

**SOCIO-CULTURAL BELIEFS ATTACHED TO HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR
AMONG OLDER ADULTS IN SELECTED RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN
LAGOS STATE.**

Adekola, F. T., Ph.D. Wahab, O. E., Ph.D. Ajiboye, O. E.,PhD.

ABSTRACT

Globally; people attach different meanings and view to health care treatment. The use of medications or health care treatments among older adults differs across countries due to cultural variations. The study investigated the different socio-cultural beliefs attached to health seeking behaviour by the older adults in the treatment of their illnesses in selected rural and urban areas in Lagos State. The study adopted descriptive research design. Purposively, four local government areas in Lagos State: Badagry and Epe (rural), Surulere and Shomolu (urban) were selected based on the large number of older adults in these Local Government Areas. Quantitatively, One thousand, six hundred and forty (1640) semi-structured copies of questionnaires were administered on older adults, male and female who were 60 years and above through multi-stage sampling technique. For the qualitative data, 16 in-depth interviews and 4 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) comprising of 8 homogeneous groups were conducted among the older adults who were also selected through purposive sampling technique. Bivariate and Multivariate methods of data analysis were employed, Logistic regression and chi-square methods of data analysis were used for testing hypotheses (P -value <0.05). The qualitative data were analyzed using content analysis and ethnographic summaries. The mean age of the respondents was 67.7 years. The study found that socio-cultural beliefs of the older adults have significant effect on the health seeking behaviour of the older adult at Chi-Square value 3.148 since $P<0.05$ this corresponded with the qualitative data (Interviews and FGD). **Conclusion:**

Socio-cultural beliefs of the older adult is a strong factor in their health seeking behaviour; it was therefore recommended that government should provide the older adults with adequate information on quality and affordable healthcare services for them to utilise modern healthcare services.

Keywords: Healthcare, Socio-cultural, Utilisation, Older adults, Rural and Urban.

Word Count: 326.