

# Acceptability of Family Members on the Institutionalization of Elderly: A Proposed Program

**Evelyn M. Balanquit, MAN**

Faculty, College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences,  
University of Eastern Philippines, Catarman, Northern Samar, Philippines

## **ABSTRACT**

This study aimed to assess the level of acceptability of the family members on the institutionalization of elderly as basis in proposing a program.

It is aimed to document the socio-demographic profile of the family members, in terms of age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, occupation, annual income, number of family member, number of elderly living with them, and relationship to the elderly living with them, and relationship to the elderly's socio-demographic profile, in terms of age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, previous occupation, previous annual income, current source of income, and health status.

The findings of the study show that a majority of family member-respondents were 35 to 59 years old, female, married, college graduates, teachers, had an annual income of P 150,000 to P 249,000, had a big family composed of seven (7) members or more, had one (1) elderly living with them, and had their elderly parents living with them.

As to the profile of the elderly, most of them were 66 to 70 years old, majority were female, widowed, most were college graduates, government employees, earned P 250,000 to P 499,999 annually, indicated that their current source of income was the retirement pension, and a greater number had heart-related problems.

On the test of relationship between the socio-demographic profile of the family members and their level of acceptability, regression analysis showed that all socio-demographic profile variables were found to be not significantly related to the level of acceptability of family members on the institutionalization of the elderly.

Based on the findings of this study, a program on the institutionalization of elderly was developed to help

the elderly promote their welfare through independent senior living, assisted living, long-term nursing care, memory care, and skilled nursing and skilled rehabilitation.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Aging, or old age, is the process of becoming older and comprises the period of life after youth and middle age. In the narrow sense, aging represents the accumulation of changes in a human being over time, encompassing physical, psychological, and social change.

According to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2009), the United Nations (UN) agreed that 60+ years may be usually denoted as old age, and this is the first attempt at an international definition of old age. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) sets 50 as the beginning of old age and defines old age, not by years, but by new roles, loss of previous roles, or inability to make active contribution to society.

The Philippines is a country that recognizes the older people as part of its human resource. In a country that considers the family as a basic unit of society, the central role played by the elderly in the development of their families and communities could not be underestimated. Thus, in affirming the significant contribution of the older people, the country recognizes the need to put in place policies and programs that do not only entitle the elderly to adequate social services, promotion of their full employment, and to raise their standard of living but also actualize opportunities for continued and active participation in national development.

Based on the 2010 Census of Population and Housing (CPH), the province of Northern Samar posted a total population of 589,013 persons as of May 1, 2010, 77.23% of which are young, 15.67% are adult, and or

7.10% are old. In 2007, there were 23,227 old persons and 41,833 in 2010, so there was an increase of 0.5% in the number of elderly in three years time. The statistics also showed that most elderly came from Catarman (capital) – 4,949, Laoang – 4,749, Palapag – 2,717, Catubig – 2,532, Las Navas – 2,286, Lavezares – 2,140, Mondragon – 2,064, Pambujan – 2,023, Allen – 2,018 and Gamay – 1,915.

The traditional high regard for older people remains characteristic of Filipino families. However, their needs such as health care, housing, income security, and other social services need to be addressed. An institution for elderly is a necessity to identify their needs, trainings, and opportunities; initiate, develop, and implement productive activities and work schemes for them in order to provide income or supplement their earnings in the community; and promote and maintain linkages with government and non-government units and institutions for the delivery of health care services, facilities, professional advice services, volunteer training and community self-help projects.

It is along this concern that the researcher was motivated to conduct this study to determine the level of acceptability of the family members on the institutionalization of elderly. The propose institution will help old people promote their welfare.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aimed at determining the acceptability of the family members on the institutionalization of the elderly, a proposed program.

Specifically, this study aimed to:

1. document the socio-demographic profile of the family members, in terms of:
  - 1.1. age
  - 1.2. sex
  - 1.3. marital status
  - 1.4. educational attainment
  - 1.5. occupation
  - 1.6. annual family income
  - 1.7. number of family member
  - 1.8. number of elderly living with them
  - 1.9. relationship to the elderly living with them
2. determine the socio-demographic profile of the elderly, in terms of:
  - 2.1. age
  - 2.2. sex
  - 2.3. marital status

- 2.4. educational attainment
- 2.5. previous occupation
- 2.6. previous annual income
- 2.7. current source of income
- 2.8. health status
3. assess the level of acceptability of the family members on the institutionalization of the elderly;
4. determine the factors that affect the family member-respondents' level of acceptability on the institutionalization of the elderly;
  - 4.1. psychological
  - 4.2. emotional
  - 4.3. social
  - 4.4. cultural
5. find out if there is a significant relationship between the socio-demographic profile of the family member-respondents and their level of acceptability on the institutionalization of the elderly;
6. find out if there is a significant relationship between the socio-demographic profile of the elderly and the family members' level of acceptability on the institutionalization of the elderly;
7. ascertain if there is a significant relationship between the factors that affect the family member-respondents' level of acceptability on the institutionalization of the elderly; and
8. propose a program for the institutionalization of the elderly based from the findings of the study.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in the province of Northern Samar.

Northern Samar is one of the three provinces comprising Samar Island. The Province of Northern Samar, where the division is located, is in the northern and western side; Pacific ocean on the east; San Bernardino Strait on the north; Samar Sea on the east; and the Samar and Eastern Samar provinces on the south.

Northern Samar is classified as second class province. It is politically subdivided into three (3) major geographical areas, namely: Balicuatro Area; Central Area; and the Pacific Area including Catubig valley – the province's granary.

The province is subdivided into two (2) congressional districts, 24 towns or municipalities, and 569 barangays.

Specifically, this study was conducted in the 24 municipalities of Northern Samar. Due to the accessibility of other towns and time frames, this study was limited to the inland towns only.

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

##### Socio-Demographic Profile of the Family Members

Table 1.1 presents the varying age of the family members which represents all the age ranges.

Data show that 75 or 75% belonged to the age bracket of 31 to 60 years old and 25 or 25% belonged to 19 to 30 years old.

The respondents were distributed among the age brackets. Majority of them belonged to the age range 31 to 60 years old. This indicates that family members' age belonged to the middle age, which means they still have the time to prepare and plan as they grow old.

**Table 1.1 Distribution of the Family Members According to Age**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
31 to 60 years old	75	75
19 to 30 years old	25	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.2 presents the frequency distribution of the family members according to sex.

Table shows that 60 or 60% were female and 40 or 40% were male.

The results show that a majority of the family members are female. This means that female family members had a strong compassion to the elderly and a real scenario could be witnessed that female members ate more dedicated and loving to the elderly.

**Table 1.2 Distribution of the Family Members According to Sex**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Female	60	60
Male	40	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.3 presents the frequency distribution of the family members according to marital status.

Statistical data show that 75 or 75% were married; 19 or 19% were single; four (4) or 4% were widow/widower; and two (2) or 2% were separated.

Majority of the family members are married which means that their family seems to act as a support system and a secure base upon which they build their careers. This further means that married people have that great advantage to care for the old ones.

**Table 1.3 Distribution of the Family Members According to Marital Status**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	75	75
Single	19	19
Widow/Widower	4	4
Separated	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.4 presents the frequency distribution of the family members according to educational attainment.

It shows that 27 or 27% were college graduates; 15 or 15% were able to attain college level; 11 or 11% were high school graduates; 11 or 11% were able to attain high school level; 10 or 10% were able to earn master's units; seven (7) or 7% were able to attain elementary level; six (6) or 6% were elementary graduates; six (6) or 6% were master's degree holders; four (4) or 4% were able to earn doctoral units; and three (3) or 3% were doctor's degree holders.

It can be gleaned from the data that most of the respondents are college graduates. This implies that the family members are well-educated and could understand further support the family as time goes by particularly when they have job already to support the needs of their family.

**Table 1.4 Distribution of the Family Members According to Educational Attainment**

<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
College Graduate	27	27
College Level	15	15
High School Level	11	11
High School Graduate	11	11
Earned Master's Units	10	10
Elementary Level	7	7
Elementary Graduate	6	6
Master's Degree Holder	6	6
Earned Doctoral Units	4	4
Doctor's Degree Holder	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.5 presents the frequency distribution of the family members according to occupation.

Data show that 25 or 25% were teachers; 22 or 22% were government employees; nine (9) or 9% were housekeepers; eight (8) or 8% were salesladies; eight (8) or 8% were self-employed; six (6) or 6% were business persons; six (6) or 6% were private employee; five (5) or 5% were nurses; three (3) or 3% were fisher folks; three (3) or 3% were students; two (2) or 2% were tricycle drivers; one (1) or 1% was a military personnel; one (1) or 1% was a police officer; and one (1) or 1% was a vendor.

Based on the data, most of the respondents are teachers. This implies that the family members are employed and professionals.

**Table 1.5 Distribution of the Family Members According to Occupation**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Teacher	25	25
Government Employee	22	22
Housekeeper	9	9
Saleslady	8	8
Self-Employed	8	8
Business Person	6	6
Private Employee	6	6
Nurse	5	5
Fisherfolk	3	3
Student	3	3
Tricycle Driver	2	2
Military Personnel	1	1
Police Officer	1	1
Vendor	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.6 presents the frequency distribution of the family members according to annual family income.

Statistical data show that 28 or 28% were earning P 150,000 to P 249,000; 19 or 19% were earning P 100,000 to P 149,000; 11 or 11% were earning P 250,000 to P 499,999; 10 or 10% were earning P 60,000 to P 79,999; eight (8) or 8% were earning P 500,000 and over; seven (7) or 7% were earning P 80,000 to P 99,999; four (4) or 4% were earning P 50,000 to P 59,999; three (3) or 3% were earning under P 10,000; three (3) or 3% were

earning P 20,000 to P 29,999; three (3) or 3% were earning P 30,000 to P 39,999; two (2) or 2% were earning P 10,000 to P 19,999; and two (2) or 2% were earning P 40,000 to P 49,999.

It can be gleaned from the data that most of the respondents are earning an annual income of P 150,000 to P 249,000. The data indicates that the family members are earning enough to support the needs of their family. This also means that there is enough budget to sustain their needs.

According to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), poverty has always remained a critical social problem that calls to be addressed. Philippines' latest poverty line/index for 2015 marks a monthly per capita income of 10,534 pesos a year. The data from the NSCB showed that more than one-quarter (25.8%) of the population fell below the poverty line in the first semester of 2015, an approximate 4 per cent increase since 2013. The group of provinces with the least poverty incidence is the 4 districts of NCR, Bataan, Benguet, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, Rizal, and Ilocos Norte. The groups with the highest poverty are Eastern Samar, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Masbate, Northern Samar, Sarangani, Zamboanga del Norte, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato, and Western Samar.

**Table 1.6 Distribution of the Family Members According to Annual Family Income**

Annual Family Income	Frequency	Percentage
P 150,000 – P 249,000	28	28
P 100,000 – P 149,000	19	19
P 250,000 – P 499,999	11	11
P 60,000 – P 79,999	10	10
P 500,000 and over	8	8
P 80,000 – P 99,999	7	7
P 50,000 – P 59,999	4	4
Under P 10,000	3	3
P 20,000 – P 29,999	3	3
P 30,000 – P 39,999	3	3
P 10,000 – P 19,999	2	2
P 40,000 – P 49,999	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.7 presents the frequency distribution of the family members according to number of family members.

The table shows that 52 or 52% have a big family which composed of 7 members or more; 41 or 41% have an average family which composed of 4 to six members; and seven (7) or 7% have a small family which composed 1 to 3 members.

Data indicates that most of the respondents have a family of 7 members or more, which interpreted as big family.

**Table 1.7 Distribution of the Family Members According to Number of Family Member**

Number of Family Member	Frequency	Percentage
Big (7 or more members)	52	52
Average (4 to 6 members)	41	41
Small (1 to 3 members)	7	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.8 presents the frequency distribution of the family members according to number of elderly people living with them.

Table shows that 74 or 74% had one (1) elderly living with them; 20 or 20% had two (2) elderly; five (5) or 5% had three (3) elderly; and one (1) or 1% had four (4) elderly.

Based on the results, a greater number of the respondents had one (1) elderly living with them.



**Table 1.8 Distribution of the Family Members According to Number of Elderly People Living With Them**

Number of Elderly People	Frequency	Percentage
1 elderly	74	74
2 elderly	20	20
3 elderly	5	5
4 elderly	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.9 presents the frequency distribution of the family members according to relationship to the elderly living with them.

The table shows that 47 or 47% responded that the elderly people living with them are their parents; 33 or 33% responded their grandparents; and 20 or 20% responded their relatives.

It shows that most of the respondents responded that the elderly people living with them are their parents. This clearly implies that they have that extra care for their parents because they are duty bound to do it. In other words, life's reality is that they should serve well their parents as a form of gratitude for without them, they will not be in this world.

**Table 1.9 Distribution of the Family Members According to Relationship to the Elderly Living With Them**

Relationship	Frequency	Percentage
Parents	47	47
Grandparents	33	33
Relatives	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### Socio-Demographic Profile of the Elderly

Table 2.1 presents the varying age of the elderly which represents all the age ranges based on the National Statistics Office Household Population.

It shows that 58 or 43.6% belonged to age bracket of 65 to 69 years old; 21 or 15.8% belonged to 75 to 79 years old; 17 or 12.8% belonged to 60 to 64 years old; 14 or 10.5% belonged to 70 to 74 years old; 13 or 9.8% belonged to 80 to 84 years old; five (5) or 3.8% belonged to 85 to 89 years old; three (3) or 2.2% belonged to 95 to 99 years old; and two (2) or 1.5% belonged to 90 to 94 years old.

The elderly were distributed among the age brackets. Data show that most of them belonged to the age range 65 to 69 years old. This implies that family members should decide whether their elderly member will be lived in an institution for the elderly if family member could not attend to their needs.

**Table 2.1 Distribution of the Elderly According to Age**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
65 to 69 years old	58	43.6
75 to 79 years old	21	15.8
60 to 64 years old	17	12.8
70 to 74 years old	14	10.5
80 to 84 years old	13	9.8
85 to 89 years old	5	3.8
95 to 99 years old	3	2.2
90 to 94 years old	2	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2.2 presents the frequency distribution of the elderly according to sex.

It shows that 81 or 60.9% were female and 52 or 39.1% were male.

It can be gleaned from the data that a majority of the elderly were female. The National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB) stated that as of 2014, the life expectancy in the Philippines for male of 69.52 years while 75.59 years for female.

**Table 2.2 Distribution of the Elderly According to Sex**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Female	81	60.9
Male	52	39.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2.3 presents the frequency distribution of the elderly according to marital status.

The table shows that 72 or 54.1% were widowed; 42 or 31.6% were married; 11 or 8.3% were single; and eight (8) or 6.0% were separated.

Based on the results, a majority of the elderly are widowed. This means that it is good for a family to decide to place the elderly widowed to an institution for the elderly.

### **Payment Policy**

The rate normally includes room and board, housekeeping, bedding, nursing care, activities, and some personal items. Additional fees may be charged for haircuts, telephones, and other services.

Medicare covers the cost of the institution services, such as skilled nursing or rehabilitative care. This payment may be activated when the institution is provided after a Medicare qualifying stay in the institution for at least three days.

Private insurance, such as long-term insurance, may cover costs associated with the institution. Elderly may enroll in these plans through their employers or other group insurance policies.

The daily and monthly service fees are subject to change. The monthly service fees should be reviewed annually by management and may be adjusted based on actual operating costs. The fees are based on the actual costs of the services, staffing, operations, depreciation, and the operating costs of the institution. The community will maintain its costs at the lowest feasible rate consistent with sound financial practices. Notification of any increase in the Monthly Service Fee is given to all residents no less than 30 days in advance.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

In the light of the findings of the study, the following conclusions and implications were drawn:

The socio-demographic profile of the family members in Northern Samar are of adulthood, dominated by females and married, earned appropriate degrees, currently employed, earned enough money, have a big family size, and elderly people like parents, grandparents, and relatives live with them. This can be concluded that family members possess enough

personal and professional characteristics to be productive individuals. It can be concluded also that Norte Samareños highly value the presence of their family members including the elderly more than anything. This implies that regardless of the liberal influence of the west, the Norte Samareños respect the importance of the traditional family ties and bond.

The socio-demographic profile of the elderly are young old, dominated by females, widowed, college graduates, previous government employees, earned P 250,000 to P 499,999 annually, depends on their retirement pension, and have various health related problems.

The level of acceptability of the family members is accepted which can be concluded that family members agree to the idea of the institutionalization of elderly in the province of Northern Samar. This implies that family members in Northern Samar concur to the possibilities of confinement of the elderly to the institution for the aged for their continual nursing care. This simply means more care is given because family members are busy.

The psychological, emotional, social, and cultural factors affect the level of acceptability of family members on the institutionalization of elderly in Northern Samar. This implies that despite the acceptance of the family members on the institutionalization, the Norte Samareños value the remarkable closeness of the family members, especially with elderly people. The elderly prefer to remain and enjoy their lives inside their houses with their children and grandchildren looking after them. This means that family members could sometimes prefer to take care of the elderly rather than making them stay in the institutions for the elderly.