



## Social Accounting as a Means of Identifying Aging and Gerontology in Developing World

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### Abstract

The article explores how calculations and predictions through social accounting will impact aging that is the result of social, physical and psychological change in human life course. Aging is increasingly observed happening in all societies, especially within the developing countries. Development in communications and industrialization has created the background for speedy trend of aging in these countries. However, if social accounting is applied in countries, healthier aging will result. Aging at its present stage will never reverse, but it will gradually increase. So, governments must be prepared to smoothly face it, as it is more faced by the developed countries and less by the developing ones, where traditional norms, values and cultures towards the aging people still exist. Under the existing circumstances, sociologists, social accountants, demographers and gerontologists need to build up better future for the aging people. Methodology used in the present paper is of qualitative type.

**Keywords:** Social Accounting; Physical Change; Industrialization; Traditional Cultures; Gerontology

### Objective

The aim of the present research is to represent the role of social accounting as an umbrella including demographic, social, cultural and environmental indicators/variables which bring about healthy state of life in developing countries. In the meantime, efficient management would be possible and attainable under the conditions of aging in any country. While the three social, cultural and environmental variables are a triangle being faced by the developing countries today, the quality and quantity of population also play an important and determining role, and shortage of which contributes to socio-economic vulnerabilities, smuggling and drug addiction among a large number of people in those countries. The aforementioned variables have also a pivotal role in accessing a healthy economic system.

### Population growth vs healthy aging

Social accounting can play a determining role in population planning. Population growth rate has largely affected population structure in recent decades in the developing countries; a phenomenon leading to young population structure. While about 83% of the world population is residing in the developing world [1], social accounting is minimally associated with that, and that has resulted in increasing social abnormalities for those countries, leaving behind unemployment, poverty, unbridled migration, increasing deviances, increasing drug abuse etc. The current situation has caused 28% of population in the developing world remaining below 15 years of age. Such a scenario will encounter the countries of the developing world with a large bulk of unemployed youth in

search of food and jobs in the years to come. However, the current situation is leading many developing countries to delayed marriages culminating in lower fertility within the youth of below 35 years of age [2]. Because of failures of social accounting, many developing countries are surprisingly facing young populations whom cannot be easily fed and employed. Appropriate actions must usually be notified through social accounting, and that includes economic and industrial investments versus those newly born. Under such circumstances many of those born in 1980s and beyond are in poverty conditions in developing world. The scenario means that there is not economic independence and hiring opportunities for such people. The present circumstances as a motivation, moves the youth towards anti social behaviors. Though the family institution in some countries like Iran tries to support such young unemployed youth, yet they are pulled toward drug addiction.

Therefore, to modify the existing situation, and control its continuity for the years to come, population growth rate must be checked, and a coordination between population growth rate and creation of job opportunities need to be maintained. If that is not practiced, the youth should expect further deviations in the future. According to a socio-economic and demographic view, for every 1% of population growth, there should be 4% economic growth. Such a balance helps in not having unemployment and other dilemmas [3].

Though some developing countries have had declining population growth rates in recent years, yet the volume of young population has remained the same, and even some added to it (15+) every year. These youth potentially vulnerable, seriously need social accounting to be less jeopardizing the economy. However, an increasing number of the Third World countries are facing such a scenario.

Hence, backgrounds for smuggling, human trafficking and the like are hereby set. Thus, to reach a healthy economy, the aforementioned destructive factors must be controlled, and eliminated. It must also be notified that the culture of drug deals could not be rooted out overnight.

Sociologically speaking, social accounting based on the current parameters would be a turning point to reach a healthy aging with food accessibility. It is worth mentioning that along with the population policies, minding gerontology, other cultural, social and environmental policies should be considered. Such a strategy could

eventually help in attaining a healthy aging to operate. However, the idea of separation of older people from active roles in society is somehow normal and appropriate, and benefits both society and older individuals [4].

#### Method of research

Methodology used in the present abridged article is of qualitative type. In that, various paradigms have been used for fact finding. The method applied in the present study, searched the needs in their natural settings. In fact finding for the research, the researcher engaged in a careful collection of data in a thoughtful manner, and what was in need and relevant, was analyzed. The documentary research applied for data collection includes printed and written materials which were widely regarded. The research being a qualitative library type, in that, the researcher had to refer to relevant and related sources; such as books, journals and statistical resources in a thorough way to access the needful information. As a naturalistic inquiry, the researcher could almost reach an in-depth understanding of some social phenomena which could help other social researchers and thinkers in the future as well.

#### Sustenance of healthy aging

Sustaining a healthy aging is only possible if housing, food, household budget and education are provided. Under such an atmosphere social management could suitably be fulfilled [5]. This is also worth mentioning that the developed countries also reach economic health through variables such as safety, discipline and social accounting.

The system of healthy aging could only be applicable under the conditions/standards of enough food and housing for all classes of people [6]. To attain the pre-planned objectives, enough investment in terms of place and time need to be applied. Many of the developing countries of the world have put into practice the necessary infrastructural indices so that they could reach the status of a healthy aging.

Atchley's theory illustrates that individuals in later life make adaptations, to enable them to gain a sense of continuity between the past and the present, and the theory implies that, this sense of somiruity helps to contribute to well-being in later life [7].

#### Healthy economy vs development

Social, environmental and cultural factors all have an effective impact on a healthy economy, an integration of all could lead to a healthy society. Similarly, healthy economy could be counted as a

guardian of development in general. Hence, economic plans, and further economic growth, and also a condition in which social capital is crystallized, each as agents of healthy economy, play role. In the meantime, creation of a safe environment will be attainable in a society, through the preservation of health in a society [8]. Similarly, accessing appropriate cultural backgrounds, or in other words, reformation of cultural and artistic structure in a society plays as the guardian of health system.

### Vulnerability of environment

Increasing number of urban areas in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as a result of their rapid population growth, poor and weak social accounting, and their deteriorating socio-economic conditions, are encountering increasing vulnerabilities. These countries have been facing extensive migrations. Such interactions have had social, economic and cultural impacts on these societies including destructive, negative environmental and social pollution, in addition to food shortage. As compared with developed societies, they are prone to a large number of vulnerabilities. The objective outcome of which has influenced different social groups of people in various aspects. Therefore, social accounting of environment will bridge the societies to social health. Such countries are constantly facing migrants to cities who encounter shortage of necessary goods and services food. Therefore, applied sociology through social accounting must be used to study the present and future generations with a focus on their needs [9].

### Conclusion

Social accounting challenges conventional accounting, and is designed to support and facilitate the pursuit a country's objectives. Such objectives can be manifold, but can typically be described in terms of social and environmental desirability and sustainability, food accessibility etc [10]. Similarly, social accounting could highly affect healthy aging and better gerontological conditions, of the increasing Aging People with special reference to the developing countries.

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