LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: TOWARDS PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE ELDERLY IN NIGERIA

OMOROGBE, Stephen Kayode and ODIGIE, Sunday A.
Department Of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences
Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the conditions of the elderly with particular reference to the Nigerian situation. It notes that the population of the elderly is heaviest in advanced countries than the developing ones. However, the burden which this group of people faces appears to tilt towards the developing nations than the developed ones. This is because in advanced countries adequate policy frameworks are in place which regulates the burden the elderly face giving greater part of the job to government and their agencies and other organizations. In Africa, Nigeria inclusive, the traditional support which the extended family systems use to give has been seriously threatened by the forces of modernization and industrialization which appear to be the epoch countries in Africa are presently going through. Specifically, this paper reviews the conditions of the elderly globally and locally. Attention is also given to the issue of old age as asset. The abuse of the elderly in Nigeria is chronicled in details in addition to the probable causes of these abuses. The paper concludes with a set of policy recommendation which can tremendously improve the conditions of the elderly in Nigeria in the near future.

Keywords: Ageing, Social Security, Population, Nigeria.