

WENCESLAO, A. L. (2011). Benefits, Privileges and Government Assistance of Senior Citizens in the City of San Fernando, La Union. Lorma Colleges, City of San Fernando, La Union.

Keywords: *Government assistance, support system, benefits, privileges*

Abstract:

The study aimed to determine the benefits, privileges and government assistance of senior citizens along the different areas of concern, namely: health, relaxation and recreation, transportation, education, socio economic and death benefits and as well as the Government assistance of employment to senior citizens, social services, housing, income tax, utilization of water and electricity, hospital bed. Two hundred (200) Senior Citizens members in San Fernando City, La Union were selected using purposive sampling. Descriptive survey method and questionnaire were used in gathering data which were treated using frequency and percentage.

The following were the salient findings of the study: The benefits and privileges enjoyed by the senior citizens in the different areas are as follows: a). along health - Free medical, dental, diagnostic and laboratory fees in government hospitals - 20% discount on medical, dental, diagnostic and laboratory fees in private hospitals. b). Along relaxation and recreation - 20% discount in restaurants, recreation centers and in theaters, and cinema houses and amusement centers. c). along transportation - 20% discount for domestic air, sea travel and in all public land transportation vehicles. d). along socio-economic area exemption from payment of income tax.- 5% discount on purchase of basic necessities and prime commodities.- express lanes privileges indigent senior citizens received stipend of Php 500.00 per month. Philhealth coverage -20% discount on hospital treatment and room. e). along death - funeral and burial benefits (2). The most enjoyed benefits are along health, relaxation and recreation while the least enjoyed is along with education. (3). Measures that address the issues and concerns of senior citizens have been proposed.

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn: (1)Government as well as private establishments in the City of San Fernando, implement and grant many of the benefits and privileges of senior citizens as provided by law. (2) The basic physiological, social and economic needs of senior citizens are better served than their needs along with education. (3) The measures proposed and addressed issues and concerns of senior citizens are appropriate and desirable.