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## The role of family support in the well-being of older people: Evidence from Malaysia and Viet Nam

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## **APPENDIX**

# **The Role of Family Support in the Well-Being of Older People: Evidence from Malaysia and Viet Nam**

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**Appendix Table 1. Data Sources and Variable Definitions**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Viet Nam</b>
<i>Data sources</i>		
Dataset	Malaysia Ageing and Retirement Survey Wave 1, 2018–2019 and Wave 2, 2021–2022, Social Wellbeing Research Centre, Faculty of Business and Economics, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia	Survey on Adaptability of the Social Health Insurance to Aging in Viet Nam 2019 and Viet Nam Aging Survey 2022, Institute of Social and Medical Studies, Viet Nam
<i>Dependent variables</i>		
Depressive symptoms	<p>Number of symptoms from the following list, as experienced by the respondent in the last 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negative feelings experienced “always” or “often”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“boredom and lose interest in most things”</li> <li>“trouble concentrating”</li> <li>“sadness/feeling blue/depressed”</li> <li>“feel anxious/stressed”</li> <li>“loneliness”</li> <li>“disappointment in your life”</li> <li>“feel down on yourself/no good or worthless”</li> <li>“think about death”</li> <li>“isolated or sidelined from others”</li> </ul> </li> <li>Positive feelings experienced “never” or “rarely”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“feel happy/cheerful”</li> <li>“feel satisfied with life”</li> <li>“feel there are people you can talk to/share your feelings”</li> <li>“feel there are people you can turn to for help”</li> <li>“feel there are people you are close to”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Note: Survey question asks frequency of symptoms experienced with possible responses “never,” “rarely,” “sometimes,” “often,” “always,” or “don’t know/refuse.” Variable is missing if any of the symptoms are not reported.</p>	<p>Number of symptoms from the following list, as experienced by the respondent in the last 7 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negative feelings responded “yes”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“dropped many activities and interests”</li> <li>“feel life is empty”</li> <li>“often get bored”</li> <li>“afraid something bad is going to happen”</li> <li>“often feel helpless”</li> <li>“prefer to stay at home rather than going out and doing new things”</li> <li>“feel you have more problems with memory than most people”</li> <li>“feel worthless”</li> <li>“feel your situation is hopeless”</li> <li>“think most people are better off than you”</li> </ul> </li> <li>Positive feelings responded “no”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“satisfied with life”</li> <li>“in good spirits most of the time”</li> <li>“feel happy most of the time”</li> <li>“think it is wonderful to be alive”</li> <li>“feel full of energy”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Note: Survey question asks occurrence of symptoms experienced with possible responses “yes” or “no.” Variable is missing if any of the symptoms are not reported.</p>

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Appendix Table 1 (continued)

Item	Malaysia	Viet Nam
Chronic conditions	<p>Number of diagnosed conditions from the following list, as reported by the respondent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• asthma</li> <li>• cancer</li> <li>• stroke</li> <li>• chronic lung disease</li> <li>• dementia/Alzheimer's</li> <li>• diabetes</li> <li>• heart diseases</li> <li>• high blood pressure</li> <li>• high cholesterol</li> <li>• joint disorders</li> <li>• liver diseases</li> <li>• osteoporosis</li> <li>• Parkinson's disease</li> <li>• ulcer/gastrointestinal disorders</li> <li>• vertigo</li> </ul> <p>Note: Excludes the following conditions recorded in the survey: "depression" and "other." Variable is missing if any of the conditions are not reported.</p>	<p>Number of diagnosed conditions from the following list, as reported by the respondent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• arthritis</li> <li>• angina</li> <li>• diabetes</li> <li>• chronic lung disease</li> <li>• blood pressure</li> <li>• cancer</li> <li>• heart diseases</li> <li>• liver diseases</li> <li>• prostate hyperplasia (for men)</li> <li>• gastrointestinal disease</li> <li>• osteoarthritis</li> <li>• kidney diseases</li> <li>• vestibular disorder</li> <li>• respiratory diseases</li> </ul> <p>Note: Excludes the following conditions recorded in the survey: "depression," "oral health," "cataract," and "other." Variable is missing if any of the conditions are not reported.</p>
<i>Personal characteristics</i>		
Female	Binary variable equal to 1 if person is a woman	Binary variable equal to 1 if person is a woman
Age	<p>Age of the person in years at the time of the survey</p> <p>Note: The survey interviewed persons aged 40 and older.</p>	<p>Age of the person in years at the time of the survey</p> <p>Note: The survey interviewed persons aged 50 and older in the 2019 wave and only persons aged 60 and older in the 2022 wave.</p>
Ethnicity	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the ethnicity of the person was:</p> <p>(1) Malay</p> <p>(2) Chinese</p> <p>(3) Indian</p> <p>(4) Other Bumiputra (omitted)</p> <p>(5) Other</p>	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the ethnicity of the person was:</p> <p>(1) Kinh</p> <p>(2) Other (omitted)</p> <p>Note: sample size for all "other" ethnic minorities were insufficient to have as separate categories.</p>

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Appendix Table 1 (continued)

Item	Malaysia	Viet Nam
Education	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the highest level of education attained by the person at the time of the survey was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Less than primary (omitted)</li> <li>(2) Primary</li> <li>(3) Secondary</li> <li>(4) Tertiary</li> </ul> <p>Note: Primary includes religious schools. Secondary includes vocational/technical and pre-university diplomas.</p>	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the highest level of education attained by the person at the time of the survey was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Less than primary (omitted)</li> <li>(2) Primary</li> <li>(3) Secondary</li> <li>(4) Tertiary</li> </ul> <p>Note: Refers to vocational education attainment if the respondent had a more advanced degree than that earned in traditional education.</p>
Marital status	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the marital status of the person at the time of the survey was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Never married</li> <li>(2) Married (omitted)</li> <li>(3) Widowed</li> <li>(4) Separated or divorced</li> </ul>	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the marital status of the person at the time of the survey was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Never married</li> <li>(2) Married (omitted)</li> <li>(3) Widowed</li> <li>(4) Separated or divorced</li> </ul>
<i>Household characteristics</i>		
Urban	Binary variable equal to 1 if the residence is in an urban area	Binary variable equal to 1 if the residence is in an urban area
Region	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the residence is in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Peninsular Malaysia</li> <li>(2) East Malaysia (omitted)</li> </ul>	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the residence is in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Northern Viet Nam (omitted)</li> <li>(2) Central Viet Nam</li> <li>(3) Southern Viet Nam</li> </ul>
Living children	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the number of living children are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) None (omitted)</li> <li>(2) 1–2</li> <li>(3) 3–4</li> <li>(4) 5 or more</li> </ul> <p>Note: Survey question includes own (biological) children, stepchildren, and adopted children.</p>	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if the number of living children are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) None (omitted)</li> <li>(2) 1–2</li> <li>(3) 3–4</li> <li>(4) 5 or more</li> </ul> <p>Note: Survey question includes own (biological) children, stepchildren, adopted children, and sons/daughters -in-law.</p>
Living arrangements	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if living arrangements reported as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Living alone (omitted)</li> <li>(2) Living with spouse only</li> <li>(3) Living with other family members</li> </ul>	<p>Binary variables equal to 1 if living arrangements reported as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Living alone (omitted)</li> <li>(2) Living with spouse only</li> <li>(3) Living with other family members</li> </ul>

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**Appendix Table 1 (continued)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Viet Nam</b>
Nearest living child	Binary variables equal to 1 if the location of their nearest living child reported as: (1) Living with (2) Living near (3) Living elsewhere (omitted)	Binary variables equal to 1 if the location of their nearest living child reported as: (1) Living with (2) Living near (3) Living elsewhere (omitted)
Nearest living son; nearest living daughter	Binary variables equal to 1 if the location of their nearest living son/daughter reported as: (1) Living with (2) Living near (3) Living elsewhere (omitted)	Not available

Source: Authors' compilation based on Malaysia Ageing and Retirement Survey and Viet Nam Aging Survey documentation.

Appendix Table 2. Sample Means for Malaysia

Item	All		Men		Women		All Aged 60+		Men Aged 60+		Women Aged 60+	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Sample size</b>	10,434	100.0	4,617	44.2	5,817	55.8	4,423	42.4	2,043	46.2	2,380	53.8
<b>Depressive symptoms</b>												
None	3,614	34.6	1,632	35.3	1,982	34.1	1,370	31.0	648	31.7	722	30.3
1–2	4,866	46.6	2,187	47.4	2,679	46.1	2,137	48.3	1,025	50.2	1,112	46.7
3–4	1,238	11.9	533	11.5	705	12.1	582	13.2	256	12.5	326	13.7
5+	650	6.2	228	4.9	422	7.3	296	6.7	90	4.4	206	8.7
No response	66	0.6	37	0.8	29	0.5	38	0.9	24	1.2	14	0.6
<b>Chronic conditions</b>												
None	4,768	45.7	2,221	48.1	2,547	43.8	1,362	30.8	699	34.2	663	27.9
1	2,309	22.1	1,017	22.0	1,292	22.2	1,073	24.3	503	24.6	570	23.9
2	2,786	26.7	1,115	24.1	1,671	28.7	1,599	36.2	660	32.3	939	39.5
3+	550	5.3	256	5.5	294	5.1	381	8.6	178	8.7	203	8.5
No response	21	0.2	8	0.2	13	0.2	8	0.2	3	0.1	5	0.2
<b>Ethnicity</b>												
Malay (Majority)	6,278	60.2	2,766	59.9	3,512	60.4	2,594	58.7	1,218	59.6	1,376	57.8
Chinese	1,106	10.6	520	11.3	586	10.1	617	14.0	308	15.1	309	13.0
Indian	973	9.3	364	7.9	609	10.5	435	9.8	157	7.7	278	11.7
Other Bumiputra	1,904	18.3	902	19.5	1,002	17.2	723	16.4	338	16.5	385	16.2
Other	172	1.7	64	1.4	108	1.9	53	1.2	21	1.0	32	1.3
<b>Education</b>												
Less than primary	1,341	12.9	356	7.7	985	16.9	963	21.8	241	11.8	722	30.3
Primary	3,147	30.2	1,368	29.6	1,779	30.6	1,884	42.6	844	41.3	1,040	43.7
Secondary	5,567	53.4	2,682	58.1	2,885	49.6	1,480	33.5	887	43.4	593	24.9
Tertiary	378	3.6	210	4.5	168	2.9	95	2.2	70	3.4	25	1.1
<b>Marital status</b>												
Never married	418	4.0	225	4.9	193	3.3	120	2.7	42	2.1	78	3.3
Married	8,085	77.5	4,004	86.7	4,081	70.2	3,010	68.1	1,763	86.3	1,247	52.4
Widowed	1,587	15.2	282	6.1	1,305	22.4	1,194	27.0	210	10.3	984	41.3
Divorced/separated	343	3.3	105	2.3	238	4.1	98	2.2	27	1.3	71	3.0

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Appendix Table 2 (continued)

Item	All		Men		Women		All Aged 60+		Men Aged 60+		Women Aged 60+	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Location</b>												
Urban	5,234	50.2	2,311	50.1	2,923	50.2	2,223	50.3	1,025	50.2	1,198	50.3
Rural	5,200	49.8	2,306	49.9	2,894	49.8	2,200	49.7	1,018	49.8	1,182	49.7
<b>Living children</b>												
None	719	6.9	359	7.8	360	6.2	222	5.0	82	4.0	140	5.9
1–2	2,246	21.5	1,003	21.7	1,243	21.4	852	19.3	402	19.7	450	18.9
3–4	3,726	35.7	1,681	36.4	2,045	35.2	1,385	31.3	669	32.7	716	30.1
5+	3,731	35.8	1,570	34.0	2,161	37.1	1,958	44.3	886	43.4	1,072	45.0
No response	12	0.1	4	0.1	8	0.1	6	0.1	4	0.2	2	0.1
<b>Living arrangements</b>												
Alone	426	4.1	156	3.4	270	4.6	274	6.2	85	4.2	189	7.9
Spouse only	1,165	11.2	578	12.5	587	10.1	758	17.1	414	20.3	344	14.5
Other family members	8,843	84.8	3,883	84.1	4,960	85.3	3,391	76.7	1,544	75.6	1,847	77.6
<b>Nearest living son</b>												
None	1,877	18.1	858	18.7	1,019	17.6	689	15.8	290	14.2	399	16.8
Living with	5,967	57.6	2,652	57.8	3,315	57.4	2,025	46.3	967	47.3	1,058	44.5
Living near	816	7.9	332	7.2	484	8.4	623	14.3	266	13.0	357	15.0
Living elsewhere	1,702	16.4	746	16.3	956	16.6	1,034	23.7	499	24.4	535	22.5
<b>Nearest living daughter</b>												
None	2,139	20.6	995	21.7	1,144	19.8	820	18.8	361	17.7	459	19.3
Living with	5,480	52.9	2,439	53.2	3,041	52.7	1,734	39.7	850	41.6	884	37.1
Living near	913	8.8	380	8.3	533	9.2	704	16.1	310	15.2	394	16.6
Living elsewhere	1,830	17.7	774	16.9	1,056	18.3	1,113	25.5	501	24.5	612	25.7

Notes: Columns marked “N” is the unweighted count of observations within the dataset. For percentages in the sample size row, gender breakdown is the percent of the full sample and the sample of individuals aged 60 and above respectively, and the percentage for all individuals aged 60 and above is relative to the full sample. Sample percentages are weighted to national level with sample weights.

Source: Authors’ calculations using Malaysia Ageing and Retirement Survey data.



Appendix Table 3. Sample Means for Viet Nam

Item	All		Men		Women		All Aged 60+		Men Aged 60+		Women Aged 60+	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Sample size</b>	7,516	100.0	3,044	40.5	4,472	59.5	6,256	83.2	2,527	40.4	3,729	59.6
<b>Depressive symptoms</b>												
None	550	7.3	303	10.0	247	5.5	418	6.7	239	9.4	179	4.8
1–2	2,340	31.1	1,133	37.2	1,207	27.0	1,877	30.0	911	36.2	966	25.9
3–4	1,781	23.7	739	24.3	1,042	23.3	1,502	24.0	620	24.6	882	23.6
5+	2,531	33.7	764	25.1	1,767	39.5	2,154	34.4	658	25.9	1,496	40.1
No response	314	4.2	104	3.4	210	4.7	305	4.9	99	3.9	206	5.5
<b>Chronic conditions</b>												
None	1,326	17.6	588	19.3	738	16.5	982	15.7	420	16.6	562	15.1
1	1,920	25.6	853	28.0	1,067	23.9	1,482	23.7	678	26.7	804	21.6
2	2,776	36.9	1,056	34.7	1,720	38.5	2,382	38.1	915	36.3	1,467	39.3
3+	1,491	19.8	544	17.9	947	21.2	1,408	22.5	512	20.3	896	24.0
No response	3	0.0	3	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0
<b>Ethnicity</b>												
Kinh (Majority)	6,520	86.7	2,676	87.9	3,844	85.9	5,434	86.9	2,222	87.9	3,212	86.1
Other	996	13.3	368	12.1	628	14.1	822	13.1	305	12.1	517	13.9
<b>Education</b>												
Less than primary	3,144	41.9	827	27.2	2,317	51.8	2,827	45.3	713	28.2	2,114	56.7
Primary	1,537	20.5	686	22.5	851	19.0	1,280	20.5	582	23.1	698	18.7
Secondary	2,412	32.1	1,288	42.3	1,124	25.1	1,802	28.8	1,013	40.0	789	21.1
Tertiary	415	5.5	241	7.9	174	3.9	339	5.4	217	8.6	122	3.3
<b>Marital status</b>												
Never married	161	2.1	21	0.7	140	3.1	121	1.9	12	0.5	109	2.9
Married	4,658	62.0	2,616	86.0	2,042	45.7	3,596	57.5	2,122	83.9	1,474	39.4
Widowed	2,514	33.5	376	12.4	2,138	47.8	2,405	38.4	370	14.7	2,035	54.7
Divorced/separated	183	2.4	30	1.0	153	3.4	134	2.1	23	0.9	111	2.9
<b>Location</b>												
Urban	1,214	16.2	455	15.0	759	17.0	1,020	16.3	405	16.0	615	16.6
Rural	6,302	83.9	2,589	85.0	3,713	83.0	5,236	83.7	2,122	84.0	3,114	83.4

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Appendix Table 3 (continued)

Item	All		Men		Women		All Aged 60+		Men Aged 60+		Women Aged 60+	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Living children</b>												
None	216	2.9	38	1.2	178	4.0	176	2.8	25	1.0	151	4.0
1–2	538	7.2	172	5.7	366	8.2	330	5.3	94	3.7	236	6.3
3–4	1,213	16.1	523	17.2	690	15.4	781	12.5	329	12.9	452	12.1
5+	5,549	73.8	2,311	75.9	3,238	72.4	4,969	79.4	2,079	82.4	2,890	77.6
<b>Living arrangements</b>												
Alone	669	8.9	145	4.7	524	11.7	614	9.8	131	5.2	483	13.0
Spouse only	1,410	18.8	817	26.8	593	13.3	1,171	18.7	698	27.6	473	12.6
Other family members	5,437	72.3	2,082	68.4	3,355	75.0	4,471	71.5	1,698	67.2	2,773	74.3
<b>Nearest living child</b>												
None	216	2.9	38	1.2	178	4.0	176	2.8	25	1.0	151	4.0
Living with	4,870	64.8	1,892	62.2	2,978	66.6	4,032	64.5	1,550	61.3	2,482	66.6
Living near	1,304	17.4	565	18.6	739	16.5	1,242	19.9	542	21.6	700	18.8
Living elsewhere	1,126	15.0	549	18.0	577	12.9	806	12.9	410	16.1	396	10.6

Notes: Columns marked “N” is the unweighted count of observations within the dataset. For percentages in the sample size row, gender breakdown is the percent of the full sample and the sample of individuals aged 60 and above respectively, and the percentage for all individuals aged 60 and above is relative to the full sample. Sample percentages are weighted to national level with sample weights.

Source: Authors’ calculations using Viet Nam Aging Survey data.