

EDITORIAL

Reflections on the process of migration in the face of the aging

Population aging, is one of the consequences of the process of demographic transition, a phenomenon that began in Western Europe during the 19th century and spread to the rest of the world during the 20th century. In this process, it passes from a stage of high levels of fecundity and mortality to reduction of them, with consequent population increase of the elderly.

In Brazil, this process has been occurring in an accelerated way, due to the reduction of fecundity and mortality in the last decades. This phenomenon has important implications for increasing the participation of the elderly in the population displacements. One of the main characteristics of the migration is its high selectivity's to some individual attributes, among them what most affects the probability of migration is the age.

Differently from the factors attributed to the migration of younger populations, such as the search for space and better positioning in the labor market, marriages and training opportunities, the migration of the elderly is explained by the characteristics of the stages of life of the most advanced people such: retirement, health status, search for support and family reunion, widowhood and search for places that present "amenities" such as pleasant weather, low cost of living, accessibility, security and easy access to health services.

Retirement is major cause of migration among older people, since it represents a break in the bond with their place of work, leaving it available to reside in places other than where employment is available. When the gender issue, the retirement situation as a preponderant factor for migration, is analyzed, there are differences between men and women, since the female economically active period is not as well defined as the male, although this situation has changed in the current days.

The health status of the elderly directly influences the migration, since the aging process is often accompanied by a limitation of individuals' physical and cognitive capacities, which makes them migrate in search of support for this new condition for local. Who have better health infrastructure, such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers and long-term care facilities, or other support options such as family closeness. The degree of disability will generally influence the migration destination of the elderly. In this sense, the onset of a disability process tends to lead to the search for close relatives and friends, and severe disability usually results in migration to places that have specialized institutions.

Widowhood is a phenomenon that generates innumerable repercussions in the life of the elderly, influencing their decision to move to live close to family and friends or even in search of support. Another migratory propensity of the elderly may be related in the intra-household, where there is the process of intrafamily bargaining, in which the elderly migrate accompanying a particular member of the household. The social network reflects the web of social relations that individuals maintain in the case of migration represent the set of interpersonal ties that connect potential migrants to de facto and non-migrant migrants through relationships of kinship, friendship and naturalness.

This is impact of the process of migration of the elderly to society. It is possible to distinguish two types of groups of elderly migrants: one composed of elderly people with better health and income, who migrate to enjoy the benefits of this life stage, and another who, due to financial or physical insufficiency, seek support places to face these difficulties. Although Brazil is a rapidly aging country, studies on the elderly and the immigration process are scarce. This calls for the need for research that touches on these aspects.

Good reading!

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