

Ageing and its socio-economic problems in the era of HIV/AIDS in the North West province of  
South Africa

By

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Abstract

The global rapid growth of the elderly/Old age population has created an unprecedented demographic revolution, which started in the most developed countries at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. South Africa is one of the Sub-Saharan African countries with the highest proportions of the older populations with nearly 7 percent aged 60 years and above and is expected to rise to nearly 10 percent by 2025. But the HIV/AIDS pandemic particularly in the developing world is posing a huge challenge to the elderly people in addition to their existing socio-economic and health problems with about 38.6 million people infected with HIV/AIDS; the majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Many elderly today have to survive on their own with little or no support from society since their adult children have opted to migrate to the urban areas for better job opportunities. This has left the elderly vulnerable to socio-economic hardships and with the HIV/AIDS pandemic, they have had to assume the role of care giving to their orphaned grandchildren and sick adult children.

The proposed study seeks to examine the socio-economic and demographic needs and concerns facing the elderly population in the era of HIV/AIDS in the North West province of South Africa. The study is based on primary data collected from The North West Province of South Africa, as part of a doctoral Research

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