

Ageism Problem of Kosovo Society

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Abstract:

In tradition, habits and culture of the Albanians, the elderly, always had a key role in many developments. Every time they turned pain into power, sadness into teaching, difficulties into opportunities, losses into victory, hatred into love, for many decades they were promoters of peace.

Nowadays, words, traditions, loyalty, respecting the elderly is slowly dying out. The elderly recently in the Albanian territories are losing what they kept for decades, are losing the value as essential members of society. They are insulted, assaulted, discriminated against, ridiculing, prejudiced and they are not enjoying the respect that they deserve in the family and society.

Purpose of Research: The main purpose of this research has been obtaining opinions of older persons regarding to their treatment in aspect of discrimination in the family, society and analysis of the legal framework regarding discrimination of the elderly in Kosovo.

Questions of this research were:

- 1. What is the position of the elderly in Kosovo society from their point of view?*
- 2. What is the area where they think that they feel most discriminated?*

Methodology: Mainly they consist in the study of positive law, respectively reflection and analysis of relevant legislation. Among other things, during hultimit will include comparative methods, analytical, sociological and surveying. In the survey are included five elderly of both sexes, with different social status, economic and family.

Key words: Ageism, elderly, prejudices.

Introduction

The Evolution of societies in political, economic, or social aspect, during the human history in most cases contributed to the good, especially in developing societies or societies in transition. However, transitional societies they pay often a high price such times. They are trying to be in steps with trends, trying to fit as much as possible in new circumstances that are created, they forget the past, origin, culture, their traditions, hoping that everything has come to this is change is better than what they had.

The Albanian society in recent decades, especially after the shutdown of the communist regime in Albania, after the war finished and NATO's intervention in Kosovo, began to be in top international media with the benefits and pitfalls what they had. Peacekeeping forces, security organizations, humanitarian organizations and non – governmental organizations were deployed in Kosovo after the war, some with a mission good for society, and others to remove the cloak of morality, culture, tradition, for us as a degenerated society, and at some point they did this major goal what they set for itself. We as a nation we boast a little, we were proud with our tradition, respects, words, covenant we had. Nowadays in a very peaceful way, we are abandoning these qualities that we had, they are left in history as something of the past. Our youth, day by day are involved in various criminal activities, while the elderly are regarded as old fashioned, and they have become victims of jokes, discrimination, prejudice, deception, they lost the respect that they had in society, sometimes they are victims of physical violence, and psychological.

Ageism

Discrimination has existed since early in the history of mankind. How old is as a phenomenon, equally varied is the diversity of its appearance.

Discrimination based on age can result from having many stereotypes about age more than the assessment of the ability of a person. It stems in part from the perception that, with age, physical and mental abilities of a person always negatively affected young people are more efficient, have more energy, and soon manages to fit into the situation changes.

With discrimination interconnecting are many concepts, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, ageism, xenophobia and so on. This shows that all these terms are originated from foreign languages. And for most people it's not clear what significance do these.

Word ageism was first used by Robert Butler in 1969. Butler described ageism as: 'Prejudice by age group against other age groups. "The process of systematic bias against older people because they are old, like racism to prejudice because of their skin color, sexism prejudice due to sex, ageism prejudice due to age¹.

The report of the UN stated that: "Ageism reflects a negative image of the elderly as people addicted to decline in intellectual and physical abilities. Elderly people are often perceived as a burden, a drain on resources, as well as persons in need of care²".

Based on the definition of ageism is natural to ask what are the causes of age discrimination?

A number of authors suggest three main reasons to come to the discrimination of the elderly in psychological, biological and socio-economic aspect. Firstly, in psychologically

¹ Butler, R. N. (1969). "Age-ism: Another form of bigotry." *The Gerontologist*,9, p. 243-246.

² The second world assembly on ageing. Report of the Secretary-General'. (2009) United Nations.

aspect, ageism deep fear stems from our aging, death and heedlessness. In aspect of socio-biological, will be explained, in all human societies, youth has been associated with power, strength, speed, flexibility, increasing the birth rate, and so on. Therefore, the elderly have a lower social status, as they have fewer years of life ahead of them. While in economic aspect are more reliable explanations, from the proliferation of retirement of men during the past 120 years has been accompanied by a more negative perception of the economic value of the elderly (who are often portrayed as a fiscal burden " about their pension costs, health and social care³.

Age Structure of the Population in Kosovo

Aging is a process of life that includes all living things, as well as man. This is a natural process which can not be interrupted, but with better methods and convenient way can withstand various challenges and difficulties in the lives of the elderly. In this way man can have a long life, always accompanied with full health and wellbeing.

Age of population is one of humanity's greatest triumphs. He is also one of our biggest challenges and defines the requirements related to social and economic growth in all countries. Worldwide, the proportion of people 60 years old is growing and will continue to grow faster than any other age group, due to declining birth rate, increasing life expectancy, increase in divorces, and not interesting to marriage.

The number of elderly over 60 years worldwide is expected to grow from 800 million in 2000 to over 2 billion in 2050⁴. The number of elderly people in all continents is growing, but according the data of Eurostat, the ageing population of working is expected to fall drastically in the EU

³ Macnicol, J. (2010), Ageism and Age Discrimination Some Analytical Issues, London. p.4

⁴ http://www.who.int/mental_health/world-mental-health-day/WHO_paper_wmhd_2013.pdf?ua=1

during the period 2013-2080, while the elderly represent an increase of the total population, those aged 65 years or over 65 years. As a result of the movement of people between age group, old-age dependency ratio of the EU is projected to double from 27.5% in 2013 to 51.0% in 2080. The general age dependency is projected to increase from 51.1% in 2013 to 77.9% in 2080⁵.

Ageism is transformed into important political issue in western societies as a consequence of the ageing ongoing population, family disruption and complete isolation elderly⁶.

But, problems of population aging have not only Western state, this phenomenon every year more and more we faced as a society. According to statistical data of the statistical agency of the Republic of Kosovo's population ages during the period 2011- 2061 will be quite variable. During 2011 the Republic of Kosovo had this crouched 0-14 years population of 495,101 inhabitants or 27.8%, from 15-64 years of 1,162,044 inhabitants or 65.3%, over 65 years had 122,876 inhabitants, or 6.9%. While in 2061 there will be, the structure of the population of 0-14 years of 215,907 inhabitants or 12.4%, from 15-64 years of 1,022,265 inhabitants or 58.6%, over 65 years will have 505,299 inhabitants or 29.0%⁷.

If, compare increasing age with EU countries, Kosovo society after 50 years will be at a much the most favorable, but this does not mean that we should be satisfy, when compared to high data recorded for the Republic Kosovo, it appears that by the year 2061 the elderly population over 65 years will take us approximately 23.0% increase compared to 2011. taking into account the above-mentioned statistical data, Kosovo in 2061, will have 1/3 of the population of total over 65 years, and in this case the possibilities to increase the number of elderly will be enormous discrimination.

⁵http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Population_structure_and_ageing#Population_structure

⁶ Pajaziti, A (2009) . Fjalor i Sociologjisë, shkup, fq.430.

Albania Tradition and Discrimination of Elderly

As all people in the world, the Albanians have customs, traditions, culture itself, which have save and cultivate over generations with a great fanaticism. Albanian tradition recognizing worldwide, ranging from the fact that the hospitality and loyalty are exclusive habits of our people. But, wasn't small weight on the respect for the elderly, they had a highly coveted position in society. The position of the elderly were guaranteed even more time example judicial acts "are a first elders of brothers and representatives of tribes"⁸, as the elders had the right to settle, the more important issues of society "For job special serious offenses special, can only see old people "," fag, who mark honor of the country, will be judged by elders of the village "⁹.

From this, it's clear that the position of the elders in the public life of the Albanian people was very valuable, but the position of the elders was a very significant level in family life they were the flagship, without their consent is not set anything in the family. It is also noted in this provision Lek Dukagjin that says: "After canon, the rule of the house belongs to the oldest under the roof of the house or larger brother, but they lacked the one, to be in line with this task as required by code, then choose one of the other members of the household, provided that being meçemi, wiser and more cautious "¹⁰.

From these, we can say that the position of the elders among Albanians was well codified, and can be note that there was a positive discrimination.

But, if we compare today's society with the previous, we can say that once have been more polite, we had hospitality, allegiance and respect much more for the elderly, while today

⁷ Agjencia e Statistikave të Kosovës (dhjetor 2013) Parashikimi i popullsisë së Kosovës 2011-2061, Prishtinë, fq. 34.

⁸ Kanuni i Lekë Dukagjinit (botimi 2001) Nye e njiqindekatrdheepare, Tiranë, fq 93.

⁹ Po, aty.

¹⁰ Kanuni i Lekë Dukagjinit (botimi 2001) Nyeinandt, Tiranë, fq .8.

it is missing? Besides embracing new concepts positive, was relativising importance of previous conceptions about courtesy, where even education, respect, individuality, dignity of the elderly perceived as old-fashioned values of youth and young parents' generation. But, after the advent of democracy and freedom of expression and thought, wrongly Albanian society seems to have lost some positive values were won before the associated precisely with the behavior towards each other.

Meanwhile, today, atomism and fragmentation of contemporary family, life problems, misery, poverty, collapse of cohesion and solidarity within the family, have significantly affected, some legal and moral obligations related to food, care and protection of parents and older overlooked or neglected to the limit¹¹.

The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, guarantees direct applicability of international conventions where the rate of non-discrimination is protected, with two of these conventions based entirely on non-discrimination¹². Prohibition of discrimination is also evident in many other legislative acts, many of which contain a clause prohibiting discrimination, ranging from Access to Public Documents, Health Care, Education, Public Procurement and Public Private Partnerships¹³. For all these areas there are special laws which forbid any kind of discrimination for each field. However, despite extensive legal measures in place, discrimination in Kosovo remains a fact alive and who admitted that there is broad mass of citizens and institutions. It is, therefore, imperative to have more civic awareness and to take appropriate action in all spheres of society to combat discrimination.

But nowadays discrimination Albanian elders in the two levels

¹¹ Halili.R, (2011) , Viktimologjia, Prishtinë, fq 84.

¹² Kushtetuta e Republikës së Kosovës (15 qershor 2008) neni 22.

¹³ Ligji Kundër Diskriminimit nr. 2004 / 3 (20 korrik 2004) , neni 4.

1. Institutional Discrimination and
2. Individual Discrimination.

Institutional discrimination -Many older people do not have financial protection such as pensions or other forms of social insurance.

In the Republic of Kosovo with the law on pension schemes funding by the state provide the basic pension age will be paid to all persons who are permanent citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, who possess identification documents and who have reached the age sixty-five (65) years¹⁴. Although all laws of the region is provide to differentiate age for men and women as regards access to retirement, this law there is a discrimination against older women due to the retirement age for profit is the same as the men. According to the Statistics Agency of Kosovo, the basic monthly pension amount is 75 euros¹⁵.

During, surveys an elderly man about 70 years, declared about his pension "I have 75 euros a pension, even for my medicaments not enough, that other stuff even think this pension to do something. In addition to tablet a month I spend 20 euros, from a few times not buy pull. For poor not come to give him 10 cents. "

From this statement we can notice a very biased discrimination, after which the elderly in the absence of financial resources has not even adequate health care and social, after that due to the minimum pension that can not meet even the needs his personal elementary.

Another form of discrimination towards the elderly is happening in the field of employment. Labor relations are area where the practice shows that often done based on age discrimination. Too often in employment advertisements in

¹⁴ Ligji Nr. 04/L-13, (06 maj 2014) Për Skemat Pensionale Të Financuara Nga Shteti, neni 7.

¹⁵ Agjencia e statistikave të Kosovës, Statistikat e mirëqenies sociale (TM1-2014), fq. 5.

newspapers as one of the conditions of employment can be seen that given the age. But, although in the daily press has a large number of such postings for employment, the courts, or the mechanisms of protection from discrimination no cases filed by citizens, who explained by recognizing the discrimination of citizens.

One such classic example of discrimination on grounds of age in the Republic of Kosovo appears to academic staff in Universities example; the institution of the Ombudsman has conducted research on the issue. Their research consisted of public institutions specifying certain age in their competitions, without any legal justification, discriminate against older applicants as those over 35 or 55 years. Regardless of the Anti-Discrimination Law entered into force, however, such discrimination in Kosovo continued and institution of Ombudsman has once again investigated this area. Their investigation focused on the decision taken by the Senate of the University for the age restriction in recruiting teachers without academic experience under the age of 55 years. The institution of the Ombudsman recommended that such a decision could not be justified legally, and was discriminatory on the basis of age¹⁶.

One applicant for assistant University said: "I am 36 years and I am at the end of the doctoral studies in Mathematics, University of Tirana, have published papers in several scientific journals, I attended many scientific conferences, and public competition was announced University assistant and I applied for my application was not considered at all by the Senate as one of the conditions has been the age of 35 years ".

¹⁶ [http://ks.yihr.org/public/fck_files/ksfile/Anti-Discrimination Law Kosovo seven years on.pdf](http://ks.yihr.org/public/fck_files/ksfile/Anti-Discrimination%20Law%20Kosovo%20seven%20years%20on.pdf)

Individual Discrimination- the elderly with regard to discrimination are not only attacking by the institutions, they many times discriminated against in the family or society. Social isolation is significant risk factors for the elderly person. Many elderly people are isolated because of physical or mental infirmity, or because the loss of friends or family members, and so they become part of discrimination and prejudice.

But the elders did not pull a better position in society, in some social circles of certain individuals hear of the different labels for old people, "he bad old man", "witches Grannie", "old idiot", "dotard old man," "enough a headache that is to be discussed do not know how they are stopped as it starts like Machines bad "and many other labels.

Elderly people have create the confidence that society of young have negative towards them, so they start to believe and create confidence that really are just and operate after creating that impression, so the portray themselves in a position to discriminate¹⁷.

Care for the elderly is the responsibility of the whole society, the aging of the population affects the overall economic development; it means older population ratio affects social interaction in healthcare and social policies¹⁸.

Conclusions

From the research results comes out that there is not a good report on elderly society. Impact of media, social networking to younger age groups has led to neglect of the elderly, not ignored their demands, in many areas of life, and it only deepens discrimination against them, but a part of bear responsibility even after the oldest ones deemed not to have any proper behavior towards young people in this case are themselves

¹⁷ Rusac, S. Štambuk, A. Verič, J. Dobna Diskriminacija: Iskustva starijih osoba, Zagreb, fq. 97.

victims. When we consider the areas in which discrimination is more pronounced, these are in the health field, of finances, employment and institutional.

Taking the account all the above-noted facts, dealing with discrimination, that I can not draw a better conclusion than the conclusion of the man with his sons:

Boys upset by everyday obligations to the father and the complaints of their wives for the inconvenience that had the old man had decided to remove the house it and end his demands, and had sent to a remote location, to kill him when they arrived at the place, the old man tells them: **"O my sons, do not kill me in this place, send my into another location "**, and the boys surprise, with his father's words, wondering why wants send him away enough not it here where we bring. Creepy old man confesses that "When I was, like you, I had brought my father just in this location and killed him". The boys thought and returned to the old man went home and life together. **"What to plant and put the sickle to"**.

Recommendation

To increase solidarity between the generations, but even the elderly to be active in adding to their requirements, to meet the needs for a happier life, consistent with the standards of living of the family and locality. To be marketing for more open society and solidarity.

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