Determinants of Homelessness of the Elderly in the Streets (City of Puno, 2022)

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Abstract. Extreme poverty is intimately linked to the destitution of the elderly population, who have to resort to a series of individual survival strategies in the streets in order to survive. The objective was to establish the determinants of the condition of destitution of older adults exposed in the streets of the city of Puno. The methodology was oriented from the mixed approach, descriptive design; the population (20) were older adults who beg in crowded places in the city of Puno and/or demonstrate their skills that they consider as survival strategies. The results that were arrived at were the following: the high incidence factors for the condition of begging are given by the pauper economic income; abandonment by their children, the presence of diseases depression and anxiety; physical and emotional neglect by children, family and the State, and finally, 80% do not access social programs many of them are not targeted by the SISFOH (Contigo, Pension 65, FISE and Solidarity bonus pre post pandemic).

Keywords: determining factors, indigence, survival strategies

Introduction

The abandonment of the elderly, is a social phenomenon, in the same way the quality of life is not favorable, so they require basic needs, such as health and food, which is why they are of vital importance in social development. Likewise it is a natural process of human life, where they establish a series of physical, psychological, biological, psychomotor and functional processes that occur in a unique and different way in each individual (Huenchuan, 2018). On the other hand, the process is irreversible and tends to diminish the capacities of all living beings, and is also characterized by the progressive loss of the organism's capacity for adaptation and reserve in the face of changes, which makes the older adult vulnerable (Arce, 2022).

In Peru, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics INEI (2018) refers that, "The total of 3,345,552 of the inhabitants, 4 million 140 thousand are older adults, likewise, in the Region of Puno out of 1,415,608 inhabitants, 131,564 are older adults" (p. 34). At the same time, it is observed that older adults are on the street, so conditions are deplorable, reaching the extreme of begging. For this reason, older adults have become an excluded and highly vulnerable group, also because of their age, they become subjects of little use. According to Quiñones et al. (2021), there has not been an effective materialization of the rights they should enjoy, therefore, their dignity is violated, which are minimum conditions of dignity, and are inherent to the quality of human being, due to the research implemented these difficulties have been uncovered. In turn, Erazo (2020) considers that "old age and loneliness has its implications in the quality of life in which the older adult culminates his life, and many of them is a challenge to seek a well-being of life" (p. 13). Developing a set of individual survival strategies in order to subsist.

Consequently, during the study, the older adults expressed their life stories, thus expressing their feelings about their lives, which is why the experience allows them to face

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reality, which is why the proposals guide society and the State, in the same way it helps them to have a dignified life.

As a hypothesis of the investigation, which asserts that the factor of the abandonment of their children is a determining factor for the elderly to be on the streets of the city of Puno, which leads to the existence of a human being and even more in such a vulnerable population, i.e. access to employment, on the other hand, during the interview there were some inconveniences, which is why they speak the Aymara and Quechua language.

Theoretical Framework

Determinants of Homelessness among Older Adults on the Street

With respect to Baquerizo (2021), the older adult goes through several stages in his life, that is why, they become more sensitive, in the same way, identifies the emotional health, on the other hand, families play an important role in strengthening a balanced relationship, mostly they are abandoned, however, they cannot perform their activities normally and states such as anxiety and depression. Likewise Fuentes and Flores (2016a) indicate that, the rights of older adults, are marginalized and violated by their human condition, mostly live in a constant struggle to integrate into society. Soria and Montoya (2017) state that social abandonment is a reality, that is why, mistreatment in older adults causes damage or suffering, likewise, isolation and loneliness is a form of mistreatment (Douglas, 2022), however, they present with greater exposure diseases, they also show conditions of loss of physical and mental capacities, likewise, income is a primary aspect of the older adult above all depends their quality of life in old age, on the other hand, they decrease physical and mental capacity, in the same way, economic security; Waters et al. (2020) manifest as the ability to independently use a certain amount of economic resources; Gajardo (2015) refers that vulnerability is described as a physical isolation, loneliness in old age responds to an emotional state that occurs.

Indigence and Social Exclusion of Older Adults

It is a face of social abandonment, different perceptions and representations of a person in a situation of destitution have been built (Programa Universitario de Derechos Humanos [PUDH]), 2019); the constructions are made from the environment itself, which is why the causes are more common, violence and abuse within the home; these are the main coincidences presented by destitution in the world (Fuentes & Flores, 2016b). In the streets and public spaces of the cities, mainly are the scenarios where the bodies of exclusion transit (ANIF, 2019), has increased and diversified: immigrants, indigenous, new poor, displaced, refugees, homeless, unanchored, itinerant, are some of the faces of exclusion in the cities (Gámez & Meza, 2021). Ayala et al. (2015) mention that, homelessness is a social manifestation characterized by the uprooting and stigmatization of adult men and women, who live and satisfy their needs in the streets of urban areas, where they develop their daily lives, performing activities related to chronic precariousness (Bejarano Roncancio et al., 2015; Freire & Waters, 2012). According to Ministerio de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables [MIMP] (2017), older adults in situation of indigence are forced to create a new way of life, adapting to the street and extracting the benefits that it can grant them for their survival (Pozo, 2022), they build a new way of living and socializing and develop in a media and discriminating environment which is not an option, but an obligation (Blouin et al., 2018), which is why the absence of social ties makes this sector more vulnerable, resulting in physical or mental illnesses, even death (Zamora, 2021).

Determining Factors

Abandonment of children, the family in particular, is a primary source of emotional and social and even economic support for elderly members and even when they have undergone

changes and modernizations (Mocellin et al., 2019). *The types of neglect,* according to Chaguay and Molina (2016); the types of neglect that older adults are exposed to by their family members are manifested in different ways. That is why, they are divided into different types: *a) Emotional neglect:* It involves the lack of affection, support and empathy from their relatives, separation of physical visits or phone calls to the older adult destabilizing their mental health and seriously affecting the quality of life of this age group as they tend to become depressed and when this clinical picture is presented it is difficult to overcome it because they do not access professional psychological help (Chaguay & Molina, 2016). *b) Material abandonment,* according to Vera (2022), covers monetary resources intended to cover the needs of the elderly such as: providing food, clothing, medical supplies and a safe place to ensure their subsistence. *c) Total, partial and physical abandonment*, family members completely renounce, in terms of the care and needs of the elderly, and do not provide any economic, emotional or welfare support (Vidaña et al., 2019); in the event that the elderly cannot take care of themselves, if no one is present, they can help you with basic activities (Silva et al., 2019).

With respect to family members are unable to care for the elderly for reasons of work, study or simply do not want to care for the elderly for various reasons (Bautista & Meléndez, 2020), *partial abandonment,* it is obvious, but they pay for third parties to watch over the welfare of the older adult or resort in some cases to private shelters to be cared for (Álvarez, 2015); and rarely or almost never visit, creating a distancing of emotional ties and family relationships (Olloa & Barcia, 2019); *physical abandonment:* family members contribute negatively to the isolation and loneliness of the older adult (García et al., 2018; Salinas, 2022); since they do not want to cover the expenses and needs derived from the care of the elderly, and incur to evict them from their usual homes or some different from their normal habitat and abandon them without preventing the physical damage that the street situation can trigger (Belesaca & Buele, 2016).

Study Objectives

To establish the determining factors of the destitution condition of the elderly in the streets of the city of Puno and to understand the imaginary of the elderly regarding their survival strategies from the logic of the actors qualitative study.

Methodology

It is a descriptive/exploratory study Sánchez (2019) defines that "they serve to increase the degree of familiarity with relatively unknown phenomena, thus obtaining information about the possibility of carrying out a more complete research on a particular context of real life and identify promising concepts or variables" (p. 34) . Likewise, the mixed design (quantitative and qualitative) was employed through the use of a standardized questionnaire and an interview guide to key informants, for Strauss and Corbin (2002) "its relevance is defined depending on the subject of study and the scientific, proto-scientific or human discipline in which it is framed, providing guidelines for the choice of one or the other approach, also highlighting the importance of establishing channels of communication and integration between the two cognitive approaches" (p. 14). The techniques and instruments used were the survey and the standardized questionnaire and from the inductive logic the in-depth interview and life histories. Charriez (2012), Güereca (2016) state that "it is a qualitative research technique, located in the framework of the so-called biographical method, whose main object is the analysis and transcription that the researcher performs as a result of the accounts of a person about his life" (p. 13). The study population, is non-probabilistic by convenience, which constitutes the elderly in the streets of the city of Puno, the same that all of them remain almost daily in crowded places such as (Plaza de armas, the central market and Union and Dignity, Jr.

Lima and Los Incas) who beg for alms through: (Demonstration of their skills and others only ask for alms).

Results and Discussion

The research work on the factors that have an impact on the situation of indigence. For the qualitative analysis, we used Minitab 18 software to determine the factors that affect the indigence condition of older adults in the city of Puno. The following factors were determined: level of anxiety and depression produced by the abandonment of their children; the presence of more than three unsatisfied basic needs (UBN); the food problem: the problem of daily hunger, clothing, health problems typical of this age group (Ancianos et al., 1997); the housing problem. On the other hand we have the hours spent on the street, which fluctuate from 2 hours to 14 hours, access to social programs, the key informants determine that they do not have access to social programs provided by the State, such as; In addition to the problems of the political crisis in the country (Peru), they do not participate in the FISE (Energy Social Inclusion Fund), they do not participate in the PAM (Older Adult Program), which are in charge of national and local governments, and finally they are not beneficiaries of the Pension 65 Program. This is the context, under which they reproduce socially from day to day, having an average income of 289 soles per month we are talking about 1$ per day, as indicated by (Moreno, 2018) which is an extreme high-risk population, in their testimonies they tell us that they had suicide attempts because of the life they had to live.

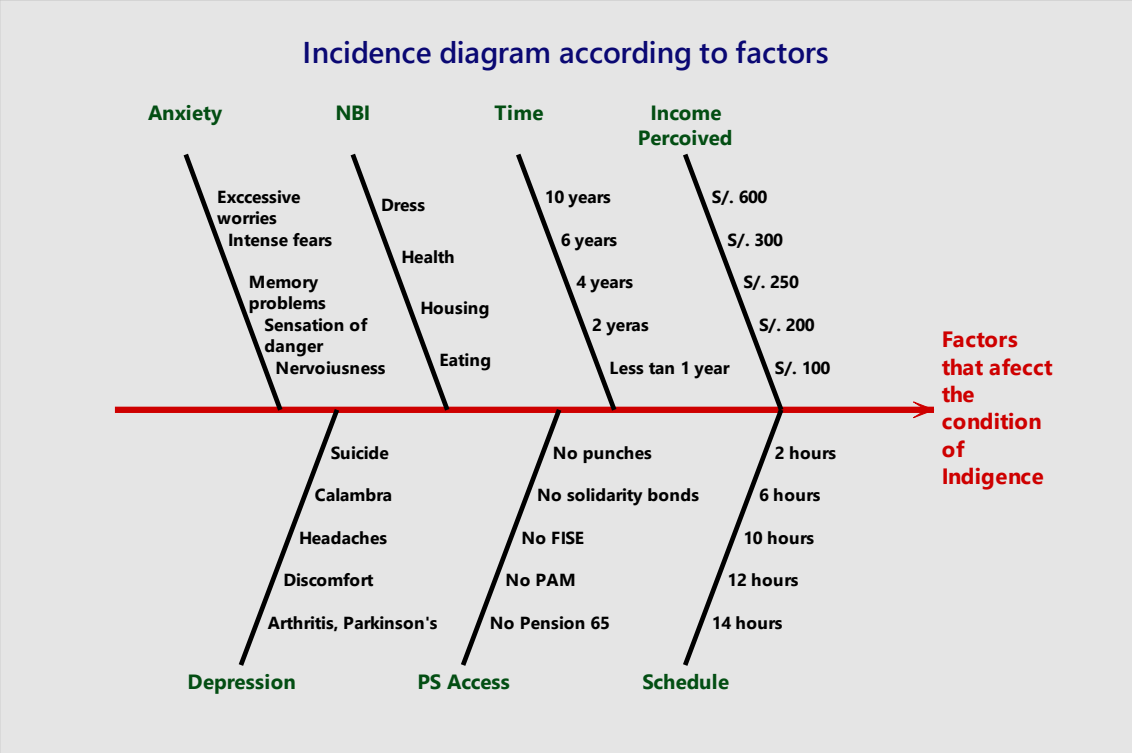

Figure 1. Incidence analysis according to factors

Figure 1 describes the qualitative factors that affect the situation of indigence, with much more detail to be discussed in the chapter on qualitative research.

Regarding the demographic profile of older adults, a standardized questionnaire was used with our key informants in order to triangulate the information on the following variables: age, gender, work schedule, determining factors, income, hours dedicated to daily work, years dedicated to individual survival strategies and activities prone to begging, access to social programs, the number of unsatisfied basic needs, states of depression and anxiety resulting

from the abandonment of children, family, social and lack of protection by the State. The frequency and percentage of the following variables Sex, gender, work schedule and determining factor are shown below.

Table 1. Statistical description

Variables	F	%
Gender		
Man	08	40
Woman	12	60
Age		
65 - 68	07	35
69 - 71	08	40
72 - 75	01	05
76 - 80	04	20
80 - +	00	00
Time on the street		
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	02	10
14:00 pm - 18:00 pm	03	15
10:00 am - 18:00 pm	04	20
18:00 pm - 21:00 pm	11	55
Determining factor		
Abandonment of children	10	50
Exclusion from social programs	08	40
Labor Factor /Demonstrate ability	02	10
TOTAL	**20**	**100.00**

Note: Prepared for the purpose of the Research (2023)

Table 1 shows the results of our study population, 40% are male and 60% female, 40% are between 69 and 71 years of age, followed by 35% of the population between 65 and 68 years. The schedules of street activities are given by the following items: milk vendors, clay pot vendors, herb vendors, candy vendors, musicians and singers, manna vendors, song interpreters, and activities prone to begging, which our key informants indicate that many people of good will prefer to give a tip rather than buy these products. These are subsistence economic activities that, as a category in the social sciences, are attributed as survival strategies. The average work schedule is 7 hours for a sample of 20 older adults, in a situation of extreme poverty. Finally, the factor indicated by our respondents, 50% is due to the abandonment of their children, 40% to the exclusion of social programs dedicated to this age group, and 10% have to find a set of activities dedicated to survival.

Table 2. Distribution of statistics of the variables under study

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Age	20	70.25	4.351346	65	80
Gender	20	.4	.5026247	0	1
Income	20	289	90.02339	150	500
Hours	20	7.1	3.582119	2	14
Time	20	5.85	2.924938	1	10
Acceso_to_PS	20	.2	.4103913	0	1
NBI	20	4.05	.8255779	3	5
Depression	20	3.5	1.235442	1	5
Anxiety	20	3.65	1.089423	1	5
escale_f	20	313.35	90.31948	168	521
total_no_I~e	20	24.35	4.591468	18	32
Factor	20	3.175364	.1909584	2.890372	3.465736

Note: Prepared for the purpose of the Research (2023)

Table 2 shows the quantitative analysis of the study variables for a total of 20 observations with respect to age, the average age is 70 years, the values fluctuate from 65 to 80 years of age; of which 40% are male and 60% female; the average income is 289.00 soles per month, which in daily terms would be equivalent to 1$ to put bread in the mouth or to satisfy hunger, the income fluctuates from 150 to 500. The average number of hours spent on the street for survival strategies or begging or paying tips is 7 hours a day, including Saturdays and Sundays; the average time in years spent begging is 5 years and 8 months, with values ranging from 1 to 10 years of seniority dedicated to survival strategies; access to social programs is represented by 10% and 90% of our study population is not a beneficiary or simply excluded from social programs provided by the State; the dissatisfaction of basic needs has an average with a scale of 4 and its values fluctuate from 3 to 5 needs, so we can conclude with respect to this item we are talking about a very vulnerable population, which dissatisfies more than 04 basic needs which indicates that they are in a situation of extreme poverty, finally, the levels of depression and anxiety have a scale of 3. 5 and 3.65, emotionally it is a very sensitive and vulnerable population, due to the characteristics of the body genetically there is the presence of headaches, arthritis, rheumatism, nervousness and suicide attempts, due to the abandonment of their children, the abandonment of the family and the State.

Table 3. Multiple Correlation Design affecting the incidence factor

Source	SS	df	MS
Model	.68726942	9	.076363269
Residual	.005567435	10	.000556743
Total	.692836855	19	.036465098

Number of obs	=	20
F(9, 10)	=	137.16
Prob > F	=	0.0000
R-squared	=	0.9920
Adj R-squared	=	0.9847
Root MSE	=	.0236

Factor	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P>|t|	[95% Conf.	Interval]
Age	-.00137	.0014852	-0.92	0.378	-.0046793	.0019392
Gender	-.0087725	.015427	-0.57	0.582	-.0431459	.025601
Income	.0000934	.0000827	1.13	0.285	-.000091	.0002777
Hours	.0408055	.0017909	22.79	0.000	.0368151	.0447958
Time	.0456923	.0027458	16.64	0.000	.0395742	.0518104
Acceso_to_PS	.0255473	.0222105	1.15	0.277	-.0239408	.0750355
NBI	.0551982	.0072915	7.57	0.000	.0389518	.0714447
Depression	.0465501	.006205	7.50	0.000	.0327244	.0603757
Anxiety	.0458146	.0063013	7.27	0.000	.0317745	.0598548
_cons	2.132301	.111497	19.12	0.000	1.88387	2.380731

Note: Prepared for the purpose of the Research (2023)

In Table 3, according to the number of observations of 20 older adults, a statistical probability of 0.000 is obtained, which indicates that the estimates are statistically reliable. We

present the multiple regression statistical model with dummy values and a natural logarithm scale to determine the indigence factor.

The estimated value of Pearson's R, 0.99, indicates a high positive regression of the indigence factor with the variables of age (-.002), gender (-.008), income (0.001), time (0.40), time (0.45), access to social programs (0.25), presence of unsatisfied basic needs (0.55), levels of depression (0.46) and levels of anxiety (0.45). These coefficients indicate a moderate positive correlation, which constitutes an incidence factor in the indigence of the elderly.

The statistically significant variables in this statistical model, the p-value of statistical significance are given by the following variables: hours spent on the street, time in years, unsatisfied basic needs, depression and anxiety have a statistical probability (0.000) and are highly significant, and the variables that have the greatest impact on the condition of indigence of the elderly, with an error (0.05) that is valid for the social sciences.

Table 4. Internal correlation according to factors and statistical significance

	Factor	Income	Hours	Time	Acceso~S	NBI	Depres~n
Factor	1.0000						
Income	0.0641	1.0000					
	0.7883						
Hours	0.6686	-0.1025	1.0000				
	0.0013	0.6672					
Time	0.2112	0.5391	-0.4004	1.0000			
	0.3713	0.0142	0.0803				
Acceso_to_PS	-0.4102	-0.0798	-0.0143	-0.3683	1.0000		
	0.0724	0.7381	0.9522	0.1101			
NBI	0.3212	-0.2259	0.1584	-0.1929	-0.1864	1.0000	
	0.1673	0.3382	0.5048	0.4152	0.4313		
Depression	0.5336	-0.4070	0.3330	-0.2549	-0.2076	0.1806	1.0000
	0.0154	0.0749	0.1514	0.2781	0.3798	0.4461	
Anxiety	0.4421	-0.3365	0.1983	-0.2321	-0.3061	0.2546	0.5279
	0.0509	0.1469	0.4021	0.3249	0.1894	0.2788	0.0167

Note: Prepared for the purpose of the Research (2023)

In Table 4, regarding the internal factors of linear correlation, this statistical premise relates two or more variables, to indicate the degree of correlation and statistical significance which will allow us to affirm the regression model proposed in Table 2, and goes as follows: In a statistical matrix of internal correlation of quantitative data are given by: Income (0.006); Hours dedicated to the street (0.66); Time in year dedicated to survival activities (0.21); Access to social programs (0.41); Basic Needs (0.32); Depression (0.53); Anxiety (0.44) related to the natural logarithm of the incidence factor, so on, their statistically significant values in their majority are less than 0.05, which indicates that they are incident variables of cause and effect in the problem of the condition of indigence.

Photography	Individual survival condition and strategy
	Marcelina (76) "(...) every afternoon I sell cow's milk, because I have a disease called Parkinson's ... From the community of Yokará I travel in my neighbors' cars, they support me, because I live alone with my animals, when I was young my husband helped me, now that he is not here, all the work is for me (...)".
	Pedro (70) "(...) I used to belong to a band of musicians, but with my age and the pandemic, they no longer call me or call me, besides there are no parties, so I go out from Monday to Saturday, from 10 in the morning until 6:00 in the evening: 00 in the evening, and if I collaborate no more sometimes I make 10 soles, other days I get to 20 soles, and I have to cover my household expenses to eat, because I was a music teacher and salary is only 600 soles, and I have to pay the house utilities, the self-assessment, and support my wife who sometimes I get sick (...).
	Isidora (70) "(...) I have been selling weed for years, I am from Huerta Huaraya, I have my garden there and I dedicate myself to taking care of it and I will continue because I have landladies, although my children do not want to, but they do not oppose me and let me continue selling, I also sell to support myself, because who will support me. I go out to sell 2 or 3 days and I sell from 4:00 in the afternoon until 8:00 at night and I bring 50 soles worth of grass, sometimes I sell everything, because my landladies buy from me (...).
	Cristina (79) "(...) every day, I ask for economic support in the center of the city, I have four children, one of them is Wilfredo, 40 years old, who has mental problems and alcoholism, and three other children have completely forgotten me (...)".
	Eugenia (72) "(...) I live alone because my two children died, and my husband left me a year ago, I can't walk so I leave my house at 4:00 am to get to the main square at 10:00 am, sometimes some tricyclists help me to get there, I sell my self-made fabrics (...)".
	Alejandro (69) "(...) I live alone, I have rheumatism because when I was young I worked in Arequipa planting rice and all day I had to be above the water [...] to survive I made clay pots and sell from my house (...)"
	Susana (75) " (...) I don't remember my life, besides, several times I sleep here (Bellavista Market) because I have nowhere to stay and I don't know anything about my children, they have already forgotten about me... And I support myself by collecting cardboard and plastic bottles from the dumpsters, it is hard work and I sell them and they pay me 10 soles sometimes 8 soles that is daily and with

	that I eat lunch at the soup kitchen and my coca... I would like to die (...)".
	Carmen (67) "(...) Well I go out to sell my manna, I no longer have the strength to work, before I was a cook in restaurants and I have raised my 7 children, they all have their families, my oldest daughter is in Chile and no longer comes to Puno, three of my daughters live in Majes and La Joya, they have their farm, they do not come either, so I live with my three children, with the sale of my manna I buy vegetables for the week, so I help my children. Every Saturday I buy my merchandise, my granddaughter helps me carry it and also helps me sell at the Saturday fair, from Monday to Friday I am here at the Deústua arch and people always come to visit because it is touristy, only when I get sick with the flu, cough, sometimes my knees and back hurt, then I don't go out to sell, but I always have to go out to the Saturday fair (...)".
	Simón (69) " (...) I like to sing and these songs that I sing are old, besides I no longer have the strength, because I used to work in construction. I have 5 children, three of them are in Arequipa and two of them are by my side, but they have their families and I take care of my wife who is also old, I come from Ichu, she only works at home because her knees do not obey and she is in a wheelchair, sometimes I take her to the health center and the medicines cost a lot so I go out and I buy her neurobion pills, her rubs that calm those pains that make her cry. Well, but they always help me, even if it is 5 soles, I bring bread to my wife... well, I always go out to sing in Pino Park because there are always tourists and they listen to my songs, once they gave me 10 dollars, but I am only here until 5:00 pm in the afternoon because I have to travel to Ichu (...)".

Figure 2. Testimonials and Life Stories on Income and Survival Strategies
Note: Prepared for the purpose of the Research (2023)

Conclusions

The determinants of the indigence condition of the elderly population are determined by the multiple regression model of the quantitative study and discourse analysis of the key informants of the qualitative study. The estimate of Pearson's R is 0.99 (high positive regression); the variables of high statistical significance are (0.000), hours on the street, time in years spent in the survival strategy; the presence of more than 3 unsatisfied basic needs; levels of depression and levels of anxiety. The qualitative study made it possible to understand the incident factors from the actor's logic.

The factors of the indigence condition of older adults, who swarm in the streets of the city of Puno, are in a situation of extreme poverty, monetary poverty and multidimensional poverty: The monetary economic income amounts to an average of 289. These incomes are the result of individual survival strategies, which are below the basic consumption basket, so that they do not have enough resources every day to fill their empty stomachs and are forced to resort to begging.

The elderly are currently excluded by social programs dedicated to this age group, due to a very poor targeting of the poorest, these social gaps, did not allow access to programs such as solidarity bonds of pre and post pandemic, to this is added the political crisis in the country,

since the economy is recessed by the blockades and constant demonstrations, do not participate in the FISE and pension 65.

The determinants of depression 0.46 and anxiety with 0.45 determined by the natural logarithm scale, in the statistical model there are concerns about the abandonment of their children, problems with memory, arthritis, cramps, headaches, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, we are talking about a strong impact on the physical, emotional and mental health of this vulnerable population, and requires the immediate intervention of local and regional public policy with public investment projects dedicated to human development.

The older adult population has devised a set of survival strategies consisting of selling their own products and services, in the same way, they resort to begging to satisfy the most fundamental need, which is food, clothing and health, through street vending with an average of 7 hours a day, until late at night, between 5 and 10 years dedicated to this work.

Recommendations

- Through local, regional and national governments, promote policies of good living in families, in which filial love is built and consolidated, the same that will lead to prevent the abandonment of the elderly.
- Promote a culture of dignified aging, through the creation of the Senior Citizen Center (CAM) program promoted by ESSALUD, which should be extended to MINSA and in turn the training of staff who are interrelated to strengthen the welfare.
- Promote education in gerontological care, particularly for family members and/or those who live with the elderly.

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