



Identity construction and the social situation of pensioners of Bouake in Cote d'Ivoire

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Abstract

Retirement as a process of demographic, economic and social transition, has different characteristics depending on the country. In Côte d'Ivoire, retirees form a heterogeneous group with internal diversity. Indeed, the transition to retirement is experienced differently by individuals. This article aims to describe the mechanisms of identity construction among retirees from Bouaké in order to understand why retirement goes well for a minority and difficult for the vast majority. We conducted a semi-structured interviews with 205 retirees using the non-random technique of volunteers in the city of Bouaké.

The results show that 80% of retirees are men and 20% women. In terms of age groups, 76.09% are between 60-70 years old, 21.94% are between 70 – 80 years old and 1.95% are 80 years old and over. Men have 1 to 16 children, an average of 8, while women have 1 to 8 children, an average of 4 children.

The identity of the retiree is identified through his professional career, his state of health, his resources and his family situation. Thus, we were able to identify two types of retirees: the fulfilled retiree and the unfulfilled retiree. The transition to retirement corresponds to a new lifestyle which requires reconstruction or social rehabilitation.

Keywords: Identity construction, social situation, retiree, Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire

Introduction

Physiological aging has always existed but, what the planet is concerned with in the 21st century, is demographic aging. The aging process has become a universal social phenomenon that spares no continent. All countries in the world are experiencing an increase in the number of aged people. Their share in the world population would thus increase from 9% to 16% (Bonnet C. et al 2021). This rapid increase in the number of aged people is not without consequences for countries in the south of the Sahara. Most of these countries are already experiencing multiple sectoral difficulties. They will have to face the social problems linked to the aging of their populations.

To understand contemporary old age, it must be emphasized from the outset that it owes a lot to the establishment of a retirement system. Retirement from a sociological point of view can be considered as a social time, a biological transition during which an individual, at a specific age, retires from his employer service, implying a restructuring of the life course (Sery D 2007, cited by Diabaté I. 2008). It appears to be a recent institution in Africa in general and in Côte d'Ivoire in particular, given that, for a long time, traditional society had not instituted a limited mode of work, implying more or less retirement at a given moment in the life course. The transformation of the so-called traditional societies into modern societies with the advent of salaried work that is consecutive to the liberal economy, will introduce a limited mode of work, giving rise to retirement. It is therefore from this period that a real retirement policy was established, designed on the French social security model, understanding that the organization of a social security policy is based not only on principles of intergenerational solidarity, but also on a corpus of socio-cultural and economic values to be preserved. The invention of pensions allowed the construction of a new social

category, that of retirees. But today, retirement raises the question of how to end a career.

Indeed, labor is considered a vital, noble and social function for human being. Therefore, what happens to those who cease their work activities to which they have devoted a large part of their live span, to a retired life? Retirement refers to different socio-political realities, depending on the countries. Despite the existence of social protection systems, in Africa one constant remains: the difficult living conditions of pensioners. In Côte d'Ivoire, retirement is experienced differently. Social elders are embarking on new trajectories to give themselves a social identity. The notion of social identity calls upon transformations of the individual which take place through socialization to the new activity invested (Haissat S. 2006).

The study on identity construction of retirees in a society where respect for the elderly is declining, is therefore necessary to understand life after retirement. This article therefore purposes, firstly, to undertake an approach to the notion of identity construction. Then, secondly, to show the determining factors in the process of social integration of the retiree.

Methods and materials used

This is a mixed method study which began in February 2022 and ended on July 31, 2022. The study took place in the city of Bouaké located in center of Côte d'Ivoire. Like all large cities, Bouaké also experiences social problems. As a result, retiring in a city like Bouaké does not go smoothly.

Methodologically, the field survey was both qualitative and quantitative. It involved 205 retired people aged at least 60 who gave their consent to participate in the survey. The sampling techniques used are: the reasoned choice method and the non-random volunteer method. As tools used, direct observation, an interview guide, and a questionnaire have

been employed. The collection of data was carried out with the help of the presidents of retirees' associations and the consent of certain retirees. Indeed, the dual dimension used in this study allowed us to identify the types of retirees according to their social situation. The theory of constructivism of Berger P. and Luckmann T. (1986) which develops the idea according to which socialization is a set of data constructed by individual and collective actors was applied to analyze the stages of the identity transition of retirees.

The qualitative analysis was carried out using "content analysis" and "structured analysis" which made it possible to faithfully render the nature of the data collected according to a coherent arrangement. The qualitative data were processed manually and quantitative data were processed using IBM SPSS statistic 20 software.

Results

The results of the study are organized around the following points:

- Personal identification mechanisms for the retiree;
- The mechanisms of social construction of the retiree;
- Indicators of social and economic reconstruction of the retiree.

1. Mechanism of personal identification of the retiree

The mechanisms of personal construction are linked to the socio-demographic characteristics of retirees. They consist of the analysis of variables such as: sex, age, marital status, type of marriage and number of children.

1.1 Distribution according to sex

We surveyed 205 retired people, including 164 men (80%) and 41 women (20%). This clearly demonstrates gender inequality in employment in Côte d'Ivoire.

1.2 Distribution according to age

Regarding age, there are two groups of retirees. Less old retirees, that is to say those under 70 years old and who are the most numerous (76%). The vast majority of this group is in good physical condition. These retirees can improve their socio-economic situation, especially since they can still take advantage of the job market.

The other group is made up of people over 70, fewer in number (24%). In this group, there are very old, weakened and dependent people. This is the age category of over 80 years old. It represents 1.95% of the respondents. As can be seen, the proportion aged 80 and more, constitutes the last stage of existence.

In view of the above, and by following the evolution of the age groups, we see that, the older the person gets, the more they move towards the end of life. Indeed, when time passes, we lose vitality, so aging also means moving towards physical weakening, a reduction in abilities, a paleopathology very often with disorders of all kinds. The age of retirees sheds light on their capacity to participate or not in social and economic dynamics at the local and/or national level and to develop strategies of resistance or innovation in the face of social and economic constraints.

1.3 The marital status of retirees

The marital status is a determining factor in the socio-economic and family balance of post-retirement life. This involves considering the impact of marital status on the

retiree's quality of life. The survey reveals that the proportion of retirees having entered into a monogamous marriage is higher (45.36%). Common-law unions represent 19.51% of the respondents while polygamous couples represent only 17.07%. The proportion of widows or widowers is 9.75%. Singles have a proportion of 5.85%; while the divorced represent only 2.43%. We can therefore say that the trend is for monogamous marriage among retirees.

What emerges from the comments of the respondents is that having several wives causes problems in the family. On the other hand, monogamy facilitates social understanding and better relationships between the retiree and his family (wife and children).

Regarding polygamy, it encourages conflicts in homes related to sometimes contradictory aspirations. It is one of the main factors that determines the social field of intervention in terms of expenditure, consumption and social harmony.

1.4 The number of children

Children constitute the important human capital of the family. Having offspring for a person is a sign of happiness and dignity. This is why it is important to integrate children into the social construction of the retiree. The number of children among retirees goes from 1 and 16 children. The Retirees (60.97%) have more than 8 children. This group is made up mainly of men. The number of children among retired women varies from 1 to 7 with an average of 4 children per woman.

Overall, we note that the number of children varies very slightly depending on the status of retirees. This number remains constant between 6 and 7 children on average. This high number of children can constitute a factor in the impoverishment of the retiree if these children are still young or socially dependent.

2. Mechanism of social construction of the retiree

Social construction mechanisms are the set of social determinants which explain the socio-economic situation of the retiree.

2.1 The professional career

The path of career is the set of movements made by a worker during their career. By observing the career path of retirees, we distinguish two scenarios. Retirees from the IPS-CGRAE whose career was managed by the public service and those who depend on the IPS-CNPS whose career management was the responsibility of the companies. Thus, the professional career allows the worker to gain experience, develop new skills and obtain better remuneration. Each of these two institutions develops policies that impact the social situation of retirees. Given that the two structures do not operate in the same way, nor do they present the same retirement offers, retired people can only present different situations. Therefore, the social situation of the retiree depends in part on his professional career.

2.2 The financial situation

Enjoy a "golden" retirement depends in particular on the financial situation of the retiree. Financial situation significantly determines the quality of life during retirement. Financial health ensures the retiree's ability to maintain the

desired standard of living. Indeed, if one aspires to a stress-free retirement and leisure, this assumes that the individual has sufficient financial means not only to meet family responsibilities, but also to have access to a desired lifestyle including projects, leisure and others. This lifestyle seems to be shared and desired by everyone, but it is only possible if the financial situation allows it. However, what we have observed is that the vast majority of retirees deplore the lack of financial means. At this level, the pension cannot cover social costs, namely food, housing, education and health. Under these conditions, it is difficult to talk about the social well-being of the retiree.

2.3 Health status

The state of health in question mainly concerns physical health. Indeed, physical health is defined as the perception of being in good physical condition, either by the absence of physical illness (e.g., diabetes), or by the absence of functional limitations (e.g., motor skills problem). Good health in retirement is a great satisfaction for the retiree. Physical health promotes full participation in the activities and roles that emerge during retirement. Conversely, fragile health attenuates positive states during retirement, by putting one aside from activities and increasing the frequency of medical visits. The state of health is also likely to influence the retiree's experience. Good health in retirement is not only a factor of fulfillment but an indicator of longevity for the elderly. This is why health appears to be the primary concern of retirees, one of the best indicators of a good retirement. Retirees from Bouaké (85%) are sick. They suffer from chronic pathologies such as high blood pressure, rheumatism, heart disease and diabetes. These pathologies seriously harm the health of retirees, thus compromising their social well-being.

2.4 The Family situation

The family situation is very decisive for the retiree at this precise moment in his life. Living alone in retirement exposes the person to isolation and loneliness. On the contrary, retirement in a couple or with children and grandchildren is a source of mutual support. Indeed, living in a household with children and grandchildren reduces the risk of poor health. Intergenerational cohabitation improves the well-being of older people. The survey reveals that widowed women (90% of the women surveyed) live with their grandchildren in general. On the other hand, elderly men live with their partners. Only a minority is widowed. This demonstrates the significant inequalities between men and women in terms of support people can take for granted in old age. This is the situation that old D A, a retired teacher, is experiencing.

"When we retired, my husband and I lived peacefully, we were fulfilled. But since his death, I feel alone, I have no one to confide in" (Interview conducted at his home).

K A V, former town hall agent, President of an NGO said this:

"It's been five years since I lost my husband. I live with my granddaughter and a nephew. I admit that it is not easy to live alone. We can only trust in God" (Interview conducted at the NGO's headquarters).

The testimonies of these two widows highlight the difficulties that single women experience in their old age. The loss of a spouse at this stage of life destabilizes the balance of the family and creates a feeling of total despair.

Family relationships are added to the indicators of a good retirement. Being happy in retirement means knowing how to live in perfect harmony with your nuclear family, your children and your parents. The survey showed that retirees maintain good relationships with their nuclear families and also with the neighborhood. On the other hand, relations with the extended family are tense with certain retirees. In addition to family harmony, it also means having socially independent children and not dependent children. Having socially independent children enhances the retiree. The social independence of children is a great advantage for the retiree. This independence of the children reveals a certain joy for the retiree. The social success of children has three benefits

- Consideration of the retiree
- Costs reduction linked to educational, economic, health and psychological care
- Economic support

The retirees we interviewed present different situations. The majority of retirees (81.25%) have at least one socially independent child compared to 18.75% who do not.

Concerning children and especially, depending on whether these children are minors or socially independent, constitute for the retiree two significant scenarios in terms of expenses or the possibility of receiving assistance. However, almost all retirees have children to take care of. Only a small proportion of women say they do not have children to take care of. The children met at their home are mostly their grandchildren who do not constitute a real burden for them, since they benefit from the help of the parents. The presence of these grandsons or daughters helps avoid loneliness and boredom for these retired widows. If having socially independent children is an indicator of a good retirement, having children in charge on the other hand is a source of worry which contributes to the development of stress and causes illness.

2.5 Housing

Housing or even real estate is one of the determinants of a good retirement. It appears in the speeches of retirees that the house remains an asset that a retiree must have when they retire. It is a symbol of retirement security, a social security which strongly contributes to the construction of identity and psychological stability. For, "he who has nothing, is nothing" they say. Better still, it avoids being a tenant and allows you to make small savings. The correlation "retirement-absence of housing" is therefore a factor of social disqualification, a loss of dignity. The words of N N G, a former soldier, confirm this in these terms:

"A civil servant who was unable to build a house, when he retires, is frowned upon by society and even by his own parents. You cannot go and live in the village otherwise you will be the laughing stock of the village. Others prefer to stay in town and continue to rent a house, even if it is not easy" (Interview we conducted at home).

Having a roof when you retire is a factor of social integration. The Society gives you respect and consideration. The results regarding the property are as follows:

52.17% of retirees do not have real estate. Conversely, 47.82% have them.

However, we note that a category of retirees lives in the family courtyard.

2.6 Investment

One of the social determinants that guarantees a good retirement is investment. The retiree who invests more, enjoys a good retirement. In fact, the investment constitutes additional resources for the retiree. Thus, retirees will be able to maintain their social and family roles and enhance their status. As for retirees in Bouaké, the vast majority have not been able to make major investments that could generate significant additional resources. Those who have been able to invest in housing, just have a few houses left behind. They represent a non-significant part of our respondents. In addition to real estate, some retirees preferred to invest in agriculture, poultry and small businesses.

3. Indicators of social and economic reconstruction of retirees

Retirement, as an identity transition, is accompanied by changes that require accommodation and adaptation strategies. Retirees must engage in this process of negotiation with themselves and with social groups when developing individual strategies. This adaptation process develops around the indicators as follows.

3.1 The place and mode of residence of retirees

▪ Place of residence

The retiree's place of residence depends on his personal interests. Whatever the level of income, the trend towards settling down in urban areas dominates. According to the latest RGPH (2021), the urban population is increasing steadily. It exceeds that of rural localities. The city of Bouaké concentrates 4.7% of the urban population. This trend is influenced neither by income level, nor by cultural origin, nor by religion. Retirees are increasingly choosing the city as a retirement location. They thus ensure residential continuity due to the sociability networks already built and which are decisive in the social, psychological and physical balance, of the associative, religious and professional type. The words of the old D. C., former hygiene officer, illustrate this idea:

“I feel better in the city, I'm used to life here, I have my own little activities and what's more, I manage the family yard” (Interview conducted at home).

This choice of the place of residence among retirees responds to their willingness to be in good conditions conducive to the management of the constraints linked to their past, their current conditions, and the future of their offspring: supervision and schooling of minor children, need for exercising paid employment and access to health care. It should be noted that access to care and the conveniences of life were mentioned as reasons favoring the choice of residence. This is what Y. K, a retired teacher and President of COFRETAS, who says:

“I couldn't stay in the village because of my state of health. I have diabetes and to follow my treatment properly, I must keep my appointments with my doctor. In the village, it will be difficult to keep my appointments. Here, I feel better and I am with the children, education is going well” (focus group with association presidents)

The choice of residing in the city for retirees is conditioned by the amenities offered by the city and the need to successfully educate their offspring. One of the reasons that justifies this choice by retirees is linked to the practice of witchcraft in the village and which could lead to their physical elimination. Several witnesses of cases of

witchcraft to which certain retirees who left the city to settle in the village and were victims, have been reported to us.

The city presents itself today as a place par excellence of protection and safety for retirees who left frustrated people in their wake while they were active.

▪ Mode of residence of retirees

In Bouaké, three modes of residence emerge among retirees. These are owners, tenants and those who live in the family yard. Thus, we identified that 45.47% of retirees own their home, 40.90% are tenants and 13.63% live in the family courtyard. Being an owner is ideal. Home ownership is a guarantee of a good retirement for our respondents. On the other hand, being rented or in the common courtyard is a source of uncertainty at the mercy of mockery and frustrations.

These social and economic constructs to which the retiree is subject do not leave him indifferent. These parameters characterize him and determine his living standard.

3.2 Social identification of the retiree

The socio-economic determinants listed above made it possible to identify two types of retirees: the fulfilled retiree and the abject or vulnerable retiree.

▪ The fulfilled pensioner

During the interviews, what emerges from the population's discourse is a sort of categorization of retirees. This is the fulfilled retiree, who enjoys retirement well. The social indicators of this type of retiree are those that we listed previously. The respondents affirm that a retiree cannot be fulfilled if he does not have a good number of these indicators.

Regarding life satisfaction during retirement, the vast majority of retirees appreciated it differently. While some are delighted with their good physical health, conversely, others deplore their financial health and the lack of home ownership. Only a minority said they were satisfied with their retirement life. A retiree in good physical and financial health will have more opportunity to take advantage of their new life to do activities and leisure activities they desire. On the other hand, a retiree limited by his physical or financial health will feel prevented from fully enjoying his retirement. And this is due to his fragile health and his financial inability to participate in income-generating activities.

▪ The abject and vulnerable retiree

The failure to prepare for retirement exposes the retiree to dependency. We admit that an unfulfilled and vulnerable retiree is one who lives in precarious circumstances and needs help.

During retirement, the living conditions of retirees depend on the capital accumulated during their professional career. It is therefore the time to take advantage of this social capital for those who have it. However, a retiree who did not prepare for retirement will not experience the same fate as one who prepared for it. Thus, he will be content with his pension which cannot cover his social needs. He will therefore be a person in need with a precarious and miserable life, thus compromising his “capital of longevity”. Longevity is further influenced by the specific family environment. Indeed, the environmental determinants responsible for delayed mortality compared to the average lifespan are favorable general living conditions, linked to income, cultural capital and social relations. To repair the

inadequacies and compensate for the harmful collateral effects on retirees, some retirees continue to work. This new job may or may not be desired depending on the circumstances.

3.3. Post-retirement activities

Society considers Retirement as a time for rest. This perception is confirmed by the population surveyed. However, if retirement is associated with free time, free from all work-related constraints, as well as a stress-free environment which seems attractive and coveted by everyone, the organization of this free time is experienced and understood differently. Depending on family social context and economic situations, retirees organize their retirement time. The amount of time spent in retirement differs from one individual to another. Retirees who are still working have been observed. There are retirees who express the idea of compensating for work time so as not to get bored. They approach this time from the angle of loneliness. This assumes that employment represents for them a means to maintain social relationships. It is also an opportunity for them to undertake their own activities. Creating income-generating activities is a way to cope with social reality. If retirees work to occupy their time and increase their income, this is not the case for others, who are forced to work despite retirement. The retiree, who has not been able to prepare for his retirement, finds himself forced to work in order to ensure economic security given that the pension cannot cover the charges of his family. These are retirees who live in urban areas with all that it entails in terms of social and economic obligations. To meet all of his needs, the retiree is forced to work despite himself. Finally, the most important part of them is the one that is inactive and at rest. This group says they are tired after so many years of sacrifice and they no longer wish to work. The most important at this age is to be a resource person to whom young people come for advice through the sharing of their experiences. In this group of retirees, we find people who have health problems and physical deficiencies, those who lack financial means and those who have been able to prepare for their retirement.

Ultimately, retirees view post-retirement activities as a means of recognizing their own value and the desire to be socially useful.

Discussion

The objective of this study is to find out mechanisms of the identification and social construction of the retiree. The theory of constructivism of Berger P. and Luckmann T. (1986) which develops the idea according to which socialization is a set of data constructed by individual and collective actors allowed us to put at the center of this discussion the socio-demographic characteristics of retirees, their interpersonal relationships and their social integration. All this in relation to the period of activity of the retiree, source of preparation for retirement.

1. Social identification of retirees

We surveyed 205 people including 164 men (80%) and 41 women (20%). Our results are consistent with those of Alaphilipe D. et al (2001) who found respectively (79.4%) men and (20.6%) women to retire in France. These data are so different from the national statistics in terms of employment achieved in 2016. Overall, salaried

employment mainly occupies men (78.3%) compared to women (21.7%) (AGEPE, 2016).

This is justified by the level of education of the Ivorian population. There is a disparity according to gender. Women are less educated than men, only 16.5% of women have a secondary level or higher. This state of affairs arises from representations and practices linked to the schooling of young girls and the traditional roles of women. It must be said that for a long time the young girl was seen as the one who should stay at home and take care of household. The disparity observed here is therefore the consequence of the sexual division of labor which establishes the social domination of men over women. The social function of women is to contribute to the perpetuation of the lineage. However, this image is increasingly deconstructed as the girl goes to school.

Regarding the marital status of retirees, we have (45.36%) monogamous marriage, (19.51%) for common-law unions, (17.07%) polygamous marriage, singles (5.85%) and widowers (9.75%) and 2.43% of divorcees. Unlike ours, Alaphilipe D. et al (op.cit) found 90% married, 3% single and 6% divorced in France.

In terms of children, we have the following results: 7.3% have one to three children, 34.14% have between four and seven children, 48.78% have eight to eleven and 9.75% have more than eleven children. Bailly N. et al (2001) found that 63% of retirees in France have one or two children, 11% have more than three children and 5% have no children. This last factor is a source of fulfillment or misery depending on the education of the descendants.

2. Mechanism of the social construction of the retiree

The worker in full activity interacts with his environment. He occupies a place of choice for his loved ones according to the service rendered to the community. It remains at the center of family and community relations. Once he retires, his purchasing power diminishes, he is immediately isolated even though he needed it right now. How is the situation looking in Bouake?

2.1 The Family situation

Our research on family solidarity shows that mutual assistance within the family is limited to relationships between parents, children and spouses. Retirees live or cohabit with their descendants and grandchildren. Some of them continue to care for their unemployed adult children.

The relationship between the spouse, children and grandchildren is very beneficial for the elderly person. In Africa, as in Bouaké, cohabitation with the elderly has several dimensions. It is considered a social norm because of the symbolic place that elderly people occupy in the society. Second, it is a way to maximize family resources and support each other. Palloni and De Vos (2003) cited by Yakam Y. (2022) maintain that cohabitation is part of social transfers that come from the younger generations to the older ones. It participates in intergenerational solidarity through interactions between generations but also between spouses, which integrates the sharing of resources and emotional support to the point of extending to familism.

2.2 Relations with the nuclear family

It is important to note that from now on, the family social field and the habitus of elderly retirees diverge because parents, contrary to their expectations, do not receive the

equivalent of what they gave to their children. The worst thing is to find yourself in an inverted contract where the parents still take care of their adult children. Reciprocity in this case seems to be suspended and if we are not careful, it becomes definitive.

According to Caldwell's theory of intergenerational wealth flows (1982), parents invest in their children when they are young and the latter, as adults, take care of their parents in turn. A great number of our respondents have invested in their children, unfortunately, they still do not work to take care of them. This puts our respondents in regret and desolation. Because only children can help retired parents survive during retirement. If a certain number of conveniences are not achieved by the retiree, they find themselves continuing to work after retirement. This work after retirement allows you to socially rebuild yourself and economically, not only to safeguard your social position and deal with your health problems.

3. Phase of social and economic reconstruction of the retiree

The results of our survey show that the vast majority of retirees have chosen to invest in the informal sector. The types of activities carried out are: small business, poultry breeding and agriculture. Thus, upon retirement, individuals retrain in the informal sector. This shows that the older people get, the more they work mainly in the informal sector. Our results are similar to those of Sajoux M. and Macia E. (2017) who maintain that the activity rate of people aged 60 and over in the city of Dakar was 39.1% with small business as the main activity. They emphasize that Dakar retirees find it difficult to accept spending a long day at home doing nothing.

In sub-Saharan Africa, we observe activity rates among those over 60 that are higher than in other regions of the world, frequently above 50% of the population over 60, and above 75% among men (Barbone and Sanchez, 1999). Female activity rates, although generally underestimated, remain relatively high at these ages. These high activity rates among older people of course decrease with age, while remaining very high compared to other countries in the world. In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, it goes from 65% among 60–69-year-olds to 40% over 70 (ILO, 1999).

This situation of elderly people does not escape retirees. Retirement, as we have said, is not a time of rest strictly speaking. Certainly, the productivity of older people declines with age; but their activities are far from negligible. Retirees participate in working life by being active in almost all areas. This point made it possible to know the ideas conceived by retirees around retirement. However, the trend that dominates representations of retirees is that of unproductive retirees who want to rest.

In short, we can conclude that in view of the models of retirees presented by Gaullier X. (2003) leisure retirement is observed less in Côte d'Ivoire. On the other hand, retirement-claims are emerging with retiree associations and NGOs responsible for promoting the elderly and retirees. Post-retirement work allows us to challenge the common sense of retirement, previously perceived as an inactive phase, as a threshold for entering old age. The definitive cessation of activities now tends to be based on the real incapacity of these people to carry out an activity. In daily practices, functional criteria replace chronological criteria to shape this last part of life. It is very likely that the "classic"

retirement could disappear in the future, as is already the case in the political field (Caradec V., 2008). However, as they age, certain activities can no longer be carried out by retirees.

Conclusion

The study on the construction of retiree identity highlights the way in which retirees experience retirement. Thus, the retired person must find new identity markers that accommodate the new circumstances they are experiencing. These identity markers are linked to their family situation and social determinants. Therefore, the value and respect of the retiree is linked to his social and economic situation. Thus, the identity of the retiree in society is defined by a valued social status. This is why it is important for retirees to create the conditions for a better life to present a positive image of retirement. This requires a good professional retraining. From this point of view, the notion of abandonment was born, of which the Toulouse sociologists Serge Clément et al (2007) speak. Loss of life is defined as the process of life reorganization that occurs as we age. Therefore, the challenge facing retirees is to best overcome the challenges of advancing age, to overcome moments of transition, and to position themselves in society. But this requires the combination of contributions from the retiree, the State, private structures and communities. Then, retirement would be fully experienced and the retiree will regain his social identity.

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