

THE ROLE OF FINANCIAL DEPENDENCY IN THE ECONOMIC AND HEALTH STATUS OF ELDERS

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ABSTRACT

Financial dependency affects the economic and health status of the elderly. This study shows how different financial dependency levels (independent, partially dependent, and dependent) affect the self-rated economic and health status of the elderly.

The economic and health status of 506 elders is measured on a five-point Likert scale (1 = very poor to 5 = very good). The difference among the financial dependency groups was examined using the Kruskal-Wallis test followed by the Dunn's post hoc test with Bonferroni adjustment. The strength of the relationship was measured using the effect size (η^2).

Financially independent elderly have higher score (average = 3.62, median = 4) health while dependent and partially dependent elderly have lower health status. The Kruskal-Wallis test found a significant difference ($p = 2.669e^{-05}$, $\eta^2 = 0.0111$). In the Dunn test, the health status of independent elderly is better than that of partially dependent ($p = 0.000113$) and dependent elderly ($p = 0.00182$).

Independent elderly scored higher (Mean = 3.05, Median = 3) in economic status while dependent and partially dependent elderly had slightly lower economic status. The Kruskal-Wallis test found a significant difference ($p = 0.0281$, $\eta^2 = 0.0035$). In the Dunn test, the economic status of independent elderly is better than that of partially dependent elderly ($p = 0.0309$), but no significant difference is found between dependent and independent elderly ($p = 0.2899$).

Financial dependence has a significant impact on health and financially independent elderly have been found to have better health. But its impact on economic status is less. However, the effect size is small in both situations, which shows that other things like external financial assistance, savings and social security also affect the economic and health status of the elderly. Pension schemes, social security and health services should be strengthened to improve the quality of life of the elderly.

KEYWORDS: *Financial Dependency, Health Status, Economic Status, Elderly Population, Kruskal-Wallis Test, Dunn's Post Hoc Test, Social Security, Aging.*

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