

	Spécialité : BTS M.U.C.
Epreuve orale de langue vivante étrangère : Anglais	Session : 2017

Who will take care of China's elderly people?

By Celia Hatton, BBC News, Fujian province, China, 1 December 2015

China has the fastest-ageing population in human history but the state provides very little support for elderly people. Ageing parents have traditionally been looked after by their children - but in today's China that is not always the case.

China has a lot of orphanages for children. But the Ji Xiang temple has an entirely different purpose - it's an orphanage for the elderly.

Dozens of elderly people are living their final years here. Some are too poor to go elsewhere. Others have no children to care for them. But most have simply been abandoned by their families. In extremely poor communities, once they can no longer work, they're considered to be a burden. ...

Many worry who will care for the rest of China's elderly, currently numbering 220 million. China has the fastest ageing population in human history, according to the World Bank. By 2050, more than 40% of the population will be over the age of 60.

Traditionally, every generation of a Chinese family lived under the same roof. But that system is facing serious challenges in modern, mobile China. Now, just 38% of people over the age of 60 live with their adult children, according to a major study by Chinese and American researchers released in 2013. Just over half of those living alone received financial support from their children. ...

In China's cities, the government is rushing to deal with the problem. In Fujian's Sanming City, a short drive from the temple, the government is rushing to address the needs of its booming elderly population.

(250 words)