

IMMIGRATION AND SOCIETAL POSITION OF THE AGED PEOPLE A STUDY IN ANKARA AGED INFORMATION CENTER

Aylık Görgün BARAN*

INTRODUCTION

Immigration is a fact indicating the dynamism of the social system. This dynamism, together with the locational change of the individuals or groups, also brings a social mobility along. In this case, the social system provides the possibility for the individuals' to behave actively. The individuals' activities are provided by their effort to achieve their instincts at the optimum level. Therefore, the individuals live geographical mobility by changing their locations. Thus, the locational change increases the numbers of opportunities which could be used by the individuals and allows them to live the occupational and social mobilities. So, both individuals and social system are effected by these activities. Thus, it is seen that there are individual and system aspects of the immigration incident (Tekell and Erder 1978:17).

Since 18th century, the immigration from rural areas to the city has created several problems. One of the problems relates to the old age. However, the effect of the immigration on the old age is indirect. The realization of the immigration due to the different reasons has also led to the conception of the old age as a problem.

Besides the indirect effect of the immigration on the old age, the developments in medical technology and treatment methods have increased the life expectancy of the individual. Since 1900, the aged person whose number kept increasing in the industrialized countries has brought a social problem along. The aged person has not been considered as a social problem previously. Because, the aged person in our time lives longer than before. Therefore, the old age is accepted as a social problem due to the increase of the life expectancy in our time (Loether 1967:3).

(*) Assoc. Prof. Dr., H.Ü. Sociology Dept. Lecturer

It is difficult to state common opinion regarding the description of the old age. But, experts have a consensus agree about the progression of the chronological age. Because, there is a decrease in the ability and potential while the change in the physical and psychological structures of the human takes place depending on the chronological age. In this respect, Bilren (Karataş 1986:10-12) considers chronological progression with its biological, psychological and social aspects. While the biological aspect covers the physical changes, the psychological aspect covers the changes in the capacity of orientation field of memory power of the individual such as conception, learning, problem solving and the personality traits gaining. Sociological old age is the evaluations developed by the society according to its norms and values.

Physical aging is the natural process of the human life. But, social aging does not mean the early stage of the physical aging. Because, the societal aging is related to both evaluation of the society and the emotions of the individual. Therefore, the old age in the sociological sense is the description of the conditions in which the individual takes the messages relating to his aging due to the inability to perform his social roles in the society (Field 1972:15-16).

In that case, the old age and the meanings related to the aging change depending on a certain location and time. For instance, in the communities of pre-writing age is perceived as the period of poverty and decline. The aged person has superior position in the communities before the urbanization and industrialization (traditional communities) and is not seen as a problem. In old Greek, Rome and China it is emphasized that the old ages have authority and power in the society. In many communities the experience has been considered as an advantage for the aged individual. In the old Chinese and Japanese communities, the "respect the aged" develops as a behaviour pattern in the culture. A connection between the aging and the increase of the prestige of the aged individual is made. The aging which means the experience and knowledge accumulation represents the social authority. Thus, the aged individual is respected (Emiroğlu 1995:33).

In advanced, industrialized communities, on the contrary to the traditional communities, it is largely believed that the status of the old age is very low. Because, geographical mobility and the rate of nuclear family is high in the industrialized communities in comparison with

the traditional communities. Therefore, it is claimed that the old age status is low in nuclear family. Thus, it is thought that there is an inverse relation between the aged status and modernization (Emiroğlu 1995:33).

In Turkey, general thought about aged person and the old age shows a gradual tendency to change even though it still keeps its traditional understanding. However, the conditions of the contemporary urban life lead to problems in the care of the aged people. In this sense, it is observed in Turkey that there is a certain change in the traditional behaviour concerning the care of the aged person. Furthermore, the population rate of the aged person is gradually increasing in the rural area where the immigration takes place. This situation gives the message that the problem of the old age would also be recognized in the rural area on an important scale in the coming years. In Turkey the population rate of age 65 and over is around 5% according to the projections of 1995. This rate reaches to 12% in North America and 14% in the European countries. Whereas, this rate is 3% in African countries, 5% in Asian countries (Atken 1995:14). 10,056 aged people are accommodated in 93 institutions attached to the T.R. Prime Ministry Social Services and Children Protection Institute (SHÇEK, 1995). Moreover, one each of "The Aged People Information Center" is established in Ankara and Izmir. The organizations for the aged people in the urban area are inadequate. Because, the old age is not considered as a problem yet. But, the old age should also be considered as a problem now and accordingly, the plans and policies should be developed in this connection.

1. THE IMPORTANCE AND AIM OF THE SUBJECT

The research titled as "Immigration and Societal Position of the Aged People" includes the subjects of the urban life of the aged people immigrated to the city (Ankara), the loss on their status and roles depending on their pensions, acquiring new roles and the interactions of these variations within the family.

Contrary to the advanced industrial countries, the population rate of age 65 and over is low in Turkey (5%). Therefore, the old age is not considered as a big problem. Because, this incidence is tried to be analyzed within the kinship system traditionally. But it would not mean that there could be no problem because of the lower rate of

population of the aged people. The rapid increase of the population, the immigration from rural area to the city, the decrease in the family structure, the participation of the woman in the work life and heavy conditions of the urban life create problems in looking after the aged people in the city. Therefore, the numbers of formal organizations in the urban area which are responsible for looking after the aged people are more in number comparison with the rural area. Nevertheless, it would be difficult to say that the services are adequate and well-qualified in the urban area.

As known, retirement and old age have different meanings. The notion of retirement means the finishing a period of a working process and separation from the public life. In accordance with a traditional description the retirement is the "transferring the work and the activities relating to the work" (Embroglu 1995:51). However, retirement is a new social position for an individual. Because, the individual who retires cannot continue to his old pattern as he is accustomed to. He begins to live the changes in the relations with his social environment and the roles he burdens. Thus, in the communal sense, the retirement is met with sadness in the individual's life. It is said that this sadness is much more heavier for the men than the women when a comparison is made between sexes. Especially, when the individual who loses his status and role upon his retirement and keeps going on with this state of mind issues an invitation for a lot of trouble when he is aged. However, the retirement period, as it includes socialization also, is considered as the preparation period for aging (Loether 1967:15-16).

The experts chronologically describe the people at the age of 65 and over as the aged. It is emphasized within the frame of this description that the physical and mental capacities of the individual are reduced and slowed down in comparison with the previous capacities. Therefore, with retirement, the individual encounters many problems during the old age. The health, financial and loneliness problems could separate the aged from the life. Yet, the aged people could well perpetuate an active life by adopting new roles instead of disengagement from the life.

In the light of this view, the purpose of the research is to reveal how the aged individual manages his/her relations with life during the last term of the life-span, how the activities of the urban area affect the aged people and whether the aged people who lost their role have

adopted new roles or not and to make comments and proposals on what could be done in practice in order to make the aged individuals active in their lives.

2. THE RESEARCH METHOD

In this research "life circle" and "role" theories relevant to immigration and the old age respectively. The role theory is tried to be supported by the theories of disengagement of the aged people from the life and of being active.

The research aims to analyze the old age which we consider as a problem. Therefore, it includes the determination of the kind of relations among the variables of immigration, old age, retirement and urban life. In order to show what kinds of relations exist between variables the technique of "interview in depth" has been used in the research. This technique provides an opportunity to the researcher to have a face-to-face interview. Thus, it is understood whether the person is being genuine when answers the questions. These points are important in regard to the reliability of the research.

In the researches for descriptive of condition (determining) the existent or non-existent relations are clarified. But, the reason of the fact is not explained. However, it is determined the variables between how relations is and which thing are together with others. With the theoretical explanations it leads to the research (Celebi 1991:89).

In regard to the reliability of the research, it is considered to group the aged people under the some organizational structure in selection of samples for this research. After preliminary studies, "The Aged People Information Center" attached to the Directorate of Province Social Services of the General Directorate of T.R. Prime Ministry Social Services and Children Protection Institute in Ankara is chosen. One of the reasons to prefer this establishment is to bring the aged people together during the working hours within the week by social activities instead of accommodation and allow them to establish their relations with the environment. The other reason is that it is a single establishment existing in its field except in Izmir.

Four criteria have been considered in selection of the aged people in this organization. These are the ability of the aged individual to continue his life standing on his own feet (having no serious health

problem), to be at the age of 60 and over, to be retired and immigrated. The interview is planned to be applied to 9 people who meet these criteria. But, 11 people have been interviewed. After the required studies this figure has been reduced to 9. In order to clarify the subjects previously mentioned above, a scale consisting of 22 open-ended questions has been developed. The thoroughly interview in the Aged Information Center has been achieved by the permission of Mr. İhsan Işık, Deputy General Director of the Social Services and Children Protection Institute. Thus, observations have been made by participating in the meeting of the aged people held in the Aged Information Center. Some of the aged people have been interviewed separately and some by groups in two.

3. CONCEPTUAL FRAME

The relations between immigration and old age, the role theory and some of the studies carried out in this connection take place in this conceptual frame.

3.1. Immigration and Aged Relations

Various theories have been developed by the Scientists regarding to fact of immigration. It has been defined that the immigration has several aspects according to the age, skill and sex. The relation between the immigration and the age is established like this. It is said that the expectations of the individual are related to the age variable which is a biological factor. In accordance with the approach of "life circle" which represents the end specimen of the behaviour explanation it is defined that the immigration begins in the childhood of the individual depending on its family. When the individual gets older, the training in the youth period, the job opportunities in the work life and the life conditions in the retirement period force the individual to immigrate. Sometimes the individual can return to his/her birth place upon retirement (Tekeli and Ender 1978:35). The point that should be considered is the difference of the expectations and motives between the youth and old generations. Just as in the many subjects, it is known that the youths are more active and open to the change than the aged individuals in regard to the subject of immigration. It has been observed that the youths are more daring in immigration to the city from the rural area than the old aged people who have no courage to get into the life which is unknown to them.

According to Field (1972:15-16), with the industrialization in west the immigration to the city from the rural area has become more desired behaviour acquired by the youth. Because, the youth is more daring and dynamic. Yet, the aged people leave their accustomed environment and get into a place which is unknown to them. Therefore, the immigration to the city from the rural area leads to the disintegration of the family and the breakage of the social relations between the old and youth generations. The youths who have earned money in the city have provided economical aids to their families in the beginning. But, later on they have them come to live with them. But, the difficulties encountered in the city life have also make difficult in taking care of the aged people. The working of the woman together with the man and the going of the children to the school on the work have led the aged person to be left alone in the house. This condition has caused the aged person depressed and his advice has not been listened to in the family. Because, the knowledge of the experienced old person has become insufficient for the bottlenecks of the industrialized city. Thus, when no body in the family pays any attention to what the old aged person says, his status has been reduced and he has been pushed into solitariness. And upon the receival "of no use" message from the social environment, the old age has been started to be perceived as a problem.

Again, as Field (1972:15-16) has stated, the position of the aged person in the families of the city who has better economical power, differs from the immigrated. In general, the children live with their families until the marriage. The parents are left alone when the last of the children is married. In case the death of any one of the parents, the old father or mother moves to live with his/her son or daughter. They both provide economical support and look after their children (their grand children). This condition is evaluated as a behaviour pattern which is frequently found in American middle class families.

In west today, the aged individuals live in their own homes as married couples as long as they are alive. In case the death of one of them, the other if capable of looking after himself/herself lives alone and tries to benefit the services of institutions which exist in the city for the aged people. If any, he/she expects emotional intimacy. Generally, the aged person is alone and his social relations are almost broken (Imamoğlu 1991, Kağıtçıbaşı 1991).

3.2. Role Theory

The first explanations made by the social gerontologists relating to how individuals adjustment with the aging process is an adaptation of the role theory. The individuals undertake a series of social roles throughout their lives. While these roles lead them to be recognized as a social being and to gain an identification, they also establish the base of self perception. These roles show difference in distribution according to the various periods of the life and each of the social roles is relevant to a certain period of the life. In many communities, especially, in the communities of the West, the chronological age is an element used for defining the suitability for certain positions and expectations relevant to the individuals within the social events. Some of the roles have biological basis which could be justifiable in regard to the age (e.g. mother role); but, many of them could only be undertaken by the individuals from various age categories. The age is a valid factor defining the roles which could be undertaken by the individuals and carries the quality of a factor determining how to perform the roles as well (Hooymann and Kiyak 1988:63).

Hooymann and Kiyak (1988:64) state that the aged people are living many role dilemmas. The loss of some of the basic social roles possessed in the past and the lack of the ability to perform these roles again are the basic problems encountered in this subject. For example, the loss of the role of being husband/wife as a widower or the loss of the active role in working life as a retired person. There is no doubt that they could continue their lives by adopting new roles through remarriage or working again. But, this could only be anticipated for a certain section of the aged individuals. When the roles which constitute a basis for self perception of the individual are lost they well cause the loss of social identification and self-trust. In the first researches carried out in this respect during 1950's, it was reported that the loss of the roles of this kind causes the lack of harmony, dreaming of the past, thinking of the death and dullness. This results has found less support in the researches performed during 1970's.

The roles become gradually uncertain during the aging period. The family authority or the role expectation in parental sense gains an uncertain quality for both the aged person and the members of the family. According to Burger (Hooymann and Kiyak 1988:64), the role of the retired individual is to have "no role". Burger also states that there

is no agreement on the opinions in the social sense regarding to the rules which would arrange the behaviour of these aged individuals. This condition takes the aged individuals away from the meaningful activities in social angle.

The other dilemma in connection with the loss of the role and undertaking of the new roles is due to the passage from the role of the "working individual" to the role of "retirement". In this condition the "role integrity" could not be provided. The individuals who would undertake the behaviours in a certain age level could not achieve the same in an other age level and therefore a contradiction/dilemma occurs. For instance, the people who have high level of productivity while working could encounter important difficulties when they retire (Hooyman and Kiyak 1988:65).

The frame provided by the role theory could help us to understand the adjustment question of the aged individuals. Because, the old age even though perceived as a period of the loss of the role could be converted to a period of acquiring new roles by the increase of active, healthy aged people. Furthermore, there is no doubt that the roles of neighbor, friend and parent continue until the end of the life. The change of role to which the aged people are subjected to has close connection with two basic theories developed to provide a successful and happy life period for the aged people. One is the "activity theory in the old age" and the other is the "disengagement theory" (Hooyman and Kiyak 1988: 64-65). Activity theory emphasizes that the aged person has participated in the life actively by acquiring new roles and his devotion to the life. The disengagement theory refers to loss of the roles which could cause disengagement of the aged person from the life.

The life-circle and role theories are the main point of our research. The findings and analyses should be evaluated within this frame.

3.3. The Researches Carried Out With The Subject

The problem of the old age has been put on the agenda in both urban and rural areas by the gradual increase of the aged population and the immigration from rural area to the city in parallel to the urbanization process in Turkey. Although many researches have been carried out on this subject, yet, none of them has brought any light to the function of the institutions serving to the aged people. Therefore, many more researches should be carried out on the subject of the old age.

In the study performed by Emiroğlu (1985:88) in Çekirdeksiz Village, it is emphasized that the view point regarding to the old age is changed in respect of diminishing structure of the family and increasing transportation possibilities between the village and the district center. And he reports that one of the factors preparing this change is urbanization and the other as a indirect factor is immigration. And depending on this assumption, the immigration means the increase on the population of the old aged people. Because, the aged people do not wish to leave the social order they recustomed to. They recoil from the risks of the new social order. Therefore, they prefer to stay in their village.

The care of the aged person which is solved within the large family and by the kinship system becomes to be a problem due to the changes in the structure of the family and relations (Tumur 1972). Furthermore, the aged people of the families immigrated from the rural area to the foreign countries put forward another aspect of the problem (Darısoğlu 1991:151).

According to Emiroğlu (1985:110), due to the patterns of the population and social structure in Turkey, the old age is not an apparent problem as in the industrialized communities. Minority of the population in the rural area in comparison with the city and the land structure (inheritance rules and the wholeness of the land) show that the large family type is still protected. As the traditions and customs have an important function, the old men are effective in decision mechanism of these families. In this sense, status of the old men is high. As for the women, after their sons got married and in case they lost their husbands, they live with their oldest son. The woman participates in the decision process with her son. Furthermore, the woman (bride) who does not participate in the production activities outside her home, is an important factor to take on the care of the aged person. Whereas, it is a fact that the aged person in rural area is employed in the agricultural activities. The aged people in the cities and metropolises help the young in many services (payment of electric, water, telephone bills, cooking and cleaning etc.) such as a looking after their grand children. But, in case the death of the either mate, it is observed that the widow either choose marriage or to more into a rest home.

İmamoğlu (1991:1065-1070) who carried out a research both in aboard and Turkey concludes that the benefitting of the aged people

both in the upper socio-economic level and the lower socio-economic level from the possibilities of the city is different in the rural area. Moreover it is emphasized that the aged people who live in aboard are eager to develop the social relations, in spite of the aged people who live in Turkey prefer to live in solitude.

As the results, although the cares and protections of the aged people are carried out by the kinship system within the traditional understanding in Turkey, there are researches revealing the gradual changes in this understanding. Furthermore, it has been observed that the aged people even though they have several children are not cared by their children and they prefer to stay in the foundation.

4. THE FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

The findings of the research entitled "Immigration and Societal Position of the Aged People" are given in 3 headline as demographic features and socio-economic condition, retirement and life after retirement, social position of the aged people and urban life. 9 individuals have been interviewed by interview in depth technique. The findings have been classified according to the date obtained from this interview.

4.1. Demographic Features and Socio-economic Condition

4 women and 5 men in total 9 individuals are interviewed. 4 of these individuals were in 65-69 ages category, 3 of them in 70-74 ages category and 2 of them in 75-79 ages categories.

When the birth place of those were investigated it has been found out that 4 of them were born in metropolis, 4 of them in city and 1 of them in aboard.

When the marital status of them were considered, 4 of them were married, 4 of them windows (death on separated) and 1 of them singular.

In regard to the question of education, 2 of them were graduated from primary school, 3 of them from secondary school, 2 of them high school and 2 of them university. Regarding the occupation 4 of them were self-employed (tradesman, commence, tricot), 5 of them civil servant. It was determined that out of the participant 3 had no children, 2 had 2 children and 4 had 3 children.

In accordance with the answers provided by the participants to their economical conditions 6 had about 50 million TL monthly, 3 had approximately 20 millions plus unearned in come.

In accordance with their answers they had given to our questions regarding from which province, town and village they had arrived in Ankara were that 6 individuals had come from various provinces (Istanbul, Izmir, Eskisehir, Elbistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina) and towns and from abroad and 3 even though they had born in Ankara had lived in various provinces due to their father's occupations as civil servants. One of the participants in the interview has told that he was in Ankara over than 50 years, 3 of them over than 30 years and 5 of them between 16 and 21 years.

The aged people we have interviewed have announced that 4 of them have participated in the interview with their mates, 2 of them with their sons and 3 of them alone. 2 of the them who lived alone was men and 1 was woman. The ones who lived with their sons were woman and man.

4.2. Retirement and Life After Retirement

When the participants were asked the question of "how long are you retired", they have answered that 2 were between 5-10 years, 2 were between 11-15 years, 4 were between 16-20 years and 1 was 30 years.

The answers received for the question of "has the retirement created an emptiness in your life", could be explained in three categories. The first category includes the ones who stated that there was no any emptiness in their life because they had retired after "accustomed themselves" before retirement. The second category consist of the ones who stated that "I had wanted, I was tired, it was tiresome and therefore there was no emptiness." The thrid category includes the ones who started that "they had been depressed greatly and they had found themselves in a great void." (2 individuals only).

Most of the replies given to the question of "whether there was a change of behaviour in their environment after the retirement" were that "there was no change, the life continued as before". 3 individuals answered that "they show great respect and behaved accordingly". Only one person stated that "they considered me as worn-out and avoided to having contact with me, only 3-4 friends of mine have never left me. But, this condition had never effected me".

The replies given to the question of "what have you done after retirement" where that the women in general were looking after their grandchildren, visiting relatives. One woman has stated that she was working in volunteer organizations after her retirement and one man has

said that he had started to work again. There were individuals who had told that they were spending their times by reading books and newspapers and engaging in charities. Especially, one person had stated that "as far as he was capable, he had helped the people who were in need and he had found those people by personal visits and was very happy to do so". The participant who was at 74 years of age has added the followings:

"I have been depressed by the retirement. Because I was not ready. I was very successful in my work. My colleagues were very friendly with me. My social environment was large. I was young. As I had been working in a public work with high prestige I did not wish to work in any other work with a fear that I could not find the same esteem. Later on, when my wife was retired, I have tried to be accustomed with the retirement by traveling with my wife frequently."

4.3. Social Position of the Aged People and Urban Life

All of the people we have interviewed stated that they were the members of The Aged People Association existing in the Aged People Information Center. 3 of these people have also said that they were the members of other associations (retired people, aged people etc.). In general, they have the same reasons for their memberships of this center and other associations: "Here (in the Center) we are meeting on certain days of the week. Our friend circle gets larger. We go to the theaters, picnics and lunches. We manage the association ourselves. The Center does not interfere in our activities, but helps us. Our lives get better and better. We are pleased with our lives".

6 out of 9 people interviewed said that they could willingly accept to be assigned to the duty of resolving the social problems relating to the municipality-environment and could well overcome the matter while 3 people said they would not take any duty because they were tired, unhealthy and could only manage their own lives.

We can summarize the answers given to the question of "does your social environment evaluate you as the aged person", in three categories. The individuals in the first category have replied that "they are respectful, they esteem us and they are kind to us". The ones in the second category have said that "they do not let us feel that we are aged and they say that we do not show our age". As for the third category, they have said that "they are being evaluated as aged people".

Their answers to our questions as to "the positive and negative effects of the urban life on the aged people" are as follows: "although the life in the city is hard, there are so many possibilities and many places to pass the time". Some of them said that "they have found the urban life negative and the noise, air pollution, crowd and transportation get on ones nerves".

To the question of if they think that the life in some other places would be better than in Ankara (for instance, would you like to live in your old place before immigration?) almost all of their answers were "it would be impossible to return and even if we return, it would be hard for us to live in there. Because, we have accustomed to live here and my children bind me here, I get tired of the small places". Only one person said that "I cannot live any other places than Ankara. If I was not here I would not have health, knowledge and etiquette".

When the question of "if we take the life conditions into consideration, would you like to be taken cared by the foundation or your children" is asked all the answers were "institution". Their motives were "we would like to be cared by our children, but it is very hard because we do not see them for days. On condition that it would have high quality the best solution would be the foundation".

In regard to the question that "what would your opinion about the old age in general", most of the participants have replied that the old age has both good and bad sides. And they have commented what "when I am well and not obliged to anyone it is good, but when you are weak it is bad. You are not capable to do anything, you become bad-tempered, egoist and capricious". And they have added that "even though you have money, there is no guarantee in the aged". A 70 years old person has advised that "each age has its own pleasure if you know how to live with".

Their replies to the question of "did you prepare yourself to the old age" were as follows. While 5 individuals were telling that "I have prepared myself by considering the old ones at home", 4 individuals said that "no, I had no time to think about it because the intensive activities of the life". One of the individuals who said "no" has stated that "I used to see the life through the rose-colored glasses. After my mother died there was a great emptiness in my life. I have never thought that my life would be like this". Another aged person has said that "it has never occurred to me that I would get older".

5. THE EVALUATION OF THE RESEARCH

The interviews in the Aged Information Center were achieved in those days were the meetings were held. It has been observed that the aged people were arriving to the meeting with enthusiasm and hope. It has also been observed that the old men were carefully dressed themselves up in good clothings, with hair combed and well-kept and the old women were clean and fashionable and with a light make-up. They have replied our questions in good spirits in groups of two-three people on, in the office of the Managers. Furthermore, they have pleased with our inquirement.

It could be said that the economical positions of the individuals who have participated in the interview were good in general. Almost every one of them could be accepted as the native of Ankara even though they had settled in Ankara a long time ago. It has been determined that they have all lived through a geographical mobilities. Some of these geographical mobilities could possibly be connected to the assumption of the "life-circle". It could be said that they have been involved in this life-circle for education due to their fathers' appointments while they were young and to find a work as an adult.

It has been revealed that the most have gotten into this status by preparing themselves to the retirement and lived thorough a socialization process. Therefore, there were no great changes in their lives. They stated that their afterretirement life was spent by reading, walking around and baby-care and therefore, they had accepted the retirement easily. Unavoidable retirement and loneliness may well be important the reasons causing a void after the retirement.

One of the research results shows that women spend the retirement-life with much less trouble than men. Some of the homeworks that women could not find opportunity to perform may be the reason for them to be accustomed to the retirement life more easily. As for the men, it could be said that their social relations are reduced comparing to their previous relations and therefore, they could feel an emptiness in their retirement life for a period of time.

New roles undertaken by the individuals after retirement and in their older ages might be evaluated as a factor binding them to life and keeping them active. Their membership of volunteer organizations and associations means that they are playing their new roles and hence, it emphasizes that activity theory is valid following role theory. In the

some way, it may be said that the individuals who are willing to have appointment in the social responsibilities link with life better. Those who do not wish to take these responsibilities or who are incapable to do so are the ones who lead the life in worn-out and feeble way according to the disengagement theory.

In accordance with the research findings most of the aged people in the Center feel that they are "usable". They consider themselves not aged when they do not receive the message from their environment. Here, it appears that the social relations of the aged individuals with their environment and mutual influence are important.

One of the other findings of the research is that the city life gives them confidence. The existence of several health centers, hospitals and places for visiting may give them confidence. Furthermore, it has also been determined that the participants in the interview were in a rational attitude. They prefer the care of the institution by thinking that they are incapable of undertaking the care of the children due to the intensity of the urban life. We can evaluate this as the conditions being forced.

One of the important findings of the research is that the old age could not be accepted by those individuals easily. Therefore, they do not prepare themselves for the old age. Such statements as told by an aged individual "I have never thought that I would get older" or "there was no time to think about it because of the intensity of the life" may show that the old age cannot be accepted easily. These kinds of opinions may have a positive aspect in one sense. But, it should be emphasized here that the individuals should enjoy the life by preparing themselves considering that "each age has its own beauty".

CONCLUSION AND PROPOSALS

In accordance with the results of the research findings, it has been determined that the following variables could not be separated.

1. Being retained by one's own wish, provides a well-adjustment to the life after-retirement.
2. Forced retirement causes a depression during retirement.
3. When the aged feels that he is "usable" his enjoyment of the life increases.
4. The aged people make their life more active by undertaking the new roles (membership of the volunteer organizations and associations).

5. Disengagement of those who consider themselves tired and incapable of working.
6. People who have not prepared themselves for the old age encounter the aged problem in their further ages.
7. A number of possibilities of the urban life (in spite of the negativity) increase the confidence of the aged people.
8. Working of the children of the aged people reveals the necessity of a foundation-care.

In accordance with the data of State Institute of Statistics Prime Ministry Republic of Turkey in 1990, while the ratio of urban population was 59.01% this ratio has been reduced to 40.99% in the rural area. Thus, the aged problem is being encountered in the rural area as well in parallel to the immigration. According to the projections of SSI, it is assumed that there would be an increase on the population of over 65 age in Turkey up to the year of 2000 (DIE 1990:72-73). This table indicates that in Turkey, the increment of the number and capacity of the institutions and improvement of the service quality should be aimed at.

It is observed that the aged people have lost some of their prestiges in comparison with their high status they held in the old communities. Instead of condemning the aged people to the loneliness, they should be provided with the opportunities to bind them to the life and with some possibilities such as aged information centers.

In Turkey today, the reduction in the family structure depending on the immigration, the transfer of the most of the functions to the bureaucratic organizations and the participation of the women in working life more actively make the care of the aged people in the urban area difficult. Therefore, the need for rest-homes is increased gradually. When it is considered that the possibilities of the state are limited, the means of effectiveness of the private individuals should be provided. Furthermore, the attachment of the children to their aged people could be increased by the education and role models provided by their families within the parents' social responsibility emotion. The aged people who are free of economical bottleneck are in emotional expectations. Consequently, the aged people only expect "kind words and a smiling face". Young generation should be sensitive in this respect.

As for the aged people who are in economical bottleneck, their problems are some what more heavier. To be in both financial and emotional expectations lead to a two-sided problem. The aged people who have financial troubles should be protected by the state as in the west countries.

It has been observed in this research that the aged people who have immigrated have been binded themselves to the life and have felt they are "useful" by undertaking new roles in the urban area. This observation has established an opinion in regard to the increasement of the number of the foundations such as The Aged Information Centers that have achieved an important performance in the community.

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