

**154 - THE VIEW OF THE FAMILIES ABOUT THE OLD AGE AND THE RELATIONSHIP WITH ELDERLY**<sup>1</sup>ADRIANA DE AZEVEDO FREITAS SMITH FILGUEIRAS<sup>2</sup>AISSA ROMINA SILVA DO NASCIMENTO<sup>3</sup>ANÚBES PEREIRA DE CASTRO<sup>4</sup>MARIA ELIETE BATISTA MOURA<sup>5</sup>ANTONIA OLIVEIRA SILVA<sup>1</sup>PPGEnf/UFPB/João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brasil<sup>2</sup>Centro Universitário UNIPÊ/João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brasil<sup>3</sup>Universidade Federal de Campina Grande/Campina Grande, Paraíba, Brasil<sup>4</sup>NOVAFAPI/UFPI, Teresina, Piauí, Brasil<sup>5</sup>Universidade Federal da Paraíba/PPGEnf/ João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brasil<sup>1</sup>E-mail:adrianafigueiras@yahoo.com.br<sup>2</sup>E-mail: aissas@bol.com.br<sup>3</sup>E-mail:anubes@bol.com.br<sup>4</sup>E-mail:lia@novafapi.com.br<sup>5</sup>E-mail:alfaleda@hotmail.com**INTRODUCTION**

According to Debert (2003), the representations related to the elderly and the treatment given by the society to acquire the same particular meanings in contexts historical, social and cultural backgrounds.

Projections indicate that by 2050 the elderly population will be 1,900 million people (IBGE, 2006). Thus, considering a continuing trend of growth of the elderly population in Brazil and around the world, we see how important it is to study the aging process to educate our population to participate actively in the process of aging family members.

The family is the basic starting of all living. Authors who have been studying the family as Bilac (1995a, 1995b), Carvalho (1995) and Sarti (1995a, 1995b, 1996), affirm that the family is the primary locus where is developed the primary sociabilities from individuals. It is the space that supports the elderly, where it states the membership of that group, and especially where identity is asserted. The family not only as a provider of material existence, but mainly as moral reference, as transferor of values, norms of behavior. This function is independent of social class from which the family belongs, however, among the poor, the family is not just a emotional bond, but mainly, as the core material and spiritual survival.

For this segment of society, the family space is associated with trust, place where there are people we can trust. For the elderly, it is much more evident for they are going through a phase in which at the eyes of modern society, is still seen as something strange and should be avoided, and even "hidden". When faced with aging, the need for family life becomes even greater, since it is a phase in which occurs many social, cultural and economic transformations that determines a period of adaptation (WOORTMANN, 1987 apud SARTI, 1996).

The issue of aging is a matter that is increasingly present in the social agendas, political and economic worlds, that's because it has been observed that we are facing a phenomenon of progressive aging of the population, never before experienced by the society. This process has awakened, actually, questions about how we understand the phase of Aging, which leads to changes in the social sphere, the individual and interpersonal relationships, both for the elderly, and for the family of the elderly (Schirmacher, 2004).

In a consumer society, where beauty is worshiped constantly seems to be no room for one that has a wrinkle that he has function unsettled and is considered a "burden" that needs to be loaded. This way, there is a whole picture that contributes to the negativity of the image of the elderly, increasing also its "useless" as Minayo and Coimbra Júnior quotes(2002, p. 16): "The most common form of cultural discrimination has been the stigma of 'disposable', 'bygone' or 'social weight'".

Modern society, at the same time presents the elderly as an active being, capable of responding to the unique challenges they face in their daily lives, redefining their experiences in order to counteract the stereotypes of old age. It also shows that they live with the situation of impoverishment and abandonment of the old is relegated, feeding the image of old age as a period of retreat in the face of disease and poverty (DEBERT, 2003). Then the perception of family members about the aging process, their own look on old age and the elderly within the family, are so diverse.

Old age is a unique moment in which not only the elderly but also their families must be prepared to live it, whether institutionalized or domiciled. However, not always we find this set (the elderly and families) in line with the same perceptions of being elderly. The fact is that, often the elderly person is seen by the family as someone who has no more decision-making power, autonomy and not having rights. So based on that perception and we sought to answer the following question: Is there a difference on the look of the relatives of elderly inpatients and resident as to what is old age and the elderly within the family?

Therefore, this research aimed to punctuate the look of old age and family about elderly living in nursing home and home, within the family.

**METHODOLOGY**

This descriptive study of qualitative conducted with elderly relatives residents of a nursing home resident and a poor community in João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil, who agreed to participate voluntarily in the research. The field research included the application of a questionnaire administered to 10 family members and assistematic observation, returned to seize the evocations of the subjects about their world views, meanings / constructed meanings about their condition (TOBAR e YALOUR, 2001).

The survey was conducted with relatives of elderly residents in the institution AMEM, located in the City of Cabedelo / Paraíba and elderly family residing in the Commonwealth Timbo, located in the city of João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil, who chose to participate voluntarily in the research.

The choice of the population is driven by convenience, for the authors already had contact with the reality of the institution and community study. For collection we used a questionnaire and systematic observation technique of the field. The visits were systematically described in our field diary, which we recorded all informal conversations, impressions, observations during each contact, records that were very important in the analysis. These moments of observation, especially the informal contacts were of great importance. After the application of these instruments, we grouped the lines to then perform the analysis.

**RESULTS**

The data revealed that all interviewees understood that aging as a mandatory period for the individual. But we found

that family members who had their institutionalized elderly believed that becoming elderly would lose their autonomy and their rights, therefore, kept him far from his family life, not caring leaving him and even abandon him in the institution.

The elderly for these, although not ill, is one that requires time, attention and special cares that seem to be incompatible to administer. If it joins the conflict of generations, young people with the elderly makes it impossible to coexist in the same space, even outstanding their statements that the elderly has a lot of experience and knowledge.

The question of experience and knowledge that the elderly has we saw in the statements of all interviewees. Now the family members of elderly resident, even in a precarious social context, preferred to live with them, regardless of being healthy or not. For them, choosing to stay with the elderly at home portrays a very old law, which is to be with his family.

The bonds of affection and solidarity are not affected by the context of poverty. They report that the family environment is crucial for the elderly to face the aging process with less traumas, and they need to be with the family at that stage, more than never. The difficulties are eased by the warmth, conviviality and solidarity living in the nuclear family.

The family is taken for all as a positive place. Among the families who have their elderly in nursing home, they realize this space as a positive place, where they make friends and have tranquility. We understand that for these, the institution meets the needs of sociability of the elderly. However for them, when asked where they want to live in their old age, all were unanimous in saying that they want to be with relatives in the family environment. Now the family of the elderly resident, understands that the nursing home is a negative place, where the elderly have a strong feeling of sadness and isolation, contributing to a depressive condition.

### CONCLUSIONS

Looking at the words and images that emerged points a strong tone in the evocations of our interviewees amount the association of the family to the base of life and everything. It comes up as a space that reflects a great sense for the individual throughout his life, and in old age more than ever.

It is the element reference, guiding axis in society and the world, providing a place that provides stability, refugee. The aging process brings along a negative charge to individuals, can only be relieved if the elderly are living with their families, living in the same space.

The economic difficulties are put aside, because it valued being next to the elderly. The affection is on top of all the difficulties. This experience only came to reveal the richness and complexity of the reality studied. He waved to the opportunity to pursue this investigative axis, contributing to a field study that has much to be explored and understood. Here lies the meaning of the whole process of this research: not only for what has been revealed, but mainly by the horizons that beckoned us to know and seek. Thus the importance of continuing investigating this problem.

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### THE VIEW OF THE FAMILIES ABOUT THE OLD AGE AND THE RELATIONSHIP WITH ELDERERS

This study aims to punctuate the look of the family on aging and elderly within the family. This is a descriptive of qualitative conducted with relatives of elderly residents of a nursing home resident and a lacking community in João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil that agreed to participate voluntarily in the research. The field research included the application of a questionnaire administered to 10 family members and systematic observation. It was observed that all family members understand aging as a mandatory stage of life. But family members who had their elderly institutionalized, believed that to become elderly would lose their autonomy and rights, therefore, kept the elderly far from their family environment, not bothering to leave him and abandon him in an institution. Now the family members of elderly resident, even in a precarious social context, prefer to live with them, whether they are healthy or not. The bonds of affection and solidarity are not affected by the context of poverty. They also report

that the family environment is crucial for the elderly so that he can take the aging process less traumatic.

**KEYWORDS** -: Family. Elderly. Poverty

#### **RECHERCHE SUR LA FAMILLE DE LA VIEILLESSE ET CO-VIE PERSONNES AGEES**

Cette étude vise à ponctuer le look de la famille sur le vieillissement et les personnes âgées dans la famille. Il s'agit d'un descriptif qualitative menée avec des proches de résidents âgés d'un résident de maison de soins infirmiers et d'une communauté qui manque à João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brésil, ont accepté de participer volontairement à l'étude. La recherche sur le terrain notamment l'application d'un questionnaire administré à 10 membres de la famille et l'observation systématique. Il a été observé que tous les membres de la famille comprennent le vieillissement comme une étape obligée de la vie. Mais les membres de la famille qui avaient leurs personnes âgées institutionnalisées, croyait à devenir des personnes âgées perdent leur autonomie et les droits, par conséquent, tenu les personnes âgées en dehors de leur environnement familial, pas la peine de le quitter et le laisser dans une institution. Avez-membres des familles des résidents âgés, même dans un contexte social précaire, ils ont préféré vivre avec eux, qu'ils sont en bonne santé ou non. Les liens d'affection et de solidarité ne sont pas affectés par le contexte de la pauvreté. Ils ont également signalé que l'environnement familial est primordial pour les personnes âgées peuvent apporter au processus de vieillissement moins traumatisante.

**MOTS - CLÉS**: La famille. Personnes âgées. Pauvreté

#### **FUTURO DE LAS FAMILIAS DE VEJEZ Y CONVIVENCIA ANCIANOS**

Este estudio tiene como objetivo marcan la mirada de la familia sobre el envejecimiento y personas mayores en la familia. Este es un estudio descriptivo cualitativo realizado con familiares de ancianos residentes de un hogar de ancianos y residentes de una comunidad carente de João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brasil accedió a participar voluntariamente en el estudio. La investigación de campo incluyó la aplicación de un cuestionario aplicado a 10 miembros de la familia y la observación sistemática. Se observó que todos los miembros de la familia a entender el envejecimiento como una etapa obligatoria de la vida. Pero los miembros de la familia que tenían sus ancianos institucionalizados, que se cree ser mayores que pierden su autonomía y los derechos, por lo tanto, mantuvo la tercera edad fuera de su entorno familiar, sin molestarse en abandonar y dejarlo en una institución. Haga que los miembros de la familia de los ancianos residentes, incluso en un contexto de precariedad social, que preferían vivir con ellos, si están sanos o no. Los lazos de afecto y solidaridad no se ven afectados por el contexto de la pobreza. También informó de que el entorno familiar es crucial para las personas mayores pueden hacer que el proceso de envejecimiento menos traumática.

**PALABRAS - CLAVE**: Familia. Anciano. Pobreza

#### **O OLHAR DAS FAMÍLIAS SOBRE A VELHICE E O CONVÍVIO COM IDOSOS**

Este estudo tem o objetivo de pontuar o olhar dos familiares sobre velhice e idoso no espaço da família. Trata-se de um descritivo, de caráter qualitativo realizado com familiares de idosos moradores de uma Instituição asilar e domiciliados em comunidade carente, na grande João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brasil que aceitaram participar voluntariamente da pesquisa. A pesquisa de campo contou com a aplicação de um questionário aplicado a 10 familiares e da observação assistemática. Observou-se que todos os familiares entendiam o envelhecimento como uma fase obrigatória da vida. Porém, os familiares que tinham seu idoso institucionalizado, acreditavam que se tornar idoso seria perder a autonomia e seus direitos, por esta razão, mantinham o idoso longe de seu convívio familiar, não se importando em deixá-lo e até abandoná-lo em instituição. Já os familiares de idosos domiciliados, mesmo num quadro social precário, preferiam conviver com eles, independente de estarem com saúde ou não. Os laços de afetividade e solidariedade não são afetados pelo quadro de pobreza. Relatam ainda que o ambiente familiar é fundamental para que o idoso consiga tornar o processo de envelhecimento menos traumático.

**PALAVRAS - CHAVES**: Família. Idoso. Pobreza

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