

AN EVALUATION ON THE CONCEPTS OF GLOBALIZATION AND OLD AGE

KÜRESELLEŞME VE YAŞLILIK KAVRAMLARI ÜZERİNE BİR DEĞERLENDİRME

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ABSTRACT

Although the concept of globalization, which has been used frequently since the 1980s, is considered as an economic process, it can not be overlooked that the social and cultural dimensions of globalization are also present. Globalization is a process that affects the whole world, especially the effects on developing countries are felt more intensely. Globalization in particular has an intense effect on the social structure. Neo-liberal policies have been influential in the increase of these effects in recent years, showing their effect all over the world. The collapse of the nation states led to the emergence of the aftermath of the end, leading to significant developments in the field of communication and transport, resulting in increased social and cultural influences. The negative effects of globalization are influenced by the elderly as well as by the whole society. Today, the average life span increases with the technological developments and the progressive type, with the decreasing birth rates and the proportion of the elderly in the total population is also increasing. Although old age appears as an individual problem area, it is actually a social problem area. Along with the increase in the elderly population in the society, many economic, cultural and sociological problems also arise.

Keywords: Globalization, Old Age, Aging

ÖZ

1980'lerden beri sıkça kullanılan küreselleşme kavramı ekonomik bir süreç olarak görülse de, küreselleşmenin sosyal ve kültürel boyutlarının da mevcut olduğu göz ardı edilemez. Küreselleşme tüm dünyayı etkileyen bir süreçtir, özellikle gelişmekte olan ülkeler üzerindeki etkiler daha yoğun hissedilir. Özellikle küreselleşmenin sosyal yapı üzerinde yoğun bir etkisi vardır. Neo-liberal politikalar son yıllarda bu etkilerin artmasında etkili olmuş ve tüm dünyada etkisini göstermiştir. Ulus devletlerin çöküşü, sonuncunun ortaya çıkmasına yol açmış, iletişim ve ulaşım alanında önemli gelişmelere yol açmış, sosyal ve kültürel etkilerin artmasına neden olmuştur. Küreselleşmenin olumsuz etkileri hem yaşlılar hem de tüm toplum tarafından. Günümüzde ortalama yaşam süresi teknolojik gelişmeler ve ilerleyen tiplerle artmakta, azalan doğum oranları ve toplam nüfus içindeki yaşlıların oranı da artmaktadır. Yaşlılık bireysel bir sorun alanı olarak görünse de, aslında sosyal bir sorun alanıdır. Toplumdaki yaşlı nüfusun artmasıyla birlikte birçok ekonomik, kültürel ve sosyolojik problem de ortaya çıkmaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Küreselleşme, Yaşlı, Yaşlanma

1. CONCEPT OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization can be described as a process in which nation states begin to dissolve and people begin to resemble each other, global cultures emerging instead of their own, emerging from the borders, and the world becoming smaller and becoming a whole (Kalınkaya, 2011). Economic distances between societies are rapidly increasing, although the physical distance between people with globalization decreases and people begin to resemble each other.

Globalizing markets have affected many aspects of modern life, including the depletion of everyday life and the domination of nation states by erosion, the increase of social polarization and cultural homogeneity, consumption (Fry, 2008). Globalization can be defined as a process that has cultural, communication, technological, psychological and economic dimensions in people's lives (Sewpaul, 2006).

Globalization has profoundly influenced the 21st century social life, including trade, economy, food, music, sports, work and education. Globalization just society, family life and not on the individual but also economic change, there is also the effect on the political and cultural (Mwangi and others, 2012).

Palm (2005) explains the concept of globalization in the following way.

- ✓ Globalization can be defined as the integration of trade, culture and political spheres.
- ✓ Globalization can be defined as a global network of economic activities on society, economy, politics and culture.
- ✓ There are some social, political, economic and technological reasons and practices of globalization.

Globalization, the growth of the money and capital flows between countries, the changing role of the state, the increase in migratory movements of individuals, has led to the development and the results of the growth of international organizations. Globalization is often associated with the growing power of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This has provided an important role for entrepreneurs in developing countries in the global marketplace by lending and promoting open market activities (Trask, 2011).

Globalization is the process of increased interaction and mutual commitment between distant nations, societies, and economies. Globalization is not only the expansion of border trade and communication, but also all over the world to spread cultural awareness among consumers is. The first stage of globalization is to reject the boundaries of social, economic, and political activities (Vongpraseuth and Choib, 2015). Alper (2012) globalization rapid economic growth after II. World War and the neo-liberal economic policies that took place after the 1970s defined the process as the process of increasing the economic integration movements that took place as a result.

Today, the states have become unable to act in isolation from each other under the influence of globalization. It takes a lot of time for the developments in one end of the world to reach the other end. Cebeci (2008) explained 3 factors that threaten nation-state sovereignty as follows. Multinational corporations, international organizations and global non-profit organisation.

Significant increases have occurred in the research on the frequency and use of the concept of globalization, especially after the 1980s. In 1981, it was only used twice, but by 2001 it had risen to 57,235. With the widespread use of globalization, new concepts of 'global' expression have emerged. Global world, global relations, global politics, global economy, global capital, global forces, global media and global warming (Kızılçelik, 2012).

2. CONCEPTS OF OLD AGE AND AGING

In the past centuries, wars, famines and diseases have caused very few people to reach older ages. In some periods, elderly people are considered to be 40 years old, and according to WHO, people over 65 years old are considered to be elderly. Over time, the end of the wars, the prevention of epidemics and the developments in technology have begun to prolong human life. As a result of the increase in the number of elderly people in society, people have begun to encounter problems in old age and studies about aging have begun.

Old age is a period in which one's ability to adapt to the environment diminishes and changes in organisms begin (Güleç ve Tekbaş, 1997). Aging varies from one society to another, from one period to another. Briefly, aging can be defined as the reduction of the physical, psychological and social functions of a person. Aging is a process that starts with birth.

When we look at definitions related to old age, negative expressions are often used in spite of differentiation over time. It is seen as a period in which various illnesses begin, slowly begun to break away, the moment of forgetfulness increases, and the beginning of decadence and decadence. However, contrary to this belief, elderly people in eastern societies are regarded as people who should benefit from their wisdom and experience.

Decrease in birth rates is a global phenomenon and is closely associated with economic development (Walker, 2002). The whole world, especially in the developed countries, has entered the trend of aging. In developed countries, low birth rates and high age ratios can be regarded as a sign of undeveloped countries.

Although old age is accepted as a biological process, the social, psychological and economic dimensions of

old age can not be denied. The fact that aging is not just a biological process is closely related to the development status of the countries. In a country the measure of the quality of life of the elderly can be measured by the value society gives them and social policies. Policies that are carried out before the economic and social problems faced by the elderly, especially during their retirement periods, take an important place.

It is a natural period of life in old age such as infancy, childhood and adulthood. Many changes in physiology and psychology occur in old age as it is in every period of human being. Aging is handled in different dimensions in the researches carried out. Although aging has many dimensions, 5 types are generally mentioned without aging. Doğan (2007) explains the definition of aging as follows.

Chronological Aging: It is aged from the birth of a person to the time of its existence.

- ✓ **Biological Aging:** Body age. It is the change in the physiology of the individual depending on the health condition, the environmental conditions, and the time.
- ✓ **Psychological Aging:** It is more prominent in learning, memorizing and emotional areas. The individual's ability to adapt to behavior is dependent changes.
- ✓ **Social Aging:** The social behavior, the social position, and the social role of the individual in the flow of time.
- ✓ **Economic aging:** The change in the lifestyle of the elderly with the influence of changes in monetary conditions.

There are some changes in physiological, psychological and social characteristics of the coexistence of old age. Sevil (2005) stated the characteristics that can be observed in different dimensions during the aging period as follows.

- a. **Physiological characteristics:** Decreased in some organs, regression in mental activity, increased sensitivity to the environment, weakening of sense organs, loss of power and failure.
- b. **Psychological characteristics:** Decreases in sputum, decreased self-esteem, fear of loneliness, fear of disease and death, despair, shyness;
- c. **Social characteristics:** The role and status change, loss of authority, problems with family, need for others' help, being a consumer, being producers and beneficiaries, and being friends and friends can not be found.

Scientific and technological developments in the twentieth century have manifested themselves in the demographic change of the social scene. Advances in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases have resulted in the development of preventive health services, the reduction of the deadly effects of diseases and thus the longevity of human life. In addition, despite the decline in infant mortality, the decline in birth rates has led to a declining rate of young people and an aging population. The aging of the population is defined as the increase in the number and proportion of the elderly population with respect to the young population (Aksözer, Nuhurat, Say, 2011).

The aging of the population, defined as the increase in the proportion of citizens over 65 years of age in the total population, is grouped as follows in the World Health Organization.

- a. 65-74 age group younger
- b. 75-84 age group elderly
- c. Over 85 years old.

Aging, which is not only a biological condition, is also a social condition at the same time. The aging of the individuals is beginning to age in society as a result. Societies are classified into four groups in terms of elderly population.

- ✓ **Young societies:** Societies over 65 years of age with a population less than 4%.
- ✓ **Mature / Adult Societies:** Societies with a population of 4-7% over 65 years of age.
- ✓ **Older societies:** Societies over 65 years of age and over 7-10% of the population.
- ✓ **Very old societies:** Societies over 65 years of age with a population rate of over 10%.

The decrease in the number of individuals producing and the increase in the number of individuals consuming without producing leads to serious problems in the economic balances in the countries. To emphasize that people should not be passive when they enter the old age period, the World Health Organization has brought the term 'active aging' to the fore. Active aging can be described briefly as activities aimed at increasing life expectancy, productivity and quality of life for the well-being of individuals (Çetin, 2002).

The whole world is aging fast. In 2004, the proportion of people over 65 years of age in the world was around 10%, which is estimated to increase to 16% in 2050. By the end of 2014, Turkey reached 8% of the elderly population and was included in the elderly community group from the adult community group. It is expected to be a very old society in a few years. This situation is expected to bring many health, economic and social problems together.

Serban (2012) notes that the trend of demographic change is expected to have two effects on countries' economies in the coming years.

- a) Direct effects: on the quality and size of employment, capital / labor ratio and technical progress.
- b) Indirect effects: effects on the overall economy and the budget.

In short, the beginning of the aging of the population is not an area where it does not show any effect in the countries.

3. GLOBALIZATION AND AGING

Although global aging is regarded as a triumph of medical, social and economic progress, it also presents enormous challenges in many parts of the world. The aging of the population has led to difficulties in the traditional social support models given by the families and an extra burden on pension systems and social insurance. It is indisputable that global aging will have a significant impact on global, local and regional economies. The increasing influence of globalization causes unequal situations to emerge on the lives of elderly people in different states (Powell and Leedham, 2009).

The biggest impact of globalization on old age has been on social policy. With the influence of Neo-liberal policies, the states have started to restrict their role in social assistance and social service areas and to transfer their role to other institutions. The budgets allocated to social services have begun to be spent on other expenses, especially in social services, changes in the definition of service providers, service providers, need persons and diversification of services provided.

Globalization is an economic and political phenomenon that will change and change the lives of all people in the world (Fry, 2008). As witnessing the widespread economic, political and technological transformations of globalization, we need to consider basic and responsive policies for family welfare. The positive effects of globalization on older people, however, are mainly negative effects. The most important of these is the redistribution of the economy. The share of elderly people in the distribution of economic resources increases with the increase of the elderly population. Along with the tendency of aging all over the world, this is happening at different rates in every country. In developed countries, the proportion of people over 65 years of age in the total population is 13-20%, while in underdeveloped countries this rate is still below 10%.

With the proliferation of neo-liberal policies, states are slowly starting to withdraw from health, education and social services, and are on the path of supporting the private sector for the vacated areas. Individual pension and sickness insurance services are a clear indication that states are thinking of pulling themselves out of social security practices. As a result of the spread of the free market model, the economic differences between people have increased and the effects of class differences have increased. The minimum level of life that the social state has provided to its citizens has begun to diminish and even disappear, due to neo-liberal policies. Despite its influence, it is not right to show globalization as the sole cause of the end-of-life of the welfare state.

One of the influences of globalization on aging is about social welfare practices. Phillipson (2009) stated in general terms that social welfare aims to develop new and different ways to address radical changes for the elderly, and that post-industrial societies offer opportunities for improving the lives of older people, as well as dilemmas and risks.

In the labor market, the influence of the aging trend increases the pressure on education, social and health insurance and creates negative effects on labor volume. Although short-term positive effects such as

education, reduction in prenatal and postnatal care costs are expected, results such as an increase in the proportion of elderly dependents in long walks are expected (Serban, 2012).

The status of the elderly individual is shaped by society's culture, tradition, custom and social policy. The position of elderly people in some western societies differs according to eastern societies. For example, Switzerland and Japan are different countries in terms of culture, and in Switzerland only 7% of the elderly live with their children, compared with 65% in Japan (Wisensale, 2008).

The EU has five basic policies for the aging population: the provision of economic security in old age; fighting social exclusion caused by age discrimination, ensuring intergenerational solidarity, providing long-term care in the context of changes in family and residence structures, and ensuring the participation of older people as full citizens (Walker, 2002).

The aging of the population and globalization are also positive, causing negative situations. The aging of the population on the one hand represents the public health and progress in medicine. However, growing pensions and health costs make the states difficult (Browne and Braun, 2008). Along with globalization, socio-economic problems have increased rapidly especially in developing countries. As a result of the government's efforts to reduce social spending, one of the most affected is the poor. Therefore, the elderly individuals who are in a serious decrease in their incomes due to retirement are affected by this situation. Although elderly people are in a state of reduced income during their retirement period, there is an increase in their expenditures. Especially when the diseases originating from old age start to show up, the long treatment costs and the high costs make up a large part of the costs of the elderly people.

Despite the great changes that have been made by globalization and other macro social forces, families have maintained their central position in the societies. The family, considered as the main social unit and institution, fulfills many functions, including reproduction of members and societies, socialization of children, economic support and care (Sheppard, 2009). Changes have begun to take place in quite a few family structures where people live long and have fewer children. In this case, families with many jobs when they are added to young people who migrate to big cities for various reasons are quite affected in this case.

One of the effects of globalization on society has been on family life. Changes in the roles of the families came to fruition, and the families turned into 'consumption' units. One of the goals of globalization in this transformation is the effect of uniformization (Çoban and Özbesler, 2009). Families have turned into a core family structure consisting of parents and children. The family members most affected by this transformation are the elderly. Along with the transition from large families to the core family structure, traditional family protection has been abandoned. Individuals who can meet their own needs have to stay in their own homes and those who need care should stay under institutional care (Sevil, 2005).

With the rapid change of demographic change, health and pensions will increase. Taking salary out of economic activities causes an increasing burden on the state budget day by day. With the aging of the population, the obligation to revise social security systems has emerged. Premiums received from employees are not able to cover the increased health costs of retired citizens, retirement allowances and pensions. The average has led to an increase in the age of retirement as well as a prolongation of the life of the human being, and in the near future a reduction in retirement salaries and a complete cut in expectation. For this reason, the private pension system has recently been seriously supported by the state and is expected to save people.

4. INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION

It has not begun to be seen as a problem of aging many years ago and it is not only a problem of the developed countries but also a problem in the developing countries. The rapid development of health technology, the same rate of decline in fertility rates, has led to a decline in the proportion of young population and an ever-increasing proportion of the elderly population within the total population. This change is not only an effect on the individual, but also on society and politics.

Although globalization seems to be an economic concept, it affects many social problems such as poverty, unemployment, street children, guilt, homelessness and migration. Globalization is a product and part of urbanization. It is also a result of changes in transportation, communication and technology. Globalization shows its influence on aging on social policies intensively. Along with globalization, social welfare state has been removed from its practices and attempts to be incorporated into the system of civil society organizations. At the same time, the process of globalization shows the influence of elderly individuals on issues such as health, family, working life and social participation.

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