bodner & Lazar 2008).

Eastern and Middle-Eastern cultures, such as Chinese, Arabic and Israeli cultures are considered to possess more collectivist values (Bodner & Lazar 2008) where societies tend to encourage interdependence and therefore traditionally provide support and care for older people within their families (Bodner & Lazar 2008; Musaiger & D'Souza 2009). Tan et al. (2004) also observes that there is a family obligation towards the care of older people enshrined in law in China with punishments for adult children who fail to support a dependent parent. These examples demonstrate the differences between cultures in perceptions of older people suggesting that different cultural beliefs play an important role in influencing young adult's perceptions of older people. According to social psychologist, stereotypes prejudice and discrimination is a social phenomenon that is embedded in our culture and society by language, education, and hierarchies of power and

status. It is often exaggerated, reinforced and generalize and oftentimes embedded in our minds (Lopman, 1922, as cited in Hogg and Copper, 1996, p.361), which in turn becomes part of our shared understanding. These believes confirmed and strengthened by norms and practices of a society and are transferred to others through socialization channels like the family (Hogg and Copper, 2007, Crisp and Turner, 2010, p.198).Consequently, people attitudes of aging are formulated at an early age and life experience, norms, family cultural perceptions, and experiences gained has an impact on the continuance or change of these perceptions (Ron, 2007, p.659, Hogg and Copper, 2007). People's attitudes and perceptions of old age and aging have both internal and external psychological, social, cultural, and cognitive components. Therefore, the extent of such beliefs may differ across cultures. In the United States, when young adults are compared with older adults, older adults are evaluated more negatively. Interestingly, older adults are stereotyped and discriminated against as incompetent and as a burden on society. In Hispanic society, Hispanics tend to value family unity and loyalty. This includes nuclear and extended family (Triandis, Marin, Betancourt, Lisansky & Chang, 1982).These findings suggest that people perception about age can be both blatant and subtle and may vary depending on the cultural differences.

2.3.4 Modernization and Industrialization

It has been argued by different researchers that ageist attitudes are more common in modern societies than in the past or in more traditional cultures (Basford & Thorpe 2004; Palmore 2004; Lee 2009). According to Brocklehurst and Laurenson (2008) old age is now characterized with vulnerability and dependence whereas in the past it was seen by the society as a sign of wisdom that could be passed from generation to generation. The global scale modernization and industrialization has been posited as one contributing factor for the increasingly pan-cultural nature of ageist attitudes

and negative perceptions of the aged (Eyetsemitan et al. 2003). Changes in social roles associated with the global economy and technological advancement help shape attitudes towards older people (McConatha et al. 2004).

A theory of modernization (Cowgill 1986) has been put forth which suggests that there is a relationship between ageing and modernization, in cases where older men and women in less technologically advanced societies tend to yield more economic and social power than those in more industrialized countries. Despite the traditionally collectivist nature of some cultures, changes associated with all modern societies have led to the growth of individualism, which according to Hernandez and Gonzalez (2008) is now one of the characteristics of our civilization. It has also been observed by some researchers that despite the extensive socio-cultural changes that have taken place with increasing modernization and industrialization, many collectivist cultures still retain the importance of family and the status of older people within them (McConatha et al. 2004; Musaiger & D'Souza 2009).

Another feature of modern society hypothesized to influence perceptions of people towards the aged is demographic change and advancement in the growth of the older population (Basford & Thorpe 2004; Brocklehurst & Laurenson 2008). For example, McConatha et al. (2004) suggested that their findings of more negative perceptions of, and greater fear and anxiety about, ageing amongst a Turkish sample compared to their American counterparts could be attributed to the fact that in Turkey the older population remains relatively small and therefore there are few resources or education programs in place outside of the family to provide accurate information about ageing. In contrast, the authors argue that in the US there is a considerable body of research addressing the needs of the older population and numerous gerontological programs in place (McConatha et al. 2004).

Modern society brings with it technological advances and changes in social roles. Traditional roles in which the aged were perceived as important sources of knowledge and wisdom in society are beginning to change and impact on the young adults' perceptions of older people.

2.3 5 Age of the perceiver

A person's age is often thought to influence his /her perception of ageing and the aged (Musaiger & D'Souza 2009). Studies have revealed that older people tend to hold more positive attitude towards ageing and the aged than younger people (Kite et al. 2005), which suggest that younger people are more likely to demonstrate ageism (Soderhamn et al. 2001; Laditka et al. 2004; Allan & Johnson 2009). This is supported by findings from Rupp et al. (2005) who reported that younger participants tended to be more ageist than older participants. Similarly, Kruse and Schmitt (2006) found that those between the age of 58 and 64 years held more optimistic views about age than both younger and older age groups. However, there are some differences existing within age categories. For example, although Allan and Johnson (2009) asserted that 'older' participants were found to exert less ageist attitudes than their younger counterparts, the age range of participants was from 17 to 49 years. Similarly, Soderhamn et al. (2001) stated that 'older' students held more favorable attitudes than 'younger' students, with a cut-off of 25 years of age. In contrast, Laditka et al. (2004) found 'middle aged' participants, between the ages of 35 and 59 years, to have the least positive attitudes towards older people.

Children's attitudes are considered an important area of study, as they may be reflective of societal attitudes as a whole (Schwalbach & Kiernan 2002). Social learning is often considered one of the strongest determinants of stereotyping and prejudice against stigmatized groups (Montepare & Zebrowitz 2002). Barrett and Cantwell (2007) asserted that early socialization leads children to

assume ideas and attitudes towards older people and ageing which become well embedded and taken for granted as they get older.

A review of literature conducted by Montepare and Zebrowitz (2002) regarding children's attitudes towards older adults revealed that the tendency to differentiate people based on their age begins in early infancy and that both negative feelings toward older adults and varied stereotypes emerge in the early preschool years. Other researchers similarly report that children as young as four or five have well defined ideas about older people and ageing and exhibit negative attitudes toward older adults (Cottle & Glover 2007; Gilbert & Ricketts 2008). Gilbert and Ricketts (2008) asserted children's ideas and attitudes change and develop with age. It has also been suggested that children's attitudes tend to become less negative, more differentiated and more elaborate with age (Montepare & Zebrowitz 2002). A study by Davidovic et al. (2007) revealed positive perceptions of old age in a sample of 162 school children, which led them to the conclude that ageism is adopted later in life.

Age may be an influential factor in the perceptions of older people and ageing. While some researchers assert that young people tend to hold negative attitudes which then develop into more positive attitudes as they get older, others have argued that ageist attitudes tend to be adopted in later life.

2.4 Perception And Attitude Of Young Adults Towards The Aged

The population of the aged is increasing globally and one of the paramount challenges for the 21st century is the ageing of the world's population in developed, developing and underdeveloped nations. Like many nations of the world, Nigeria is currently witnessing rapid ageing of its

population. In Nigeria, the elderly, aged 60 and above constitutes about 5.3 percent of the country's total population. Though this estimated proportion appears to be small in size, however in numbers the population of the elderly in the country is about nine (9) Million (National Population Commission, 2010). Nigeria's elderly population is projected to reach sixteen (16) million people by year 2025, making the nation constitute one of the world's largest populations of the elderly (World Bank, 1994). The ageing of the world's population has brought alongside with it many social, political and economic challenges and those problems associated with health in older ages (WHO 2002). This makes old age to be perceived as a "problematic" phase of life.

In traditional African society, the aged are known to have a link with the creator, they act as mediators between this world and the next, guard cultural values, norms and traditions, and also represent the ancestors. All this characteristics attributed to the aged made people cater for them and hold them in high esteem. Writing about African societies, Amosun and Reddy (1997) stress that in most African societies, old age is perceived as a sign of blessing and the aged are respected and held in high esteem. To Africans old age was an ancestral blessing bestowed on those who live righteously but in recent times, there has been a lot of changes in the perception of old age. The change in perception of old age and the aged has been attributed by scholars to the effects of modernization, urbanization and western influence. For instance, the 19th century Christian missionaries gave Africans a new worldview that is not mono-sectional (Schmidt, 2005). The visible world is clearly separated from the invisible world, and after death there are heaven and hell. The spiritual world (God, angels, demons or the devil) can interact with people, but the role of African ancestors is unknown to Christianity and main actor in Christianity is God who gives or destroys life. It is he who blesses or punishes (ibid). In this flow of thought, there is no room for ancestral curses or visits from living-dead. No wonder the aged are in most cases depicted as a social problem

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and a burden to society (Krekula, 2007). In some cases, they are seen as those who use up scarce resources (Amosun and Reddy, 1997 In agrarian societies, a married couple cared for their aging parents. The oldest members of the family contributed to the household by doing chores, cooking, and helping with child care..As economies shifted from agrarian to industrial, younger generations moved to cities to work in factories. The elderly began to be seen as an expensive burden. They did not have the strength and stamina to work outside the home. Equally revealing is that as people grow older they define "old age" in terms of greater years than their current age (Logan 1992). Many people want to postpone old age, regarding it as a phase that will never arrive. Some older adults even succumb to stereotyping their own age group (Rothbaum 1983) due to the negative perception people have about the aged

Research on old age is not a new phenomenon as many scholars have dealt on the issue of old age and how the aged are perceived. From these studies, it has been revealed that perception towards the aged varies from society to society (Sijuwade 2009). According to social representations theory (Moscovici, 1984, 1988) the views of old age held within a given culture are a form of shared cultural representation. They constitute systems of ideas, values, and customs related to old age that is treated by members of the society as if they were established reality. Perceptions of old age are multidimensional in nature. It includes both positive and negative characteristics (Hummert, 1990), and reflect a mix between accurate depictions of age-related changes and distorted views of older people (Kite, Stockdale, Whitley, & Johnson, 2005). A research carried out by Yen et al (2009) in Taiwan, examined attitudes of nursing and medical students towards the aged and found a tendency towards positive attitudes for this cohort. Consistent with these findings, was Tan et al (2004) who examined Chinese university students' perceptions of older people and found that overall, they also expressed positive or, at the very least, neutral attitudes toward older people. Similarly, various

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researches have also reported that elderly have been perceived as warm, sincere, kind, and motherly (Cuddy et al. 2005; Barrett & Cantwell 2007).

Research studies revealed that not all perceptions and attitude towards the aged are positive. Studies on perception of old age and the aged has been based on the assumption that negative attitudes and perceptions are widespread (Butler, 1969) with numerous studies reporting negative views of the aged and old age (e.g. Allan & Johnson, 2009). Many of these negative perceptions tend to be reported by younger age groups (Woolf 2006; Cottle & Glover 2007). A study carried out in Ghana by Brown (1999) reveals that the aged themselves have negative views about being old. The aged in Brown's study articulate their perception of growing old as a period marked by hardships and misery, social ostracism, ill health, inadequate care, pain and weakness, and a burden on others. Hence, they generally view old age as a period of redundancy, pain and social exclusion. According to Hooyman and Kiyat (2002), although positive attitudes toward the young-old were universal, non-supportive or death-threatening behavior was shown toward those who survived beyond an "intact" stage of life in Roman and Greek cultures. In a study conducted by Philip Sijuwade (2009), Attitudes towards aging: a study of the self image of the aged, according to majority of the respondents, people's perception of the aged was predominantly negative. The younger generations believe that the aged are always nagging and they become obstinate. The younger generation starts to stereotype the aged and believe that whatever the aged is doing or thinking is because of old age. Furthermore ambivalent findings regarding attitudes towards older people and ageing indicates that most people tend to rate old age positively on some dimensions whilst rating it negatively on others (Williams et al. 2007; Gilbert & Ricketts 2008). This has been reported in many studies. For example, a study carried out by Gellis et al. (2003) found that students displayed negative attitudes towards older adults on productivity, adapting to change, independence, and optimism; however they responded

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positively on a subscale examining acceptability. Similarly, Davidovic et al. (2007) reported that the most of the respondents in a sample of forty-eight nurses in Serbia gave conditional responses to the question "Is old age unattractive?" For example, many remarked that old age was not unattractive if a person is in good health, or stated that it depended on the person themselves and his or her own attitude. Such studies reveal the complexities inherent in perceptions held of older people. Whether older people are perceived positively or negatively is often dependent on the different criteria in which they are being perceived on i.e. physical appearance, health, adaptability and so on. Furthermore, it is likely that people do not have fixed positive or fixed negative perceptions of old age, but rather they have different views of the many and varied features of older people and ageing. Also, research studies carried out on the stereotypes of older people have identified positive, as well as neutral and negative elements in people's perceptions held of ageing and older people (Robinson et al. 2008). According to Palmore (1999) many of the most commonly held stereotypes reflecting old age are twofold with many reporting older people in a negative light as well as corresponding positive stereotype that are almost a direct opposite. For example, Cuddy et al. (2005) reported that mainstream societal stereotypes perceive elderly people as warm (positive) but also as incompetent (negative). Similarly, Barrett and Cantwell (2007) examined age-related stereotypes using student drawings of elderly people and found that the sketches depicted both negative and positive stereotypes. In a follow on study, students examined and discussed a similar sample of drawings of older people (Barrett & Pai 2008). Examples of words students associated with the positive sketches included wise, knowledgeable, experienced, and patriotic and "golden ager". However the list describing the negative stereotypes was substantially longer and consisted of descriptors such as shrewd, greedy, selfish, stubborn, and grumpy. Other words included lonely, depressed, closed-minded, boring, wrinkled, forgetful, and technologically challenged. The elderly have also been

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described as pessimistic, difficult, grouchy and irritable (Tan et al. 2004). Although both positive and negative descriptions of older people are presented, it is evident from above that more negative descriptions are associated with older people. This finding is similar to that of Sauer (2006) who reported that students were three times more likely to use mostly negative rather than positive descriptions to characterize older adults. Furthermore, Palmore (1981) found that seven of the nine most frequent misconceptions of older people tend to reflect negative stereotypes.

Similar studies have also reported that older people are more likely to be negatively stereotyped (Gellis et al. 2003; Kite et al. 2005; Musaiger & D'Souza 2009). Arnold-Cathalifaud et al. (2008) concluded that, although no one stereotype of old age exists, old age is generally perceived as a stage in which the positive characteristics of life, such as health, are lost.

The society we live in is permeated with ageism in different degrees. Cultural stereotypes, pop cultures and media reinforce in a youth oriented society, "Young is beautiful". Further, the constant emphasis on youth, beauty, vitality and strength, indirectly strengthens the negative perceptions of old age. Literature reveals that younger people have negative image of ageing while the aged have a relatively positive image but at the same time the aged themselves had negative attitudes and perception of the other aged.

2.5 Care and Support of the Aged

The perception of people about ageing and the aged impacts on the formulation and implementation of social policies affecting the aged (Arnold – Cathalifaud et al. 2008; Musaigner & D'Souza 2009). For example as people age, their need for day to day support and healthcare is likely to increase. According to Zhou (2007), good quality care service and healthy relationships with older adults are essential but are unlikely if people's perceptions of the elderly are negative.

A recent health service executive (HSE) 2009 reports highlighted how the perception and attitude of people can have a significant negative effect on the lives of the elderly . The report states: ageism and ageist attitudes are not the sole factors contributing to elder's abuse but can give rise to a culture which creates a fertile environment in which elder abuse can develop, leading to age discrimination and devaluing and disempowering older people (HSE, 2009 p 21).

The well-being of the elderly population is a major concern that is attracting attention globally. This is largely due to the increasing population of the elderly worldwide (Ajomale, 2007; Fayehun, Adebayo and Gbadamosi, 2014). In terms of providing social support to the elderly, the developed nations have been positively tremendous in this aspect, however in the less developed nations of the world social support is yet to receive any genuine considerable attention, especially from the government, probably due to the fact that the care for the elderly are left in the hands of their children and relatives (Wahab & Isiugo-Abanihe, 2008; Adamchak, 1991; Apt, 1994). Until recently, in African societies the elderly population faced little or no challenge. This was because what constitute challenges in this present era did not exist in the past. In times past, African societies created conditions of comfort, adequate care and respect for the elderly, however contact with foreign rule and the evolution of some factors brought about social and cultural change in the perception as well as the care and support of the aged. According to Help age International (2001), the care of older persons within their families in Africa was guaranteed until the advent of colonial rule, modernization, urbanization and industrialization. Studies (Abdulrahman 1988; Ogunbodede 1997; Help Age International 2001; Oluwabamide 2005) have also shown that the extended family system practiced by most African societies has brought about collective care for the aged. According to Oluwabamide (2005), the care of the aged posed no problem in African traditional societies. This is because the extended family system assigned this responsibility to the younger generation. Thus,

in a typical African community, the aged are catered for by members of their extended families and sometimes, the entire clan where necessary. Furthermore, African cultures prescribed that the aged be revered and respected by the young adults in the community. In most African societies, respect towards senior kinsmen and kinswomen was considered a virtue, which everyone must practice (Oluwabamide 2005). This involved being polite to senior kin members, listening to their opinions and observing their wishes, this practice and belief ensured the care of the elderly. Furthermore, in African societies the aged were not isolated either physically or socially (Ogunbodede 1997). In a typical African community, the young adults often sat down to listen to words of wisdom and advice from the elderly. This had an overwhelming positive effect on the welfare of the aged as they never suffered from loneliness or isolation and its psychological consequences. Also, the society relied a great deal on the wisdom of the elderly, hence, the saying: "the words of elders are words of wisdom". This had a positive impact on the aged especially when one considers the fact that the society's dependence upon their wisdom and experience encourages them (the aged) to actively participate in the affairs of their communities. They indeed, felt recognized and relevant. It also made people see the care and support of the aged as paramount.

Most of the aged in the country today are experiencing unmet needs in areas like; nutrition, health accessibility, housing and companionship (Peil, 1991; Abdulraheem, Oladipo, Amodu, 2011; Mudiare, 2013; Ajayi, Adebusoye, Ogunbode, Akinyemi & Adebayo, 2015). Due to the declining economy, unemployment, underemployment, inflation among others, many children no longer have the capacity to provide care and support for their aged parents and relatives while the family support networks are on decline. In the same vein, urbanization and western influence has also broken down the traditional sense of family responsibility to the care of the aged. Unlike the economically developed countries, lack of social security scheme worsens the predicaments of the elderly.

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According to Gesinde, Adekeye and Iruonagbe (2011) elderly people's lives in Nigeria are characterized by growing inadequacies in customary family supports, social exclusion and non-existent social security. Furthermore, the spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic is leading to rising mortality among working adults which suggests that young adults may die before their ageing parents in some cases, leaving the elderly with little or no support and additional responsibility of caring for orphans.

In Nigeria, the burden of care of the aged rests greatly on family members despite the provisions in the 1999 Constitution, Section 14.2(b) which states categorically that, "The security and welfare of its people shall be the primary purpose of the government" and in Section 16, sub-section 2(d) promises, "That suitable and adequate shelter and suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, elderly age care and pensions and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of the disabled are provided for all citizens." In practice, the government seems to have reneged on these promises as there is no social security scheme covering most elderly most elderly except some ad hoc programmes by Ekiti state and some local governments in which gift items are given to elderly of which are not sustainable. A research carried out by Tolulope funmilola et al on the social support and well being of the elderly persons in Ekiti State, revealed that the young adults are still the ones responsible for the care and support of the elderly today despite the declining economy, inflation, underemployment and unemployment faced by this group. The result of the study revealed that most of the respondents had their sources of social security from their children, compared with a few who receive theirs from the government, extended families and community members. However about 38.5% of cases responded that they have no source of social support, revealing a life of loneliness, anxiety, friendliness and hostility. This suggests that the government provides very little or none at all for the care of the elderly, especially for those who spent their active life in the informal sector were pension is largely limited.

The pensioners in the formal employment have pension benefits which are insufficient and often delayed due to corruption in the pension system. While the growing concern for increasing number of elderly people around the globe and the need to provide care and support for them led the adoption of the International Plan of action on Ageing in Madrid in 2002 as well as development of other policy frameworks at the regional level such as: African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2003),National Policy on Care and Wellbeing of the Elderly Economic Committee for Africa – The State of Elderly People in Africa (Draft 2007), there is no such genuine concern in Nigeria even where the country is a signatory to international policy (Ajomale, 2007b). The neglect of the aged has given rise to problems such as; elderly people begging for alms at public functions, parks, taking up odd jobs etc. According to Akinlosotu (2004) the aged move slowly to elaborate social parties where celebration of award of chieftaincy titles, final burial rites of grandparents, birthday, warming of new houses take place, uninvited and milling around guests begging for food and money or packing food ruminants' for consumption. The practice is common both in urban and rural areas in the country. This indicates the highest point of lack of care and support for the elderly. Furthermore, preference is given to burial of the aged than care while alive. Unfortunately, in all cultures sampled in researches by (APT, 1995; Aboderin 2006), burials of elderly who were denied good care and neglected by government, children and relatives are marked with colorful family dresses, social parties, expensive entertainments and sharing of gifts. In addition, due to lack of social security, responses of the respondents revealed that elderly people suffer neglect, some lack good and decent accommodation to live, engage in hard labor in order to keep ends meet. No recreational facilities, access to portable water, poor living environment and lack of care from children and relations due to diminishing economic power, urbanization and influence of western culture that have aided breaking down of traditional value system culminating in charge

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of attitudes to elderly. Just like young adults, elderly people engage in different occupation. Most respondents indicated that a large number of elderly people are self-employed, take care of grand-children, as well as serving as nannies, sought employment with private individuals, and engage in politics and alms begging in streets and parks. This pattern of employment was also observed in each zone. Many are self-employed but the extent to which this can sustain a considerable number of them remains doubtful. The market places in the towns and villages are always full to the brim of traders of all assorted junks and consumables with the working capital of many of the wretched traders not more than 100 naira or less than one US dollar (Akinlosotu, 2004). The 6 point statements stated in the National Population Policy (2004) in respect of the need for elderly people to receive greater attention have not been implemented. This is because the Nigerian government and political leaders according to Ajomale (2007) believe that the provision of care for the elderly is the responsibility of families and hence policy emphasis is more on children, young people and women.

Today, the aged are exposed to different forms of abuse which include physical violence, rape, and denial of basic necessities (food, water, shelter and healthcare). They are also denied support by their families and communities. At the national level, older people are not given the privilege to participate in matters that affect them and they are not adequately considered in national legislation. Although, this cohort is among the poorest of the poor, poverty alleviation programs do not target them.

Globally, the expectation governing the amount and type of care of the elderly differs from one culture to the other. In Asia for instance the responsibility for elder care lies squarely on the family (Yap, Thang, and Traphagan 2005). This is in contrast to the approach in most Western countries, where the elderly are considered independent and are expected to tend to their own care. The family members intervene only if the elderly relative requires assistance, often due to poor health. Even

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then, caring for the elderly is considered voluntary. In North America, decisions to care for an elderly relative are often conditionally based on the promise of future returns, such as inheritance or, in some cases, the amount of support the elderly provided to the caregiver in the past (Hashimoto 1996). These differences are based on cultural perception and attitudes toward aging

2.6 Theoretical Framework

Social Learning Theory

Social learning theory focuses on the learning that occurs within a social context. It considers that people learn from one another, including such concepts as observational learning, imitation, and modeling. Social learning theory is also referred to as social cognitive theory, modeling or observational learning. It was propounded by Albert Bandura in the 1960's. He posited that human learn / imitate behaviors from those who performs such behaviors. This theory has to do solely with the perception of young adults towards the aged and its implication for its care and support; more so, this theory is applicable in any situation. Observational learning plays a crucial role in the perception of young adults towards the aged. Often times, Individuals imitate and model the actions of others towards the aged and reciprocate such actions. If the Action is favorable, the individual tends to have a positive perception about the aged, and will behave positively to the elderly individual. However if the action towards the aged is unfavorable, the individual who observes such scenario tends to have a negative perception towards the aged and will most likely behave negatively towards them. Modeling can be negative or positive, for example, Family, friends, mass media, religion play a major role in the modeling process of an individual. The cultural values, norms, belief system, television shows may shape the perception and attitude of people towards the elderly. An individual who takes into cognizance the behavior of others tends to copy such behaviors and put it into

practice in reality. Whatever action young adults observe, they tend to imbibe it and this reflects in their behavior and lifestyle. If young adults are constantly exposed to negative modeling and imitations of elderly persons, they will imbibe negative perceptions about the elderly and also have negative attitude towards them. However if individuals are exposed to positive views about the aged, they will inculcate positive attitude towards them. This goes a long way in determining the way the elderly will be cared for and treated. Children/ youths base their view/ perception of aging and the aged mainly on the exposure they encounter. If a child's exposure to older people is based on negatively biased literature, media and family influences, stereotypic and negative view of older people will likely become incorporated in his or her frame of reference. Modeling theory is about learning through imitation and identification. Family, religious institutions, society, mass media, cultural norms and values dictates how we live our lives, what we possess, and what we are, how we are perceived tells us about our social status and we modify it according to these several factors we are exposed to. The perception and attitudes we have towards the aged are learnt socially through observation, imitation and modeling.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the method used in collection and Analysis of data. It discusses the research design, Study area, population of study, sample size, sampling technique, research instrument, and method of analysis and data presentation.

3.1 Research Design

Research Design is the plan, structure, and strategy of investigation conceived so as to attain answers to research questions and to control Variable (Ogunbameru, 2010). There are three purposes of research design;

(i) To provide answers to questions

(ii) To control variance

(iii) To outline conclusions (Ogunbameru 2010).

The type of research design used in this study is the survey method; this method is one which involves collection of data to investigate existing phenomena. Psychologists and sociologists use surveys to analyze human behavior; survey is also used to meet the more pragmatic needs of the media.

3.2 Study Area

Historical Profile Of Ekiti State

Occupying an area of 700sq km, undulating gently in the south and west generally, flat in the central and northern parts, Ekiti is bounded in the south by Iju/itaogbolu, Ifedore and Owo local

governments of Ondo state; in the east by Akoko also of Ondo state; in the west by Osun state and in the north by Kwara and Kogi state. Popularly known as the Land of honor, Ekiti state was created on October 1st 1996 by the late Former Head of state General Sani Abacha. The people of Ekiti are predominantly agrarian although, cash and food crops are grown extensively in old style land-holdings with little or no input or modernization equipment. In addition to the above, Ekiti indigenes attend in their thousands universities and other tertiary schools in all parts of Nigeria. Indeed it is almost unknown for a polytechnic, university, college of technology or of education located anywhere in Nigeria not to have a large number of Ekiti indigenes as students and in many cases also academics and administrative staff. This is the reason why people refer to Ekiti as a land of 'book-crammers'. In terms of religious affiliations, Christianity and Islam are the two religions prevalent in the state while the traditional religion is practiced by a few. Peter Ayodele Fayose (born 15 November 1960) serves as the current governor of Ekiti State in Nigeria.

Historical Profile Of Oye Ekiti

Oye is a Local Government capital and town situated in Ekiti state. Its boundary in the north lies in Ilemeje while it is bounded on the south by Ifelodun, Ikole to the east and Ido to the west. Oye Ekiti boasts of a growing student community hosted by the Federal University Oye and Crawford University. Oye Local Government Area was established from the former Ekiti North Local Government on May 17 1989. Majority of its inhabitants speak Yoruba with only few dialectical variations.

Historical Profile Of Ado Ekiti

Ado Ekiti is a city located in southwest Nigeria, the state capital and headquarters of the Ekiti State. Research shows that some people of unknown historical origin occupied this particular region about

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eleven thousand (11,000) years ago. These people were supposedly ancestors of Igbon near Ogotun, Erijiyan, Ijero, Ulesun and Asin (near Ikole). These ancient people were the ancestors of Ekiti. After many generations, a new wave of immigrant groups penetrated this homeland; their leader as Ewi, second successor of Prince Biritiokun, Son of Oduduwa, on account of his wanderings all the way from the Benin forests came to this homeland. Ulesun people welcomed them warmly and neighboring committees came together to assist the Ewi's in their settlement. Eventually, Ewi and his people overthrew the existing political structure, conquered Ulesun community, displaced its ruler Elesun and established a new town, Awamaro named Ado, meaning 'here we encamp'. Ado-Ekiti is one of the towns of the north-eastern territory of Yoruba land and passed through a succession of military, political and cultural changes from the time of Ewi Awamaro (circa 1310 A.D) who migrated there to form what became Ado-Ekiti.

3.3 Instrument of Data Collection

Questionnaire (quantitative) and interview (qualitative) was used as the research instrument of this study, which includes closed ended and open ended questions. The questionnaire and interview guide entails the issues discussed in the research objectives and research questions of the study, which majority was closed ended and the rest was open ended to give room for suggestions from respondents. For the primary data, both quantitative and qualitative data was generated using questionnaire survey and in-depth interviews. While secondary data was generated through journals, textbooks, internet and other sources

3.4 Population of the Study

This refers to the unit or universe from which samples will be selected for the study. The population for this study consists of the young adults (18 to 35) and the aged men and women (aged 60 years or older) in selected towns in Ekiti state which includes Ado and Oye Ekiti, Ekiti state

3.5 Sample Size

Sample size is the number of respondents included in the research. For the quantitative method, a sample size of 200 was used. Having an equal representation of (100) respondents from each town, While for the interview, 12 participants was obtained (six males and six females), six (6) participants from each town. The study captured information from the young adults and the aged on the subject matter.

3.6 Sampling Technique

The research adopts a non-probability sampling technique. Convenience or opportunity sampling was used to gather data from the respondents. In convenience sampling, the researcher chooses the closest live persons as respondents (Ogunbameru 2010).

3.7 Method of Data Collection

A mixed method of data collection was employed in this research as both quantitative and qualitative method was used in the collection of data. For the quantitative method, the questionnaire was used, while a recorder was used for conducting the interview. The questionnaire was used to obtain information from the young adults concerning the subject matter while the interview was carried out among the young adults and the aged men and women (aged 65 or older) due to the low level of literacy among majority of the aged and so as also to be able to capture their non-verbal response

3.8 Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

The triangulation method was employed in the presentation of data. Triangulation is a powerful technique which helps in the application and combination of several research methods in the study of the same phenomenon. Data collected and collated from the field was analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The quantitative method of data analysis such as the use of questionnaire was ordered, coded, edited and entered into the computer and analyzed using Statistical Package For Social Science (SPSS) software while the qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis and verbatim report

3.9 Validity and Reliability of Instrument

The commonest definition of Validity is epitomized by the question "are we measuring what we think we are measuring". Reliability refers to the accuracy or precision of a measuring instrument. In testing for the validity and reliability of the research instrument a pilot study was conducted, the project supervisor also scrutinized the entire instruments to ensure that the major issues raised were covered and to also verify the authenticity of the instrument. All this gave the instruments face validity or credibility

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In this chapter, the researcher presented the results of the analysis of primary data gathered through questionnaire administration to various respondents in .tables showing frequencies and percentages. The result and interpretation of the research hypothesis earlier stated in chapter one of the research work were also presented.

Out of a total of 200 copies of questionnaire distributed, all were dully filled and returned. This gives a return rate of 100% for the study. Therefore, the study used the data collected for the purpose of the analysis and test of stated hypothesis.

4.1 Data Presentation

The table below shows the socio demographic distribution of the respondents

Table 4.1: Distribution showing the demographic details of the respondents

Variables	F	%	Variables	F	%
Area			**Ethnic group**		
Ado	100	50	Yoruba	173	86.5
Oye	100	50	Igbo	20	10
Total	200	100	Hausa	3	1.5
Age			Others	4	2
18-20	99	49.5	Total	200	100
21-25	93	46.5	**Level of Education**		
26-31	8	4.0	No Formal Education	7	3.5
Total	200	100	School Certificate	59	29.5
Gender			OND/NCE	19	9.5
Male	108	54	HND/BSC	99	49.5

Female	92	46	Above Bsc	16	8
Total	200	100	Total	200	100
Marital Status			**Religion Affiliation**		
Single	193	96.5	Christain	178	89
Engaged	7	3.5	Islam	16	8
Total	200	100	Traditional	5	2.5
Occupation			Others	1	.5
Unemployed	11	5.5	Total	200	100
Civil Servant	5	2.5			
Self Employed	34	17			
Student	149	74.5			
Others	1	.5			

Table 4.1 presents the demographic distribution of the respondents. The table shows the location of the respondents. It depicts that 50% of the respondents reside in Ado-Ekiti, while 50% of the respondents reside in Oye-Ekiti. The table also shows the age group. The result depicts that 49.5% of the respondents were between the age brackets of 18-20, while 46.5 % of the respondents were between the age bracket of 21-25 and 4% of the respondents were between the age brackets of 26-31. This implies that those who participated in the study were young adults

The table also shows the gender distribution of the respondents. It depicts that 54% of the respondents were Male while 46% of the respondents were Female. This means both sexes were represented in the study. It also revealed the Marital Status of the respondents, whereby 96.5% of the respondents were single and 3.5% of the respondents were engaged.

The occupation status of the respondents shows that 5.5% of the respondents were unemployed, 2.5% of the respondents were Civil servants, while 17% of the respondents were Self Employed and 74.5 of the respondents were students. The table also revealed that 86.5% of the respondents were of the Yoruba ethnic group, 10% of the respondents were of the Igbo ethnic group, 1.5% of the respondents were of the Hausa ethnic group and 2% of the respondents were from other ethnic groups.

The table above also revealed the level of education of the respondents. It depicts that 3.5% of the respondents have no formal education, 29.5% of the respondents have school Certificate, 9.5% of the respondents have OND/NCE, while 49.5% of the respondents have HND/B.sc degree and 8% of the respondents have a degree above B.sc. The table also revealed the religion affiliation of the respondents. It depicts that 89% of the respondents were Christians, 8% of the respondents were of the Islamic religion, while 2.5% of the respondents Practice the Traditional arts and .5% of the respondents is of another religion not listed above. This means that most of the respondents belong to one religious faith or the other

THE TABLES BELOW PRESENTS THE RESULT OF THE DATA COLLECTED ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF THE YOUNG ADULTS ABOUT THE AGED

Table 4.2 Distribution Showing the Perception of the respondents' friends or other people about the aged

What do your friends or other people think about the aged?	Frequency	Percentage
Fetish	19	9.5
Witches and wizards	10	5.0
Prayerful	31	15.5,
Scary and dangerous	25	12.5
Friendly	41	20.5
Caring	58	29.0
Wise	14	7.0
Total	198	99.0
System	2	1.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 4.2 above presents the perception of the respondents friends and other people about the aged. The table revealed that 9.5% of the people think aged people are fetish, 5% think that aged people are witches and wizards, 15.5% perceived aged people as prayerful, 12.5% perceive aged people as scary and dangerous. Furthermore, the table also revealed that 20.5% of the friends and people perceived aged people as friendly, 7% perceive aged people as wise while the majority of the

respondent 29% perceived them as caring. This implies that majority of the respondents friends percieve the aged as caring

Table 4.2.1 Distribution showing the perception of young adults about the aged as witches/wizards.

Option	Frequency	Percent
Yes	64	32.0
No	118	59.0
I don't know	18	9.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 4.2 presents the result on the perception of the aged as witches and wizards by the respondents. The result shows that 32% of the respondents opined that aged people are witches/wizards, while the majority of the respondents 59% opined that aged people are not witches/wizards and 9% of the respondents opined that they don't know if aged people are witches/wizards.

Table 4.2.2b. Distribution showing the responses of the respondents towards their opinion about the aged as being witches/wizards.

If yes what influenced your opinion?	Frequency	Percentage
They feel bad and intimated when people treat them badly because they are old and weak and some of them become witches to revenge especially those in the village	2	1.0
A lot of people are witches and wizard, both young and old so it's possible for old people to be witches/wizard	2	1.0
From movies and stories	1	.5
Gossips and stories pass down to generations	1	.5

An old woman here in oye ekiti was caught practicing witchcraft, she gave some school children witch by offering them biscuits, she is at the oba's palace as presently	1	.5
I don't think it's so because most of them trained we youth of today and made us what we are	1	.5
I have actually seen several instances where old women and men engage in sorcery	2	1.0
It is just a general belief and i go with that belief	1	.5
Just few of them are witches and wizard	2	1.0
Many aged people are witches/wizard based on the past experience.	2	1.0
Movies	3	1.5
Movies and life experience	2	1.0
My friend's sister and father died due to the activities of the grandmother	1	.5
No, they are not witches and wizard	2	1.0
Not all though	2	1.0
Not many aged people are witches and wizard like we all think, they are caring and prayerful	2	1.0
People around me	2	1.0
Some aged people in my hometown	1	.5
That is the believe of yoruba people	2	1.0
The aged people are not wizard, they are believed to be witches	2	1.0
The attitude of some aged is very bad	2	1.0
The places I've visited and stories I've heard them say	1	.5
The society and some aged people practice herbalism	1	.5
The way they talk	1	.5
Their behavior and attitude towards life	3	1.5
Their looks are kind of scary	1	.5
They are always fetish or may be practices	1	.5
They are straight forward and blunt	1	.5
They look weird	1	.5
They participated in some unlawful and uncultured association that expose them to evil deeds	2	1.0
They practice juju	2	1.0
Think of the spiritual aspect, some are possessed by devil	2	1.0
This is Africa	1	.5
This is mere yoruba mentality and home video injection	2	1.0

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Yes, some aged people may be wizard/witches because they may have bad option for someone.	2	1.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 4.2.2b above revealed the various answers given by the respondents as to why they are of the opinion that the aged are witches or wizards

Table 4.2.3: Distribution table showing young people perception about the aged.

Do you consider that most elderly people are?	Frequency	Percent
Demanding	27	13.5
Cheerful	32	16.0
Helpful/generous	57	28.5
Difficult to please	26	13.0
Easy to get on with	1	.5
Encouraging/supportive	17	8.5
Rigid conservative	4	2.0
Boring	3	1.5
Flexible	2	1.0
Adaptable	1	.5
Caring	3	1.5
Sickly	7	3.5
Prayerful	5	2.5
Accommodating	3	1.5
Wise	5	2.5

Experienced		5	2.5
Clean/neat		2	1.0
Total		200	100.0

Table 4.2.3 presents the diffrent perceptions of respondents about the aged. The table revealed that majority of the respondents 28.5% percieve the aged as helpful, 13.5% of the respondents perceived aged people as demanding, 16% perceive them as cheerful, , 13% percieved them as difficult to please, .5% percive them as easy to get on with, 8.5% perceive them to be encouraging and supportive, 2.5 %perceive them as rigidly conservative, 1.5% perceive them as boring, 1% perceive aged people as flexible, .5% percieve them as adaptable, 1.5% perceive them as caring, 3.5% percive them as sickly, 2.5% perceive them as prayerful, 1.5 % of the respondnets perceived aged people as accomodating, 2.5% percieve them as wise, 2.5% also percieve them as experienced while 1% percieve them as clean/neat.

Table 4.2.4 Distribution table showing young people perception about the aged.

VARIABLES		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Old people are liabilities and a burden to the society	Strongly Agree	16	8
	Agree	31	15.5
	Undecided	12	6
	Disagree	88	44
	Strongly Disagree	53	26
	Total	**200**	**100**
Old people are irritable and display unpleasant behavior.	Strongly Agree	13	6.5
	Agree	56	32
	Undecided	26	13
	Disagree	64	28

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	Strongly Disagree	41	20
	Total	**200**	**100**
Most people tend to look scary, unkept and unattractive.	Strongly Agree	29	14.5
	Agree	66	33
	Undecided	25	12.5
	Disagree	41	20.5
	Strongly Disagree	39	19.5
	Total	**200**	**100**
The aged lacks sense of reason and physical vigor.	Strongly Agree	19	9.5
	Agree	32	16
	Undecided	23	11.5
	Disagree	74	37
	Strongly Disagree	51	25.5
	Total	**200**	**100**
Most aged people are really no different from anybody else they are easy to understand as younger people.	Strongly Agree	46	23
	Agree	59	29.5
	Undecided	46	23
	Disagree	21	10.5
	Strongly Disagree	28	14
	Total	**200**	**100**
	Agree	52	26
	Undecided	31	15.5
	Disagree	34	17
	Strongly Disagree	11	5.5
	Total	**200**	**100**

Table 4.2.4 above presents the perceptions of the respondents about the aged. The table revealed that 8% of the respondents strongly agree that old people are liabilities and a burden to the society while 15.5% of the respondents agree that old people are liabilities and a burden to the society, 6% of the

respondents were undecided, while majority of the respondent 44% disagree that Old people are liabilities and a burden to the society and 26% of the respondents strongly disagree.

The table also revealed that 6.5% of the respondents strongly agree that old people are irritable and display unpleasant behavior, 32% of the respondents agree, 13% of the respondents were undecided, 28% of the respondents disagree and 20% strongly disagree. The result of this is that majority of the respondent are of the opinion that the old people are irritable and display unpleasant behavior

The tables also revealed that majority of the respondents 33% agree that most old people tend to look scary, un-kept and unattractive; 14.5% of the respondents strongly agree, agree, while 12.5% of the respondents were undecided, 23.5% of the respondents disagree and 19.5% of the respondents strongly disagree. This implies that majority of the respondents are of the opinion that the aged tend to look un-kept, scary and unattractive

The table also revealed that 9.5% strongly agree that the aged lack Sense of reason and physical vigor. It's also revealed that 16% of the respondents agree, 11.5% of the respondents were undecided, 37% of the respondents disagree and 25.5% of the respondents strongly disagree.

The table also revealed that's 23% of the respondents strongly agree that Most aged people really are no different from anybody else they easy to understand as younger people while 29.5% of the respondents agree, 23% of the respondents were undecided, 10.5% of the respondents disagree 14% of the respondents strongly agree.

The findings of the research on the perception of the young adults about the aged reveals that the young adults in the study do not have a fixed negative or a fixed negative perception of the elderly but rather have different views of the many and varied features of the elderly. This implies the young adults' holds both positive and negative perception of the aged depending on the different criteria in

which they are being observed as majority of the respondents (28.5%) perceive the aged as helpful and majority of the respondents (32%) also agree that the aged are irritable and display unpleasant behavior. This findings is similar to that of Barett and cantwell (2007) who examined the age related stereotypes using students drawings of the elderly people and found out that sketches depicited both positive and negative stereotypes

In the in-depth interview (IDI) session the young adults concerning their perception of the aged has this to say; .

" The elderly are usually kind of old school so to say, they don't have the idea of things that are going on currently, technology and all unlike the young ones, it's true the aged are wise and knowledgeable due to their experience but I think they are no longer useful unlike the way they were in the past, ,things have change and their wisdom is now limited, the aged also read meaning to every small incidence that happen and I will say it's really annoying, they feel they know everything which is not true because things have change, old people can also be boring most times and you can't easily convince them to do something and hmmm some of them could be demonic, I never truly believed until I witnessed it myself her in Oye, an old woman was caught and taken to the king's palace, she gave some school children witchcraft by offering them biscuits, the old woman was punished I guess and she didn't deny being a witch so one just have to be careful, this is Africa you know". (IDI, MALE (20) OYE)

Another respondent: .

" They are experienced, they have knowledge about things compared to the youth now but the way things are going, u know civilization they might not have the knowledge of some things but that those not mean they are not wise and knowledgeable, they are also very nice and generous". (IDI, FEMALE (22) ADO)

" Hmmm in my own view, the old people are both interesting and annoying, but mostly annoying. my grandmother. lives with us and seriously sometimes she tends to be so annoying, she complains about everything, which makes someone looks like a bad person, she just want you to be perfect and that cannot be possible, she doesn't allow me to do stuffs the way I like, she doesn't quickly let go of things, once she sees something in a particular way nobody can change her view about it, and she is so difficult to please chai! but when she wants to be cool she would be cool but that only happens ones in a while that's why most

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times I don't stay at home, I even use to be happy when I'm coming to school because I know I am free from her wahala". (IDI FEMALE(19) OYE)

The elderly in the in-depth interview (IDI) session when asked how the young adults perceive gave different responses, some responded that they perceive them positively, some neutral and negative, some aged persons also complained that the young adults perception of the aged has changed negatively unlike in the past. Their responses are as follow;

" The young people around me sees me as their grandmother and mother and they respect me, although there are some that sees the elderly as troublesome and people who complains a lot and cannot be pleased but it is because those children are lazy, ill mannered and they don't want to take to correction most young people don't want to be corrected, we also have seen life and we know how life works and so when we see doing the wrong thing, we correct them especially the female children, if they are not we trained or are left to do whatever they wish, it would affect them when they get to their husbands house which is a big problem and to avoid this we talk to them and correct them whenever they do the wrong thing and when they are corrected, they see us as their enemies and call us all sort of names, some even call us witches not knowing that we are only trying to save them from destruction, because we have seen life and we cannot sit and watch them go the wrong way". (IDI, FEMALE (67) OYE)
Another respondent:

"It depends on the elderly person, my grand children and the students leaving with me here sees me as their grandmother and mother, we spend time together, I give them things when I have and they also assist me in doing things, they love coming to visit me because they know I will pray for them, the young people around calls me iya adura. There are some elderly people who prefer to rain curses on young people at any opportunity they get or when they misbehave. There is one elderly woman who lives close to this very house who has a cashew tree, she sits outside her house watching, she rain curses on any student who tries to pluck fruit from her tree and anyone who offends her, this made people see her as a witch and call her different names, nobody comes close to her".(IDI, FEMALE(72) ADO)
Another respondent:

"Most youths of nowadays sees the aged as ''old fashioned'' and that we don't know anything or understand things that are happening in the society and that our knowledge and experience is not needed or useful in present time, they don't value the elderly just because

they are educated or learned, they no longer respect the knowledge and experience that comes with old age". (IDI, MALE (69) ADO)

Another respondent:

"It depends on the individual and the kind of training of such person, you know God created us differently, some youths lack training which makes them to see us as irrelevant and unimportant people in the society, they find it hard to greet not to talk of helping us, they only give respect to their elderly relative, they will see the elderly person carrying load, they won't collect from us, things they cannot do to their parents they do it to the elderly, just because we don't have strength like them, they feel they can do anything to us, treat us anyhow and walk away with it not knowing they will also grow old one day and some are well behaved, they regard and hold us in high esteem". (IDI, FEMALE (74) OYE)

Another respondent:

"The young people around me sees me as their grandmother and friend, they regard and respect me and seek advice from me, they see me as an elderly person who needs care, they take care of me, my church members also respect and value me, I was even recently given an award in my church as a good and loving woman, who did not marry more than husband or get divorced, and for my service in church, people see me as a woman of God even in my family and they love being around me, I call them when to greet them and they call me too, they don't joke with me especially with my health". (IDI, FEMALE (77) OYE)

Another respondent:

"The youths of nowadays sees the aged as fetish and associate old people with traditional practices, whenever, they see an old person the first thing that comes to their mind is that this man or woman could be a traditionalist, could be an herbalist or a witch, I think they use to recognize witches and wizards hehehe probably because of our appearance which is not our fault, it is part of aging or what they have been socialized in their families about the aged, I once overheard some children calling an old woman all sort of names sometimes ago just because she disciplined them, some children they see their old ones as witches, they hardly visit their grandparents or come to their home town, some people will even refuse to accept food or drinks from their aged parents, they feel probably the food is not hygienic because it's an old woman food". (IDI, FEMALE (68) ADO)

Another respondent:

"A lot of youths don't regard us unlike the way it was in the past because if they see us as important they won't ignore and neglect us after taking care of them from when they were young, some people even see us as liabilities, when we call them, they won't pick thinking that we want to collect money from them". (IDI, MALE (81) ADO)

Another respondent:

"The way the youth see the aged has really changed, many aged people don't regard the aged, they see make mockery of some of us, they only give respect to their parents and grandparent which it is not even all of them that do that, if you are not their relative they see no reason to regard you and they treat you as if you should not be in the society and this was not so in during our own time". (IDI, MALE (71) OYE)

THE TABLES BELOW PRESENTS THE RESULT OF THE DATA COLLECTED ON THE FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE YOUNG ADULTS PERCEPTION OF THE AGED

Table 4.3. Distribution showing how factors such as movies, songs etc and media in general portray old people.

How do Movies, songs, etc and media portray old people?	Frequency	Percentage
Prayerful religious	47	16.5
Fetish	33	23.5
Scary and dangerous	24	12.0
Wicked	21	10.5
Generous	2	1.0
Kindhearted	9	4.5
Interesting	14	7.0

Caring	10	5.0
Difficult to please	9	4.5
Dependent	2	1.0
None of the above	10	5.0
All of the above	19	9.5
Total	**200**	**100.0**

Table 4.3 above revealed that 16.5% of the respondents opined that movies, songs and media portray old people as prayerful/religious, 23.5% as fetish, 12% as scary and dangerous, 10.5% as wicked, 1% as generous, 4.5 % as kiind hearted, 7.0% as interesting, 5% as caring, 4.5% as difficult to please, 1% as dependent while 5% of the respondents does not have an opinion on how movies, songs and media portray old people. This implies that majority of the respondent are of the opinion that movies, song and the massmedia potray the aged as being fetish

Table 4.3.1: Perception Distribution table showing culture as a factor inflencing young adults' perception of aged people.

Does your culture give special importance and treatment to the aged?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	172	86.0
No	9	4.5
I don't know	19	9.5
Total	200	100.0

Table 4.3.1 above revealed that majority of the respondents 86% affirm that their culture gives special importance and treatment to the aged, 4.5% does not agree to the opinion while 9.5% of the respondents does not have an opinion.

Table 4.3.2: Distibutuion table revealing family as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Family		
	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	114	57.0
Often	75	37.5
Rarely	8	4.0
Never	3	1.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that majority of the respondents 57% of the respondents were Most often influenced by their family, while 37.5% of the respondents were Often influenced by their family, 4.0% of the respondents were rarely influenced by their family and 1.5% of the respondents were never influenced by their family.

Table 4.3.3: Distibutuion table revealing friends as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Friends		
	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	31	15.5
Often	86	43.0
Rarely	78	39.0
Never	4	2.0
Total	199	99.5
System	1	.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 15.6% of the respondents were most often influenced by their friends, while 43.2% of the respondents were often influenced by their friends, 39.2% of the respondents were rarely influenced by their friends and 2% of the respondents were never influenced by their friends.

Table 4.3.4: Distibutuion table revealing religion as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Religion

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	73	36.5
Often	73	36.5
Rarely	46	23.0
Never	8	4.0
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 36.5% of the respondents were most often influenced by Religion, while 36.5% of the respondents were often influenced by religion, 23% of the respondents were rarely influenced by religion and 4% of the respondents were never influenced by religion.

Table 4.3.5: Distibutuion table revealing personal experience as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Personal Experience

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	70	35.0
Often	97	48.5
Rarely	26	13.0
Never	7	3.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 35% of the respondents were most often influenced by Personal experience, 48.5% of the respondents were often influenced by Personal experience, 13% of the respondents were rarely influenced by Personal experience and 3.5% of the respondents were never influenced by Personal experience.

Table 4.3.6: Distibutuion table revealing neighbors as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Neighbors

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	39	19.5
Often	57	28.5
Rarely	82	41.0
Never	21	10.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 19.5% of the respondents were most often influenced by neighbours, 28.5% of the respondents were often influenced by neighbours, 41% of the respondents were rarely influenced by neighbours and 10.5% of the respondents were never influenced by neighbours

Table 4.3.7: Distibutuion table revealing cultural beliefs as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Cultural beliefs

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	64	32.0
Often	77	38.5
Rarely	42	21.0
Never	15	7.5
Missing System	1	.5
Total	200	100.0

The table shows that 32.2% of the respondents were most often influenced by cultural beliefs, 38.7% of the respondents were often influenced by cultural beliefs, while 21.1% of the respondents were rarely influenced by cultural beliefs and 7.5% of the respondents were never influenced by cultural beliefs.

Table 4.3.8: Distibutuion table revealing society as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Society

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	62	31.0
Often	90	45.0
Rarely	40	20.0
Never	7	3.5
Missing System	1	.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that that 31% of the respondents were most often influenced by the society, 45% of the respondents were often influenced by the society while 20.1% of the respondents were often influenced by the society and 3.5% of the respondents were never influenced by the society.

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Table 4.3.9: Distributuion table revealing social media as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Social media

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	41	20.5
Often	68	34.0
Rarely	56	28.0
Never	35	17.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 20.5% of the respondents were most often influenced by the Social media, 34% of the respondents was often influenced by the Social media, 28% of the respondents were rarely influenced by the Social media and 17.5% of the respondents were never influenced by the Social media.

Table 4.3.10: Distributuion table revealing movies/television as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Movies/television

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	55	27.5
Often	70	35.0
Rarely	53	26.5
Never	22	11.0
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 27.5% of the respondents were most often influenced by Movies/Television, 35% of the respondents were often influenced by Movies/Television while 26.5% of the respondents were rarely influenced by Movies/Television and 11% of the respondents were never influenced by Movies/Television

Table 4.3.11: Distributuion table revealing radio as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Radio

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	48	24.0
Often	60	30.0
Rarely	67	33.5
Never	25	12.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 24% of the respondents were Most Often influenced by Radio, 30% of the respondents were often influenced by Radio, while 33.5% of the respondents were rarely influenced by Radio and 12.5% of the respondents were never influenced by Radio.

Table 4.3.12: Distributuion table revealing music/songs as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Music /songs

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	43	21.5
Often	56	28.0
Rarely	67	33.5
Never	34	17.0
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 21.5% of the respondents were Most Often influenced by Music/Songs, 28% of the respondents were often influenced by Music/Songs, while 33.5% of the respondents were rarely influenced by Music/Songs and 17% of the respondents were never influenced by Music/Songs.

Table 4.3.13: Distribution table revealing newspaper as a factor inflencing young people perception of aged people

Newspaper

	Frequency	Percentage
Most often	30	15.0
Often	40	20.0
Rarely	75	37.5
Never	55	27.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 15% of the respondents were Most Often influenced by Newspaper, 20% of the respondents were often influenced by Newspaper, while 37.5% of the respondents were rarely influenced by Newspaper and 27.5% of the respondents were never influenced by Newspaper. The result implies that majority of the respondents perceptions about the aged were influenced by the family.

The findings of the research reveals that the family influences the perception of young adults the most about the aged as majority of the respondents perception of the aged (57%) were most often influenced by their families. The findings also revealed that the media portray the elderly people as being fetish. Majority of the respondents (86%) affirms that their culture gives special importance and treatment to the aged

Similarly, according to the responses of the young adults in the in-depth interview session, the young adults' perceptions of the aged were influenced by their family and their interaction with the elderly. Their responses are as follow;

"I can't really say, I just know they could be annoying and boring due to their way of life because I have lived with some of them and also movies". (IDI, MALE (20) OYE)

"I know their behavior because I live with an aged person and I have some of them around me". (IDI, FEMALE (22) ADO)

" My family and my interaction and personal experience with the aged". (IDI, FEMALE (19) OYE)

The Elderly IDI respondents has this to say concerning the factors that influence the young adults perception of them

"Modernization, lack of training and negative behavior and attitude of young adults which makes them see us in a bad way". (IDI, FEMALE (67) OYE)

Another respondent:

"Attitude of the elderly person, the way the elderly relates with the young ones, the behavior of some elderly people is not nice, which makes the young see them negatively and some elderly people are nice which also affect the way our youths see them". (IDI, FEMALE (72) ADO)

Another respondent:

"Education, many youths because they are educated they feel we don't know anything and they snub us when we correct them and also due to civilization and modernization". (IDI, MALE (69) ADO)

Another respondent:

"I think lack of proper training and socialization of the young ones by the family and the loss of our cultural values that gives respect to the aged no matter what". (IDI, FEMALE (74) OYE)

Another respondent:

"The society, the society as portrayed the elderly as bad people, there are even some people that transform themselves into the form of elderly to perpetuate evil, yes it is true, the kind of training they receive from home is another thing". (IDI, FEMALE (77) OYE)

Another respondent:

"Family values and the kind of person their parent is, if the parents do not value and respect the aged, the children could also be like that, some family even tell their children that old people are bad people and that they should be careful of them, some families also gives their children good training concerning the aged, the church also contributes to the way they see the aged through its teachings". (IDI, FEMALE (68) ADO)

Another respondent:

"Haaa, it is what the young ones watch and see in the society and in movies about the aged, some movies show the elderly in a bad manner with makes the young ones generalize that elderly people could be dangerous". (IDI, FEMALE (80) OYE)

Another respondent:

"Demoralization, there is no morality in the society anymore and the ignorance of the young ones is another reason which makes them misunderstands the aged". (IDI, MALE (81) ADO)

Another respondent:

"I really can't say but I think, our society as changed and people are beginning to Europeanize themselves, family background also". (IDI, MALE (71) OYE)

Another respondent:

"Hmmmm I think civilization and this jet age has changed a lot of practice and values in our culture, family and peer influence also contributes". (IDI, MALE (74) OYE)

Table 4.4: Distribution table showing the care and support of the elderly by the young adults (implication of the young adults' perceptions on the care and support of the aged)

Table 4.4 Old people die early due to neglect

	Frequency	
Strongly agree	82	
Agree	64	
Undecided	18	
Disagree	7	
Strongly Disagree	28	
Total	200	100.0

Table 4.4 above revealed that 41% of the respondents strongly agree that Old people die early due to neglect, 32percent of the respondents agree, 9% were undecided 3.5% of the respondents strongly disagree and 14% of the respondents disagree.

Table 4.4.1 I would love to live with an aged person so as to take care of them and support them

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	40	20.0
Agree	50	25.0
Undecided	15	7.5
Disagree	18	9.0
Strongly Disagree	77	38.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above revealed that 20% of the respondents strongly agree that they would love to live with an aged person so as to take care of them and support them, 25.0% of the respondents agree, 7.5% of the respondents were undecided, 38.5% of the respondents strongly disagree 9.0% of the respondents disagree.

Table 4.4.2 The old people who have outlived their usefulness should be left to die

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	17	8.5
Agree	12	6.0
Undecided	41	20.5
Disagree	66	33.0
Strongly Disagree	64	32.0
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 8.5% of the respondents strongly agree that the old people who have outlived their usefulness should be left to die, 6% of the respondents agree, 20% were undecided, 33% strongly disagree, 32% of the respondents disagree.

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Table 4.4.3 Old people should be kept in the home of the elderly

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	21	10.5
Agree	46	23.0
Undecided	42	21.0
Disagree	44	22.0
Strongly Disagree	44	22.0
System	1	.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 10.5% of the respondents strongly agree that old people should be kept in the home of the elderly, 23% of the respondents agree that Old people should be kept in the home of the elderly 21% of the respondents were undecided about their response, 22% of the respondents strongly disagree, 22% of the respondents disagree, .5% of the response was missing as a results of being left blank by the respondent. This implies that majority of the respondents are of the opinion that the aged should be kept in the home of the elderly

Table 4.4.4 Preference should be given to the young adults over the elderly in hospital and in other areas of life

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	30	15.0
Agree	54	27.0
Undecided	34	17.0
Disagree	30	15.0
Strongly Disagree	52	26.0
Total	200	100.0

The table above reveals that 15% of the respondents strongly agree that preference should be given to the younger adults over the elderly in the hospital and in other areas of life, 27% of the respondents agree, 17% of the respondents were undecided, 15% of the respondents strongly disagree and 26% of the respondents disagree. This implies that majority of the respondents agree that preference should be given to the young adults in hospital and other areas of life.

Table 4.4.5 The aged are treated fairly and given priority to in the society

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	39	19.5
Agree	81	35.5
Undecided	38	19.0
Disagree	32	16.0
Strongly Disagree	20	10.0
Total	200	100.0

The table above revealed that 19.5% of the respondents strongly agree that the aged are treated fairly and given priority to in the society, 85% of the respondents agree, 19% of the respondents were undecided, 16% of the respondents strongly disagree, 10% of the respondents disagree

Table 4.4.6 The aged usually gets their necessity/needs

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	45	22.5
Agree	66	33.0
Undecided	33	16.5
Disagree	19	9.5
Strongly Disagree	36	18.0
System	1	.5
Total	200	100.0

The table above revealed that 22.5% of the respondents strongly agree, that the aged usually get their necessities/needs, 53% of the respondents agree, 16.5% of the respondents were undecided, 9.5% of the respondents strongly disagree, 18% of the respondents disagree .5% of the respondents response was missing, This implies that majority of the respondents are of the opinion that their necessities/needs

Table 4.4.1 Showing the implication of the perception of young adults about the elderly

Do you have an aged person as a friend apart from your relative?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	96	48.0
No	104	52.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 4.4.1 above revealed that 48% of young adults have an aged person as a friend apart from their relative, while majority 52% do not an aged person as a friend apart from a relative. This implies that most of the young adults in the study do not have an aged friend apart from their relative

Table 4.4.2 Distribution showing the number aged young adult chat with

Is there anyone aged 65 or older than your relative, teacher or school helper with whom you have a chat of your own freewill at least once a week e.g stopping on the street, going out to visit or meeting together in a club,group or social environment?		Frequency	Percentage
	None	104	52.0
	One	39	19.5
	Two	36	18.0
	Three or more	18	9.0
	11.00	1	.5
	Total	198	99.0
Missing	System	2	1.0
Total		200	100.0

Table 4.4. above revealed that 52% of young adults do not chat with the aged, 19.5% of young adults have one aged person other their relative with whom they chat with, while 18% of young adults have two aged person they chat with other than their relative, the table also revealed that 9% of young adult have three or more aged person they chat with and 1% of the score was not recorded as a result of the respondents leaving it blank. The result implies that majority of the respondents do not chat or associate with the aged.

In the IDI session, the respondents were asked if they would love to stay with an elderly person in other to take care of them and support them, the respondents had this to say;

" Hell no, Jesus I can't do that o, there are sometimes that my grandma comes to stay with us and Jesus like I even use to ask my mum that when is this woman living because she does not want you to do what you like doing, like you want to go out and play, she will be like ehn you should not go that there is this and that stuff outside, so no way!!. Elderly people stay with them ke, I will frustrate them ehn, I can't stay with them o, no no no never. The aged

people, their lifestyle and way of life is different from us nau, the way I would do things in their house would definitely tend to provoke them or annoy them and they might not like it in some aspect and it tends to lead to shouting and problems, I don't usually feel comfortable having them around me not to talk of living with them. "(IDI, MALE (20), OYE)

Another Respondent:

"I don't think so, like I said even my grandmother than live with us is always like a pain in the ass, we are not compatible" (IDI, FEMALE (22) ADO)

Another Respondent:

"I love to live with old people, though if you want to live with them, you have to be very patient, you have to explain things to them, though there are some aged persons that are very annoying to live with according to what I have heard but in my own opinion the aged are really nice and I love staying with them, you will never be bored when you are around them especially those ones that are lively and I take care of my grandmother very well because I also want to grow old and if I don't take care of her, no one will take care of me too when I get old that's how life works. "(IDI, FEMALE (19) OYE

The respondents were also asked about their relationship with the aged and if they had any aged friend. The respondents had this to say:

"No, not at all, I don't keep relationship with them because my grandma is far away from me for now and because they don't reason the way we reason, we also don't reason the way they reason, its better I have friends that we reason together, though its good having friends that are elderly to advice you and which we too as a young person will support them the way we can but in some aspect, I don't like it, I don't like them"(IDI, MALE (20) OYE)
Another Respondent:

"I would say am a bit close because I stay with my grandmother but aside her I don't have any aged person am close to or any aged friend. For what?" (IDI, FEMALE (22) ADO)
Another Respondent:

"Yes, I'm close to them, I love being around them because I believe they are good, they have good heart, I have an aged friend, she calls me her daughter, we are neighbors though, I use to go there to play, she advice me on my education and relationship and I also run errands for her and help her with her house chores before leaving and sometimes when if I have money I buy things for her"(IDI, FEMALE (19) OYE)

The young adults in the IDI Session were also if they have an aged person they take care of or support in any way. The respondents had this to say:

"No, I don't"(IDI, MALE (20) OYE)

"Yes, I assist my grandmother when I'm at home but you know its really hard to help old people these days, me personally usually find it difficult to help old people I don't know because of what I have heard about some of them being witches and all so apart from my grandmother who I help in the little way I can there is no other aged person"(IDI, FEMALE (22) ADO)

"Yes, a lot, I have aged friends and relative that are aged so sometimes I call them to check on them and sometimes I visit them especially my grandmother and I support and care for her throughout my stay, they also give me a lot of foodstuffs especially my grandfather because he is a farmer"(IDI, FEMALE (19) OYE)

The table below shows the problems of the peculiar problems of the elderly

Table 4.5 Distribution showing the peculiar problems of the elderly

What are the peculiar problems of the elderly?	Frequency	Percentage
Illness	118	59.0
Poverty	10	5.0
Emotional instability	10	5.0
Dependency	10	5.0
Loss of strength	31	15.5
Loneliness/isolation	17	8.5
Mental decline	4	2.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 4.5. above revealed that 59% of the respondents believe that illness is a peculiar problem of the elderly, while 5% of the respondents believed that poverty is the peculiar problem of the elderly, 5% of the respondents also believed that emotional instability is the peculiar problem of the elderly, 5% of the respondents believed that dependency is the peculiar problem of the elderly, 5% of the

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respondents believed that loss of strength is the peculiar problem of the elderly, 8.5% of the respondents believed that loneliness/isolation is the peculiar problem of the elderly and 2% of the respondents believed that mental decline is the peculiar problem of the elderly. The result implies that majority of the respondents are of the opinion that illness is the peculiar problem of the aged

In the in-depth interview session, the young adults have this to say concerning the problems of the aged;

"Most of them get different kind of illness and they become less social". (IDI MALE (20) ADO)

"They get sick and weak; they become fragile and unable to take care of themselves like a child". (IDI, FEMALE (22) OYE)

"Some people can't talk too much or talk loud, some won't be able to move as they want and most of them are not usually able to eat whatever they like due to their health, they start eating bitter and weird food". (IDI, FEMALE (19) OYE)

In the IDI session the elderly has this to say concerning the problems of the elderly,

"We face a lot of problems especially that of the health, sometimes my leg and hands will be so heavy that I won't be able to carry it". (IDI, FEMALE(67) OYE)

Another respondent:

"The problem of aging is much, ranging from health problems to socioeconomic problems". (IDI, MALE (74) OYE)

Another respondent:

"Loss of strength and ill health are the problem most elderly face. For instance I can do things I use to do before. when I wake up very early in the morning those days I go to farm and come back and then prepare my pap to sell, I hawk from morning till afternoon and in the evening I start frying akara for sale but now I can't do all that anymore, I have to depend

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on my children to send me money to eat and to help me do some chores because the body cannot carry hard labor anymore".(IDI, FEMALE(72) ADO)

Another respondent:

"There is no problem with aging or the aged if there is money and when you have good children". (IDI, MALE (69) ADO)

Another respondent:

"The problem we elderly have is mostly to related illness/health, that is why it is good for a person to use his/her body properly when they are young so that is why they won't suffer from ill health when they grow old. I have romanticism and diabetes". (IDI, FEMALE (74) OYE)

Another respondent:

"Illness and neglect are the biggest problem we elderly face except for some few aged people who God has blessed with good health, most family member neglects their elderly especially those of us that are very old to fend for our self here in the village without anyone to take care of us, and this neglect leads to thinking which has caused the death of many elderly people". (IDI, FEMALE (77) OYE)

Another respondent:

"Declining health and strength, sometimes to walk from my room to outside is always very difficult for me, things I used to do when I was like you, I can't do them anymore". (IDI, FEMALE (68) ADO)

Another respondent:

"There are a lot of problems that we elderly people face ooo, how many do we want to count self, some aged people suffer loss of their loved one as they age. For me most times I feel pain all over my body most times and eye problem, my eyes will just start pulling me and doing as if it wants to fall off". (IDI, FEMALE (80) OYE)

Another respondent:

"Due to the work we have done in the past, we become and weak and the body demands rest".(IDI, MALE(81) ADO)

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Another respondent:

"Illness. Different people experience different kinds of illness. The problem I experience the most as to do with my leg which they call Romanticism, some of us also begin to lose our loved ones and some people even witness the death of their children". (IDI, MALE (71) OYE)

The table below presents the result of what the aged needs the most according to the respondents

Table 4.5.1 Distribution showing the needs of the aged.

What do you think the aged persons need the most?	Frequency	Percentage
Love and care	169	84.5
Support	13	6.5
Money	2	1.0
Prayers	14	7.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 4.5.1 above revealed that 84.5% of the respondents think that the aged needs love and care most, 6.5% of the respondents chose support as what the aged needs most, while 1% of the respondents thinks the aged needs money most and 7% thinks the aged needs prayer most. This implies that majority of the respondents thinks the aged needs love and care the most.

Table 4.5.2 Distribution showing how the aged get their needs

How do they get it?	Frequency	Percentage
Young adults	45	22.5
Family	121	60.5
Friends	3	1.5
Neighbors	2	1.0
Government	6	3.0

Personal effort	23	11.5	
Total	200	100.0	

Table 4.5.2 above revealed that 22.5% of the respondents believed that the aged gets their needs from young adults, while 60.5% of the respondents believed that the aged gets their needs from their family, 1.5% of the respondents believed that the aged get their needs from friends, 1% of the respondents believed that the aged get their needs from their neighbors, while 3% of the respondents believed that the aged gets their needs from the Government and 11.5% of the respondents believed that the aged gets their needs through personal efforts. This implies that majority of the respondents believe that the aged gets the care and support they need from the family

In the IDI session, the elderly people were asked where they expect care and support, most of them responded that they expect care and support from their children. Their responses are as follows;

"From my children, that is why we give birth to children and take care of them so that they can also take care of us when we grow old".(IDI, FEMALE(67) OYE)

Another respondent:

"I expect care and support from my children". (IDI, MALE (69) ADO)

Another respondent:

"My children because another person cannot take care of you the way your children would, I also take care of myself". (IDI, FEMALE 72) ADO)

Another respondent:

"My children and if the children are not available to help I take care of myself because children nowadays are becoming cruel, they only take care of their wives and children and forget us that have suffered over them, we pray God gives us good children, am not a kind of person that depends on one child before I take care of myself, as you can see am a trader and farmer, when the children decides to take care of me by sending things to me I collect and when they don't I care for myself". (IDI, FEMALE (74) OYE)

Another respondent:

"My children and family, they are the one that take care of me and they support me" (IDI, FEMALE (77) OYE)

Another respondent:

"My children. I can't expect care from other people children but the children who I trained by myself" (IDI, FEMALE (68) ADO)

Another respondent:

"Who else, I depend on my children for my care and support is it the government that do not know if I exist or my needs that I'm going to rely on". (IDI, FEMALE (80) OYE)

Another respondent:

"My children take care of me and support me, I also get care and support from my church, the church gives me foodstuffs and provisions and the youths in the church help me sometimes with the house chores". (IDI, MALE (74) OYE)

Another respondent:

"The government does not support me or help me in any way, even strangers hardly offers help to me and I can't put my hope for care on children that are not mine, only my children can take of me adequately and according to my desire that is why I only expect support from my children". (IDI, MALE (71) OYE)

Another respondent:

"My children and grand children. I'm not educated and I don't work for the government so I don't expect support from the government, the government does not support me". (IDI, MALE (81) ADO)

This section captures the last research objective stated previously in this research pertaining to the nature of changes in the care and support of the aged. The elderly were asked to compare the care and support provided for the aged in the traditional society with the modern society. The decline in the care and support of the aged was evident as most elderly complained bitterly that the care and

support of the aged in the past was far better than in present times. The changes in the care and support of the aged has brought a lot of challenges to the elderly as most of them have to fend for themselves despite the challenges of old age. The decline in the care and support of the aged could also be attributed to the changes in the perception of the young family care givers about the aged. The elderly responses are as follow;

"The way the aged are taken care of in the olden days is more better, in the olden days, the aged are properly taken care of, they have children around them who are always helping them with their everyday task but now no child as the time to be taking care of their aged, they are only concerned about how their lives and that of their wife and children will be better, children of nowadays do not want to be useful in any way, they are lazy, they prefer watching tv and pressing their phones from money to night. I have three of my grand children living with me but I still do a lot of things myself in the house, the most amazing part is that they see you doing those chores yourself and they would pretend as if they didn't see you, this was not so during our own time you dare not go out of the house without doing all the house chores and helping your old person do all the things she wants to do. Things have really changed, I have to do most of my things myself despite my old age and the fact that I gave birth to children, if I should depend on them I would just suffer." (IDI, FEMALE (67) OYE)

Another respondent:

"In the olden days, caring for your aged parents and the elderly general is compulsory for the children, the family and the entire community by assisting them to do house chores, running errands, we see their care as important because they are not capable of taking care of themselves and because we also want to grow old even the elderly that does not have children is taking care of and usually supported by their relatives and the people in the community but nowadays, the care of the aged is not seen as compulsory or important, they do that only when they wish , many young people neglect and abandoned their aged parents, some young people even snubs their grandparents especially if they are very old, they just

leave them and run to the city waiting for their death, when such old person die they will come for the ceremony lavishing a lot of money ".(IDI, FEMALE(72) ADO)

Another respondent:

"The care for the aged has changed , I will say that of the olden days is better, in the olden days, there are a lot of privileges for the elderly, the old people gets proper care from the family even in church, if someone is a old person and they know that his or her children is not living with them or is far away from them, you see the church members and even members of the community giving the old people money, bringing yams and other things for the old person, they give the elderly money because they feel they are old and weak and cannot work, the community even contribute to take care of the old ones who cannot take care of themselves but nowadays it is not like that, the children even takes from us, instead of sending us money and assisting us they make life difficult for some of us by putting their own problems and burdens on us, they leave their children with us to take care of while they go to work or enjoy their lives ".(IDI, FEMALE (74) OYE)

Another respondent:

"There is a big difference between the way they take care of the elderly in the olden days compared to now, in the olden days there was no problem for the elderly, people fear the elderly and so they treat their needs as paramount, the elderly do not think of what they will eat or drink because everything is made available for them by their children and the entire family, people rally around them to take care of them. During harmattan like this or during cold, we make sure we wear double clothes for them and place them beside the fire to keep them warm so that they won't fall sick, we cook different kind of food for them and prepare herbs which makes them strong but nowadays no one is available to do all these things for us, we are left to take care of ourselves. People even fear to become old become they are not sure of what we are going to face when we grow old. The children of nowadays are very cruel". (IDI, MALE (69) ADO)

Another respondent:

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"The way they take care of the elderly ones in the olden days and now is the same thing, if you have children that are caring and merciful and if you are surrounded by good people but if you don't have the caring ones, it is not the same thing, we pray god gives us good and caring children and successful children. it is the same way, even better now because there are now drugs that relieves the elderly from their illness, I have seen children who send their elderly parents abroad. My children take good care of me very well, they send me money and foodstuffs and visits me regularly, the ones that cannot visit calls me regularly and ask about my wellbeing ".(IDI, FEMALE (77) OYE)

Another respondent:

"Where this world is going I sincerely don't know, there are a lot of changes in the care and support of the aged, most of us suffer a lot, at this age of our lives we are supposed to sit and enjoy life, some young people don't want to help the elderly in anyway. In the olden days we take care of our aged people, there is someone that will prepare morning food, afternoon food and night food for the elderly but now things have changed' (IDI, FEMALE (80) OYE)

Another respondent:

"The way they young ones take care of the aged as declined in recent times, most of us fend for ourselves, they go through hard labor, some who those not have money even beg for food to make ends, a lot of elderly people here still go to farm, I know of an old man who still goes to farm everyday despite his old age, he sends some of his farm produce to his children, most children even take from us instead of giving to us, the economy of the country is now difficult, there is no money like it is supposed to be, and no jobs, is it somebody that has not eaten that will be sending money or take here of us, we pray god make our children successful, some children are actually trying their best, they help the little way they can, when they have money they send to me and some staying close to me help me in the house".
(IDI, FEMALE (68) ADO)

Another respondent:

"It is the same thing just a little differences because in the olden days, there was love and togetherness, families live together but now the young ones who are to care for the elderly are separated from their grandparents so there is no body to stay with the elderly and take care of them, we can't blame them, they need to look for job that will bring money, I don't even pray for my children to sit here with me in the village, they visit me and I also go to visit them and spend time with them regularly because I also cannot go to leave with any of my children because disrespect could emerge from there". (IDI, MALE (71) OYE)

Another respondent:

"In the olden days there are lot of care for the aged, the aged enjoy a lot, all elderly were catered for unlike now that people only take care of their parents which is not even all of them, they don't help or assist anyone who is not related to them, they even abuse us. In the olden days the elderly could call on any child in the community to assist them but now it is not like that, you can't just send anyone errand unless if they are your children or relative, if you send them message they won't go as at the time you want it, some are not even allowed to assist people who are not their relative , the aged were also given different herbs and good food and care which makes them strong and leave long that why old people in the past live long but in present times, what we have is modern medicine which most of us can't afford and nobody to take care of the aged because, they all have busy lives, they don't even have time to take care of themselves not to talk of their aged parents that is why most elderly people die in time unlike in the past". (IDI, MALE (74) ADO)

Another respondent:

"In the past, things was very much easy for the aged, my father was a farmer, I usually follow him to the farm every morning and by the time we get back we are sure that food would be ready for us by my mum and sisters, the way my late father was cared for during his old age usually makes feel like growing old then but now that we are old it is a differ thing entirely that we are seeing from our children, my children don't live with me, I live alone in this house, they only send money to me but it is not money that we elderly need, we need people to take care of us, nobody is willing to come and stay with me out of the members of the family, I just thank god for the students staying with me here who cook for me

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sometimes and help me wash my clothes, I also give them things from the farm".(IDI, MALE (79) ADO)

4.7 Test of hypothesis

In this section, the hypothesis earlier formulated by the researcher in chapter one is tested to enable an opinion and inference to be drawn. The inferential analysis using statistical tool chi-square was conducted to test the Hypothesis at 5% level of significance. The analysis considered relevant questions as they relate to the hypothesis.

Decision rule:

The decision rule is presented as follows: Reject H0 if the p-value is <5% level of significance; Accept the H0 if the p-value is > 5% level of significance

Table 4.7.1: test statistics on the relationship between the young adults' perception of the aged and the care and support of the aged

There is no significant relationship between young adults' perception of the aged and the care and support for the aged	Chi-Square	10.623
	Df	4
	Asymp. Sig.	.031

Table above represents the summary of chi-square result. From the table, the result indicates a chi-square value of 10.623, degree of freedom of 4 and p-value of 0.000, that is $X^2(1) = 10.623$, $p < 0.05$. This implies that there is a strong and significant relationship between the young adults' perception of the aged and care and support at 5% level of significance. In view of the above result therefore, it is evident to reject the null hypothesis H0 However, the alternate hypothesis is accepted.

Table 4.7.2: Tests statistics on the relationship between the young adults' socio demographic characteristics and their perception of the aged

The Tables below reveal the Cross tabulation of respondents Demographical variables and the following question 'Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?'

Cross tabulation of respondents' area of residence and the following question 'Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?'

Cross tabulation of respondents' age and the following question 'Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?'

Age	Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?			Total
	Yes	No	I don't know	
15-20	34	57	8	99
21-25	27	57	9	93
26-31	3	4	1	8
Total	64	118	18	200

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.977[a]	4	.913
Likelihood Ratio	.973	4	.914
Linear-by-Linear Association	.400	1	.527
N of Valid Cases	200		

Cross tabulation of respondents' Gender and the following question, 'Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?'

Gender	Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?			Total
	Yes	No	I don't know	
Male	32	65	11	108
Female	32	53	7	92
Total	64	118	18	200

Chi-Square test

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.835[a]	2	.659
Likelihood Ratio	.837	2	.658
Linear-by-Linear Association	.827	1	.363
N of Valid Cases	200		

Cross tabulation of respondents' Marital status and the following question, Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?

Marital status	Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?			Total
	Yes	No	I don't know	
Single	62	113	18	193
Engaged	2	5	0	7
Total	64	118	18	200

Chi-Square test

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.869[a]	2	.647
Likelihood Ratio	1.488	2	.475
Linear-by-Linear Association	.063	1	.802
N of Valid Cases	200		

Cross tabulation of respondents' Ethnic group and the following question Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?

Ethnic group	Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?			Total
	Yes	No	I don't know	
Yoruba	58	97	18	173
Igbo	3	17	0	20
Hausa	3	0	0	3
Others(specify)	0	4	0	4
Total	64	118	18	200

Chi-Square

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	15.809[a]	6	.015
Likelihood Ratio	19.666	6	.003
Linear-by-Linear Association	.003	1	.956
N of Valid Cases	200		

Cross Tabulation of respondents' Religion affiliations and the following question, Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?

Religion affiliations	Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?			Total
	Yes	No	I don't know	
Christianity	55	107	16	178
Islam	7	7	2	16
Traditional	2	3	0	5
Others (specify)	0	1	0	1
Total	64	118	18	200

Chi-Square test

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.889[a]	6	.823
Likelihood Ratio	3.660	6	.723
Linear-by-Linear Association	.371	1	.543
N of Valid Cases	200		

Cross tabulation of respondents' level of education and the following question, 'Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?'

What is your highest level of education?	Are you of the opinion that some aged people are wizard/witches?			Total
	Yes	No	I don't know	
No formal education	0	6	1	7
School certificate	10	43	6	59
OND/NCE	9	10	0	19
HND/B.sc	39	50	10	99
Above B.sc	6	9	1	16
Total	64	118	18	200

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	16.082[a]	8	.041
Likelihood Ratio	20.399	8	.009
Linear-by-Linear Association	6.689	1	.010
N of Valid Cases	200		

INTERPRETATION: The tables above revealed that respondents' ethnic group and their level of education has a significant relationship with their perception of the aged as witches/wizards, while other variables such has respondents location, age, gender, marital status and religion affiliations do not have a significant relationship on respondents perception of some aged people as witches/wizards.

Table 4.7.3: test statistics on the relationship between the young adults' socio demographic characteristics and their attitude/care of the aged.

Cross tabulation of respondents' Age and the following question 'It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group'.

Age	It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group.					Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
15-20	20	19	12	22	26	99
21-25	22	26	3	24	16	93
26-31	1	3	2	2	0	8
Total	43	48	17	48	42	200

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	16.066[a]	12	.188
Likelihood Ratio	18.339	12	.106
Linear-by-Linear Association	.006	1	.940
N of Valid Cases	200		

Cross tabulation of respondents' Gender and the following question, 'It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group'.

Gender	It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group.					Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Male	25	23	9	31	18	108
Female	18	25	8	17	24	92
Total	43	48	17	48	42	200

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	6.987[a]	6	.322
Likelihood Ratio	7.781	6	.255
Linear-by-Linear Association	.453	1	.501
N of Valid Cases	200		

Cross tabulation of respondents' Marital status and the following question, 'It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group'.

Marital status	It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group.					Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Single	38	48	17	46	42	193
Engaged	5	0	0	2	0	7
Total	43	48	17	48	42	200

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	12.427[a]	6	.053
Likelihood Ratio	13.146	6	.041
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.813	1	.178
N of Valid Cases	200		

Cross tabulation of respondents' Ethnic group and the following question 'It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group'.

Ethnic-Group	It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group.					Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Yoruba	36	42	16	44	34	173
Igbo	7	3	1	4	4	20

Hausa	0	3	0	0	0	3
Others(specify)	0	0	0	0	4	4
Total	43	48	17	48	42	200

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	36.891[a]	18	.005
Likelihood Ratio	28.948	18	.049
Linear-by-Linear Association	.471	1	.492
N of Valid Cases	200		

Cross tabulation of respondents' level of education and the following question, 'It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group'.

What is your highest level of education?	It would be better if most aged people live in old people's home with people of their own age group.					Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
No formal education	1	0	1	4	0	7
School certificate	12	10	5	19	13	59
OND/NCE	6	7	0	1	5	19
HND/B.sc	16	28	11	22	21	99
Above B.sc	8	3	0	2	3	16
Total	43	48	17	48	42	200

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	56.692[a]	24	.000

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Likelihood Ratio	40.935	24	.017
Linear-by-Linear Association	.531	1	.466
N of Valid Cases	200		

INTERPRETATION: The tables above revealed that respondents' ethnic group and their level of education has a significant relationship on respondents attitude towards the aged and the care of the ssssaged, while other variables such has area, age, gender and marital status are not significant

Table 4.7.4: Test statistics on the relationship between the young adults' socio demographic characteristics and being around the elderly

Cross tabulation of respondents' Age and the following question 'Do you like being around old people or wish your aged parent were with you?'

Age	Do you like being around old people or wish your aged parent were with you?		Total
	Yes	No	
15-20	70	28	98
21-25	66	27	93
26-31	4	4	8
Total	140	59	199

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.660[a]	2	.436
Likelihood Ratio	1.521	2	.467
Linear-by-Linear Association	.526	1	.468

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N of Valid Cases	199		

Cross tabulation of respondents' Ethnic group and the following question 'Do you like being around old people or wish your aged parent were with you?'

Ethnic group	Do you like being around old people or wish your aged parent were with you?		Total
	Yes	No	
Yoruba	117	55	172
Igbo	17	3	20
Hausa	2	1	3
Others(specify)	4	0	4
Total	140	59	199

Chi-Square

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	4.210[a]	3	.240
Likelihood Ratio	5.616	3	.132
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.084	1	.079
N of Valid Cases	199		

Cross tabulation of respondents' Religion affiliations and the following question, 'Do you like being around old people or wish your aged parent were with you?'

Religion affiliations	Do you like being around old people or wish your aged parent were with you?		Total
	Yes	No	
Christianity	124	53	177
Islam	15	1	16
Traditional	1	4	5

Others (specify)	0	1	1
Total	140	59	199

Chi-square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	12.657[a]	3	.005
Likelihood Ratio	13.364	3	.004
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.354	1	.245
N of Valid Cases	199		

Cross tabulation of respondents' level of education and the following question 'Do you like being around old people or wish your aged parent were with you?'

What is your highest level of education?	Do you like being around old people or wish your aged parent were with you?		Total
	Yes	No	
No formal education	3	4	7
School certificate	37	21	58
OND/NCE	12	7	19
HND/B.sc	74	25	99
Above B.sc	14	2	16
Total	140	59	199

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	7.377[a]	4	.117
Likelihood Ratio	7.479	4	.113

Linear-by-Linear Association	6.305	1	.012
N of Valid Cases	199		

INTERPRETATION: Only religion affiliation has a significant relationship with being around people ($x^2(200) = .005$ p<.05). Other variables which include age, ethnicity and educational level do not have a relationship with being around people and perception of being old.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter focuses on the summary of all the chapters in this research. It is the conclusion of the project work, and the recommendation from the result of the research. This chapter represents the final of all the chapters in a project work and it is divided into three main parts which are; the summary, conclusion and recommendation.

5. Summary

The main aim of this study is to examine the young adults' perceptions of the aged and the effect of such perception on the care and support of the aged. This project thesis has however been classified into five (5) chapters.

Chapter one focused on the background to the study, statement of problem, research questions, research objectives, purpose of the study, relevance of the study and operational definition of concepts. The aged is referred to as people ranging in age from 65 and above, due to some health, social, economic challenges associated with aging, this cohort cannot take care of themselves adequately and so their care and support becomes paramount. In the developed countries, there are different social security mechanisms put in place for the care and support of the elderly. However, in developing countries like Nigeria, there are little or no security mechanisms for the support of the elderly. The family has been given the responsibility of the care and support of the aged but if their perceptions about the aged are negative, it could prevent them from taking adequate care of the elderly as the way people perceive things to some extents determines their actions towards it. In view of the numerous challenges the elderly face in recent time, this study therefore examines the perceptions of the young adults' about the aged and its implication on the care and support of the aged. The objectives of the study which are in chapter one include to Examine the Young Adults'

perceptions of the aged, Examine the factors that influence the young adults perceptions of the aged, To investigate the implications of such perceptions on the care and support of the aged and so on

Chapter two of this research focused mainly on the review of current and important past works that are related to the topic of the project and theoretical framework. The key issues reviewed includes; young adults, the aged, factors that influence the young adults' perception of the aged, the perceptions and attitude of young adults' towards the aged and the care and support of the aged. Despite the varieties of research on aging and the aged, the review of literature revealed that there is still a dearth of knowledge on the perceptions of the young family care givers about the aged and how such perceptions affects their care and support of the aged. The research therefore through the research objectives highlighted in chapter one examines the perceptions of young adults about the aged and its implication on the care and support of the aged

The third chapter deals with the research methodology, that is, the methods used in the collection of data related to the study, it had sub-themes such as the historical background of the study which was Oye-Ekiti and Ado-Ekiti, population of the study which comprise of the aged and the young adults, research instruments which was questionnaire and interview guide, sampling technique, sample size, method of data collection which was a mixed method, validity and reliability and most importantly how the results were analyzed. It was also ensured that the young adults in the study were within the age of 18 and 35 and the aged were within the age of 65 and above.

Chapter four shows the presentation and interpretation of results pertaining the analysis of primary data gathered through the administering of the questionnaire and the conduction of interview. The result and interpretation of the research hypothesis were also presented. From the findings, majority of the respondents of (49.5%) were between the ages of 18 to 20, 46.5% of the respondents were between the ages of 21-25, 4% of the respondents were between the ages of 26-31.

This implies that those that participated in the study were young adults as the study focuses on the young adults perceptions of the aged. Majority of the respondents 54% were male while 46% of the respondents were female. This means both sexes were represented in the study. On the marital status of respondents, 96.5% of the respondents were single due to never marry while 3.5% while 3.5% were engaged. On the educational qualification of the respondents, most of the respondents 49.5% have B.sc/HND degree, 8% of the respondents have a degree above B.sc, 9.5% of the respondents have OND/NCE and 29.5% of the respondents have secondary school certificate. It means all the respondents are literate at different levels. This will also enhance good information on the subject matter because of the literacy of the respondents. Majority of the respondents 89% were Christians, 8% practice Islam, 2.5% of the respondents are traditional religion practitioners while 5% of the respondents are of other religion. This indicates that most of the respondents belong to one religious faith or the other. On the occupation of the respondents, 5.5% of the respondents were unemployed, 2.5% were civil servants, 17% were self employed while majority of the respondents 74.5% were students. This unravels the fact that most of the respondents were students because the study took place in a student area.

The result also showed that the young adults holds both negative and positive perceptions of the elderly, the family influence the perception of the young adults the most about the elderly as majority of the respondents (57%) were of the opinion that their perception about the aged were mostly influenced by their family. The findings also revealed that there is a decline in the care and support of the elderly as most elderly in the in-depth interview complained of lack of care and support by the young adults unlike in the past, the decline in care of the elderly could be attributed to the negative changes in the perception of the aged. From the research findings also the effect of the perceptions held by the young adults was evident from the fact that most of the young adults would

not love to live with an aged person to take care of them, they also agreed that the elderly should be kept in the old peoples' home

The test of hypothesis also revealed that there is a significant relationship between young adults' perception of the aged and their care and support of the elderly at 5% level of significance

Chapter five presents the summary of the study, conclusions, and recommendations from the result of the research.

5.2 Conclusion

The research found out that most elderly people expects their care and support from their children and grandchildren. However, it is evident from the result of the research that the care and support of the elderly unlike in the past when the aged were adequately taken care of by the younger ones is on the decline as the perception of the young family care givers about the aged is increasing towards negativity. Young adults do not have a fixed negative or a fixed positive perception of the aged but rather have different views of the many and varied features of the elderly. The young adult holds both negative and stereotypical perception of the aged. The low perception has been attributed to western influence, modernization, loss of cultural values and demoralization of the society. The family was also seen to influence young adults' perception the most about the aged. From the findings of the research, the different perceptions held by the young adults about the aged have different impacts on the young adults' attitude, relationship and most importantly their care and support of the aged. In other to improve the care and support of the aged, there is the need for the young adults to see the elderly in a positive light. The study however comes to the conclusion that there is a significant relationship between the perceptions of young adults about the aged and their care and support of the aged.

5.3 Recommendation

Based on the results of the findings, the following recommendations were made:-

1. The young adults and members of the family should be encouraged to see the aged in positive light; this should be encouraged through public enlightenment campaigns which would reveal the usefulness and problems of the aged in the society

2. There is also the need to formulate or strengthen policies/ programmes aimed at enhancing family relationships across generations such as having a "family day" (as in Malaysia) where the young and old can participate which would bring members of the family both the young and old together so that the young adults would have more knowledge and understanding about the aged thereby curbing the negative/ stereotypical views they have about the aged and would also improve their care and support of the elderly

3. The educational sector e.g. schools and universities can help improve the perception of the young adults about the elderly by including courses like gerontology in their curriculum which will enable the young adults understand the behaviors and actions of the elderly better and in turn make them see the need to care for them and support them

4. The Nigerian culture emphasizes the reverential treatment and respect to be given to the elderly persons in the family. Families should therefore imbibe these cultural values in their children through proper socialization of the children and make efforts to support the elderly in general

5. For the young ones to be able to care and support the aged adequately, government should make the rural areas where most aged persons are concentrated more attractive by establishing industries where the young family members could work and also make agriculture more attractive to the youths by way of mechanized agriculture. In this way, they

will stay in rural areas; this process may also dispel a number of negative stereotypical views held of the aged as meaningful contact with older people is an effective means of improving perceptions of the older people and aging

6. The negative and stereotypical portrayals of the aged in the media should also be minimized.

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APPENDIX

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OYE - EKITI

"Interview schedule on the perception of the young adults about the Aged and its implication on the care and support of the aged in Ekiti State

Introduction

The purpose of this interview is to seek the view of undergraduate students on the influence of social media on their sexual behavior.

The interviewer will begin by

1. Courtesy
   - Introduces himself
   - Explains the purpose of the session
   - Inform the interviewee of what will be done with the information
   - Explain why the interviewee was asked to participate
   - Seek to ensure respondent of trust an confidentiality
   - Appreciates the interviewee for deciding to participate in the interview

2. Logistics
   - Notify the interviewee of the use of a recording device
   - Ensure that noise and disturbances is minimized
   - Develop a casual rapport
   - Schedules time for the interview process

3. Interview begins
   - The researcher will ask the following questions from the interviewee to allow time for his/her response

Questions for the Aged

1. How do you think young people perceive you?

2.   What do you think is the perception of young ones about the old people in general?

3. In your opinion, what do you think influence the young adults' perceptions about the aged?

4. What are the problems of aging and the aged?

5. Where do you expect care and support from?

     Probe question: why?

6. How do you get care and support?

7. Is there any change in the care and support of the aged in the olden days and in recent times? If yes, what are those changes?

Questions for the young adults

1. What are your perceptions about the aged?

2. What influenced your view or opinion about the aged?

3. Would you love to live with an aged person in order to take care of them and support them? If yes/no, why?

4. Do you have any aged friend apart from your relative?

5. Do you have a close relationship or interaction with any aged person?

6. Do you have any aged person you take care of or support in any way?

7. What are the major problems of the aged?

4. **Closure**
    - The researcher appreciates the interviewee for the time and information and takes his leave

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OYE EKITI

QUESTIONNAIRE

THE PERCEPTION OF YOUNG ADULT ABOUT THE AGED AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON THE CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE AGED

Dear respondent,

This study is conducted by ROLEOLA OLUWATOBILOBA FUNMILOLA, an undergraduate student in the department of Sociology, Federal University Oye-Ekiti. This is part of my B.sc research thesis and this is a research conducted to understand the perception of young adult about the aged and its implications on the care and support of the aged. Please note that your answers will be confidential and NOT released to anyone else.

Your honest r iswers will be highly appreciated.

Thanks for your co-operation

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. **Location** (A) Ado ( ) (B) Oye ( )

2. **Age**...................

3. **Gender:** Male ( ) Female ( )

4. **Marital Status** (A) Single ( ) (B) Married ( ) (C) Engaged ( )

5. **Ethnic Group:** (A) Yoruba ( ) (B) Igbo ( ) (C) Hausa ( ) (D) others specify................

6. **What is your highest level of education?**(A) no formal education ( ) **(B)** school certificate ( )(C) OND/NCE ( ) (D) HND/BSC ( ) (E) above B.sc ( )

7. **Religious Affiliations:** Christianity ( ) Islam ( ) Traditional ( ) others specify......................

8. **What is your occupation?** (A) Unemployed ( ) (B) civil servant ( ) (C) self employed ( ) (D) Student ( ) (E) others specify.........................

SECTION B: YOUNG ADULTS' PERCEPTION OF THE AGED

9. Do you have any aged person around you? (A) yes ( ) (B) no. if yes male( )or female ( )

10. What is your relationship with the aged person (A) Grandparents( ) (B) Neighbor( ) (C) Friend( ) (D) Relative( )

11. What do your friends or other people think about aged? (A) Fetish ( ) (B) Witches and wizards ( ) (C) Prayerful ( ) (D) scary and dangerous ( ) (E) Friendly ( ) (F) caring ( ) (G) Wise. Others specify...

12. Do you like being around old people or wish your aged parents were with you? (A) yes (B) no

13. If yes/no why..
....

14. Are you of the opinion that some aged people are witches/wizard.(A) yes ( ) (B) no ( ) (C) I don't know ( ). If yes, what influenced your opinion...
....

15. Do you consider that most elderly people are (place a tick in more than one box if you wish) demanding ( ) cheerful ( ) helpful/generous( ) difficult to please ( ) easy to get on with( ) encouraging/supportive ( ) rigidly conservative ( ) boring( ) flexible( ) adaptable( ) interesting( ) fetish( ) caring( ) sickly( ) prayerful( ) always nagging( ) accommodating ( )dirty( )wise( )experienced( )clean/neat( ) none of theabove()othersspecifiy...
....

Please tick as appropriate, SA- Strongly agreed, A- Agreed, UD- Undecided, D- Disagreed, SD- Strongly disagreed

S N	ITEMS	SA	A	U	D	SD
16	old people are liabilities and a burden to the society					
17	old people are liabilities and a burden to the society					
18	Most people tend to look scary, unkempt and unattractive					

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19	The aged lacks sense of reason and physical vigor					
20	Most aged people are really no different from anybody else they are easy to understand as younger people					

SECTION C: FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE YOUNG ADULTS' PERCEPTION OF THE AGED

21. How do movies, songs etc. and media in general portray old people?(a) prayerful/religious( ) (b) fetish( ) (c) scary and dangerous( ) (d) wicked( ) (e) generous ( ) (f) kindhearted( ) (g) interesting( ) (h) caring( ) (i) difficult to please (j) dependent ( ) None of the above ( ) all of the above ( ). Others specify..

22. Does your culture gives special importance and treatment to the aged (a) yes ( ) (B) no ( )(C) I don't know( )

INSTRUCTION: Which of the following influence your opinion mostly about the aged

SN	SOURCES OF INFORMATION	MOST OFTEN	OFTEN	RARELY	NEVER
23	Family				
24	Friends				
25	Religion. e.g. church, mosque etc				
26	Personal Experience				
27	Neighbors				
28	Cultural beliefs				
29	Society				
30	Social media				

31	Movies/ Television				
32	Radio				
33	Music/songs				
34	Newspaper				

SECTION D: THE CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE AGED

Please tick as appropriate, SA- Strongly agreed, A- Agreed, UD- Undecided, D- Disagreed, SD- Strongly disagreed.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	UD	SD	D
35	Old people die early due to neglect					
36	I would love to live with an aged person so as to take care of them and support them					
37	The old people who have outlived their usefulness should be left to die					
38	Old people should be kept in the home of the elderly					
39	Preference should be given to the younger adults over the elderly in the hospital and in other areas of life					
40	The aged are treated fairly and given priority to in the society					
41	The aged usually gets their necessities/needs					

42. Do you have an aged person as a friend apart from your relative? (A) Yes( ) (B) No( ) if no why...
....
....

43. Is there anyone aged 65 or older other than your relative, teacher or school helper with whom you have a chat of your own freewill at least once in a week e.g. stopping on the street, going out to

visit or meeting together in a club, group or social environment? (A)None ( ) (B) One ( ) (C) Two ( ) (D) Three or more ( )

44. What are the peculiar problems of the elderly?(A) illness( ) (B) poverty( ) (c)emotional instability( ) (D)dependency ( ) (E) loss of strength( ) (F) loneliness/ isolation( ) (G) mental decline( )Others specify..

45. What do you think the aged persons need the most? (a) Love and care ( ) (b) support ( ) (c) money ( ) (d) prayers ( )

46. How do you think they get it? (a) Young adults ( ) (b) family ( ) (c) friends ( ) (d) neighbors ( ) (e) government ( ) (f) personal effort ( )