

ABSTRACT

494th UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN INAUGURAL LECTURE

TITLE: WHERE ART THOU? 17th June, 2021

Delivered by

Professor Grace Anuluwapo Adejuwon MNADP FNPA CMC

Department of Psychology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan.

Since it was established in 1976, this 494th is the sixth inaugural lecture from the Department of Psychology, University of Ibadan and the first from the Developmental Psychology unit, of the Department. The lecture, titled: "Where art thou?" taken from the book of *Genesis 3 verse 9*. was construed as a research question to assess, diagnose and provide effective intervention for behavioural change and recovery for Adam's family. The question is considered fundamental to all scientific enquiries, even in the 21st century.

Developmental psychology studies, change in human development from conception, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood to old age. Lifespan development as a sub-division of developmental psychology, covers, the study of several categories of change in human development such as ontogenesis, embryogenesis, orthogenesis, phylogenesis and evolution, as well as contextual ecological systems, historical and cultural. As a lifespan developmental psychologist, my focus of research has been on psychological wellbeing and health from infancy to old age.

Social support and personality traits as predictors of psychological wellbeing among postpartum mothers (0-3months); urbanization, economic, cultural and psychosocial determinants of exclusive breastfeeding behaviour among nursing mothers (0-6months); attitude and belief of nursing mothers about infant teething and healthcare seeking behaviour (5-12months) are studies which have implications for the wellbeing and health of children as well as their mothers.

Studies on childhood to adulthood investigated mothers' self-evaluation and attribution on reported externalizing behaviour among children 2-6 years old; parenting challenges among urban youths; adolescent drug use and youth violence; internet youth crime in southwestern Nigeria and resilience among inner-city urban youths.

Psychological wellbeing and health in adulthood examined caregiver burden among parents of children living with HIV and AIDS and receiving HAART in Massey hospital, Lagos; work-place psychosocial factors as predictors of mental health among correctional officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service; self-efficacy, job stress and motivation as predictors of psychological wellbeing among operation officers of (NSCDC) Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Oyo State; reported organizational target selling, self-efficacy, sexual harassment and job insecurity as predictors of psychological wellbeing among bank employees in Nigeria; the extent to which perceived social support, work life balance and coping styles could act as facilitators of bank employees' subjective well-being in Nigeria and factors promoting green urbanism which have been associated with psychological wellbeing among purlieu dwellers in Ogun State. An empirical study examined childhood adversity experienced before the age of 18years through parental divorce, death or separation, as predictors of health (perceived depression, acute health and chronic health) in adulthood among employees in Oyo State.

Psychological wellbeing and health on old age include studies which investigated, stress and anxiety as determinants of health among retired elderly in their sixties; the impact of social support and locus of control on satisfaction with retirement among retirees; and the mediatory role of social support on psychological antecedents of retirement satisfaction among Police retirees.

My contributions from all the studies have emphasized the significance of various factors to the psychological wellbeing and health of different populations from infancy to old age. The findings made significant national and international contributions to intervention strategies, scholarship and policy. Multidisciplinary, multidirectional, multilevel intervention approaches as well as participatory research methodology through collaborative efforts are recommended to improve the psychological wellbeing and health among Nigerians, Africans and globally. Developmental psychology should be given more attention in Nigerian institutions of learning especially University of Ibadan with a focus on staffing and equipment. "Where art thou?" has implications for the Nigerian Psychological Association to focus on training, and establishment of clearly defined referral system, devoid of discrimination among divisions of psychology, for excellent psychological practice that meets international standard, in order to rise up to the challenges of our time.