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**PUBLIC EXPENDITURE POLICIES FOR FIGHT AGAINST AGE POVERTY:  
ERZINCAN PROVINCE EXAMPLE**

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**ABSTRACT**

Today, the fact that poverty and income inequality are increasing attracts the attention of societies in both developed and developing countries, and poverty represents a great challenge for governments around the world. In this context, policies developed within the framework of combating poverty are of great importance in terms of improving the human living conditions of individuals and preventing social problems. The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of public expenditures in combating poverty and poverty within the scope of elderly poverty in Erzincan province.

First of all, the concept of poverty and its types are defined in the study, and then the importance of public expenditures in combating elderly poverty is discussed. Within the scope of the study, one-on-one interviews were conducted with a total of 240 individuals over the age of 65 living in the center and districts of Erzincan province, and survey questions that are valid in the literature and based on scales were answered. In the study, the data obtained by using the SPSS package program and descriptive statistical methods were presented with marginal tables and inferences were obtained with Chi-Square analysis. In the last section of the study, the research findings were evaluated and different results were obtained regarding the elderly population living in Erzincan province and the public expenditures made by taking this population into account.

**Key Words:** Poverty, Poverty Alleviation, Government Spending, Erzincan, Elderly Poverty.

**YAŞLI YOKSULLUĞUYLA MÜCADELEDE KAMU HARCAMA POLİTİKALARI:  
ERZİNCAN İLİ ÖRNEĞİ**

**ÖZET**

Günümüzde yoksulluğun ve gelir eşitsizliğinin artış gösteriyor olması hem gelişmiş hem de gelişmekte olan ülkelerde toplumların dikkatini çekmekte ve bugün yoksulluk, dünyadaki hükümetler için büyük bir zorluğu ifade etmektedir. Bu bağlamda yoksullukla mücadele çerçevesinde geliştirilen politikalar bireylerin insani yaşam koşullarının iyileştirilmesi ve toplumsal problemlerin de önüne geçilebilmesi açısından büyük bir önem taşımaktadır. Bu çalışmanın amacı; yoksulluk ve yoksullukla mücadelede kamu harcamalarının etkinliğini Erzincan ilinde yaşlı yoksulluğu kapsamında değerlendirmektir.

Çalışmada öncelikle yoksulluk kavramı ve yoksulluk çeşitleri tanımlandıktan sonra yaşlı

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yoksulluğundaki mücadelede kamu harcamalarının önemi ele alınmıştır. Çalışma kapsamında Erzincan ili merkez ve ilçelerinde yaşayan 65 yaş üzerindeki toplam 240 bireyle birebir görüşmeler yapılmış, literatürde geçerliliğe sahip ve ölçeklere dayandırılmış anket sorularının cevaplandırılmaları sağlanmıştır. Çalışmada SPSS paket programından yararlanılarak ve tanımlayıcı istatistiksel yöntemler kullanılarak elde edilen veriler marjinal tablolarla sunulmuş ve Ki-Kare analiziyle çıkarımlar elde edilmiştir. Çalışmanın son bölümünde elde edilen araştırma bulguları değerlendirilerek Erzincan ilinde yaşayan yaşlı nüfusun ve bu nüfus dikkate alınarak yapılan kamu harcamalarına ilişkin farklı sonuçlar elde edilmiştir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Yoksulluk, Yoksullukla Mücadele, Kamu Harcamaları, Erzincan, Yaşlı Yoksulluğu.

## INTRODUCTION

As it is known, the world population is getting older, and this situation poses significant problems for developed and developing countries. Rapid changes in the field of health, improved quality of life, improved nutritional conditions, and declining fertility rates are among the important reasons for the increase in the proportion of the elderly population. The aging of the population means facing increasing economic and social demands for all countries. Turkey, as a developing country, has also faced this problem.

In our country, the transformation of the family structure from extended family to nuclear family form and the active participation of women in working life have affected the elderly population the most. It is seen that the care of the poor and orphaned elderly who cannot be covered by social security has become a burden and expectations from the state have increased in this context. Failure to protect traditional values has been the most important factor in increasing expectations from institutions.

The inability of the elderly population to be active in working life reduces labor capacity and increases public expenditures. Moreover, these services need to be considered not only in material terms but also in moral terms.

The exclusion of elderly people who cannot receive financial support from society, isolation, inability to meet their needs, or being despised by those around them cause the mental collapse of the individual. In addition, factors such as malnutrition, trying to live in unhealthy environments and being deprived of health services due to lack of material resources further increase the negative effects of old age. For all these reasons, the elderly are the group most affected by impoverishment.

The high number of elderly population in our country has led to the need for much more work in this field. Since the research or studies conducted so far have been insufficient, this study was conducted and it was aimed to contribute to this issue in order to support the elderly in our country.

### 1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In this section of the study, theoretical information on poverty, types of poverty, and elderly poverty is given.

#### 1.1. Poverty and Types of Poverty

In general terms, poverty is a phenomenon in which a certain population or a certain segment within the population is able to meet the basic needs necessary for vital activities such as nutrition, clothing and shelter in order to maintain a minimum level of living (Uzun, 2003: 156); however, full participation in civil society is denied (Rosenbloom, et al., 2017: 105).

Poverty has been a long-standing aspect of the human condition and is considered to be caused by income inequality. The traditional and most important goal of development economics has therefore been to focus on income growth. Understanding and promoting income growth is fundamental to economic development. This is because without income growth, it is considered difficult, if not impossible, to achieve the other economic goals of poverty reduction, reducing inequality, reducing vulnerability to shocks, meeting basic needs and ensuring a satisfactory quality of life (Rosenbloom, et al., 2017: 105).

Poverty is expressed not only in terms of insufficient income, but also in terms of non-monetary aspects such as lack of educational opportunities, lagging behind society, and social insecurity. This shows that the definition of poverty based on monetary and non-monetary expressions is not fully harmonized. In the European Union, especially since the 1990s, the definition of poverty as 'social exclusion', which is not related to income, has also been used (Ala, 2009:2).

The concept of social exclusion is defined as a process in which some of the individuals who make up society are excluded from society; they are prevented from full participation in society due to their poverty, lack of basic skills and lifelong learning opportunities, or as a result of discrimination (Yücel, 2011: 387).

When defining poverty; 'low income level', 'inability to be healthy with inadequate and balanced nutrition', 'social isolation and low level of social participation', 'individual insecurity in psychological and economic terms', 'vulnerability to shocks, inability to respond to risk and uncertainty', 'deterioration of the natural environment and vicious circle in the social environment' should be perceived as a whole (Alpaydın, 2008: 50).

Poverty types are defined on the basis of criteria related to poverty. Some of these criteria are absolute and relative poverty, human poverty, objective and subjective poverty, rural and urban poverty and elderly poverty.

Absolute poverty refers to the minimum level of income and expenditure levels that can meet the basic needs of household members in order to sustain their lives (Kuyurtar, 2003: 111). In this system, poverty is evaluated in two different ways. The first is minimum food expenditures, while the second includes basic expenditure food as well as needs such as education, housing and heating (Kabaş, 2014: 20).

Relative poverty refers to those who live above the hunger level but below the average living standards (Aksan, 2009: 36), depending on the level of socio-economic development and living standards (Dumanlı, 1996: 6-8). In this case, individuals with low income levels are defined as poor (Genç et al., 2011: 2).

In the subjective approach, poverty is defined according to individuals' own preferences. The idea that poverty can be determined according to the total benefit obtained by individuals is of great importance in the subjective approach (Aktan, 2002:6).

Human poverty is a concept put forward by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and human poverty is defined in three elements. These are education and economic opportunities, life expectancy and social opportunities (Gedikoğlu, 2015:7).

Rural poverty is defined as the inability of individuals whose livelihood depends on agricultural activities to maintain their vital activities at a certain level in the face of current economic conditions (Öztürk, 2008: 268). Low levels of per capita income in rural areas are the reasons that increase poverty in these areas (Dumanlı, 1996: 12-3).

Urban poverty, on the other hand, refers to the inability to benefit from urban services as much as necessary and insufficient income. In addition to these, urban poverty refers to the inability to benefit from services such as education and health and living in places where violence is high (Çolakoğlu, 2003: 466). Urban poverty has become a major problem all over the world, especially in less developed countries (Çukurçayır, 2003:407).

The concept of elderly poverty is a situation that covers individuals over the age of 65 and refers to the inability of these individuals to have an income level that can fully fulfill their vital activities.

It is seen that the impact of poverty on the elderly has a multifaceted structure. Some of these can be listed as inability to benefit from health services sufficiently, psychological problems in terms of adapting to low income, and inability to adapt to the social environment (Ak et al., 2017: 201).

## **1.2. Old Age and Elderly Poverty**

The process of aging, which is inevitable for all people who maintain their lives in the later stages of their lives, and the feeling of feeling old differ in every person. Defined as a biological process, old age is a concept that can be defined from physiological, psychological, sociological, and chronological dimensions (<https://www.who.int/>). The concept of old age can be considered a multidimensional process that affects the person in every aspect, from changes in physical and mental dimensions to changes in social roles (Karadeniz et al., 2013: 81).

While the United Nations recognizes those aged 60 and over as the elderly population, in many developed countries, the period of old age is generally equated with the retirement period and 65 is accepted as the beginning of the old age period (<https://www.who.int/>).

The reasons why the elderly constitute the segment that will face the most danger of poverty are that they are deprived of income-generating jobs and cannot work due to their age. The phenomenon of poverty on these people becomes both a pressure on individuals and a situation that limits life (Ak et al., 2017: 200).

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1. Purpose, Importance, and Scope of the Research

The main purpose of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of public expenditure policies according to the demographic characteristics of the elderly population living in Erzincan province and its districts and whether they benefit from public expenditures.

For the study, the convenience sampling method was preferred as the sampling method and a total of 240 valid questionnaire forms were obtained from one-to-one interviews with the elderly population living in Erzincan province and its districts.

The first part of the questionnaire form created for the study includes questions to obtain demographic information of the individuals who will answer the questionnaire, while the next part includes statements to determine the effectiveness of public expenditure policies. In measuring elderly poverty, the survey questions developed by Ak et al. in 2017 and the questions that are considered to determine the effectiveness of the aids provided were utilized.

The chi-square analysis method was used to reveal whether public expenditure policies differ statistically in elderly poverty and whether the aids provided are sufficient, and it was observed that the data obtained had a normal distribution. The SPSS package program was used to analyze and interpret the data set.

### 2.2. Findings

The relationship between two independent variables at the categorical measurement level was tried to be measured using the Chi-Square (Exact/Pearson) analysis method. Number and % values were given for categorical variables as descriptive statistics. SPSS Windows version 24.0 package program was used for statistical analysis and  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Variables**

Variable		n	%
Your gender	Female	81	33,8
	Male	159	66,3
Your age	65-70	93	38,8
	70-75	63	26,3
	75-80	31	12,9
	80 +	53	22,1
Marital Status	Single	9	3,8
	Married	126	52,5

	<i>Divorced</i>	14	5,8
	<i>Spouse deceased</i>	91	37,9
<b>Education Status</b>	<i>Illiterate</i>	75	31,3
	<i>Literate</i>	30	12,5
	<i>Primary school</i>	65	27,1
	<i>Secondary school</i>	23	9,6
	<i>High school</i>	44	18,3
	<i>Undergraduate/Graduate</i>	3	1,3
<b>Social Security</b>	<i>I get</i>	132	55,0
	<i>I do not receive</i>	108	45,0
<b>Who Do You Live With</b>	<i>Alone</i>	33	13,8
	<i>With spouse</i>	59	24,6
	<i>Spouse and children</i>	70	29,2
	<i>With children</i>	13	5,4
	<i>Girl and Groom</i>	19	7,9
	<i>My son and son-in-law</i>	44	18,3
	<i>With descendants</i>	0	0,0
	<i>With relatives</i>	0	0,0
	<i>Other</i>	2	0,8
<b>Number of people in a household</b>	<i>1 person</i>	35	14,6
	<i>2 people</i>	58	24,2
	<i>3 people</i>	23	9,6
	<i>4 people</i>	47	19,6
	<i>5 and above</i>	77	32,1
<b>Dependents</b>	<i>1</i>	103	44,0
	<i>2</i>	28	12,0
	<i>3</i>	23	9,8
	<i>4</i>	28	12,0
	<i>5</i>	11	4,7
	<i>6 +</i>	41	17,5
<b>Livelihood</b>	<i>Pension</i>	120	50,0
	<i>Land income, rent, etc</i>	7	2,9
	<i>Children and close help.</i>	22	9,2
	<i>Vice President of the Foundation Association.</i>	19	7,9
	<i>State help.</i>	54	22,5
	<i>Other</i>	18	7,5
<b>Are you getting help?</b>	<i>No, I don't</i>	120	50,4
	<i>Social assistance and solidarity</i>	52	21,8
	<i>Children's Assist</i>	34	14,3
	<i>Assistant Relative</i>	3	1,3
	<i>Municipal Assistant</i>	29	12,2
	<i>Other</i>	0	0,0
<b>Type of assistance received</b>	<i>In-kind assistance</i>	71	60,2
	<i>Cash assistance</i>	47	39,8
<b>Getting Along Without Help</b>	<i>Yes</i>	17	13,3
	<i>No</i>	66	51,6
	<i>Yes, but it's hard</i>	45	35,2
<b>Household income</b>	<i>Under 800</i>	56	23,6
	<i>801-1200</i>	20	8,4
	<i>1201-1700</i>	38	16,0
	<i>1701-2000</i>	25	10,5
	<i>2001-4000</i>	70	29,5
	<i>Over 4000</i>	28	11,8
<b>Household income status</b>	<i>Very low</i>	48	20,0
	<i>Low</i>	62	25,8
	<i>Intermediate</i>	88	36,7
	<i>Good</i>	34	14,2
	<i>Very good</i>	8	3,3
<b>Residential ownership</b>	<i>Rent</i>	30	12,5
	<i>Its own</i>	161	67,1
	<i>Tenant-free residency</i>	49	20,4
<b>Is the monthly income sufficient?</b>	<i>Yes</i>	95	39,6
	<i>No</i>	145	60,4
<b>Feeling poor</b>	<i>Yes</i>	75	32,1
	<i>No</i>	116	49,6
	<i>Partly</i>	43	18,4
<b>Pension assessment</b>	<i>Very low</i>	31	18,0
	<i>Low</i>	64	37,2
	<i>Intermediate</i>	65	37,8
	<i>Good</i>	7	4,1

	<i>Very good</i>	5	2,9
	<i>Very unhappy</i>	34	14,2
Economic situation happiness assessment	<i>Unhappy</i>	60	25,0
	<i>Undecided</i>	70	29,2
	<i>Happy</i>	74	30,8
	<i>Very happy</i>	2	0,8
Are there cars?	<i>Yes</i>	67	27,9
	<i>No</i>	173	72,1
Food needs fulfillment	<i>Sufficient</i>	128	53,3
	<i>Insufficient</i>	112	46,7
Doctor/medication reception	<i>Yes</i>	207	86,3
	<i>No</i>	33	13,8
<b>Outfit shoe absorbtion</b>	<i>Yes</i>	126	52,5
	<i>No</i>	114	47,5
<b>Water, electricity, etc. absorbtion</b>	<i>Yes</i>	158	67,5
	<i>No</i>	76	32,5
<b>Frequency of domestic travel</b>	<i>Never</i>	84	35,4
	<i>1 per year</i>	114	48,1
	<i>2 per year</i>	23	9,7
	<i>3 per year</i>	9	3,8
	<i>4 and above per year</i>	7	3,0
Frequency of meat and fish consumption	<i>1 in two days</i>	20	8,3
	<i>1 per week</i>	87	36,3
	<i>1 per month</i>	98	40,8
	<i>Quarterly</i>	18	7,5
	<i>Every six months</i>	2	0,8
	<i>Once a year</i>	15	6,3
<b>Ability to save money</b>	<i>Yes</i>	75	31,3
	<i>No</i>	165	68,8
<b>Restriction due to financial hardship</b>	<i>Yes</i>	134	55,8
	<i>Sometimes</i>	72	30,0
	<i>No</i>	34	14,2
<b>Goods registered on it</b>	<i>No</i>	89	37,1
	<i>House</i>	133	55,4
	<i>Car</i>	18	7,5

In this study, 159 male (66.3%) and 81 female (33.8%) participants were observed. In terms of age distribution, 38.8% of the participants were between the ages of 65-70, 26.3% between the ages of 70-75, 12.9% between the ages of 75-80, and 22.1% over the age of 80. It was observed that 52.5% of all participants were married and 37.9% of them had a deceased spouse. In terms of education level, 75 (31.3%) individuals were illiterate, 65 (27.1%) were primary school graduates, 23 (9.6%) were middle school graduates, 44 (18.3%) were high school graduates, 3 (1.3%) were undergraduate/graduate graduates and 30 (12.5%) were literate. Considering all participants, 132 (55%) individuals had social security, while 108 (45%) did not have social security. Considering the income status of the participants, 50% of them live on a pension. Of the remaining respondents, 2.9% of them rely on income from land, rent, etc., 9.2% rely on help from their children and relatives, 7.9% rely on help from subjects and foundations, and It is observed that 22.5% of them make a living with state aids. Of participants receiving aid 21.8% receive assistance from the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation, while 12.2% receive assistance from the municipality. The rest of the participants who receive assistance receive assistance from their children or relatives. Among the individuals receiving aid, 71 (60.2%) receive in-kind aid, while 47 (39.8%) receive cash aid. Considering the household income levels of the participants, 23.6% have an income level below 800 TL, while 11.8% have an income level above 4000 TL. While 13.3% of the participants receiving assistance stated that they could make a living without assistance, 51.6% stated that they couldn't make a living without assistance. Participants 35.2% stated that they could get by without assistance, but that this was difficult. While 75 (32.1%) of the participants feel poor, 116 (49.6%) do not feel poor.

### 2.3. Analyses

**Table 2: Do You Have Social Security? The Relationship of the Question with Variables**

		Social Security					
		There is		No			
		n	%	N	%	$\chi^2$	P
Don't feel poor	Yes	29	22,0	46	45,1	20,225	0,001
	No	82	62,1	34	33,3		
	Partly	21	15,9	22	21,6		
Economic situation happiness assessment	Very unhappy	12	9,1	22	20,4	24,638	0,001
	Unhappy	30	22,7	30	27,8		
	Undecided	33	25,0	37	34,3		
	Happy	57	43,2	17	15,7		
	Very happy	0	0,0	2	1,9		
Ability to save Money	Yes	37	28,0	38	35,2	1,415	0,234
	No	95	72,0	70	64,8		
Restriction due to financial hardship	Yes	67	50,8	67	62,0	20,036	0,001
	Sometimes	54	40,9	18	16,7		
	No	11	8,3	23	21,3		

The p-value was obtained from the Chi-square test.

Statistically significant relationships were found between having social security and feeling poor, economic happiness, and restrictions due to financial hardship ( $p < 0.05$ ). Accordingly, it was observed that the rate of feeling poor (45.1%) of individuals without social security was higher than the rate of feeling poor (22.0%) of individuals with social security, similarly, those with social security (43.2%) were happier than those without (15.7%), and finally, the rate of financial constraints of those without social security (62.0%) was higher than those with social security (50.8%).

**Table 3: How do you make a living? The Relationship of the Question with Variables**

		How do you make a living?												$\chi^2$	p
		Pension		Land income, rent, etc		Children and close help.		Foundation or association help		State help		Other			
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Are you getting help	No, I don't	94	79,7	0	0,0	7	31,8	0	0,0	12	22,2	7	38,9	24,383	0,001
	Social aid and solidarity promotion	11	9,3	0	0,0	0	0,0	16	84,2	21	38,9	4	22,2		
	Children's Help	6	5,1	7	100,0	12	54,5	0	0,0	6	11,1	3	16,7		
	Relatives's Help	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	3	15,8	0	0,0	0	0,0		
	Municipal Help	7	5,9	0	0,0	3	13,6	0	0,0	15	27,8	4	22,2		
Type of assistance received	Aid in kind	17	70,8	0	0,0	11	73,3	17	89,5	17	40,5	9	81,8	28,554	0,001
	Financial Aid	7	29,2	7	100,0	4	26,7	2	10,5	25	59,5	2	18,2		
Getting Along Without Help	Yes	5	19,2	7	100	0	0,0	0	0,0	2	4,0	3	27,3	78,096	0,001
	No	6	23,1	0	0,0	13	86,7	10	52,6	35	70,0	2	18,2		
	Yes, but it's hard	15	57,7	0	0,0	2	13,3	9	47,4	13	26,0	6	54,5		
Pension assessment	Very low	13	10,8	0	0,0	4	100,0	0	0,0	10	35,7	4	66,7	73,941	0,001
	Miscarriage	46	38,3	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	16	57,1	2	33,3		
	Intermediate	49	40,8	7	100,0	0	0,0	7	100,0	2	7,1	0	0,0		
	Good	7	5,8	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0		
	Verv good	5	4,2	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0		



The p-value was obtained from the Chi-square test.

Statistically significant correlations were found between how the livelihood is provided and receiving assistance, type of assistance, subsistence without assistance, and pension interpretation ( $p < 0.05$ ). It was observed that the rate of living without assistance (79.7%) was higher for individuals with a pension compared to other individuals, and all of the individuals with land income received assistance from their children.

It was observed that all of those with land income and the majority of those who received state aid received cash aid, while other individuals received in-kind aid.

It was observed that the rate of those who could not make a living without assistance (100%) was higher than other individuals.

Those who receive assistance from children and relatives are more likely to rate their pension as very low (100%) compared to other individuals.

**Table 4: Do You Have Social Security? The Relationship of the Question with Variables**

		No, I don't		Social aid and solidarity promotion		Children's Help		Relatives's Help		Municipal Aid		$\chi^2$	p
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
<b>Type of assistance received</b>	Aid in kind	0	0,0	28	53,8	18	52,9	3	100,0	22	75,9	6,575	0,087
	Financial Aid	0	0,0	24	46,2	16	47,1	0	0,0	7	24,1		
<b>Getting Along Without Help</b>	Yes	2	25,0	3	5,8	12	35,3	0	0,0	0	0,0	38,876	<b>0,001</b>
	No	6	75,0	24	46,2	18	52,9	3	100,0	13	44,8		
	Yes, but it's difficult	0	0,0	25	48,1	4	11,8	0	0,0	16	55,2		
<b>Feeling poor</b>	Yes	33	27,5	24	52,2	7	20,6	0	0,0	11	37,9	19,265	<b>0,014</b>
	No	67	55,8	13	28,3	17	50,0	3	100,0	14	48,3		
	Partly	20	16,7	9	19,6	10	29,4	0	0,0	4	13,8		
<b>Economic situation happiness assessment</b>	<i>Very unhappy</i>	18	15,0	9	17,3	0	0,0	3	100,0	4	13,8	103,626	<b>0,001</b>
	<i>Unhappy</i>	19	15,8	28	53,8	9	26,5	0	0,0	4	13,8		
	<i>Indecisive</i>	34	28,3	9	17,3	6	17,6	0	0,0	19	65,5		
	<i>Happy</i>	49	40,8	6	11,5	19	55,9	0	0,0	0	0,0		
	<i>Very happy</i>	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	2	6,9		
<b>Food needs fulfillment</b>	<i>Sufficient</i>	81	67,5	0	0,0	29	85,3	0	0,0	16	55,2	86,427	<b>0,001</b>
	<i>Insufficient</i>	39	32,5	52	100,0	5	14,7	3	100,0	13	44,8		
<b>Doctor/medication fulfillment</b>	<i>Yes</i>	96	80,0	48	92,3	31	91,2	3	100,0	27	93,1	7,826	0,109
	<i>No</i>	24	20,0	4	7,7	3	8,8	0	0,0	2	6,9		
<b>Clothing and shoe needs fulfillment</b>	<i>Yes</i>	77	64,2	13	25,0	20	58,8	0	0,0	14	48,3	26,353	<b>0,001</b>
	<i>No</i>	43	35,8	39	75,0	14	41,2	3	100,0	15	51,7		
<b>Water, electricity etc. fulfillment</b>	<i>Yes</i>	83	72,8	30	57,7	20	58,8	0	0,0	23	79,3	12,925	<b>0,011</b>
	<i>No</i>	31	27,2	22	42,3	14	41,2	3	100,0	6	20,7		
<b>Frequency of domestic travel</b>	<i>Never</i>	50	41,7	19	36,5	4	12,9	0	0,0	9	31,0	66,843	<b>0,001</b>
	<i>Once a year</i>	51	42,5	27	51,9	17	54,8	3	100,0	16	55,2		
	<i>Twice a year</i>	13	10,8	6	11,5	0	0,0	0	0,0	4	13,8		
	<i>3 times a year</i>	6	5,0	0	0,0	3	9,7	0	0,0	0	0,0		

	4 times a year and more	0	0,0	0	0,0	7	22,6	0	0,0	0	0,0		
<b>Frequency of consumption of meat and fish</b>	1 in two days	7	5,8	2	3,8	8	23,5	0	0,0	3	10,3	103,205	<b>0,001</b>
	1 per week	71	59,2	9	17,3	7	20,6	0	0,0	0	0,0		
	1 per month	35	29,2	23	44,2	19	55,9	3	100,0	16	55,2		
	quarterly	0	0,0	12	23,1	0	0,0	0	0,0	6	20,7		
	Every six months	2	1,7	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0		
	Once a year	5	4,2	6	11,5	0	0,0	0	0,0	4	13,8		
<b>Ability to save money</b>	Yes	37	30,8	20	38,5	5	14,7	0	0,0	13	44,8	9,402	0,055
	No	83	69,2	32	61,5	29	85,3	3	100,0	16	55,2		
<b>Restriction due to financial difficulties</b>	Yes	55	45,8	47	90,4	11	32,4	0	0,0	19	65,5	65,788	<b>0,001</b>
	Sometimes	49	40,8	5	9,6	8	23,5	3	100,0	7	24,1		
	No	16	13,3	0	0,0	15	44,1	0	0,0	3	10,3		

The p-value was obtained from the Chi-square test.

Statistically significant correlations were found between the status of receiving assistance and being able to live without assistance, feeling poor, economic well-being, meeting food needs, meeting clothes and shoes, meeting water and electricity, and being able to travel domestically ( $p < 0.05$ ). Accordingly, it was observed that the rate of those who received assistance from relatives (100.0%) was higher than those in other situations. The highest rate (52.2%) of feeling poor was observed in those receiving social assistance. The highest rate of unhappiness in economic terms (100.0%) was observed in those receiving assistance from relatives. Negative responses in meeting the needs for food and medicine were higher in those receiving social assistance and those receiving relatives' assistance compared to other groups. In the variable of meeting clothing needs, negative responses were higher among those who did not receive social assistance (64.2%) and those who received help from their children (58.8%) compared to other groups. The rate of those who never traveled (41.7%) was higher among those who did not receive assistance compared to those who received assistance.

**Table 5: The Relationship of the Household Income Question with Variables**

		Household income												$\chi^2$	p
		under 800		801-1200		1201-1700		1701-2000		2001-4000		over 4000			
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Household income status	Very Low	20	35,7	11	55,0	6	15,8	11	44,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	139,132	0,001
	Low	19	33,9	2	10,0	20	52,6	5	20,0	16	22,9	0	0,0		
	Middle	10	17,9	5	25,0	12	31,6	9	36,0	39	55,7	13	46,4		
	Good	7	12,5	2	10,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	15	21,4	10	35,7		
	Very good	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	5	17,9		
Is the monthly income sufficient?	Yes	10	17,9	7	35,0	7	18,4	3	12,0	43	61,4	25	89,3	68,871	0,001
	No	46	82,1	13	65,0	31	81,6	22	88,0	27	38,6	3	10,7		
Feeling poor	Yes	29	58,0	7	35,0	15	39,5	11	44,0	13	18,6	0	0,0	79,794	0,001
	No	4	8,0	5	25,0	16	42,1	12	48,0	51	72,9	25	89,3		
	Partly	17	34,0	8	40,0	7	18,4	2	8,0	6	8,6	3	10,7		
Evaluation of happiness according to economic situation	Very unhapp y	6	10,7	7	35,0	2	5,3	14	56,0	5	7,1	0	0,0	151,785	0,001
	Unhap py	26	46,4	7	35,0	14	36,8	0	0,0	13	18,6	0	0,0		
	Indecis ive	24	42,9	2	10,0	13	34,2	6	24,0	14	20,0	8	28,6		
	Happy	0	0,0	2	10,0	9	23,7	5	20,0	38	54,3	20	71,4		
	Very happy	0	0,0	2	10,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0		
Food needs	Suffici	21	37,5	6	30,0	12	31,6	13	52,0	48	68,6	25	89,3	38,243	0,001

<b>fulfillment</b>	ent														
	Insuffi	35	62,5	14	70,0	26	68,4	12	48,0	22	31,4	3	10,7		
	cient														
<b>Doctors/m</b>	Yes	44	78,6	16	80,0	34	89,5	19	76,0	63	90,0	28	100,0	10,160	0,058
<b>edicines</b>															
<b>fulfillment</b>	No	12	21,4	4	20,0	4	10,5	6	24,0	7	10,0	0	0,0		
<b>Clothes</b>	Yes	7	12,5	11	55,0	19	50,0	7	28,0	51	72,9	28	100,0	78,941	0,001
<b>and shoes</b>															
<b>fulfillment</b>	No	49	87,5	9	45,0	19	50,0	18	72,0	19	27,1	0	0,0		
<b>Water,</b>	Yes	33	58,9	9	45,0	24	63,2	11	57,9	55	78,6	23	82,1	14,158	0,014
<b>electricity,</b>															
<b>etc</b>	No	23	41,1	11	55,0	14	36,8	8	42,1	15	21,4	5	17,9		
<b>fulfillment</b>															
<b>Ability to</b>	Yes	23	41,1	4	20,0	9	23,7	7	28,0	24	34,3	8	28,6	5,169	0,396
<b>make</b>															
<b>amends</b>	No	33	58,9	16	80,0	29	76,3	18	72,0	46	65,7	20	71,4		
<b>Restriction</b>	Yes	43	76,8	16	80,0	28	73,7	17	68,0	25	35,7	5	17,9	82,485	0,001
<b>due to</b>															
<b>financial</b>	Someti	10	17,9	4	20,0	10	26,3	8	32,0	30	42,9	7	25,0		
<b>hardship</b>															
	No	3	5,4	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	15	21,4	16	57,1		

The p-value was obtained from the Chi-square test.

Statistically significant relationships were found between household income and household income status assessment, monthly income assessment, feeling poor, economic status assessment, meeting food needs, clothing, water, electricity, and restriction status ( $p < 0.05$ ). Accordingly, it was observed that those with an income between 801 and 1200 TL had the highest rate (55.0%) among those who interpreted their economic situation as very low. Individuals in the economic income band between 1701-2000 TL had a higher rate (88.0%) of finding monthly income sufficient compared to other income groups. Individuals with an economic income of less than 800 TL had a higher rate (58.0%) of feeling poor compared to other income groups. In the evaluation of economic situation happiness, it was observed that the group with the highest rate of unhappiness was higher in individuals in the 1701-2000 TL band compared to individuals in other income bands. The group with the highest rate (70.0%) of inadequacy in meeting food needs was observed in the 801-1200 income band. The group with the highest rate of inadequacy in meeting the need for clothing water electricity was observed in the 4000 + income band. Compared to the individuals in other income bands, it was observed that the income band that had the highest rate (80.0%) of financial restrictions was 801-1200 TL.

**Table 6: Examination of the Type of Aid Received in Variables**

		Type of aid received					
		Aid in kind		Financial aid		$\chi^2$	p
		n	%	n	%		
Getting Along Without Help	Yes	6	8,5	9	19,1	3,239	0,198
	No	38	53,5	20	42,6		
	Yes, but it's difficult	27	38,0	18	38,3		
Feeling poor	Yes	23	32,4	19	46,3	9,786	0,008
	No	27	38,0	20	48,8		
	Partly	21	29,6	2	4,9		
Evaluation of happiness according to economic situation	Very unhappy	13	18,3	3	6,4	6,649	0,156
	Unhappy	21	29,6	20	42,6		
	Indecisive	22	31,0	12	25,5		
	Happy	13	18,3	12	25,5		
	Very happy	2	2,8	0	0,0		
Food needs fulfillment	Sufficient	25	35,2	20	42,6	0,646	0,421
	Insufficient	46	64,8	27	57,4		
Doctors/medicines fulfillment	Yes	67	94,4	42	89,4	1,005	0,316
	No	4	5,6	5	10,6		
Clothes and shoes fulfillment	Yes	28	39,4	19	40,4	0,012	0,914
	No	43	60,6	28	59,6		
Water, electricity, etc fulfillment	Yes	46	64,8	27	57,4	0,646	0,421
	No	25	35,2	20	42,6		

<b>Frequency of domestic travel</b>	<i>Never</i>	32	47,1	0	0,0	49,975	<b>0,001</b>
	<i>Once a year</i>	33	48,5	30	63,8		
	<i>Twice a year</i>	0	0,0	10	21,3		
	<i>3 times a year</i>	3	4,4	0	0,0		
	<i>4 or more a year</i>	0	0,0	7	14,9		
<b>Frequency of consumption of meat and fish</b>	<i>Once in two days</i>	9	12,7	4	8,5	6,775	0,148
	<i>Once a week</i>	7	9,9	9	19,1		
	<i>Once a month</i>	34	47,9	27	57,4		
	<i>Once in three mounth</i>	15	21,1	3	6,4		
	<i>Once a year</i>	6	8,5	4	8,5		
<b>Ability to save money</b>	<i>Yes</i>	23	32,4	15	31,9	0,003	0,954
	<i>No</i>	48	67,6	32	68,1		
<b>Restriction due to financial difficulty</b>	<i>Yes</i>	47	66,2	30	63,8	8,574	<b>0,014</b>
	<i>Sometimes</i>	18	25,4	5	10,6		
	<i>No</i>	6	8,5	12	25,5		
<b>Goods registered on it</b>	<i>No</i>	40	56,3	25	53,2	2,399	0,301
	<i>House</i>	28	39,4	22	46,8		
	<i>Car</i>	3	4,2	0	0,0		

The p-value was obtained from the Chi-square test.

Statistically significant relationships were found between the type of aid and feeling poor and restrictions on domestic travel ( $p < 0.05$ ). Accordingly, it was observed that those who received cash aid (46.3%) felt poor at a higher rate than those who did not (32.4%). It was observed that those who received cash assistance had a higher opportunity to go on domestic trips compared to those who received in-kind assistance. In terms of restrictions, those receiving in-kind assistance (66.2%) were more likely than those receiving cash assistance (66.2%).

## CONCLUSION

According to the results of the current study; in the survey study conducted on the elderly residing in Erzincan province, it was observed that female participants had a higher rate and 45% of individuals did not have social security.

According to the social security of the individuals, it was concluded that individuals without social security felt poorer and unhappy, and it was determined that these individuals had a high rate of financial self-restriction.

It was observed that all of the participants with land income received state aid and that cash aid was at a higher rate in these aids.

In the study, it was determined that the highest rate of feeling poor was among individuals receiving social assistance. In the evaluation of the rate of unhappiness, it was observed that the highest rate of unhappiness was observed in those who received assistance from relatives. Based on these results, it has been determined that there are negative effects at the psychological level in individuals receiving aid.

In the evaluation based on income level, individuals with a monthly income of less than 800 Turkish Liras think that their economic situation is very bad. It has been observed that individuals at this income level are inadequate in terms of clothing needs, bill payments, and financial constraints. It is a natural result that the low income level and the difficulties encountered are parallel to each other.

It has been observed that the rate of in-kind assistance is higher among the individuals receiving aid, and it has been determined that those who receive cash aid feel poor at a higher rate than those who receive in-kind aid.

Some suggestions can be made within the framework of all these results. In today's world where poverty is a major problem in all countries, anti-poverty policies are also of great importance. Within the scope of the study conducted in Erzincan province, elderly poverty was evaluated and public institutions, municipalities, and aid organizations have great duties in order to prevent this poverty.

Public institutions should be able to make more accurate and realistic analyses of elderly poverty within the scope of combating poverty and provide assistance to elderly individuals in this context. It can be ensured that the allocation for combating poverty in the state budget is increased and that a separate item is allocated for elderly poverty.

Municipalities should be able to analyze poverty and elderly poverty fairly and impartially, without political interest, and should be able to determine whether the aid to be provided is in kind or cash.

They should be able to decide what to do within the framework of their analysis. Municipalities, governorships, foundations, and private aid organizations should be able to combat poverty by carrying out joint work with each other.

Individuals should be made aware of the concept of poverty through projects developed within the framework of the joint work of the governorship and municipalities, and efforts should be made to support individuals, especially in elderly poverty, or to be self-sacrificing in this regard.

Within the scope of the study, it has been observed that in-kind aid is more effective and it should be ensured that the people in the province take a role in the fight against elderly poverty by raising awareness on this issue.

In order to expand the study, an analysis can be made not only on elderly poverty but also on

urban poverty within the framework of poverty in Erzincan. At the same time, based on the study, a project study can be carried out for Erzincan province to raise awareness about poverty and ensure that the public takes an active role in the fight against poverty. Thus, the burden on public institutions can be reduced.

The most important limitation of the study is that it was conducted in a single province and only on elderly poverty. Examining the study in different provinces or regions and using a larger sample would increase the generalizability of the results obtained.

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