Chinese Elderly

PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING AND SOCIAL SUPPORTING RESOURCES

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METHODS

DATA SOURCE
- The data is based on a national survey collected by “the China Research Center on Aging” (CRCA) in 2006, covering 16 provinces.
- The study is based on a sample size of 1980 respondents, a 10% of the total of respondents of 19,800 urban and rural elderly aged 60 years and above.

MEASURES

Dependent Variables:
- Psychological Wellbeing
  - Health Status
  - Feel Lonely
  - Filial Piety
  - Happiness

Control Variables:
- Age
- Children
- Marital Status
- Family Harmony

Independent Variables:
- Social Supporting Resources
  - Government Resources
    - State Stipend
    - Community Stipend
    - Social Welfare Stipend
  - Family Resources
    - Children Support
    - Relative Support
  - Other Resources
    - Buying Medical Insurance
    - Enterprise Stipend
    - Other Stipend

HYPOTHESES

1. The perception on the psychological wellbeing varies among the Chinese elderly.
2. Social supporting resources vary among the Chinese elderly.
3. The health status of the Chinese elderly is associated with their social resources, after controlling for the effects of age.
4. The perception on filial piety of the Chinese elderly is associated with their family resources, after controlling for the effects of children.
5. The perception on feeling lonely of the Chinese elderly is associated with their social resources, after controlling for the effects of marital status.
6. The perception on happiness of the Chinese elderly is associated with their social resources, after controlling for the effects of family harmony.

RESULTS

- Hypotheses 1 and 2 were supported by the data collected in this study.
- The psychological wellbeing varies among the Chinese elderly due to differences in health, feeling lonely, filial piety, and happiness.
- Social supporting resources in China were found to benefit some of the elderly but were not available to others.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

- Since state resources have the strongest association to psychological wellbeing there may be a need for policy change. As the Chinese population continues aging, we will see the continued lack of state resources such as social welfare, which will have an effect within China. Government policies involving social welfare programs, and stipends from the state and community, will need to be considered if they want to meet the demands of this ever growing aging society.
- The results stimulate further effort on the same topic for examination and confirmation.
- More effort is needed to explore the concepts of the dependent variable in terms of psychological wellbeing in a Chinese social context.
- Researchers might need to re-examine the re-coded variables, such as health status and feeling lonely, which might give a new light to the findings.

CONCLUSION

- The psychological wellbeing of the Chinese elderly due to differences in health, feeling lonely, filial piety, and happiness.
- Social supporting resources in China were found to benefit some of the elderly but were not available to others.

The effects of children.
- The results stimulated further effort on the same topic for examination and confirmation.
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