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**Long and Sustainable Care Needs of the Elderly in the Context of Poverty: A
Holistic Pastoral Theological Approach**

This paper uses existing studies and research from different disciplines to clarify that caregiving role performed by the elderly on their grandchildren present a situation risk for health of the elderly. It will discuss the challenges of the elderly caregivers of orphans affected by HIV and AIDS with the aim of determining their psycho-emotional, physical and economic repercussions. The elderly people in this paper are those ranging from 60 to 80 years of, while orphans in their care range from 1 to 9 years of age. According to the findings, the consequences of caretaking include role transformation, and financial constraints related to poor health. It has been suggested that in order to modify depression, it is significant to deal with pain, to have a sense of mastery, social, economic, and spiritual support. However, pastoral care, the government and welfare health system have done little to address the long-term sustainable care needs of the elderly people. The elderly from the poorest households are likely to suffer most therefore the pattern of inequality needs to be recognised and addressed.

Keywords: sustainable care, HIV, AIDS, poverty, holistic pastoral theological approach