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HUMAN, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS IN GENERATIONAL CHANGE IN PEASANT SYSTEMS IN EASTERN MICHOACÁN, MEXICO

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Abstract: The objective of the work was to identify the human, social and economic factors in the generational change in peasant systems in eastern Michoacán, Mexico. For this, a structured survey was applied through a probabilistic sampling of finite populations with a reliability of 95%; The survey was applied to young people from Epitacio Huerta from 15 to 29 years old and to sheep producers. Data collection and information analysis was performed using descriptive statistics and frequency analysis. The results indicate that in the human factor: the age of the producers was 57.89 ± 7.87 years and in young people 17.59 ± 3.28 years old, schooling of the producers was 3.97 ± 2.32 years old and the young people were 10.26 ± 2.13 years old, experience in sheep production, producers 18.07 ± 11.4 years and young people 7.42 ± 5.57 years, goals in the short, medium and long term 95% of young people continue studying, age at which the producer considers retiring 69.77% of 60-75 years, age to which the producer considers the succession necessary 70.93% between 60-75 years, the producers plan the succession 73% mention that yes, they consider the succession a problem 96% of the producers mentioned no; the social factor: in terms of migration, 58.54% occurs in young people, mainly for their academic training, in the economic factor: the amount of land owned by producers was 5 hectares, young people do not own land, 93 % of the producers mentioned that it was not by inheritance how they obtained their farmland, the age at which they started the activity, 87% of the producers mentioned that at 30 years of age. It is concluded that the three factors are not taken into account in succession planning in this type of system.

Keywords: Generational change, peasant systems, rural youth.

INTRODUCTION

For peasant systems in eastern Michoacán, Mexico, as well as family businesses in urban areas, generational change is of vital importance, since only 50% of family businesses worldwide are managed by the second. generation and by the third generation only 5%. The foregoing reveals the loss of companies for not planning the generational changeover process (SAGARPA and FAO, 2014: 41).

In peasant systems, generational change is one of the main aspects that limits the development and permanence in this type of system, abandonment and a high rate of migration in rural areas in Mexico and especially in Michoacán can be seen. On the other hand, the process of generational change is influenced by some factors such as human, social and economic.

In the case of the human factor, these systems are currently in charge of peasants whose average age is 55 years, this in the medium term will put at risk the efficiency and permanence of these systems, due to the loss of retention, the willingness to innovate and the low productivity of the peasant, all of the above inherent to age, in this regard the FAO and SAGARPA (2014:42), warned that in a period of no more than 10 years there would be problems to maintain the level of production due to the effect of the age of those responsible for the production units, since the decrease in strength and vigor that the human body suffers due to age affects production.

Neira and Guisán (2001:12) mention that primary studies create awareness of the environment and the consequences of the individual's actions, secondary studies increase investment and production per inhabitant, high school and higher education have a direct influence on the proper use of resources and productive efficiency.

On the other hand, Mungaray and Ramírez (2007:52) affirm that the knowledge acquired through experience, in most cases, has a positive effect on the impacts obtained by knowledge through schooling, since said knowledge acquired from experience allows specialization in the productive activities of the production system.

For Robbins and Judge (2009:191), training is aimed at satisfying the needs that production units have to incorporate knowledge, skills and attitudes in the people who work in said production units, as part of the natural process of change, growth and adaptation to new internal and external circumstances to make production more efficient.

As an important part of the performance of the individuals in the production units, it is the motivation since a motivated individual is the one who wants and wishes to participate in a certain and certain way, for the achievement of the objectives and goals in the production units to achieve their efficiency (Ramírez, 2017: 53).

Regarding the social factor in the process of generational change, migration, especially of rural youth, given according to Awumbila et al. (2015:20) in response to the lack of opportunities for professional and personal growth, lack of well-paid employment, this causes, according to Toledo (2009:78), the transfer of assets, specifically land, to be postponed.

Another component of the social factor is the number of children of the owners of the production units in rural areas, since according to Ramírez (2017: 57) this makes it difficult at the time of taking over because there is an area that is divided to the extent that more children are had or more generations relieved.

In the case of economic factors and their effect on generational change, one of the

components is agricultural production activity, since according to Perea et al. (2011:107), Ochoa et al. (2013:65) and Bobadilla et al. (2015: 200), the production units are multi-objective, that is, they have activities that complement the main activity, be it agriculture or livestock, and one complements the other, in order to transform agricultural by-products and fibrous foods into a higher-quality animal product. economic value.

Another component of the economic factor is the age of beginning in the agricultural activity, there are two causes of influence in the generational change, the first according to Dirven (2002:50), that the change occurs between an elderly owner and a middle-aged son. age, the second is when the owners die and the heirs fragment the possessions, including the land, but they are already between 40 and 50 years old. In this scenario, the heirs sell or abandon the land, according to Perrachon and Duarte (2010: 19).

On the other hand and within the same factor, the way in which the holders start the agricultural activity, according to Perrachon (2012:50) the generational change comprises two stages inheritance and succession and the way in which the agricultural activity is commonly started is through inheritance.

The extension of the land is another economic factor that has an effect on the generational change, since according to Galizoni (2002:7) the division of the land makes it difficult for the new production units to maintain satisfactory productive and social conditions to survive, and even the The same author proposes that as a rule it must be prohibited to divide land when inheriting in rural areas, this as a strategy to avoid excessive land fragmentation.

The type of property, another component of the economic factor that has a direct influence on the generational change, since 5.6 million Mexicans are ejidatarios and only

3% are young (18-31 years old) according to what was reported by the Agrarian Attorney (2016).

Due to the influence of the factors described above, the generational change is a gradual, evolutionary and often imperceptible process, made up of several stages, with two very clear and essential processes to carry out this change, which are: the delivery of the inheritance, made up of capital, in which elements of a cultural, social and economic nature intervene, which varies from one region to another and even from one family to another and the transfer of succession, is the legal transfer, is a specific moment in the time, in which ownership of the property is transferred (Perrachon, 2012: 83; Dirven, 2002: 66).

The generational transfer in the agricultural sector is carried out late, at a non-optimal age, in a rapidly changing world and in many cases this change is made only after the death of the parent (Perrachon and Duarte 2010: 17).

The generational change is a vital process to achieve a reactivation of the Mexican rural sector, the inclusion of new generations that introduce innovation, productive and economic force for the development of the Mexican countryside (SAGARPA and FAO, 2014: 41).

Therefore, the objective of identifying the human, social and economic factors in the generational change in peasant systems in eastern Michoacán, Mexico, is proposed.

METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire was applied in the period from October 2016 to February 2017 in the Municipality of Epitacio Huerta, Michoacán Mexico; which is located in the North of the State at a height of 2,450.00 meters above sea level, Latitude: 20.134808-Longitude: 100.293452, located at a distance of 154 km

from the capital of the State "Morelia", has an area of 424.65 Km², which represents 0.72% of the total area of the State, borders to the north with the Municipality of Huimilpan of the State of Querétaro, to the South with the Municipality of Contepec and Maravatío Michoacán, to the East with the Municipality of Amealco of the State of Querétaro and to the West with the Municipality of Coroneo of the State of Guanajuato.

The target population included sheep producers and young people from the Municipality of Epitacio Huerta. For which the population of young people was investigated, the same amounting to 2000 young people INEGI (2016). And 600 sheep producers referenced by the Department of Agricultural Affairs of the Municipality of Epitacio Huerta (2016).

The surveys were elaborated with an exploratory scope, they were carried out with the help of a focus group; which were structured to identify the human, social and economic factors, were validated and later applied to the two population sectors of the Municipality of Epitacio Huerta Michoacán: young people from 15 to 29 years old and producers.

The variables that address the different factors:

- Human factor of the producers are: age, knows how to read and write, level of studies, how they start in agricultural production, how they visualize production and for agricultural productive activities: the generational change is a problem, plan the generational change, age at which he started the agricultural activity, age at which he considers his retirement, age at which he considers the succession necessary.
- Social factor: number of children, migration.
- Economic factor: number of hectares, type of property, complementary activity.

Data collection and analysis, which include the aforementioned study variables, was performed using frequency analysis in the statistical package SPSS® 22.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

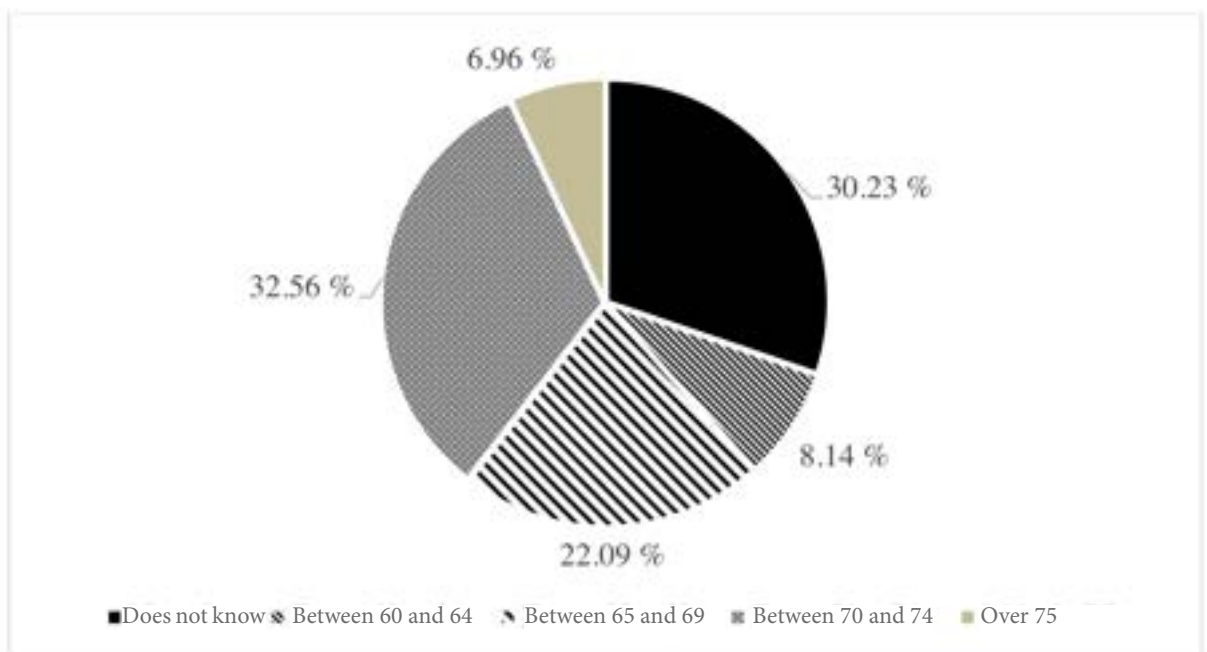
The age 35 years was the average in which the producers took the reins of their own production unit; 40.7% started between 20 and 30 years old, 46.5% from 31 to 40 and 12.8% more than 40 years old.

The age at which the producers consider retiring and carrying out the succession, 70% of them indicate that they are over 60 years old and the other 30% do not know it because they have not considered it (Graph 1).

Dirven (2002: 60) states that the increase in life expectancy, the laws and customs regarding inheritance in the region, cause both the transfer of control of the means of production and the effective ownership of the same. made after the death of the holder. In other words, despite the diversity of customs that exist around inheritance, it is the division

of land once the father dies. This generates two main problems, on the one hand, the excessive division of the land and that the heirs are already in the adult stage with ages around 40 or 50 years in most cases, at the time of inheritance. he finds them, developing outside the property, in another location and another trade, with their family and social networks and customs already adapted to this other reality. This increases the probability that, at the time of inheritance, there will be no successors. To illustrate this situation, refer to the percentage of men between 60 and 65 years of age who remain active in rural areas, this percentage reaches 83% in the region, while for the urban population it is 60%.

Regarding the age of young people, 78.9% were between 15 and 19 years old, 15.1% between 20 and 24 years old and 5.9% between 20 and 25 years old. 100% of young people know how to read and write; 74.8% have upper secondary education, 16.7% have higher education and the rest have primary and secondary education.



Graph 1. Age at which producers think about retiring from the activity 96% of the producers consider that the generational change is not a problem and that 73% of them that this process is planned.

78.83% of young people are not engaged in any livestock activity, only 16.67% are engaged in sheep production, 3.25% in poultry production, 2.85% in bovine production and only 0.41% in pig production. Regarding the agricultural activity carried out by 40.24%, I mention that the production of corn and the rest to no agricultural activity.

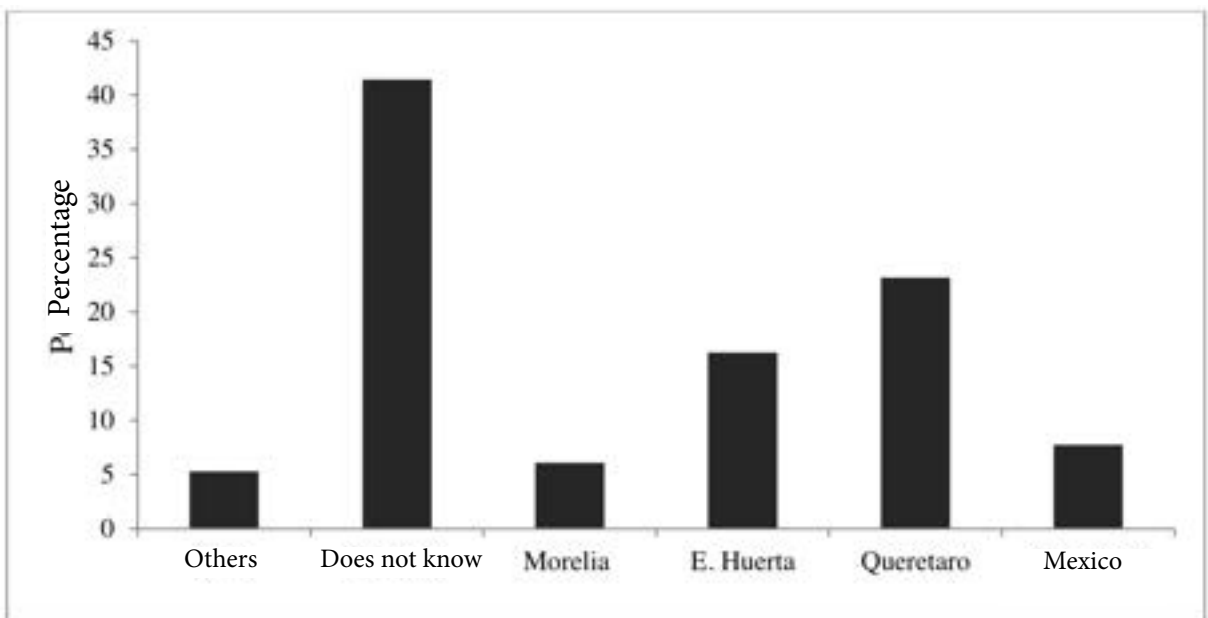
The dreams, plans and future goals of young people in 95% of them is to continue studying with the aim of having higher level studies, of higher level studies they show a preference for pedagogy and information and communication technologies, that are not related to agricultural production.

In how they are visualized in the short, medium and long term; referring to the short term (one year) 80.49% studying, 11.79% working and the rest having completed their higher level studies; as well as married and migrating to a city; in the medium term (5 years), 39.43% still consider continuing to study for a bachelor's degree, 21.54% of them already working, 16.67% finishing their bachelor's degree and 11.79% already having completed higher level studies; the others with

their own business and married. And finally in the long term (10 years), almost half of them in 43.09% working, 23.98% married. Already with their higher level studies completed, 14.63%, 7.32% with their own business, 1.63% do not know it and the rest in other activities.

The place in which they would achieve what was proposed would be in the cities in which 23.2% are included is in the Municipality of Querétaro of the State of Querétaro, 7.7% in Mexico City, 6.1% Morelia, Michoacán and 16.3% in the State of Querétaro. same Municipality to which they belong; 41.5% do not know and the rest mention places like Irapuato, Campeche, Maravatío, among others (Graph 2). On the other hand, young people mention that to achieve it, 35.8% need effort, 28.9% study, 21.1% financial support, work and support from other people.

The dreams, plans and goals of young people indicate that the evaluation of studies as a means to achieve them is a priority in the short, medium and long term, on the other hand, due to the type of higher-level career they choose, it indicates that the medium rural is not an option in which they will find



Graph 2. Place where young people would achieve their goals

a source of employment even when they are interested in the development of their community, coinciding with Avalos (2009), where he indicates that the young sector of the rural environment is characterized by venturing into activities not agricultural, the problem that is glimpsed is how the relief process will take place in agricultural systems and how timely they will be.

As for where the young people would achieve their dreams, plans and goals, very few indicated that in the same municipality, the rest in other places that are mainly cities where the demand for the type of profession they prefer is in demand, the foregoing makes it clear what said by Avalos, (2009), about the relationships between the countryside and the cities, where it is increasingly evident that school and labor migration are some of the factors that are producing changes in the rural sector of Mexico, the According to the same author, changes have been reflected in the adoption of modernizing ideas and that leads to a consumption of urban cultural symbols and the generation of life expectancies that past generations did not have. On the other hand, authors such as Muñoz (2014), indicate that rural youth remain in places outside their towns to exercise their studies, this coincides with what was stated by the youth of Epitacio Huerta, Michoacán.

Dirven (2002: 64) affirms that rural areas face continuous emigration, especially of their young population and with more education, and also a growing occupation of young people with more education in non-agricultural rural activities, it does so not because it is their preferred option, but because there are significant barriers to their insertion in both the productive and social life of their rural communities.

In terms of what young people require to achieve their dreams, plans and goals,

most are clear that it requires their own effort and work. According to Rangel (2006: 174), the rural environment has different characteristics from the urban environment and one of them is that the Rural education is much broader than the idea of school in the urban environment, since the school is not the only task of children and young people, nor is the school the only educational agency, since the home, the workplace and the community itself and its recreational, cultural and social activities, everything acts on people, which is why young people are clear that with effort, study, work and support they will get ahead.

Rural youth are the most likely to migrate in response to a lack of well-paid employment and opportunities for professional and personal growth. For this reason, youth leave rural areas for urban areas in search of employment in sectors other than agriculture (Ginsburg et al., 2014; Awumbila et al., 2015: 40). There is a positive correlation between the postponement of the transfer of assets, specifically land, to the younger generations, with selective emigration in terms of age and sex (Toledo, 2009: 77).

Rural youth in search of opportunities for their development migrate mainly to the cities in search of having access to upper secondary and higher level studies of a profession that allow them to have better access to both services and income; However, in most cases, these young people remain in places outside their towns in order to carry out their studies, which causes this union to become even more disassociated, allowing a successful relay to be carried out in the production units (Toledo 2009: 77 ; Deshingkar and Grimm, 2005: 70). The unequal distribution by sex of the rural population shows that women are the ones who mainly migrate. This can basically be explained by two reasons: the lower demand for female labor for agricultural tasks and the

location of study centers, mainly secondary and tertiary training, in the cities (Toledo, 2009: 78).

The migration of young people to other places influences the fact that at the time the handover is wanted, there are no people to carry out such a process, so that preparation and planning is necessary to allow the next managers of the unit of production visualize its development and roots in its place of origin.

CONCLUSIONS

The generational change in Eпитacio Huerta, in terms of the human factor, is that the change takes place when the children are on average between 30 and 40 years old; the social factor young people migrate first for their academic training and then to work; and the effect on the economic factor is the fragmentation of farmland that makes it unsustainable for a family. This indicates that the three factors are not taken into account in succession planning in this type of system.

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