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Abstract

Discourse on elderly people has not received sufficient attention from African academics and the government. Gerontology is one of the less popular areas of specialisation within Sociology, the social sciences, and the humanities in Africa. The lack of medical and social services specifically for elderly persons in African countries highlights the institutional neglect of the elderly across most parts of the continent. An increasing ageing population is a new phenomenon in Africa, but the turn of the 21st century has added a new dimension to the continent. Africa's population is mainly youthful due to its relatively low life expectancy compared to developed countries. However, the number of elderly persons on the continent has continued to rise. This paper analysed data sets from various organisations to explain why Africa's population is ageing both at the base and the peak. The study found that longevity in African countries is driven by globalisation, which spreads a modern lifestyle and improved healthcare services for those who can afford them, even abroad. Additionally, the paper suggests that ageing at the lower level occurs in Africa because of the cultural belief that encourages Africans to have many children, and men to marry even in their 60s and 70s. As people live longer, both the young and elderly populations continue to contribute to high birth rates. This has resulted in Africa having a high fertility rate, alongside a rising elderly population. Longevity in Africa has significant implications, such as the lack of geriatric services in most African countries, which means that as Africans live longer, the consequences will be serious, especially given the absence of social protection policies to support the ageing population.

Keywords: Ageing, Gerontology, Elder Persons, Globalisation, Longevity.**Introduction**

Africa offers distinct conditions for the study of gerontology in the 21st century, given its unique demographic composition. Also, as a result of its high reproductive rate, the continent had the highest proportion of young people in the world. At the same time, the continent is experiencing an increase in the number of elderly persons. These conflicting population

patterns have far-reaching implications for the future of the continent. This contrasting reality about the uniqueness of Africa's population dynamics is of interest to sociologists and development experts. This is because the concurrent increase in the population of youth and adults presents challenges and opportunities for the government and the dependents of the age cohorts concerned. Ageing at the base means there is high infant fertility, which increases the population of young people, while ageing at the apex means there is an increase in the population of elderly persons (Naja et al., 2017). When a population of defined geographical locations presents such unique demographic characteristics, it becomes strange and attracts the attention of social researchers in the social sciences and humanities.

According to the World Social Report (2023), the population aged 65 and older is expected to triple from 761 million to 1.6 billion from 2021 to 2050. The population of people over 80 years old is also increasing. As the birth rate decreases, the proportion of young people decreases, while the number of working-age people and the elderly increases (Nakatani, 2023). Increasing life expectancy and improving health are contributing to population ageing in many African countries. Even though the elderly population is increasing worldwide, in some regions, the elderly population is not growing. Analysis shows that the elderly population is expected to grow rapidly in North Africa, Western Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa over the next 30 years (Duhon et al., 2023). By 2023, Europe and North America will have the highest proportion of elderly populations. In developing countries, the proportion of older individuals aged 15 to 35 is expected to double from 7 to 14 per cent and rise again from 14 to 21 per cent within 10 to 30 years from 2023 onward (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2023). This meant that population ageing is one of the key demographic trends in the study of demography and sociology. This is because any change in the demographic characteristics of the population has implications for individuals, dependents, and the government.

It has been observed that one of the factors that contributes to the changing dynamics of Africa's population is globalisation. It has influenced the development of older age, especially in the formation of social and economic policies aimed at controlling and managing demographic changes. During the 20th century in Western cultures, national institutions such as the welfare state provided a specific framework and associated consequences for the end of life (Beckfield & Bambra, 2016). Since the 1990s, this process has been hindered by a combination of increased globalisation and foreign migration. The changing cultural environment is leading to a shift from a linear life cycle to one in which events affecting later life are spread over a wide range of time, place, and chronological age. In the 21st century,

globalisation will undoubtedly have a significant impact on how older people spend their lives (Grinin et al., 2023). In some ways, it will be easy to predict the kinds of changes this will bring; otherwise, not much. Senior citizens will undoubtedly live in a culturally and socially diverse world and will be increasingly aware of the effects of ageing on communities around the world, in addition to the ageing of their society (Georgeou et al., 2021). Another change will be the role of supranational bodies in defining policies in areas such as social security, health, and social care, which lay the foundations for resources.

Considering their contribution to world population growth, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, the United States, Bangladesh, and China are estimated to account for half of the projected global population growth between 2005 and 2050. By 2030, India is expected to surpass China to become the world's most populous country (Koduru & Tatavarthi, 2019). According to this data, the population of developing countries continues to grow, both among youth and young adults, as health services and information and communication technologies (ICT) improve and advance among young and older people (Phillipson, 2019). From the above introduction, this article attempts to examine the factors that lead to the contrasting population growth in terms of age in Africa and its implications.

At a time when Africa's youth are experiencing extraordinary growth and related challenges, the continent's population is ageing. Africa's ageing population faces a unique mix of challenges. It is predicted that people's personal care needs will increase with age as they are more likely to suffer from long-term physical and mental disabilities, as well as a range of chronic conditions (Pearson et al., 2012). Overall, middle-income countries such as South Africa, Mauritius, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt experienced the largest increase in population ageing (Wlodarczyk et al., 2020). The population of these countries aged 65 varies from 4.5% to 7.3% of the total. Other countries, such as Libya, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Djibouti, have seen significant increases in the number of elderly people (Oluwabamide & Eghafona, 2012). The above literature has provided a statistical overview of ageing in some African countries. It explained how the elderly population is expected to grow. However, the statistics did not explain what is causing the changes in population characteristics, which is the main focus of this article. The capacity of health services to respond to the more chronic and complex health conditions and priority health needs of older people and found that this capacity remains low in most developing countries, especially in Africa (Hoffman, 2022). Researchers found that older people face geographic, physical, financial, technological, and other barriers to accessing healthcare, as well as problems related to hospital conditions and ageist attitudes of healthcare workers.

Methodology

To achieve the objectives of this study, secondary data were utilized to achieve the study objectives. The use of secondary data in social research is allowed and it enables the researcher to use the data collected by a different person or organization for a different purpose and use it for a different purpose. The secondary data were sourced from documented texts from different sources and presented using a thematic style. The criteria for inclusion of the article were that only articles that focus on ageing in Africa or developing countries were selected for this study. That is against the normal curve of gerontology, which states that whenever there is high fertility, there will be a decline in the population of elderly persons and an increase in the population of young persons. This implies that nations with birth rates below "replacement level" frequently have long-term natural growth. This is most prevalent in areas with recent high birth rates, as the number of families increases as the babies born at that time grow up. The researchers purposively searched for literature that focused on the objectives of the study from the year to 2024, a period of 24 years has been reviewed. The criteria for inclusion and exclusion in the search was the article or publication should contain issues of population dynamics in Africa from 2000 to 2024. The literature searched and reviewed has revealed the accumulated knowledge concerning this phenomenon in Africa. Meta-analysis of quantitative data was used to analyse the changes or contradictions in the ageing patterns in Africa across different times, which has provided a nuanced understanding of the problem investigated. This section presents and analyses data based on the research questions/objectives of the study. Data from institutions such as the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Washington, the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries United Kingdom, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Albertina and Walter Sisulu Institute of Ageing in Africa, the University of Cape Town South Africa Samson Institute for Ageing Research (SIFAR) South Africa, that life expectancy in Africa is below sixty years.

Result and Discussion

Different Population Dynamics in Most African Countries

Data from the different African countries has revealed that the continent is experiencing dramatic demographic changes. Although the majority of the population is young, the percentage of older people has significantly increased over the past few decades due to improved healthcare services and interventions in solving war and armed violence. The

rationale behind the population dynamics is that, in Africa, there are more women than men who are 60 years of age or older (Dimnwobi et al., 2021). This means the percentage of women of reproductive age has decreased, which invariably affects the number of children born in the population and increases the population of the elderly. Furthermore, the data showed that the percentage of people 60 years of age and beyond in the labour market is still significant; however, men often make up the majority of these workers (Vishnevskaya, 2017). One of the fastest-growing ageing populations in Africa is found in South Africa. Despite South Africa's youthful population, the number of adults 60 and older in the country's total population is growing (Maharaj, 2025).

Similarly, in the next 30 years (2055), the number of people worldwide aged 65 and older will more than double. Approximately 1.5 billion individuals will be 65 years of age or older globally by 2050. However, because fertility and mortality declines vary by location, population ageing will not be consistent (Navaneetham & Arunachalam, 2025). Africa has the greatest rate of older people working worldwide. The number of elderly people in developing nations is growing faster than in developed nations. The youngest populations are found in sub-Saharan Africa, where Niger tops among 17 countries worldwide with a median age of 15.4 (Odimegwu & Adewoyin, 2022). Additionally, the population of Kenya increased by about 20 million over the previous 20 years, from 28.7 million in 1999 to 47.6 million in 2019 (Mwaila & Yousif, 2022). The percentage of the population that is elderly has increased from 3.3 per cent to 3.94 per cent throughout the same time period. Kenya's fertility dramatically declined from 4.6 births per woman in 2008–2009 to 3.4 births per woman ten years later, following a stagnation between 1998 and 2008–2009. A change in the population structure is anticipated as the population ages, with the median age rising from 20 in 2020 to 28 in 2050, and the overall dependency ratio falling from 75% to 48% in the same time frame (Mwaila & Yousif, 2022). Related to the data from other African countries, Kenya has been battling with internal security challenges from Islamic fundamentalist groups, who infiltrate the country from Somalia.

Ageing and Its Implications on Africa's Population

The increasing prevalence of various long-term chronic diseases, as well as physical and mental disabilities, is closely related to population ageing. Globalisation has brought dangerous or unhealthy products into many parts of Africa. Diseases such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other forms of dementia are common in older people, limiting their ability to live a normal life and making treatment expensive (Ji et al., 2024). Due to the ageing of the population, the situation is getting worse. Even more worrying is the evidence

that these disorders will spread more rapidly in developing countries. Chronic diseases such as angina pectoris, osteoarthritis, and diabetes are not only becoming more common, but also, they are more than twice as common in the elderly aged 60 and over than in younger people (Nakatani, 2023).

Policy challenges related to economic security, health and disability, and living conditions in later life exist globally, but the nature of the problems varies significantly between countries and continents. Sub-Saharan Africa has a relatively small elderly population. Historically, this segment of the population relied heavily on family and family support. Kinship networks and mutual aid associations also provided help in other situations. In sub-Saharan Africa, older people have traditionally been seen as providers of knowledge and wisdom (Adamek et al., 2022). Although families in Africa are often still intact, modernisation and development are inextricably linked to socioeconomic trends that can undermine traditional social norms and networks of support and care in old age. For example, while formal education promotes greater independence and autonomy, it also undermines traditional social ties and obligations that support extended family structures (Cohen & Menken, 2006).

Societies with large elderly populations generally face financial challenges due to increased health care costs, long-term care, retirement benefits, and other elder care costs, as well as reduced government revenues due to fewer working-age taxpayers. Addressing these challenges starts with making ageing an integral part of economic development and ensuring older people can use their experience and skills in ways that benefit them and the economy as a whole (Duhon et al., 2023). The lack of affordable and equitable long-term care takes a heavy toll on older adults, their families, and society as a whole. Women are the most disadvantaged because they make up the majority of care recipients and both paid and unpaid caregivers (Ogura & Jakovljevic, 2018). As such, the transition to an ageing society is posing serious financial difficulties to all countries regardless of economic size. Even the wealthiest countries, which have been anticipating these problems for two decades, are still struggling to find funds to support rising pension and health care costs for their ageing populations (Rouzet et al., 2019). Their transition is impeded by new and innovative medical technologies that are prohibitively expensive and designed to save the lives of a small number of people.

The increase in the elderly population, mainly in industrialised countries, significantly increases overall government spending, especially in the social protection and environmental categories (Temsumrit, 2023). But as the population ages, governments spend less money on education. Other important results show that changes in the structure of government spending

on culture have a detrimental effect on economic growth, while spending on education has a positive effect. In Africa, where most countries are poor and depend on foreign aid and donations to run their governments, there is a serious gap in financing to provide services to older people, and long-living people in Africa face many challenges, which are life-threatening problems (Hoffman, 2022).

An ageing population changes the structure of the population and increases the demand for care. Inadequate planning in this region will exacerbate the problems. Seniors require special care because of their specialised physical, emotional, social, and economic needs and prefer services close to their homes (Golden et al., 2019). At the primary level of care, compassionate, age-appropriate, and comprehensive services can achieve much. Both customers and retailers benefit financially from savings at the community level. Moreover, through public awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation. Early detection, supportive care, and regular follow-up care for individuals undergoing treatment or with serious illnesses can reduce the multimorbidity caused by chronic disease problems (Rajan, 2023).

Ageing is a natural process of particular importance worldwide because older people may require special care. Old age can bring with it a variety of health problems that appear later in life. Pharmaceutical care services for older adults remain underutilised in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) (ElGeed et al., 2023). Older people are more vulnerable to various diseases, which is why they are major consumers of healthcare costs. In particular, frail older people with varying degrees of functional impairment will require significant care that goes beyond technological advances (Kojima et al., 2019). Frail older people will be the most challenging patients without comprehensive and integrated treatment approaches, requiring repeated use of health and social care services (Chen, 2023).

Factors that Lead to Ageing at the Base & Apex in Some African Countries

It can be deduced from available data in Africa that population ageing is occurring more quickly in less developed countries, as a result of a sharp fall in fertility and an increase in life expectancy driven by medical interventions using cutting-edge technologies and medications. Many diseases that used to cause premature deaths can now be effectively treated and prevented because of these approaches. The fact that prolonged poverty coexists with the ageing of the population in emerging nations is also significant (Rudnicka et al., 2020). On the reverse, modernisation and globalisation have brought about improvement in the lives of people in developing countries instead of reducing life expectancy (Guzel et al., 2021). Increased literacy level in Africa and income enable Africans to make better informed decisions about their lives,

which translates to longevity that produces more young and elderly people in the population. Reduced fertility is the primary demographic factor causing population ageing (He et al., 2020). An ageing society results from a population's age structure shifting towards a greater proportion of older individuals due to repeated declines in fertility or persistently low fertility levels. African demography will have increasing weight on world demography, as it rises from 18% (n = 1.46 billion) of the world population in 2023 to 35% (n = 3.66 billion) by 2086 (Odimegwu & Adewoyin, 2022). If Africa is not included, the world population is expected to peak 32 years sooner (in 2054), and the working-age population also 32 years sooner (in 2042). This can be explained by several factors: the asynchrony of the demographic transition compared to the rest of the world, a particularly strong population increase, and the sheer size of the African region (Cleland & Machiyama, 2017). Over the same duration of 63 years between 1960 and 2023, while the Asian population multiplied from 1.70 billion to 4.75 billion, its proportion of the world's population remained rather stable (56% to 58%) (Guillemot et al., 2024).

The elderly population in many parts of Africa, excluding North Africa, is growing exponentially compared to developed countries. Excess deaths from AIDS are already a problem in many countries, but the number of elderly people will increase. In 2005, Nigeria was ranked among the top 30 countries in the world based on the percentage of the population over 60 years of age. Nigeria has the largest elderly population in sub-Saharan Africa, with more than 6 million people aged 60 and older, while South Africa has just over 3.4 million (Onuche et al., 2024). In 2005, six new countries in sub-Saharan Africa had more than 1 million people aged 60 years or older. Across sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of adults aged 60 and over is less than 5%, but this figure varies widely across countries (Odimegwu & Adewoyin, 2022). In 2005, Mauritius had the oldest population in sub-Saharan Africa, with approximately 9% of the population over 60 years of age. In 2005, 7.8% of South Africans and more than 7% of Lesotho's population were over 60 years of age. In countries such as Benin, Burundi, Kenya, Mauritania, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia, less than 4% of the population is over 60 years of age (Cohen & Menken, 2006).

Empirical evidence from Africa has revealed ironic findings where the population of countries is witnessing an increase in the elderly population on the one hand and high fertility on the other. In countries where birth rates have fallen sharply, such as Korea and Thailand, ageing is rapidly increasing (Yoo, 2023). Fertility rates remain high in most sub-Saharan African countries. Because birth rates are slowly declining in many countries, the region's population is ageing at a relatively slow pace. Future fertility trends will impact the region's

ageing population. In 2005, sub-Saharan Africa had eight of the ten highest fertility rates in the world, with Niger and Mali being the two countries with the highest total fertility rates, and Somalia having a total fertility rate estimated at 6.8. Only Mauritius had a total fertility rate below the replacement level of 2.1, while the other two sub-region countries (South Africa and Botswana) had total fertility rates below 3.0 (Cohen & Menken, 2006).

Challenges Facing the Ageing Population in Africa

An International Labour Organisation dataset showed that 85.8 per cent of workers in most African countries work in the informal sector. Of these sectors in Africa, most have no retirement benefits or pensions for their retired employees. This means that people who worked with informal organisations and retired at the age of 65 or over have to take care of themselves in the years after retirement. This, therefore, represents one of the challenges or consequences of ageing in Africa in an age of globalisation, where people have migrated from rural areas to urban centres in search of paid work. This is consistent with findings from other African countries. Pensions in Africa cover only a small proportion of older people who work in the public and other sectors of the formal economy (Guyen, 2019). Most peasants live in rural areas of Africa and receive no social support or protection for their old age (Lloyd-Sherlock & Amoakoh-Coleman, 2020). Even after accounting for differences in demographics and injury profile, rural elderly trauma patients have worse outcomes than urban geriatric trauma patients.

Results from some countries in Africa showed that very few countries have policies that care for the elderly. Countries have developed an integrated pension system for older people. They are Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, and South Africa. However, the research revealed that the pension schemes in the countries mentioned above only included older people who worked in the public sector while they were still active. This showed that in these countries, older individuals who were not educated or worked in informal sectors with pension coverage would face significant financial problems at a time when they lacked the strength to work and earn money to survive.

Globalisation has affected family relationships in most African countries. Relatives no longer take care of their elderly relatives, so people are forced to work to make ends meet in their late 60s and 70s. This is in line with the findings of the ILO, which provided data on people working in old age in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has the highest labour force participation rate of any world region, with seven in ten people aged 60 to 64 working and more than half of people aged 65 and over (Novignon et al., 2015). In addition, SSA has the

largest proportion of people over 65 working compared to other parts of the world. In addition, the findings found that SSA has approximately 70% of older people aged 60 to 64 in the labour force, compared to 57.0% in North America, approximately 50% in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and more than 30% in Arab countries. The low number in North Africa (28.0%) may indicate greater pension coverage in the region. According to findings from Africa, a considerable part of the elderly population lives in rural areas (Maharaj, 2025). They also engage in smallholder agriculture in Africa's rural economy. It is possible to conclude that the majority of elderly people in Africa who continue to work are involved in smallholder agriculture. In Africa and other regions of the world, elderly people who continue to work have a lower unemployment rate than the general working-age population (Cohen & Menken, 2006). This tendency does not appear to reflect older people's stronger ability to obtain work, but rather their increased likelihood of leaving the labour force entirely when they become unemployed (Hernaes et al., 2023).

The above results have portrayed the dilemmas that accompany longevity in Africa. As globalisation and urbanisation uprooted people from rural areas to cities in search of jobs in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, city life became fashionable, and people had access to better healthcare services, a hygienic environment, and better food, hence the beginning of longevity in Africa. However, as people live longer, their social needs also change, and sometimes such needs are beyond the financial needs of the individual. In gerontology, as people become old, there is a tendency for their organs to become weak, which comes with sickness and social needs that are related to ageing (Green, 2017). Delirium (OR 5.6, 95% CI 2.7 - 11.5, $p < 0.001$), pressure ulcers (OR 6.2, 95% CI 1.3 - 30.5, $p = 0.025$), and sepsis (OR 5.9, 95% CI 2.7 - 12.6, $p < 0.001$) were independently linked with in-hospital death (Thein et al., 2020). The in-hospital mortality rate in acute geriatric care units is significant, particularly in patients with disorientation, pressure ulcers, or infection.

Relating longevity to globalisation in Africa, globalisation has impacted the mindset and mode of thinking of the average African. Globalisation of Western education and culture has encouraged Africans to have small family sizes, a change from the extended to the nuclear family. Therefore, elderly people tend to suffer in the last phase of their life in Africa because of the weak kinship ties (Adamek et al., 2022). This is evident in the population of the elderly who are begging on the streets in different parts of Africa. The elderly persons in Africa face dual neglect: the Government that does not have a workable system to cater to their needs and the family members who shoulder their responsibilities.

Furthermore, the majority of African cultures place a premium on having children in marriage. The increase in fertility rate and longevity in different African countries in the 21st century has made the continent have a population that is ageing at the apex and ageing at the bottom (Tabutin & Schoumaker, 2020). It is the only continent with a growing population of old people and, at the same time, a high rate of a youthful population. This indicates that despite the high impact of globalisation and the consequent embrace of some Western cultures as the ideal way of life, there are significant segments of African people who, in their late 60s and early 70s, continue to marry young girls who are fertile and hence produce children. This is prevalent in both urban centres and rural areas in Africa and is part of what explains the strange population mix in Africa. This is the highest projected growth rate of any region in the world. In particular, the growth rate of the elderly population in sub-Saharan Africa is expected to exceed that of low and middle-income countries (LMICs) with dense and ageing populations, such as India and China. Currently, less than 5% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa is over 60 years of age, but this figure is expected to rise to nearly 20% by 2100 (Taylor, 2008).

Despite these estimates, current health care and government support systems are unprepared to meet the needs of the rapidly growing older population, highlighting the importance of research that can inform policy innovation ahead of such expansion. This has put the lives of elderly people living in the subcontinent at risk due to the increased population. As Africans continue to live longer, there will be a need for health workers to care for older people when they get sick (Adamek et al., 2022). The most important barriers to gerontology education were lack of staff knowledge (72%), lack of funding (52%), and lack of gerontology in the national curriculum (48%) (Frost et al., 2015). There are still many medical schools in South Africa that do not offer geriatric specialties. It has been suggested that changes in geriatric education could be achieved through local practices and national policies, considering each country's cultural context and economic constraints, to prepare future doctors for the growing challenges posed by an ageing population.

Modernity and Population Growth in Africa

In East Africa, some health measures were adopted, resulting in increased longevity among the population. Integrated techniques incorporating long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), indoor residual spraying, immunisation, and community engagement reduce severe malaria by up to 47% (Bashir et al., 2025). These were some of the developments brought by modernity and globalisation, which led to an increase in the population by a reduction of the death rate in Africa and other parts of the tropical regions of the world.

Another study conducted in Africa has identified some of the factors that accompany modernisation and globalisation, leading to a healthy population that lives longer. Historically, two major factors have fuelled the so-called population boom in Africa and other peripheral countries (Kaba, 2020). A remarkable drop in mortality over the last half-century and continued high fertility rates, population increases in certain nations are still fuelled by these factors (Wang, 2020). By roughly 2070, Africa is predicted to surpass Asia as the most populous continent. Its percentage of the global population is anticipated to climb to 28% in 2050, suggesting that more than one in four persons globally would be African, compared to one in 11 in 1960. The United Nations forecasts that almost half of the worldwide population increase in the next 30 years would come from just eight nations, five of which are African: The Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Tanzania (Grinin et al., 2023).

Conclusion

A normal pattern of age in the world, particularly in the field of gerontology and demography, is that whenever the fertility rate is high, the population of elderly people is expected to be low. African countries have been witnessing a population boom since the beginning of the 21st century. The population portrays a lack of population planning and control across the continent, which is left unchecked, and it is outstripping the economy of the countries that are already in dire economic problem. Whenever a continent is faced with this growing population of young and elderly at the same time, it produces two sets of dependent population on the government's social services, which are insufficient in most of the countries in Africa. However, one of the limitations of this research is that empirical data was collected by the researchers to test statistical hypotheses or relationships among factors that led to the ageing at the apex and the bottom. The implications of ageing at the base and apex are that governments in African countries with weak economic development will have to deal with the increasing demands from the elderly and youth in terms of their needs for health, education, and utility services specific to those age cohorts. This may overstretch the existing infrastructural deficits and explore the systemic failure of the governments in Africa to implement population control policies to check high fertility rates and social policies to take care of the elderly.

The absence of an effective social policy for senior citizens in most African countries means that as Africans live longer, the consequences will be dire, as a result of a weak/lack of social protection policy to support/protect the ageing population beyond the assistance from family members, based on American culture. The lack of hospice and nursing homes for the

elderly, geriatric wards in Hospitals, home services for the elderly, and financial stipends and subsidies in financial transactions and social services puts the lives of the elderly persons in jeopardy, hence some become homeless or vagrants. For governments in Africa to cater to the elderly means an additional financial burden on countries that are already in a deep pool of debt and economic crises. Additionally, ageing at the base and apex necessitates public funding for institutions that will take care of young persons in terms of their educational training, social services, and employment for those of working age, alongside the special needs of the elderly. However, the good side of the contrasting reality of ageing in African gerontology is that the majority of African countries will experience a generational gap in replacing retired civil servants in both the private and public sectors.

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