



OLDER PEOPLE IN SENEGAL: BEYOND FAMILIAL ACCEPTABILITY...

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Presentation Outline

- Context
- Questions
- Objectives
- Methods
- Résultats

To be old in Sénégal: temporal Perception of elderly

- Importance of families and religious life of elderly in social representation
- ✓ Elderly, a social recognition (respect and wisdom)
- ✓ Elderly, a qualitative time (of rest)
- ✓ Elderly , holy time of praying

Questions

- ✓ How to appreciate the place of older people in society where they are always song in different ways?
- ✓ How are they reacted to improve their living conditions in households?

Objectives

- Focus on times of elderly from Intergenerational relationships (young, women and elders (to)
- Contribute to focus on certain aspects of older peoples vulnerability in households (perceptions and living experiences)

Hypothesis

Misunderstanding existing between children and parents reflects a time gap on ways to deal with old age.

Methods

A time approach and qualitative methods

- 3 main points (indicators)
- Interview databases cross-referenced by geriatric specialists and households
- Interviews crossed with parents and children (everytime living together or recohabitants)

Résultats



Social isolation of older people in Households with relevant disparities and social inequalities on different areas which contribute to crystallizing intergenerational conflicts between children and parents who share distinct time systems where age and class differences are combined.

1. Time of recohabitation parent-children

« *My parents, my standing and I* »

- ✓ A time gap between children economic situation and parents social position

Ex: Children settle parents in a comfortable house, when these one want to stay in their own house.

« Working, always working or stop working... »



Importance of professional occupation for older people, a problem of intergenerational perception

Children think that getting retired does not lead to employment, when parents express a real need to be employed day by day, and not only for economic reasons.

Time to Health care access

« We can not still be when we were »

- ✓ Time gap on time to take meals with the rest of HH members. However old people need specific food on specific time
- ✓ Non accordance between family, domestic and professional time to old people
- ✓ The power of helper (relationship between daughters in law and mother-in-law, women housekeeping, etc.)
- ✓ Intergenerational choice on health between little sons and grands parents (who's one to heal?)
- ✓ Less involvement of family as long as the informal care take time

Older people and strategies

- ✓ Older people return to productivity in order to avoid « social empty »
- ✓ The old use social and economic resources of their children to preserve their social position
- ✓ Older people go to social networks outside their households

Conclusion

- Older people without resources (incomes, children, social networks) are exposed to social isolation and infantilization in households, no matter their age.
- Gender inequality / in urban and rural area are hidden by family configurations and social remittances
- Elders caring for their families: an intergenerational debate :
 - ▣ How long will older people still resist social isolation in households?
 - ▣ However could families take care of them more time alone ?