

Dynamiques démographiques, politiques sociales et relations entre générations : vers de nouvelles configurations ?

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Recent publications of Enrique PELÁEZ

Enrique PELÁEZ, “Condiciones de vida, estado nutricional y estado de salud en adultos mayores, Córdoba, Argentina”. Laura Acosta, Enrique Peláez. volume 1, n°1 (trimestre janeiro a março de 2015) Revista Brasileira de Geriatria e Gerontologia Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (en prensa 2015).

Enrique PELÁEZ, “Adultos mayores y monitoreo de derechos. Alcances y limitaciones de las fuentes de información en Argentina y Uruguay” en Población y Salud en Mesoamérica Revista electrónica semestral, ISSN-1659-0201 Volumen 11, número 2, artículo 4 Enero - julio, 2014.

Title of presentation : *Demographic changes and access to economic security in elderly people in Latin America*

Abstract

The presentation will describe the heterogeneity of the aging process in Latin America and the situation in access to economic security in the countries of the region.

The aging process does not occur in the same way worldwide; in Latin America this phenomenon occurs much faster than in the developed world. While in Europe it took between 150 and 200 years, in Latin America the same phenomenon developed between 40 and 60 years; Unlike in Europe, Latin America is an aging society with gross inequalities in income distribution. Since the population in Latin America is aging faster than in developed countries, countries in this region have less time to adapt to the consequences of this phenomenon (Eclac, 2011).

The population aging creates changes that require readjust the economic and social institutions to meet ever-increasing demands. In this context, the analysis of social protection systems in old age and their access mechanisms is relevant to determine the conditions in which aging occurs. Issues such as the expansion of right protection and pension coverage in old age, and the quality and equity of such protection are key areas to assess the limitations and potential of the social security systems Latin America (Bravo, 1999).

In Latin America predominate pension systems based on Contributory Social Security paradigm, where old people protection right access is mediated by worker participation in formal labor market.

Thus, both financing and access mechanisms are often structured around the relation contribution /quote, so that real beneficiaries of protection are not all older adults, but only those who made formal contributions to the social security system. In this way, considering the relevance of informality in Latin American labor markets, protection systems contributory become exclusive and segmented systems, harming the most vulnerable socio-economically, those whose careers have been marked by unemployment and informality.

Moreover, the systems acquire strong gender bias, due to sexual division of labor, which assigns many women full or part-time unpaid activities, poorly paid (usually in informal markets) or hinder their integration in the labor market.

Discuss the expansion of rights and social protection may seem untimely when aging raises concerns about the sustainability of social security systems, due to the fact that the reduction in support rate among workers and elderly could lead to serious restrictions in financing as aging process is consolidated. However, it would be relevant to consider that demographic processes are not independent of changes in some economic contexts. Some changes in economic and labor variables related to demographic changes, are key issues to understand some consequences of aging. For example, increasing women's economic participation could operate as a compensation for declining of working age population, and be partly a result of release of domestic work time due to declining birth rate. Moreover, increases in productivity allows cohorts of fewer workers to be more productive, reducing the economic burden of demographic decrease in people of working age. Such changes may also be related in part to demographic transition, since fewer children allow a greater investment of educational resources in the new generations, which may have a significant impact on future labor productivity (Perez Díaz 2010). The discussion is whether Latin America has mechanisms for financing the pension systems to use some of the benefits of increased productivity of economies to cover the costs of aging. In this sense, it could be limited if productivity increases of economies were not reflected linearly in an increase in earnings.

The demographic changes in the region have been heterogeneous, countries such as Cuba, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile are completing their demographic transition, while other countries such as Guatemala, Bolivia and Haiti are on a moderate demographic transition. Also the pension systems situation is very uneven. Countries like Argentina, Chile and Uruguay have consolidated systems with high percentages of coverage, while most region countries have serious lacks of coverage. Most countries have begun to implement solutions to non-contributory pension coverage problems.

The decline in demographic dependency ratio in the region as a consequence of fertility decline, generates an opportunity to invest in the expansion of social protection and capacity building at all ages (Eclac, 2013).

The economic and demographic situation of the region invites to rethink new security paradigms in social security systems and advance in the implementation of more equitable access to social security systems.

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