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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Volume 3 – Number 2 of the *Journal of Aging in Emerging Economies (JAEE).*

In this Issue: Health, Illness and Social Support in Emerging Economies

FEATURE ARTICLES

THE INFLUENCE OF AGE, GENDER AND PARENTAL EDUCATION ON ADOLESCENT HIV/AIDS RELATED KNOWLEDGE IN IBADAN METROPOLIS, NIGERIA

A. A. Adegole, Ph.D., Nigeria; J. E. Fife, Ph.D., Virginia, USA; M. Comeille, Ph.D., Greensboro, North Carolina, USA

In this study, adolescents' knowledge, attitudes and beliefs as related to HIV and AIDS were examined based on their age, sex and parents' educational status. The research was conducted on a sample of 1902 participants within ages 12-20 years selected cross-sectionally from a population of over 25,000 adolescents. Results indicate good HIV-AIDS related knowledge on the existence of the epidemic, modes of transmission and adolescents' vulnerabilities; however there are unfounded beliefs about the curability of HIV/AIDS, which reflects cultural myths that can serve as barriers to HIV information. Results also indicate that Nigerian adolescents' knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about HIV/AIDS were influenced by their parents' educational status, age and gender.

Key words: *adolescent, HIV/AIDS, knowledge, attitudes and beliefs*

GLOBAL AGING ISSUES: THE NIGERIAN SITUATION

It is well established that globally populations are aging. This trend as well as its attendant effects is not just reserved for developed economies, but greater effects await emerging

Upon performing a brief literature review of more current research on this topic, I discovered that in 2011 alone, several articles were available discussing the topic of transnational caregiving. Examples of the more current work includes looking at Alzheimer's disease and the impact of migration on caregiving for these families, the effect on migration of parents when the children remained in the homeland, and cultures other than those mentioned in this text. This indicates that this work has stimulated interest in this topic and I fully expect that more research of this kind will take place in years to come. Most recent work uses the effort of these authors as the foundation for their investigation. As the caregiving of older adults is a strong area of concern for those practicing in health care, a broader understanding of cultural differences is vital to provision of those services. As we become a more global society, issues of health policy dealing with the care of elders is one faced not by the United States alone, but by countries all over the world. As family availability and interactivity is always a strong consideration of caregiving, this work brings to light an area that will become a more integral part of and potential barrier if not understood, to the care of those living distances from their families. Interestingly, I was unable to find literature from nursing or the medical sciences where, I believe, this type of research would be greatly beneficial. I feel that this topic has an important role in nursing and medical education. I would strongly recommend this book be used by nurse, physician and other health care educators to stimulate discussion of caregiving across cultural and geographic boundaries as well as to encourage a stronger sense of cultural humility and competence among heath care practitioners.

Overall, I found this book interesting, well written, and a very important work for multiple disciplines concerned with caregiving, culture and aging. I look forward to more work by these authors and others that will bring this topic to the forefront of research.

About the Book Reviewer: Lorene S. Martin, MSN, RN, CRNP, is Assistant Professor of Nursing, Baccalaureate Program, Kent State University at Salem, Salem, Ohio. Her areas of interest include gerontology and chronic illness.

What are old people for? William H. Thomas, 2004. Acton: VanderWyk & Burnham. Hard cover: 370 pages

Reviewed by Serif Esendemir, Ph.D. Candidate in Applied Gerontology

Aging and longevity have gained more attention in today's society. In his book, Thomas draws a picture of the current situation of the elderly by considering what the future holds for upcoming generations. In this respect, his work diagnoses the problem with possible visionary solutions.

As Moody mentions on the cover of the book, Thomas` work attempts to change the way of thinking about the meaning of aging. In this new meaning, aging has been equated with both positive and negative aspects. In other words, he tries to break the stereotypes about aging and launch a war against declinist perspectives on aging although he does not disregard some biological changes in the human body due to the aging process.

Thomas argues that we live in an ageist society. It is interesting to note that this ageism leads even older adults to believe in the superiority of youth. That is because to be old means to live in a ghetto without borders regardless of social status or gender. For this reason, it is easy to be affected by stereotypes created by an ageist society.

There is a way to break these stereotypes: to get rid of wrinkles signifying aging. According to Thomas, the cosmetic industry and medical profession are two main agents of a war against wrinkles. He mentions that people fear wrinkles since they tell the truth about us. They tell our story although we are reluctant to face the truth.

Thomas is in favor of keeping our natural looks even though some of us are not happy with our wrinkles. That is why he does not promote botox.

Furthermore, Thomas elaborates on the glorification of youth. He shows how literature used to glorify old people. The word "senate" is as an example of a different era. This word is derived from the Latin word "senex" meaning "old man."

Thomas focuses on a false parallel proposed by a "declinist" perspective, comparing the body to a machine. It is believed that the body and its organs break down just as an old machine. Thomas seems to be critical about this analogy. That is because he devotes a significant portion of his book to the gerotranscendence theory of Lars Tornstam which brings a cosmic insight to aging against such mechanical comparisons.

In closing, Thomas` work shows what an important role homo geros has played in saving the world. Thomas explores the concept of eldertopia to shed light on the contribution of the elderly to society. This concept requires a reciprocal relationship. That is to say, the community protects its elders and in turn elders contribute to the vision of the community. In my view, Thomas` main contribution is to help readers to shed their stereotypes about aging.

About the Book Reviewer: Serif Esendemir is a PhD candidate in Applied Gerontology, Department of Sociology at the University of North Texas. He received his BA and MS from Middle East Technical University, Turkey. He was a chief editor of Tezkire: Journal of Social Sciences and Theory and English editor of 1453: Journal of Istanbul`s Culture and Art. He has published in many journals, including İtaki, Editör, Özgün İrade and Yarın. He can be reached at serifesendemir@my.unt.edu