Patterns of Familial Support Among Older Asians: A Comparative Overview

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Objectives

- Highlight the importance of old-age support as a policy issue in Asia
- Present an overview of levels and patterns of familial support among older adults in several Asian settings
Support measures (1)

- Living arrangements
- Contact with children
- Financial support (receipt and provision)
- Material support (receipt and provision)
- Care for grandchildren (provision)
Support measures (2)

- **Direction of support flows (financial and material)**
  - Received and provided
  - Received, did not provide
  - Provided, did not receive
  - Neither received nor provided
## Kin availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Singapore</th>
<th>Taiwan</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent with living:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>67.4</td>
<td>62.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>95.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>89.0</td>
<td>90.8</td>
<td>88.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>86.7</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandchild</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>89.8</td>
<td>92.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibling</td>
<td>97.7</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>83.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean # living children:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mean number of living children, by age of respondent

- Philippines
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand

- 50-54
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65-69
- 70+
Living arrangements
Location and contact with children, among non-coresident elderly

- Philippines
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Bangladesh

- < Monthly visits
- Monthly visits
- Weekly visits
- Daily visits
- Lives next door
Location and contact with children, among respondents with living children

Weekly visits
Daily visits
Lives next door
Coresides

Philippines Singapore Taiwan Thailand Indonesia Bangladesh
Percent receiving financial and material support

[Bar chart showing the percent receiving financial and material support for different countries: Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh. The bars are color-coded with green for financial and blue for material.]
Providers of financial support

- Philippines
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Indonesia

Categories:
- Child
- Grandchild
- Sibling
- Other
Providers of material support

Graph showing the distribution of material support providers by country (Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia) and relationship (Child, Grandchild, Sibling, Other). The y-axis represents the percentage range from 0 to 100.
Percent providing financial, material and childcare support

[Bar chart showing the percent providing financial, material, and childcare support for Philipp, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Bangladesh.]
Recipients of financial support

- Philippines
- Taiwan
- Thailand

- Child
- Grandchild
- Sibling
- Parents
- Other
Recipients of material support

- Philippines
- Taiwan
- Thailand

Categories: Child, Grandchild, Sibling, Parents, Other
Directional flow of financial support

- Philippines: Receives and provides
- Singapore: Receives only
- Taiwan: Provides only
- Thailand: Receives and provides
- Bangladesh: Provides only
Directional flow of material support

- Philippines: Receives and provides (60%), Receives only (40%)
- Taiwan: Receives only (80%)
- Thailand: Receives and provides (40%), Receives only (60%)
## Factors associated with alternate living arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living alone</th>
<th>Living with spouse only</th>
<th>Living with unmarried child</th>
<th>Living with married child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male (+)</td>
<td>Age (+)</td>
<td>Age (-)</td>
<td>Widowed (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced (+)</td>
<td>Male (-)</td>
<td>Male (+)</td>
<td>Rural (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural (+)</td>
<td>Education (+)</td>
<td>Married (+)</td>
<td>Rural (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income (+/-)</td>
<td>Income (+)</td>
<td>Income (-)</td>
<td>Income (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed (+)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Employed (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># children (-)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># children (+)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Factors associated with support transfers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Transfers</th>
<th>Material Transfers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receiving and providing</td>
<td>Receiving and providing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (-)</td>
<td>Age (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (+)</td>
<td>Male (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married (+)</td>
<td>Married (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (+)</td>
<td>Education (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed (+)</td>
<td>Employed (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good health (+)</td>
<td>Good health (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any children (-)</td>
<td>Any children (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network size (+)</td>
<td># children (+)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Covariates

- **Demographic characteristics**
  - Age, sex, urban/rural residence

- **Socioeconomic status**
  - Education, work status, income

- **Health**
  - Self assessed health

- **Availability of potential support providers**
  - Marital status, number of children (sons vs. daughters), number of other household members, relatives and close friends