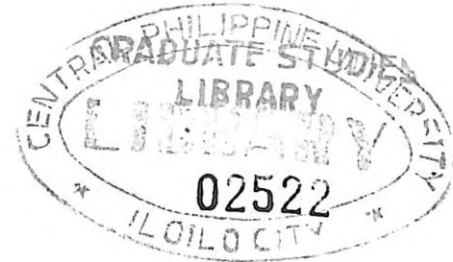


**PREFERENCE FOR ALTERNATIVE LIVING ARRANGEMENT FOR THE
ELDERLY IN URBAN CHINA: PARENTS'
AND CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE**



A DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

The primary objective of this study was to determine the parents' and children's preference for alternative living arrangement for the elderly in urban China. The study further aimed to determine the relationship between characteristics and attitudes of both the parents and children towards living arrangement, present living arrangement and their preference for alternative living arrangement for the elderly.

The respondents of the study consisted of 768 randomly selected people aged 20 years old and older coming from the four communities of the Haidian District in Beijing, China.

This study utilized the one-shot survey design. To gather the data needed, the researchers used two types of questionnaires: the personal information sheet and checklist questionnaire to answer the specific objectives of the study. The data were coded, encoded and analyzed by computer using the software, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

The study hypothesized that the parents' and the children's preferences towards living arrangement for the elderly vary according to their personal characteristics such as

age, sex, civil status, educational attainment, occupational status, monthly income, family size and place of origin.

It was hypothesized further that there was no significant relationship between their characteristics and attitudes towards living arrangement, present living arrangement and their preference for alternative living arrangement for the elderly.

Majority findings

Parents

1. Out of the total respondents, majority of the parents are married, college graduates, earned income of 10,001 RMB and above, and belonged to the age bracket of 40-49 years. Of this number, 50% are males and 50% are females and majority of them have only one child.

2. Majority of the parents are living together with their children, while others preferred to live alone. At present, none of them is living in the nursing home and community for the aged.

3. The parents had mostly agreed to the attitude about elderly living Arrangement.

4. No significant relationship exist between the parents' personal characteristics when grouped according to age, sex, civil status, educational attainment, occupation, monthly income, family size and place of origin and their attitude towards living arrangement of elderly in terms of the attitudes listed, their present living arrangement and the parents' preference for alternative living arrangement.

Children

1. Out of the total respondents, majority of the children are married, graduates of high school/technical secondary school, earned income of 10,001 RMB and above, and belonged to the age bracket of 30-39 years. Of this number, 50% are males and 50% are females and majority of them have only one child.

2. Majority of the children respondents are presently living “together with children”, while others are living alone. None of them is living in the nursing home and community for the aged.

3. The children respondents preferred for alternative living arrangement for they want to “live alone”. Other reasons of the children include: live together with children, live in community of the aged and other will stay in nursing home..

4. No significant relationship exist between the children’s personal characteristics when grouped according to age, sex, civil status, educational attainment, occupation, monthly income, family size and place of origin and their attitude towards living arrangement of elderly in terms of the attitudes listed, their present living arrangement and the children’s preference for alternative living arrangement.

Conclusions

1. Generally, majority of the parents and children are married, college and high school/technical secondary school graduates, earned income of 10,001 RMB and above, and belonged to the age bracket of 40-49 years and 30-39 years old. Of this number, 50 percent are males and 50 percent are females and majority of them have only one child.

2. It is concluded that majority of the parents and children are living together with their children while others preferred to live alone .At present, none of them is living

in the nursing home and community for the aged. Thus, Chinese are family-orientation. The elderly like to live with their children. But children are very busy. They can not take care of their parents in the day. Children also want to see their parents every day. Almost Chinese parents reject to live in nursing home. The elderly should live with their children or they can often see their children.

3. However, it is also concluded that the parents and children respondents had mostly agreed to the attitude about elderly living arrangement, except for those who are earning an income of 6,000 RMB and below who have mostly disagreed to the attitude about elderly living arrangement.

4. Likewise, the parents and children respondents preferred for present living arrangement because they want to “live together with their children” and to “live alone”.

Recommendations

1. People of Haidian: The one child policy is actually constitutionally followed; but nice to love a parent and for a child too. Make a standard of living too close to the policy, if more earnings, love too much to generate the love itself, if not! carry the heavy loadens of the policy. A manner of saying, how could you extend your love to your child if one alone, this generates the idea of no extension! How can a child intensely feel the presence of love if the child is alone without comparison. After all, Love is above all things!

2 . Government: To the government in a community of Haidian should create a harmonious place for the elder parents to live in and the children that could spend time and money to recreate with their parents as a means of getting together as a family of oneness. After all the Family that stays together, lives together...

3. Council: To the City or Barangay council as the law governing body of Haidian should create a law establishing a bright future of the elder that should replenish the needs of every elderly parent in that community as well as the becoming elder children. It is hoped to substantiate ones needs of becoming an elder parents.