

The Poverty Levels, Social Policy and Employment in Mexico (2015)



Social Science

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the case of research on the problem of poverty in Mexico face a complex context of social reality of work and in which the term identifying the shortage falls. To do this, different national statistical period comprising n since 2000-2014, within which highlights the employment factor as a determinant driving analyzed. Generating results in the case of the integration of elements that have contributed to increased shortage in Mexico and their counterparts in Latin America; reaching the conclusion that the problem of poverty is generated in the middle of conditions of instability and lack of promotion to conditions of employment stability.

I. INTRODUCTION: UNDERSTANDING POVERTY AND WELFARE

The reality that faces who studies and analyzes poverty as a concept of scarcity, which aims to consider the contributions of A. Sen who has conceptualized poverty from the Social Welfare Studies (BWS) and related the situation of precariousness and limiting conditions to consume goods and services; derived from the limited ability to generate exchanges.

According to Sen, A. (2000) the BWS, is a function of the ability of a society to develop and lead a rich and fruitful life; aligned to the conditions of consumption goods that represent the care prioritized needs to address. Making the BWS in a term, to reduce the probability of suffering and any risk that violates the individual in his social context is attributed.

therefore, the level of current BWS in a society-analyzed from the perspective of Sen A. (1980) - not only known by the consumption of goods achieved; but also by all the tangible and intangible possession and for recognizing the potential or capabilities achieved in time resources. Therefore, an intrinsic relationship between the BS and the ability to achieve through the freedoms conferred and recognized is argued

According to the Human Development Report (2004) reported by INEGI (2015), the basic objective of BS is to reflect the degree of development of human freedoms reflected in consumption processes. That is, it is equivalent to the study of the kind of life achieved from minimum resources as a means of exchange, which in its absence represent a poverty situation. As the use of the HDI can identify and recognize the individual abilities in the population to establish possible relationships, as consumer purchasing alternatives that favor the attention of representing welfare-resources.

The Human Development Index (HDI) shows the ability of people to choose the kind of life they want in the middle of the recognized and granted freedoms; and in general, how to better exploit the freedoms converted into possibilities of exchange.

For Sen (1999), the HDI can be viewed as a process of expanding of materializes freedoms when generated as a result the level of BWS. However, the study of poverty refers to the degree of gaps in the population, through the existing set of resources to address them, from an economic and institutional vision in particular contexts. Therefore, any study conducted on poverty, respond to certain questions from conceptual bases that relate to the level of deficiencies in the level of freedoms obtained and exploited by product generated a level of perceived BWS in a community.

The poverty measurement means measuring the level of BS in

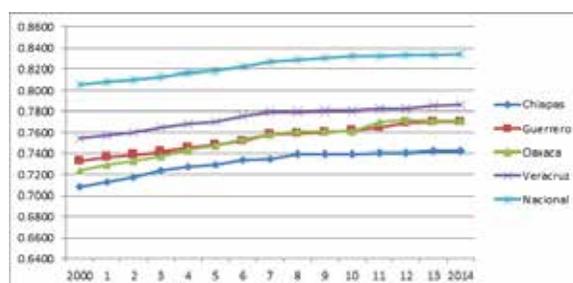
the population from a one-dimensional sense as it turns quantify income and thereafter the number of needy with objective results and comparisons between similar environments..

II. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO

According to the *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP), the basic objective of development is to enlarge human freedoms in a process where they can expand personal skills all while expanding the choices available to people to live a full life and creative "(UNDP, 2004, 127).

Therefore, UNDP has identified the context of Municipalities and the Human Development Index (HDI) reached. In 2010, Mexico is classified as a country of high human development with an HDI of 0.739. At the state level, on the one hand, the Federal District (0831), Nuevo Leon (0.790) and Baja California Sur (0785) are the entities with the highest level of development. On the other hand, Chiapas (0647), Oaxaca (0666) and Guerrero (0673) are located in the last three positions of national law. The difference between extremes indicates that the Federal District obtains an HDI 28.4% higher than that of Chiapas (UNDP, 2012). See Graph # 1.

Graph # 1
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN SOME REGIONS IN MEXICO



Source: Authors' calculations based on INEGI data (respective years)

Given the above, the concept of human development mean that entities consider where further progress is achieved in the field of human factor is due to the way they exploit the available alternatives.

Studies of Sen A. (1999) y (2000) relate a term related to human development through freedom and its effect on the social context. Where the assets achieved level of development is conceived as the sum of the freedoms recognized for their authority and assessed by the citizen. That is, part of the idea of satisfactions as evidence of progress made by individuals, amid supply

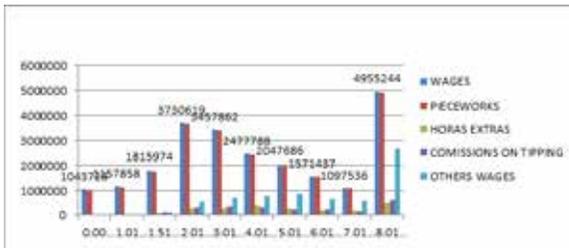
levels socially acceptable and essential resources to lead a life according to the conditions prevailing social reality.

However, the vision of economic philosophy, argues that human development is achieved through goods that pursue the development of societies as a whole. This applies to studies by the Economic Commission for Latin America Committee and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in 2007, with reference to the results of the *International Labour Organization* (ILO, 2003) showed that unemployment and causes They generate it, such as poor education among the population and the limited capacity to provide universal social services-were the main cause of poverty and inequality and causing low HDI in Latin America.

The Graph No. 2, shows the case of poverty among the working population or on their own. And we realize that poverty levels are highest among self-employed with unpaid family workers; among salaried workers.

But addressing the root causes of poverty, it involves considering some conditions related to job insecurity and increased levels of population in poverty. The lack of dynamism in productive activities that relate to the independent productivity, lack of productivity in some sectors such as agriculture and services, could be the causes of increasing poverty levels among the population¹.

This is the case of horizontal cutting labor policies that benefit the stability of employment and social schemes are security, in order to reduce chances of social vulnerability. According to Figure No. 2, the total population in extreme poverty is working over conditions that are independent and unpaid family.



Graph # 2
COMPOSITION OF THE MAIN SOURCES OF REVENUE MULTIPLES GENERAL MINIMUM WAGE

Source: Authors' calculations based on INEGI data (respective years)

According to the above, poverty is due to conditions of economic and social reality, where there is a lack of policy instruments to ensure new forms of organization and strengthening of the capacities of the economically weakest in economic structures groups. This is the case of the conditions prevailing in Latin America where the income gap between those who earn the least and most manage to reach the order of 400 times in countries like Brazil, Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

III. THE WELFARE STATE AS CONSECUTOR: PRONASOL (1988) *Prospera* (2014)

In the early eighteenth century the state is conceptualized from achieving welfare, and as a means by which the social development of peoples would be achieved. So we seek to realize the idea of democracy in the context of the overall political Catholicism So from this conception is not difficult to go to welfares, as a doctrine that happiness with material sensitive to consume

welfare experiences.

III.1 PRONASOL-OPORTUNIDADES

In Mexico, the vision of a state with democratic foundation has set precedents in building a more just and egalitarian society. Thus, for Ordóñez (2002) between 1988 and 1994, the National Solidarity (PRONASOL) program quickly grew to be a complex set of subprograms, grouped under three main headings: social welfare, production and regional development. The program budget rose from 1,640 million in 1989 to 9,233,000 pesos in 1994 to represent 0.65% of GDP in the last year (Federal Executive Branch, 1994). And although *Pronasol* was not the only social spending Salinas era; social spending increased from 6.1 to 9.1% of GDP during his presidential term, with significant increases in the areas of health and education.

According to González M. (2012) Social Program *Progres* (1997) – *Oportunidades* (2002) was a program redistributive focus and attention to the problem of poverty. Initially based on the analysis of the condition of improving income among vulnerable populations, this strategy would be subject to ongoing evaluation by CONEVAL, with the possibility that the Federal Government external agencies assess the results on poverty in Mexico (Art. 81-82, LGDS).

The operation of *Oportunidades* like a social program intersectional, involved to the Ministry of Public Education (SEP), the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) and the Ministry of Health (SS), in the same institutional program. By this means, it is ensured that the population identified in poverty, will have minimum basic services and guaranteed way on health and basic education.

So, *Oportunidades* -through the National Coordination- should notify the agencies, the number of active families under the goal of care and the number of trainees, the degree school and the amounts allocated to men and women, in order, that the sectors of health and education to determine their expenditure forecasts, and the scope of their responsibilities. (*Reglas de operación y mecanismos de asignación de gasto para el programa Oportunidades*).

III.2 PROSPERA: SOCIAL PROGRAM TO REALITY OF EMPLOYMENT IN MEXICO

Prospera, in charge of the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) and made official in 2013, seeks to articulate and coordinate the institutional offer of programs and actions of social policy. E includes productive development strategies, and income generation, and economic well-being through financial and labor sectors including social exclusion provided education, food and health, aimed at the population in extreme poverty.

In this sense until 2012 Mexicans were living in extreme poverty totaled 11.5 million, according to the latest data from the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL).

According to the data of the Technical Annex of the Third Report of Government, published by the Office of the President, in 2014 about 42.5% of Mexicans were in a situation of food insecurity. While in the year 2102, 41.3% of the population was in this condition, the above data shows that poverty was on the rise. In other words, social policy had failed to reduce the level of social deprivation among the population in poverty.

Similarly, in 2014, the percentage of the population living in multidimensional poverty and lack of access to food remained at 17.1%, as in 2012. The same happened with the people in multidimensional poverty educational backwardness: remained at 12.9%; while lack of access to quality housing remained in 21.2%,

and the lack of access to social security fell by just 0.1%.

Thus, according to INEGI (2001-2014), 42.4% of the indigenous population receives insufficient income for the minimum to survive goods; one in three in the country have no access to food as it should, and six in ten had no access to basic services in the home.

As for young people, in 2014 53% of them received an income below the wellbeing -3% more than in 2012, while one in three reported having been victims of a crime and one in five lacked access to health services.

The instability observed in employment during this period showed a lack of capacity to meet the needs of the Mexican order of the elemental. Also, they hamper the effectiveness of current social policy development in Mexico from the regional context, which has registered the level of development based on actual conditions and productive organization.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

According to the conditions presented, poverty in Mexico has remained. The development of conditions that threaten and violate the social condition of the population has remained. And with that, the level of organization within the means of production that favor maintaining existing wealth and poverty in Mexico.

While Mexico's social policy has been maintained since 2002 by *Oportunidades* and from 2012 to Prosper program, the set of factors that complicate the reduction of poverty has worsened. In a sense, the levels of economic organization, preventing strengthen the productive capacity of the least revenue achieved. The main sources of income of the population continue to be obtained by the work; while lower income *deciles* that fail derive most of their resources in this way.

So, as the work by the level of salaries and wages a reference income level, it is important to improve the conditions in which employment is achieved, as the primary means of organization, production and income generation among the population.

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