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THE INFLUENCE OF THE BIG FIVE PERSONALITY FACTORS ON STUDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AGED IN IBADAN

Aguiyi, O. A.¹ and Okhakhume, A. S.¹

¹ Department of Psychology, University of Ibadan

Abstract

Ageism remains a threat to successful aging. In 1950, the world housed an estimated 205 million older persons, 606 million in 2000, 701 million in 2007, it is however expected to double 1.2 billion by 2025 and triple by 2050 respectively. This unprecedented growth of the aged is causing widespread concern. One of the world poorer countries such as Nigeria will account for most of the increase in elderly population from 1980 thru 2000 to the year 2020. The attitude of the society towards the elderly becomes more negative, and the elderly are devalued. This survey research study investigated the influence of the big five personality factors (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience) on students' attitude towards aging population in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. It will also investigate the roles of some demographic variables (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity, religion and level of study) on students' attitude towards the adding population. The study settings were the Davidoff, Idia and Queens's undergraduate halls of the University of Ibadan. In addition, the rest in the faculty of the Social Science were equally used. The study used the ex-post facto design where the participants were conveniently sampled. A sample of one hundred and fifty students' comprising of 64 males and 86 females was participated in the study, the participants age ranged from 17% and 32 years old, include 64(42.7%) males and 86(57.3%) females. Twenty-two (14.7%) of the students were in 100 level, 43(28.7%) were in 200 level, 64(42.7%) were 300 level while, 21(14%) were in 400 level. One hundred and forty (93.3%) of the participants were single, while only 10(6.7%) were married. Their religious affiliation shows that 105 (70%) were Christians, while 45(30%) were Islamic students. Hypothesis one was supported $t(148) = -1.424, P < .05$. Hypothesis two was supported $t(148) = -.925, P < .05$. Hypothesis three was supported $t(148) = -2.985, P < .01$. Hypothesis four supported $t(148) = .577, P < .05$. Finally, the fifth hypothesis was partial supported $F(5, 145) = 6.049, P < .001$. In conclusion, the findings of this result are indeed quite suitable for the development of an intervention package to address the aging population issues among students and youths alike in Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Gerontology "the scientific study of ageing and its effects" is currently one of the most important aspects of global concern and issues. It is interesting to note that 1975 to 2025 was considered as the "Ageing Era" by the United Nations and its reality in the present day: is partly responsible for the increased attitudinal change towards the ageing population. World Health Organization (WHO) major concerns have shifted from controlling preventive disease to that of the elderly population. According to WHO, by the year 2025 two-thirds of the 800 million world projected elderly population would be from developing nations. Old age is a universal problem of mankind. Ageing the process

of growing older is an inevitable part of life. It is a natural process. Ageing is often associated with entry into the social world of the elderly. The old people have become an important segment in the changing landscape of our modern society. This is in part because of the unrealistic perception of the concept of ageing. In whole, due to the effects of ageing as seen as negative, for instance, decline in functionality (is stereotypical).

Negative stereotypes of ageing tended to marginalize perceptions of elderly individuals within a predominantly young-adult society, by placing them on opposite sides along the lifespan spectrum. The inappropriate negative stereotypes lead to discrimination and prejudice (ageism) against the aged. The concept of "ageism" was coined in 1968 by Butler who described it as "a process of systematic stereotyping of and discrimination against people because of age or being old" (Butler, 2000). This is due to the injustices and unfair treatment meted out to people because of their age. Today, it has come to include any prejudice or discrimination in favour of the aged and people of specific ages as well. However, it is more often negative than positive. It can oppress the young as well as the old. A facet of ageism is stereotyping the aged as "dirty old man", "senile old fool", "meddling old women" and so on. This can be intentional or inadvertent.

The society we live in is permeated with ageism against the aged in varying degrees. Cultural stereotypes, pop cultures and media reinforce our youth oriented society, "Young is beautiful". Further, the constant emphasis on youth, beauty, vitality and strength, indirectly strengthens the negative aspects of ageing. In our society where older people are not highly valued, everybody prefer being young rather than ageing, many people fear growing old and try to cover up their ageing. Like all prejudices, ageism influences the self-view and behaviour of its victims. These negative attitudinal perceptions of ageing and older people are apparent in our media, language and humor. For example, the word "old" is associated with a decline in physical characteristics, such as ill health, general functional disability, mental deterioration/problems, impotence, dependence, restricted social mobility, loss of spouse, retirement, less social contacts, lack of general interest in anything, frequent desire to rest/sleep, and withered appearance. These are factors cited to describe transition to old age.

To understand aging holistically, it is imperative to understand how attitude is influenced by the process of aging itself including that of the society. The descriptors of aging exist at two levels: personal (individual view) and societal (opinion of many people in the society) which are mutually reinforcing. Old people have the tendency to take on negative definitions of themselves and to perpetuate the very stereotypes directed against them, hence reinforcing society's beliefs. On the other hand, the aged have a relatively positive image but at the same time they themselves had negative attitudes and perspectives of the other aged. Thus, it appears that the aged themselves are impervious to negative stereotypes of aging being influenced by the society. This bears proof to a maxim of social psychology which says, what we think of a person

influences how we perceive him, how we perceive him influences how we behave towards him and how we behave towards him ultimately shapes who he is?

In the developed world the size and proportion of this population is increasing, ageing of the population involves greater numbers older people as well as consequent changes in the demographic structure of the population as a whole. Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Nigeria compared with most cities of industrialized countries: result from peculiar spatial and social processes in explaining attitude towards the aged. In these countries, Nigeria inclusive, the age of 65 is a marker of compulsory retirement. In this study, the term "older people" refers to people who are 65 years and over. Research has indicated that ageism is quite prevalent in today's society (Palmore, 2001), possibly even more prevalent than sexism and racism (Banaji, 1999), although it is typically much more difficult to detect (Levy & Banaji, 2002). This presents a challenge for the community through the loss of their potential social-economic contribution. As in western industrial countries, there is a major demographic transformation in Nigeria, resulting in the growth of what is termed an "aged population".

The emphasis on senescent without acknowledging the growth, recuperation and improvement that occurs in ageing is a form of ageism. The term "old" often indicates a negative bias against older people, which is common to many cultures and is true of the Nigerian nation. Most interestingly, in the developing country Nigeria, the elderly population is on the increase, based on the proportion of those over the age of 60 years. In 1981 census, it increased to 5.1%, by 1999 the figure increased to about 6% and in 2006 it further increased to 7.5% (Federal Office of Statistics, 2006). This can be explained in terms of more females surviving than males. Initially, there were high levels of infectious disease, but with awareness and control of these problems, we now have more people living to old age. In recent times, contrary to political problem and military mis-governance, the democratic trend to ageing population though slow still follows the world trend.

In our fiftieth years of existence, our life expectancy is currently put at about 47 years for females and 46 years for males (WHO: Population Reference Bureau, 2009). The population of the aged which is 8-9% compared to that of the developed countries which is about 14%, ours is still very low but increasing. This indicates that the country had taken the characteristic of a mature population (Federal Office of Statistics, 2006). In 1987, a policy on the aged under the ministry of Social Affairs in Nigeria states, "that the care of the elderly is supposed to be a joint responsibility of the federal, state, local and voluntary agencies". The goal therefore, is to provide centers for daycare, recreation, nursing, physical/mental health and financial security facilities for the elderly. This is with the view of ensuring fundamental human rights for the elderly. The major limitation of the policy is that it is documented but not implemented. The federal government is not doing anything despite the social development policy of 1989 with its clearly stated objective.

This attitudinal change on the part of our federal government has degenerated within every sector of the country. In some of our villages, the aged have not been well taken care of, most especially in places where extended family system is not practiced. In most Nigerian cultures, the aged are seen as being responsible for people's downfall. As such, the youths often avoid them to prevent ills and bad luck from happening to them. This uncaring attitude towards the aged has created guilt in the aged. With this noted, most people tending towards the old age develop that fear of being isolated or neglected when one finally get to that age. This can cause more harm than good to their health status and could predispose them to health problems like hypertension. In our country, the problems of the aged have not received as much attention as they deserve.

Since our society has negative attitudes toward older people. From the ongoing discussion, some literature reveals that students as members of society are not immune from holding negative attitude towards ageing, especially undergraduate students (McCrae & Terracciano, 2008). Attitudes are conceptualized as feeling, knowledge, and readiness to act, all of which are amenable to change. These concepts are considered as being positive or negative. What then is the cause of these negative attitudes towards the aged? Some researchers the world over noted that some specific attitudes such as this can change over time, the trait underlying the attitude may remain stable. The study examines the influence of personality factors on students' attitudes towards the aged, elderly or old people.

The "Big Five" or "Five Factor Model" (FFM) is a hierarchical taxonomy in which specific traits are subsumed within five overarching dimensions. Extraversion represents the tendency to be sociable and to experience positive affect. Agreeableness represents the tendency to be interpersonally pleasant. Conscientiousness denotes task-oriented characteristics such as being dependable, responsible, and orderly. Neuroticism means the tendency to be emotionally even. Openness to Experience reflects a broad range of characteristics such as unconventional values, aesthetic sensitivity, and need for variety. In summary, these five personality dimensions describe the ways in which individuals differ in their enduring emotional, interpersonal, experiential, attitudinal, and motivational styles (McCrae & Terracciano, 2008). Extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness have been linked to student' attitudes towards the aged, elderly or old people (Ehigie, 2000).

Behind students negative attitude towards old people lies a host of problems. As our population ages, ageism remains a threat to successful aging. Onyebueke, (2008) noted that, the unprecedented growth of the aged is causing widespread concern and consequently, these have culminated in two United Nations assemblies (1982 in Vienna and 2002 in Madrid). Is worth mentioning that, in 1950, the world housed an estimated 205 million older persons, 606 million in 2000, 701 million in 2007, it is however expected to double 1.2 billion by 2025 and triple by 2050 respectively (UN, 2002; Onyebueke, 2008; UNFPA, 2002).

In a projection of the WHO, the world poorer countries such as Nigeria will account for most of the increase in elderly population from 1980 thru 2000 to the year 2020 (WHO, 1984). The progressive increase in the number of elderly and the longer life spans being attained by a greater proportion of them has created problems of care and service delivery, both in terms of the number requiring care and service as well as the need to provide to widely varying services for emerging diverse groups' elderly person (Kane, 1990). A number of studies have indicated that as society transforms from an agriculturally based rural economy to a more industrial urban economy, the attitude of the society towards the elderly becomes more negative, and the elderly are devalued (Bulter, 2000). In Nigeria, the elderly is being abandoned by their children and family relations to face life challenges alone.

It has been shown that poor attitude and knowledge of ageing may affect the decision towards treatment of elderly people. Evidence from research findings indicates that attitude to ageing affects care of the elderly, society's acceptance of them and provisions of service for them (Ward, 1984). Caring for the elderly started with the history of mankind. Looking through our society today it is obvious that our way of life as well as our family structure have changed in such a way as to affect the care of the elderly in the individual family.

As people live longer, the population of older people is growing significantly. This brings with it many social, political and economic challenges. It becomes increasingly important to gain an insight and understanding into how older people are perceived by the public as it is from these perceptions and attitudes that ageist behaviours, discrimination and mistreatment of older people can develop. A cursory look at the aged in our society shows that they are pensioners. The elderly are discriminated against when it comes to gratuity and pension. They are not paid regularly and don't have financial security. Hence they lack adequate medical care as a result of poverty. These leads to important problems such as: dependence, dementia, depression, delusion and hypertension etc.

It will be interesting to note that recently developing countries have come to the recognition that ageing is a global phenomenon affecting the general society and the populace as a whole. As a result, studies emanating from recently reviewed academic interest on attitude towards the ageing population is virtually devoid of vulnerability, in the management strategies of the aged (UNFPA, 2002, Odufuwa, 2006, Odufuwa, et al; 2007; Shankar, et al, 2006). This study is an effort to fill the personality lacuna. In particular, this study investigates empirically personality factors influencing attitude towards the aged.

In view of the above, the study asks and addresses the following research questions:

1. Will agreeableness, conscientiousness, extroversion, neuroticism and openness to experience influence students' attitude towards the aged in Ibadan?

2. What will be the independent and joint influence of agreeableness, conscientiousness, extroversion, neuroticism and openness to experience on students' attitude towards the aged in Ibadan? and
3. What will influence of the following socio-demographic factors such as age, gender, marital status, religion and level of education on students attitude towards the aged in Ibadan?

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to establish the influence of students' personality factors of: agreeableness, conscientiousness, extroversion, neuroticism and openness to experience on attitude towards the aged in Ibadan. Specifically, this study aims at achieve the following objectives:

1. To determine the influence of agreeableness, conscientiousness, extroversion, neuroticism and openness to experience on attitude towards the aged among students in Ibadan?
2. To examine the independent and joint influence of agreeableness, conscientiousness, extroversion, neuroticism and openness to experience on attitude towards the aged among students in Ibadan? and
3. To assess the influence of socio-demographic factors such as age, gender, marital status, religion and level of education on students' attitude towards the aged in Ibadan?

Relevance of the Study

Students negative attitude towards older people and ageing is the out shoot of a broader attitudinal change of the entire society which if not checked will have devastating effect on the nation in relation to the aged. The study looks into some personality factors behind these. This is with a bid to ravage this situation by having an in-depth understanding into the dynamics behind it. Importantly, the study will propose that the findings if its result will be used in the development of a psychosocial framework for designing a Psycho-education based intervention focusing on changing the attitude of students. The study will showcase an effective psychological treatment in the management of attitudinal change among students. Research institutions and organizations on public health matters will use the result of this study in the area of developing literature in order to support future studies in this direction. Also, the study will close the scientific gap in investigations between Nigeria and the rest of the world. The administrators of hospitals will equally benefit from this finding, in that it will enlighten them on the type of medical personnel to employ in the management of the aged under the gerontological section of their hospital wards for effective management of the aged in terms of prognosis.

The Big Five Factors and Attitude Towards the Aging Population

Various studies have suggested that openness to experience, a personality trait according to the Five-Factor Model, has a negative relationship with prejudicial attitude (Ekehammar & Akrami, 2003; Butler, 2000; Larrimer, Scherbaum, & Popovich, 2001).

There is also a strong negative relationship found between openness and prejudicial attitude. The personality approach to prejudice is that prejudice is not solely a function of the social environment or social-group membership but rather a function of internal attributes of the individual (Ekehammar & Akrami, 2003). For example, Allport (1979) concluded from the findings of highly correlated prejudice scales that although some prejudice attitudes are based on the need to conform to custom, prejudice can be seen as part of the makeup of an individual's personality.

Further, Butler (2000) found a negative relationship between openness to experience and two attitudinal measures—attitudes toward homosexuals and ethnocentrism. He also found that extraversion and agreeableness were not significant while conscientious and neuroticism was significant. In addition, he found that age was not significant while gender, marital status, religion were significant on students attitude towards aging population. There is also evidence that openness to experience may correspond with interracial impression formation (Flynn, 2005).

A wide array of research suggests that openness to experience is related to attitudes toward diversity. For example, Ekehammar and Akrami (2003) found that openness to experience had significant negative correlations with seven different prejudice scales (i.e., correlations ranging from $-.28$ to $-.43$). In addition, they found that conscientious and neuroticism was significant on attitude towards the old people but not extraversion and agreeableness. Finally, they found out that gender was not significant while age, marital status, religion were significant on students attitude towards aging population.

In addition, Lee, Gizzarone, and Ashton (2003) found a significant negative relationship ($\beta = -.186, p < .05$) between Likelihood to Sexually Harass (LSH) and the NEO-PI-R version of Intellect/Imagination (i.e., openness to experience). Thus, a wide array of research suggests that openness to experience is related to attitudes toward diversity.

Students' negative attitudes toward aging population are reasoned to stem, at least in part, from their conformity to traditional gender belief systems (McCrae & Terracciano, 2008). It seems, therefore, that negative attitudes toward aging population may be part of a construct broader than just negative attitudes toward aging population and that endorsing negative attitudes toward aging population demonstrates a general traditional belief system. Accordingly, attitudes toward aging population might be conceptualized as a manifestation of a more general multi-trait factor of personality: openness to experience (low traditionalism), extraversion, agreeableness, conscientious and neuroticism. Openness to experience also has been labeled culture, intelligence, and openness. The most elusive of the Big Five to describe succinctly, McCrae & Terracciano, (2008) comment that openness to Experience, "involves the active seeking and appreciation of experiences for their own sake. Open individuals are curious, imaginative, and willing to entertain novel ideas and unconventional values; they experience the whole gamut of emotions more vividly than do closed individuals" (p. 4). Closed individuals, in contrast, "tend to be conventional in their beliefs and attitudes, conservative in their tastes, dogmatic, and rigid in their beliefs; they are behaviorally set in their ways and emotionally unresponsive" (p. 5). Equally, they found that age, marital

status, religion were significant on students attitude towards aging population but not gender.

Harris and Dollinger, (2003) examined the relations between the Big Five Personality traits (neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness) and anxiety about aging. The NEO-Five Factor Inventory and the Anxiety about Aging Scale were completed by 144 undergraduate students at a large Midwestern university. As expected, a positive relation between neuroticism, age, levels of study of education, ethnicity, marital status, religion and overall anxiety about aging was observed but not gender. Anxiety about aging was inversely related to agreeableness, conscientiousness, and extraversion and unrelated to openness to experience. Additionally, the Big Five Personality traits, age, gender, level of education, ethnicity, marital status and religion were differentially related to the four dimensions of anxiety about aging (anxiety about changes in physical appearance, fear of old people, psychological concerns, and anxiety about age-related losses). These results support the notion that anxiety about aging is related to individual differences in personality traits and suggest that certain aspects of anxiety about aging may be relatively stable and resistant to change.

Higie (2000) found that a 2x2x2 analysis of variance (ANOVA) carried out to determine the main and interactive effects of the personality variables on the attitude to caring for the aged showed that neuroticism (emotionally stable) elderly were significantly favourably disposed to the elderly than the departure of emotionally unstable. Although self-esteem did not have any significant effect on the attitude to caring for the aged but a multiple regression analysis carried out showed that the lower a person's self-esteem is, the more likely will the person be disposed to the aged. However, extraversion agreeableness and gender did not significantly influence the attitude to caring for the aged. Religion was significant while age had significant negative influence on the attitude to caring for the aged. It was concluded that proprietors of centres for the aged should endeavor to employ personnel that have the personality attributes of caring for the aged. Such attributes should be, being high on emotional stability, tending towards low self-esteem and younger individuals.

In addition, open individuals adapt more quickly and effectively to changes. They also make adjustment to existing attitudes and behaviours once they have been exposed to new ideas or situations (John, 1990). The person perception literature addresses how openness is manifested in daily living and interpersonal interactions. Across these varied contexts, the consensus is that just as these characteristics influence conflict and communication in general interactions, it also affects interactions towards the aging population. And once this impression is formed, it is not easily changed. Openness is a low-maintenance trait. That is, initial impressions can be resistant to re-evaluation. It could be said that open students would have negative attitude towards aging population.

Students could be better equipped to cope with age-related physical and social challenges, which could contribute to the maintenance of their attitude towards aging population. Thus, based on the tendency of open individuals to seek personal growth, development and to try new things and experiences, it is likely that open students may fully benefit from these opportunities, and may have experiences or engage in activities and leisure which could satisfy their basic psychological needs, resulting in positive attitude towards aging population.

In summary, compared to the other traits in the FFM, openness, extraversion and agreeableness typically show similar levels of consensus and both remain high as acquaintanceship increases. A slightly different pattern emerges for virtual acquaintanceships. In contrast to traits such as agreeableness and conscientiousness, which require frequent confirmatory evidence to maintain the judgment, impressions of openness are relatively impervious to disconfirming evidence; information that contradicts the initial openness impression tends to be disregarded.

Research Hypotheses

The five hypotheses were generated after the review of theories and empirical studies:

1. Agreeableness, conscientiousness, extraversion, neuroticism and openness to experience would independently and jointly predict attitude towards the aged population among students.
2. Marital status would significantly influence attitude towards the aged population among students.
3. Religion would significantly influence attitude towards the aged population among students.
4. Age would significantly influence attitude towards the aged population among students.
5. Gender would significantly influence attitude towards the aged population among students.

METHOD

Design

This study was designed to investigate students' attitude towards old-people in Ibadan, Nigeria. The study adopted an ex-post facto research design. This is because it was a survey study where no variable was manipulated. The dependent variable was perceived attitude towards old-people while the independent variables were the big five personality factors (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness), gender, age, marital status, level of student, and religion. The dependent variable was measured at two levels high and low. The big five personality factors were equally measured at two levels high and low. Gender was measured at two levels male and female. Age was measured at a continuous form. Marital status was measured at two levels single or married. Level of student education was measured at four levels, 100, 200, 300 and 400. Religion was measured at three levels: Christianity, Islam and others, was the independent variables.

Sample Population

Two hundred (200) participants were drawn among undergraduate students of University of Ibadan between the ages of 17 to 32 years. The participants include 64 (42.7%) males and 86 (57.3%) females. Twenty-two (14.7%) of the students were in 100 level, 43 (28.7%) were in 200 level, 64 (42.7%) were in 300 level while, 21 (14%) were in 400 level. One hundred and forty (93.3%) of the participants were single, while only 10 (6.7%) were married. Their religious affiliation shows that, 105 (70%) were Christians, while 45 (30%) were Muslims.

Instruments

The main instrument used for this study was a structured questionnaires booklet which was divided into three sections A, B and C.

Section A: The Socio-demographic Variables.

This comprised the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants used in the study. These variables includes: Age, gender, marital status, Level of education and religion. Age was measured as young and old. Young was labeled as one while old was two. Gender was measured as males one and females two. Marital status was measured as married one and single two. Level of education was measured as 100 one, 200 two, 300 three and 400 levels four respectively. Finally, religion was measured as Christianity one, Islam two and others three.

Section B: The Kogan's Old Peoples Scale (KOPS).

Kogan's scale consists of one set of 17 statements expressing sentiments (E+) about elderly and second set of (E1). The manifest content of these statement are as follow), item 1, 5 and 12 are all concerned with the residential aspect of elderly person lives with special reference to segregation maintained of home and characteristics of neighborhoods respectively, item 2 and 8 reflect and degree to which vague feelings of discomfort and elderly. Item 11 and 13 tap the extent to which the elderly differ among themselves. The native of interpersonal relations across age generations conflicted or beginning is implied in the item 9, 10 and 16. The theme of dependence is represented by items 4, and 17, items 3 and 6 refer to the cognitive style and competency of elderly. Qualities of the elderly with respect to personal appearance and personality are cited in items 14 and 15. Finally item 7 on socio-economic power does not readily cluster with any of the other items. The authors also require about cohabitation of respondents with the elderly including their grandparent(s) to examined possible effects of this on their attitude towards elderly.

The 34-item scales is design as a summed Likert attitude scale with six respond categories provided for all the items Strong disagree (1), Disagree (2), Slightly disagree (3), Slightly agree (4), Agree (5), and Strongly agree (6) respectively. A score of 4 is assigned in the rare case of failure to respond to an item (4). A high score on the scale

indicates high or favourable attitude towards the elderly perception for E+ and low score for E- indicates low or unfavourable attitude towards the elderly.

Kogan's original scale had item to total correlations among American college students in the range of (0.1 - 0.74). For the Swedish version, the coefficient alpha (α), also called Cronbach's alpha (α) after Lee Cronbach (1951), for the total scale was 0.79. Also strong evidence for construct validity was shown in the scale's capability to differentiate between individuals who preferred to work with the elderly rather than with young clients (1977). The Kogan's scale has been found to possess high reliability and validity values (1977). In this present study, Cronbach alpha (α) of .74 was reported for the 34-item scales. A mean Spearman-Brown test-retest of .637 and Guttman split-half of .621 coefficient reliabilities were reported in this study.

Section C: The Short Version of Big Five Inventory (BFI)

The short BFI was developed by Rammstedt and John (2007). It is a 10 items abbreviated version of the 44 short-phrase items of the Big Five Inventory by John, Donahue, & Kentle, (1991). These items were shortened so that it could be answered in about 5 minutes response time and they were sufficient to measure the Big Five dimensions. The BFI abbreviated 10 items, have just 2 items per scale (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness). The BFI-10 scales include less than 25% of the full BFI-44 scales, it predicted almost 70% of the variance of the full scales. The BFI-10 scales is scored thus: extraversion: 1R, 6; agreeableness: 2, 7R; conscientiousness: 3R, 8; neuroticism: 4R, 9; and openness: 5R; 10 (R means reversed-scored, also a one optional item D was developed which is reversed-scored). It is scored on a Likert format of 1 to 5 (with 1 representing 'strongly disagree', and 5 representing 'strongly agree'. A high score on the scale indicates high perception and vice-versa. The psychometric results of the 2-item abbreviated BFI-10 follows below:

Alpha (α) reliability:

In our student samples, α reliabilities for the 10-item facet scales were lower (mean α = .75). In this present study, the Cronbach alpha (α) coefficient for the 10-item scales is .63.

Retest reliability:

The mean retest stability coefficients were .72 in US-1, .78 in G-1, and .75 overall, suggesting that the BFI-10 scales achieved respectable levels of stability over 6-8 weeks in both cultures. In variance terms, then, the average BFI-44 scale had 71% stable variance, whereas the average BFI-10 scale had 56% stable variance, a difference of 15%. The scales differed somewhat from each other in the US-1 sample, Extraversion (.79), Conscientiousness (.70), and Neuroticism (.76) showed greater stability, while Agreeableness (.69) and Openness (.69) somewhat less stability. In the same vein, the G-1 sample showed similar results Extraversion (.87), Conscientiousness (.83), and Neuroticism (.71) showed greater stability, while Agreeableness (.66) and Openness

(.78). A mean Spearman-Brown test-retest of .827 and Guttman split-half of .747 coefficient reliabilities were reported in this study.

Structural validity:

The BFI-10 scales, however, proved to be quite independent in both US and German samples. The mean inter-correlations in the samples ranged from .08 to .13 and averaged .11. The loadings of the 10 items on the five varimax-rotated factors showed clear simple-structure solutions in all US and German samples, with substantial loadings on the one expected or convergent factor (mean loading = .64) and negligible secondary loadings on the four other factors (mean = .08).

Convergent validity with the NEO-PI-R:

Overall, the convergent validity correlations with the NEO-PI-R domain scales averaged .67 across Big Five domains and samples. In variance terms, the brief BFI-10 scales share 45% of their variance with the NEO-PI-R domain scales, whereas the full BFI-44 scales share 61%. Comparing the BFI-10 scales to each other, convergent validity with the NEO-PI-R domain scales was highest for extraversion, neuroticism, and conscientiousness, and somewhat lower for openness and agreeableness.

External validity using peer ratings:

One central way to evaluate construct validity is to demonstrate generalizability to ratings by knowledgeable informants. Overall these correlations averaged .44, as compared to .56 for the BFI-44, which represents a loss of $r = .16$ in external validity. Moreover, the convergent correlations for the BFI-10 were always much higher than the discriminant correlations, which averaged .09 in absolute values. The highest discriminant correlations were modest in size: .19 in US-1, .24 in US-2 and .18 in G-1.

Norms:

The first US sample (US-1) consisted of 726 students (68% females; mean age = 21 years) at a large public university, whereas the second (US-2) consisted of 726 students at a private university (56% females; mean age = 18). The first German sample (G-1) consisted of 457 students (56% females; mean age = 25) and the second (G-2) of 376 students (66% females; mean age = 24). A third US sample (US-3), originally collected by Gosling, Kwan, and John (2003a), consisted of dog owners ($N = 75$) who rated themselves on the BFI and were rated by a friend, thus providing peer rating data to examine external validity. To assess retest reliability, a subsample of US-1 completed the BFI a second time 8 weeks later ($N = 178$), and a subsample of G-1 completed the BFI again 6 weeks later ($N = 57$). NEO-PI-R data were available for subsamples of US-1 ($N = 233$) and G-1 ($N = 184$). Finally, to examine external validity, we used peer ratings as validity criteria in three subsamples: 231 US-1 participants were rated by a friend who knew them well; 158 G-1 participant were rated by a dating partner; and all 75 dog owners in US-3 were rated by a friend or partner.

Procedure

The researchers administered the questionnaires to the students at their different hall of residence and in their various faculties within the University of Ibadan. Introduction was first done by the researcher who explained the purpose of the study and assured the respondents about the confidentiality of the information they give. Participants were allowed to fill the questionnaires and it was collected by the researcher the following day.

Statistical Analysis

This study utilized inferential statistical methods. The hypotheses were tested using inferential statistics methods. Hypotheses one, was tested using multiple regression analysis. Hypotheses two, three, four and five were tested using t-sample test. The results of the inference statistics are hereby presented below in order to test the five hypotheses that were generated in the study.

The first hypothesis, which states that agreeableness, conscientiousness, extraversion, neuroticism and openness to experience would independently and jointly predict attitude towards the aged among students was tested using multiple regression analysis and the result is presented in table 1.

Table 1: MULTIPLE REGRESSION SHOWING THE JOINT AND INDEPENDENT PREDICTIONS OF AGREEABLENESS, CONSCIENTIOUSNESS, EXTRAVERSION, NEUROTICISM AND OPENNESS TO EXPERIENCE ON ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AGED.

V	R	R ²	F	P	B	T	P
A	.42	.15	6.049	<.001	.098	1.206	NS
C					.360	4.275	<.001
E					-.026	-.317	NS
N					.172	2.164	<.05
O					.030	.373	NS
(CON						12.598	<.001

The result from table 5, shows that hypothesis five which predicted that agreeableness, conscientiousness, extraversion, neuroticism and openness to experience would jointly and independently predict attitude towards the aged among students is supported, $F(5, 195) = 6.049, P < .001$. The linear multiple regression correlation coefficient ($R = .42$) that is, the relationship between attitude towards the aged and the predictor variables

assessed together was moderately high as shown by the coefficient. The percentage variation that was accounted for by the joint predictor variables (agreeableness, conscientiousness, extraversion, neuroticism and openness to experience on attitude towards aging) was 15% which is ($R^2 = .15$).

Two of the predictor variables (conscientiousness and neuroticism) showed a significant relationship on attitude towards the aged. Amidst the joint contributions of the predictor variables, conscientiousness contributed the most with a beta value of .36, $t = 4.28$, $P < .001$. This implies that conscientiousness is positively significant. This implies that as conscientiousness increases, attitude towards the aged among the student's increases and vice versa. Neuroticism had a beta value of .172, $t = 2.16$, $P < .05$. This implies that neuroticism is positively significant, and as neuroticism increases, attitude towards the aged among the students increases and vice versa. The predictor variables agreeableness, extraversion and openness to experience were not significant. Hypothesis five was upheld for two out of the five predictor variables showed partial support for the joint prediction.

The second hypothesis, which states that marital status would significantly influence attitude towards the aged among students, was tested using t test and the result is presented in table 2.

Table 2: T- TEST, SHOWING THE COMPARISON OF COEFFICIENTS OF MARITAL STATUS ON ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AGED.

V	N	DF	T	P	MS	SD
SINGLE	140	198	-.925	<.05	117.69	9.583
MARRIED	10				120.50	1.780
AP						

From the table it was observed that there is a significant negative effect of marital status on attitude towards the aged among students $t(198) = -.925$, $P < .05$. Therefore the second hypothesis is supported. It implies that attitude towards the aged is most negatively favorable among the married students. Equally, it is slightly higher than that of single students. As fewer (or lesser degree of the) students gets married, their attitude towards the aged becomes more negative. In the same vein, as increased number of the students, remains single their attitude towards the aged becomes slightly negative. Furthermore, as increased number of students gets married, their attitude towards the aged becomes slightly negative. Finally, as fewer students remain single, their attitude towards the aged becomes more negative. Attitude of single students towards the aged is slightly less negatively favorable than those of the married students. This result shows that marital status had a significantly negative effect on students' attitude towards the aged. Further observations shown that, married students with the mean score of 120.50 ($SD = 1.780$) scored slightly higher than their single counterparts

who had a mean score of 117.69 (SD = 9.583). However, a cursory look at their mean scores reflects slightly significant difference in the attitudes of both married and single participants. But with the inclusion of their standard deviation, the single participants becomes significantly most negatively favorable than those of the married participants. This result indicates more support for the second hypothesis.

The third hypothesis, which states that religion would significantly influence attitude towards the aged among students, was tested using t test and the result is presented in table 3.

Table 3: A TABLE OF T TEST, SHOWING THE COMPARISON OF COEFFICIENTS OF RELIGION ON ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AGED.

VARIABLES	N	DF	T	P	MS	SD
CHRISTIAN	128	198	-2.985	<.01	116.43	7.576
ISLAM	72				121.24	11.838
AP						

From the table it was observed that there is a significant negative effect of religion on attitude towards the aged among students $t(198) = -2.985, P < .01$. Therefore the second hypothesis is supported. It implies that attitude towards the aged is most negatively favourable among the Islamic students. Equally, it is significantly higher than that of Christian students. Attitude of Christian students towards the aged is significantly less negatively favourable than those of the Islamic students. This result shows that religion had a significantly negative effect on students' attitude towards the aged.

Observations shown, that Islamic student with mean score of 121.24 (SD= 11.838) scored slightly higher than their Christian students who had a mean score of 116.43 (SD= 7.576). However, judging with only their mean scores, it appears to reflect slight significant difference in the attitudes of both participants of the Islamic religion and Christian religion. But with the inclusion of their standard deviation, this significance is indeed great. This result showed further support for the third hypothesis.

The fourth hypothesis, which states that age would significantly influence attitude towards the aged among students, was tested using t test and the result is presented in table 4.

Table 4: A TABLE OF T TEST, SHOWING THE COMPARISON OF COEFFICIENTS OF AGE ON ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AGED.

VA	N	DF	T	P	MS	SD
YOUNG	118	198	.577	<.05	118.10	10.258
OLD	32				117.03	4.123
AP						

From the table it was observed that there is a significant positive effect of age on attitude towards the aged among students $t(198) = .577, P < .05$. Therefore the second hypothesis is supported. It implies that attitude towards the aged is most positively favorable among the younger students. It is significantly higher than that of older students. Attitude of older students towards the aged is significantly less positive favorable than those of the younger students. Equally, as the attitude towards the aged increases among the younger student, that of the older increases too. In addition, as the attitude towards the aged decreases among the younger student, that of the older decreases too. This result shows that age had a significant positive effect on students' attitude towards the aged.

Observations shown that, younger students with mean score of 118.10 (SD = 10.258) scored higher than older students with mean score of 117.03 (SD = 4.123). However, judging with only their mean scores, it appears to reflect slight significant difference in the attitudes of both younger and older students' participants. But with the inclusion of their standard deviation, this significance is indeed great. This result showed further support for the fourth hypothesis.

The fifth hypothesis, which states that gender would significantly influence attitude towards the aged among student, was tested using t test and the result is presented in table 5.

Table 5: A TABLE OF T TEST, SHOWING THE COMPARISON OF COEFFICIENTS OF GENDER ON ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AGED.

VARIABLES	N	DF	T	P	MS	SD
MALE	64	198	-1.424	NS	116.63	6.574
FEMALE	86				118.80	10.830
AP						

From the table it was observed that there was no significant effect of gender on attitude towards the aged among students $t(148) = -1.424, P < .05$. Therefore the first hypothesis was rejected. This shows that gender does not have any significant effect on students' attitude towards old people. Observations of the result further, shown that female students with a mean of 118.80 scored higher than their male students who had a mean score of 116.63. This result is indicative of the fact that this result is negligible considering that the scores are very close. This upheld the rejection of the fifth hypothesis.

DISCUSSION

This section discusses the finding of the influence of the big five personality factors on students' attitude towards the aged thus, showing the major conclusion within it. The findings of study culturally derived and can only be explained within the Nigeria setting. The first hypothesis, which states that agreeableness, conscientiousness, extraversion, neuroticism and openness to experience would independently and jointly predict attitude towards the aged among students was supported. The linear multiple regression correlation coefficient ($R = .42$) that is, the relationship between attitude towards the aged and the predictor variables assessed together was moderately high as shown by the coefficient. The percentage variation that was accounted for by the joint predictor variables (agreeableness, conscientiousness, extraversion, neuroticism and openness to experience on attitude towards aging) was 15% which is ($R^2 = .15$).

Two of the predictor variables (conscientiousness and neuroticism) showed a significant relationship on attitude towards the aged. The finding is in line with the following empirical studies Butler (2000), Ehigie (2000), Ekehammar and Akrami (2003), Flynn, (2005), Harris and Dollinger, (2003), McCrae & Terracciano, 2008) and McCrae & Terracciano, (2008). Amidst the joint contributions of the predictor variables, conscientiousness contributed the most with a beta value of .36, $t = 4.28, P < .001$. This implies that conscientiousness is positively significant. This implies that as conscientiousness increases, attitude towards the aged among the student's increases and vice versa. Neuroticism had a beta value of .172, $t = 2.16, P < .05$. This implies that neuroticism is positively significant, and as neuroticism increases, attitude towards the aged among the students increases and vice versa. The predictor variables agreeableness, extraversion and openness to experience were not significant. The finding is in line with the following empirical studies Butler (2000), Ehigie (2000),

Ekehammar and Akrami (2003), Flynn, (2005), Harris and Dollinger, (2003), McCrae & Terracciano, 2008) and McCrae & Terracciano, (2008). Hypothesis one was upheld for two out of the five predictor variables showed partial support for the joint prediction. Finally as already mentioned, the finding is in line with the following empirical studies Butler (2000), Ehigie (2000), Ekehammar and Akrami (2003), Flynn, (2005), Harris and Dollinger, (2003), McCrae & Terracciano, 2008) and McCrae & Terracciano, (2008). In other words, agreeableness, extraversion and openness independently and jointly did

not make any positive contributions in the students' attitude towards the aged among them, as this negatively decreases among the variables themselves and vice versa. Therefore, as the three variables decrease, so the attitude of students drops against the aged without any positive impact.

The second hypothesis, which states that marital status would significantly influence attitude towards the aged among students is supported. It implies that attitude towards the aged is most negatively favorable among the married students. Equally, it is slightly higher than that of single students. As fewer (or lesser degree of the) students get married, their attitude towards the aged becomes more negative. In the same vein, as increased number of the students, remain single their attitude towards the aged becomes slightly negative. Furthermore, as increased number of students gets married, their attitude towards the aged becomes slightly negative. Finally, as fewer students remain single, their attitude towards the aged becomes more negative. Attitude of single students towards the aged is slightly less negatively favorable than those of the married students. This result shows that marital status had a significantly negative effect on students' attitude towards the aged. This finding is in line with previous studies especially that of Harris and Dollinger, (2003), Flynn, (2005) and McCrae & Terracciano, (2008).

It is believed that society itself has a role to play in determining the attitudes of students towards aging process. This is because marriage itself is an institution of the society that places a good degree of responsibility on married people. Therefore, the marital status of an individual influences the way he or she thinks, behaves and reasons to the extent that it will inform his or her general attitude towards the aged based on the family values the marital status may have inculcated in the individual and of which he exhibits in his given responsibilities that go with marriage where care is given to the aging in the family unlike in the case of unmarried students. As a result, their attitudes towards the aged vary less or more negatively, depending on their marital status.

The third hypothesis, which states that religion would significantly influence attitude towards the aged among students was supported. There was a significant negative effect of religion on attitude towards the aged among students. This imply that attitude towards aging population is most negatively favourable among the Islamic students than that of Christians students. Attitude of Christian students towards the aged is significantly less negatively favourable than those of the Islamic students. This result shows that religion had a significantly negative effect on students' attitude towards the aged. This is in line with the following empirical literatures used as Ehigie (2000), Harris and Dollinger, (2003) and Flynn, (2005).

In its explanation, traditional religion equally tends to have significantly less negative impact because conservative traditionalists still believe in the tradition that preserves the respect for the old people because there is the general understanding and belief that for the young to live long, he must respect and care for the old. Therefore, people hold on to this and work towards it to ensure that they would be taken care of in return at old

age. The fourth hypothesis, which states that age would significantly influence attitude towards aging population among students was supported. It is a significant positive effect of age on attitude towards the aged among students. It implies that attitude towards the aged is most positively favorable among the younger students.

It is significantly higher than that of older students. Attitude of older students towards the aged is significantly less positive favorable than those of the younger students. Equally, as the attitude towards the aged increases among the younger student, that of the older increases too. In addition, as the attitude towards the aged decreases among the younger student, that of the older decreases too. This result shows that age had a significant positive effect on students' attitude towards old people. This finding is in line with other empirical studies Butler (2000), Ekehammar and Akrami (2003), Harris and Dollinger (2003), Flynn, (2005) and McCrae & Terracciano, (2008).

From all indications, as older students get aging, they tend to preserve the culture of the aging population knowing full well that in their own old age, they would be taken care of. Therefore, their attitudes significantly appreciate more than the younger students. The fifth hypothesis, which states that gender would significantly influence attitude towards the aged among student, was rejected. The result shows that gender was not significant on students' attitude towards the aged. This is in line with Butler (2000), Ekehammar and Akrami (2003) and Harris and Dollinger, (2003) empirical studies. An explanation could be that this cuts across both male and female students, for one cannot situate the degree of responsibility between any of the sexes. It could be from the view point of that both male and female experience the same aging process; it is not limited to a particular sex to determine the effects aging process has on either of the sexes rather it conforms to traditional gender belief systems (McCrae & Terracciano, 2008).

In interpreting these findings, it is important to realize that although personality traits are stable, people can change their patterns of behavior, thought, and feeling as a result of therapy and intervention programs. Thus, the links between the Big Five Personality Factors and important life outcomes point to behavioural domains that people can target for personal development and change; for example, people can improve how conscientiously they adhere to a diet, exercise regimen, or medical treatment plan. Therefore, human personality is said to be dynamic because change is an irresistible force of nature that influences individuals in their behaviours, lifestyles and value orientations as well as determines how they react to issues and situations affecting their personal growth and development.

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were reached first: students' socio-demographic variables such as age, religion, marital status and level of studies were all significant predictors of their attitude towards the aged. This is in line with previous empirical studies which either supported or refuted it. Conclusion reached there also included that students' personality trait or variables such as consciousnesses and neuroticism were equally major predictors of their attitude

towards the aged. On the other hand, the gender of the student, agreeableness, extraversion and openness to experience were not significant predictors of their attitude towards the aged. Empirical literature equally supported this fact.

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