

## **Labour Force Participation of the Old-aged: between the family support and the support to the family**

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### **Extended abstract**

In the last years one of the worries in the contemporary socio-demography in the developing countries has been the persons' numerical increase with 60 years or more. This demographic ageing, product of the demographic transition named, is a phenomenon that has struck and impresses the societies' organization from the institutional up to the familiar area in both economic and cultural fields. Though in countries with certain modernization degree, but do have high indexes of poverty and inequality, the demographic ageing shows how the persons have prolonged their time of life, this increase in the average of years of life has not meant an improvement in the quality of their existence.

In this demographic change context, the literature on ageing has thought about the different orientations with which there is studied the social situation of the aged population. In that way, Gibson (1996), he criticizes the dominant paradigm in the aged population studies, and discusses that the great majority of the researches suppose that the third age people are immersed in a great vulnerability situation. Though this vision has tried for getting aware among the public policies makers, also it has propitiated a vision on the oldness that does not highlight the capacities of the population and its insertion in the community, family or institutional activities.

Taking this approximation as a base and recovering the discussions on the situation of the aged population in the Latin-American countries especially in Mexico (Boserup, 1970; De Barbieri, 1985; García, 1988; Wainnerman y Moreno, 1988; Pacheco, 1988; Benería y Roldán, 1992; García y Oliveira, 1995), this work seeks to discuss and to analyze the importance and the complexity of the labour participation of 60-year-old or more

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people in Mexico, paying special attention to the features of this participation in households, trying to understand what favours that an aged person is a familiar support "object" or a giver familiar support "subject".

In this respect, it is proposed to think on the third age persons' activity, recovering their economical participation on the labour market and the type of supports that they give, but establishing the differences with those who are not inserted on the labour market, everything to level of the Mexican households. Thus, to establish this differentiation the socio-demographic profile is highlighted and its role as part of the labour force as well as individuals that support the household or as individuals that receive support from their households.

So, this study tries to get visible the determiners for the contribution or not, by the third age population to the households' material reproduction. To achieve this objective it is necessary to know the advance age population profile, being economically active or inactive and the type of not remunerated or remunerated activities that they do out of the domestic units. Thus, the paper is based on the thought that the persons of the third age are increasingly a significant element in the relations of market.

Though it exists in Mexico a strong tradition in the research about the people's economical participation in the labour market (García, Muñoz y Oliveira, 1982; García, 1990; Cortés, 1988; Pacheco, 1988; Christenson y Oliveira, 1989; Oliveira, 1989; Pedrero, 1989; Rendón y Salas, 1991), there are not sufficient studies about the aged labour force, and the few ones that exist do emphasis in the way in which this population survives, and in what degree they are or they can turn into a social resource (Mummert, 1979).

To achieve successfully the objective of the paper, it is considered to organize the document in two big parts: first, a review will be done about the social and economical situation of the advanced age persons, with base in their participation or not in the labour market, and doing a general comparison with other countries of the region, as well as with European countries. This approximation will allow analyzing the information that relates the old adults' economical participation and their households in terms of the supports, which can be in a direction or to another one, or reciprocal.

In the second block of the work the discussion will be developed about the problematic of the economically active and inactive population of the third age. For the

development of this segment, the profile of the advance age population declared active or inactive in Mexico will be presented, as well as the conformation of their households. To comply with this, some information will be processed: data about their activities, their sector of performance, and their previous condition or not of inactivity, the income whether monetary or in kind, education, access or not to the social safety, composition, size and structure of the households where they reside, among others.

Finally it is necessary to mention that the information source available and which allows to connect the condition of activity of this population with the position and condition of the households, and the socio demographic characteristics proper of this population group is the National Occupation and Employment Survey (*Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo*) 2007, which though it is not exclusive of the aged population groups, it allows to study in depth, whether at the national or state level, the labour market and to make clear the links with households.

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