Older adults' social relations has been considered as an important aspect of quality of life course, because it is a source of fundamental psychological reinforcement, and it contributes in an important way to one’s self-concept.

Although aging brings with a declining social activity, a history of an active social life is carried into older age. Active social relations remains important to older adults, but access to active social activities can prove difficult, especially after retirement. Thus, studies of aging must pay more attention to the meaning of social relations to older persons.

This study examines how much older adults’ financial resources affect their social relations. Data from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) survey (Montenegro, 2013) were used. The AARP study sampled persons 60-69 years of age (n=3005). It was hypothesized that older adults who have lower financial resources will report lower social engagement/social relations.

Prior research indicates that financial resources and active social relations after retirement are meaningful to the lives of older adults. It has important benefits, such reducing the effects of stressful life events. To build social networks in later life, Lopata (1996) emphasized income which offer potential ability to facilitate the utilization of opportunities for social contacts. Indeed, income level may be essential for participating in volunteer activities, defining problems, and locating outside resources (Lopata, 1996).

Similarly, in the study of Butler (2006), income was the positive predictors of older adults’ social relations, in which those who had higher income reported more active social relations. For example, there is empirical evidence that older adults who have more income levels may more frequently participate in leisure and physical activities with their social members (Pinquart & Schindler, 2007). However, less is known about the associations in financial resources and social relations. The goal of this study is to examine how much older adults’ financial resources affect their social relations.

The current study's findings build on a social capital theory to account for how older adults’ financial resources affect differentially to their social relations. A directive for future research is to examine more diverse variables which explain the dynamic relationships between older adults’ demographic factors.

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