

RESEARCH ON AGEING AND EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE ELDERLY ADULT



DEMOGRAPHIC FRAMEWORK AND WORTH OF THE ELDERLY ADULT

Life prolongation and birthrate decrease have produced an unprecedented demographic transition, where the age pyramid is reversed regarding the way it was presented more than fifty years ago. The number of elderly people increase and the number of young people decrease.

The phenomenon, which started during the sixties in the northern hemisphere, reached the southern hemisphere where the ageing process is fast, as well.

To rectify the negative image of the old age, is a cultural and educational task that has to commit all generations. There exists social responsibility in order to help the elderly adults to get the sense of age, appreciate their resources and overcome the self-isolation.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES AT OLD AGE

MEMORY

- Young generations are losing the sense of history and their own identity, little by little.
- When a society minimizes the sense of history, it evades the task of educating young people.

EXPERIENCE.

- Science and technique try to replace –without success- the elderly adults' life experience
- They possess emotional, moral and religious values which make the social, family and personal balance easier .

ELDERLY ADULTS' PROBLEMS

Marginalization

- This phenomenon arises before societies which concentrate efficiency in the image of an eternally young man and excludes those who do not have these features
- The expression of this marginalization is the lack of human relationships which make the elderly people suffer due to abandonment, loneliness, isolation and mistreatment.

Education and occupation

- The separation from the working world is carried out suddenly and the elderly adults' free time is the resource to take into account so that they recover their active role, promoting their access to new technologies, in socially useful jobs and volunteering experiences.

Participation

- The elderly people can actively take part in the social life at a civil, educational and cultural level.
- It is necessary to rectify the erroneous images that are given of the elderly adult and the prejudices that damage his figure.

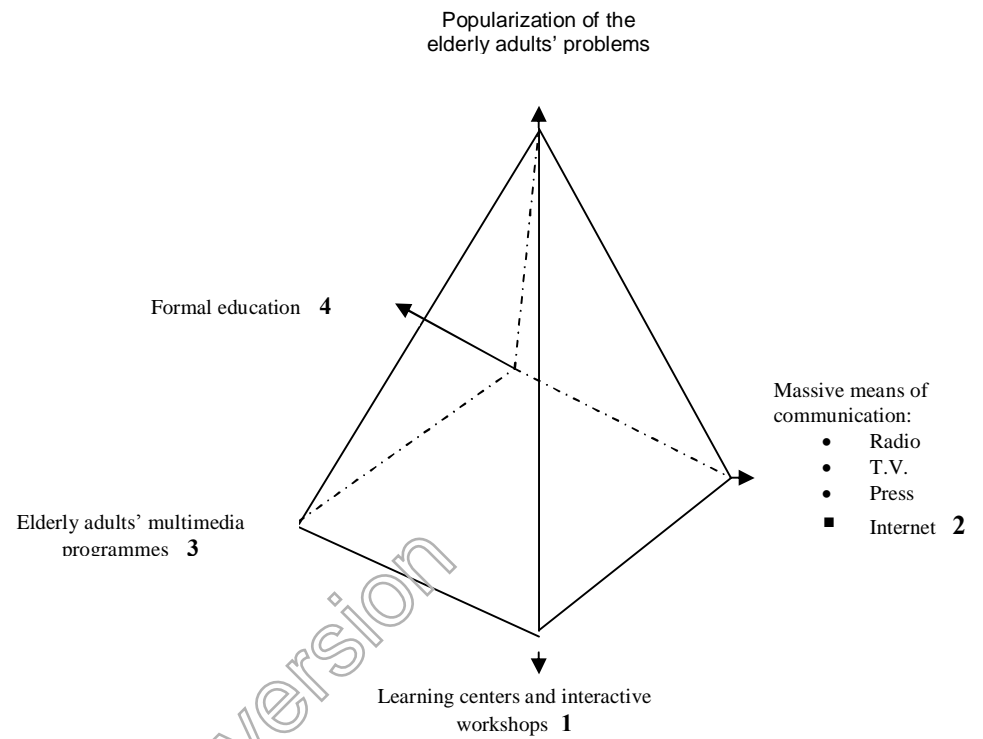
AGEING AND EDUCATIONAL--CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Elderly Adults and Self-learning

- The aging diffusion activities can contribute to instilling the principle of self-learning and continuing education into the elderly adults' population.
- Both young generations and elderly people can play a leading role for improving their life conditions and both cohorts are the main objectives of the knowledge diffusion.

Ageing multidirectional criterion

It is possible to reach the whole population by using communication and information technologies in order to spread knowledge related to elderly adults and, thus, we can evaluate four basic components that are represented in a pyramidal way:



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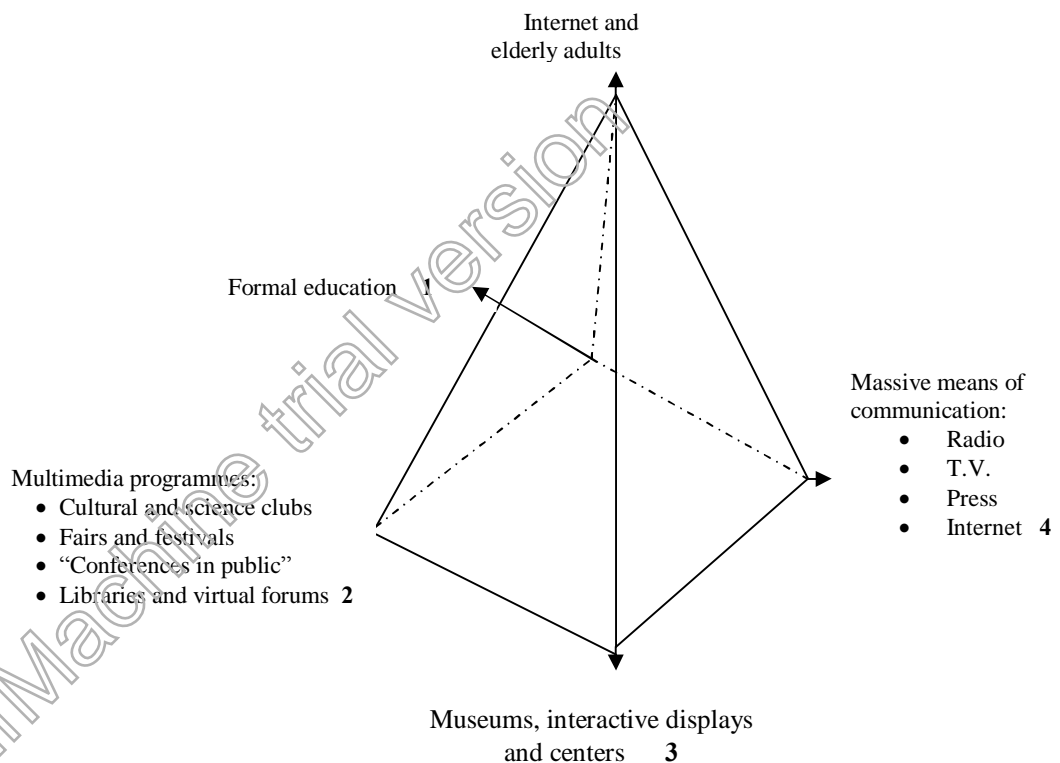
Elderly adults' programmes of participation

These formal and informal programmes of participation allow to draw educational and cultural knowledge near through the game, art, exercise, adventure, dramatization from :

- ♣ cultural and science clubs to carry out projects or studies, take part in fairs and/or start productive companies
- ♣ elderly adults in festivals and fairs where they can attend demonstrations of educational, cultural and artistic nature .

Internet in the elderly adults' circulation

Internet plays a relevant role and allows to work in the elderly persons' education and cultural development through formal education, in multimedia programmes, in interactive centers and with massive means of communication



CONCLUSIONS

- When the process of creation of knowledge is operated, the intergenerational contributions cannot be absent
- Elderly adults who take part in education and training processes will need educational support from the organizations in which they carry out their assignment and will need to have access to train themselves as educators.
- Making reparation of educational damage created at the working stage and including the preparation for the entrance at the age of the working retirement
 - Designing teaching techniques for the informal learning, where the elderly adults may operate as learning mentors.
 - Growing advance of the elderly people as new figures in a process of affirmation of their rights
 - Elderly people require special types of theory-practice teaching, related to their needs and life conditions
 - The ageing diffusion activities may contribute to instilling the principle of self-learning and continuing education in the elderly adults' population

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ABSTRACT**

The changes that took place at the end of the XX century created new situations and had an impact, producing modifications in the Welfare State. This will generate new political definitions which will make up the bases of a conception of the Fiscal Pact for the social security which considers the elderly adults in the group of the social policies of the States.

The study attempts to formulate recommendations and proposals for the elderly adults' development through intergenerational actions from the educational, informational and cultural field. That will require the design of teaching techniques for the informal learning; apart from carrying out a major role as stock of knowledge and skills, the elderly adults will be able to operate as learning monitors and mentors.

Taking into account that the elderly people continue with activities related to preceding jobs or professions and that this has great importance in the learning environment, the educators' education programmes will have to be connected with skills and knowledge that the elderly people have in advance. The ageing diffusion activities and the technological advance may contribute to instilling the self-learning principles and continuing education in the elderly adults' population.

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