FEMALE ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION IN HIDALGO, MEXICO

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Abstract - In Mexico, several changes in economic dynamics have been observed in recent decades. One of the most notable changes is the increase in the participation of women in the labor market. This phenomenon is frequently interpreted in the literature as a result of economic development processes. However, the increase in the economic participation of women is also observed in regions with different economic lags. Such is the case of the state of Hidalgo, which has been characterized as still one of the states with the highest levels of poverty and marginalization in the country. In this research, I analyze in a demographic perspective, the participation of the population in the labor market of the state of Hidalgo, Mexico. From the information of the population censuses from 1990 to 2010, and the intercensal survey 2015, the increase in female participation between 1990 and 2015 is highlighted, as well as the differences and particularities between rural and urban contexts, as well as between the populations with ethnic origin.

Index Terms - Female Economic Participation; Hidalgo, Labor Market, Socio-Demography, Mexico.

I. INTRODUCTION

In Mexico, aggregate indicators at the national level have shown several relevant socio-demographic changes in the structure of the economically active population, associated both with the national and regional economy and with socio-demographic dynamics. Among the most prominent indicators are those that show the increase and diversification of the economic participation of women.

The case of the state of Hidalgo is relevant, since being one of the states with greater delays in the economic and social development of the country; it also shows an increase in the economic participation of women.
The objective of this paper is to analyze, from a socio-demographic perspective, some characteristics of women's participation in the labor market in the state of Hidalgo. The methodology used consists of the socio-demographic analysis of census information in the last decade (2000-2010) and the Intercensal Survey 2015, generated by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI for its acronym in Spanish). The analysis highlights the characteristics of the economic participation of women in rural and urban and indigenous localities, hoping to contribute to the understanding of the complex processes that define female participation in the economic system of this state.

II. BACKGROUND

The increase in the participation of women in the labor market observed during the twentieth century in different countries is related to various economic, social, demographic, political and cultural processes.
The gender dimension in the field of social sciences is understood as socially constructed roles, that is, differentiated behaviors and activities for men and women, which are attributed by society and considered as socially appropriate. The cultural assignment of roles differentiated by sex assigns men the responsibility to be providers, while women were responsible for raising children and caring for the home [2]. In the study of economic participation, the gender dimension becomes clear by showing large differentials in the participation of women in contrast to male participation.

During the 20th century, economic and social changes promoted a different perception of the possibilities of assigning roles, also implying a different economic participation of men and women, tending to a greater incorporation of women in economic activities.

In 1985, Mincer [6] wrote an article in which he analyzed the behavior of the economic participation of women in 12 countries, considering their relationship with development. Mincer highlighted the remarkable growth of women's participation in the economic activities of each of these countries. Particularly noteworthy was the increase in participation in the labor force by married women in practically all the countries that he analyzed. The factors that he indicates as relevant to this phenomenon found the increase in real wages and education.

In 1986, Pampel and Tanaka [13] examined the effect of economic development on the participation of women in the labor market, as well as the role of various related explanatory variables identified in the previous literature, highlighting the relationship with the development processes.

More recently, Pradhan et al. [14] analyze the relationship between the economic development and

the female work force participation rate, considering that it could be explained by social factors and the income of the household. These authors pointed that education is a very important factor that affect the incorporation of the women in the labor market.

I consider that, likewise, differentials of participation in the different segments of the market began to be observed, showing specialized or preferred spaces for men or for women. More recently, the change in the economic participation of women has incorporated more female population into jobs that were formerly assigned only to men.

The problem of the incorporation of women into employment is associated with conditions of equity and equality of opportunities, and above all with the possibilities of reducing vulnerability and promoting development. The trends shown by the International Labor Organization (ILO), in consideration of the agenda for sustainable development, reflect the persistence of the gender gap in economic participation and the quality of employment [5].

In the last decades, considering the Mexican case, as pointed out by Aguilar and Mungaray [1] "The contraction of labor markets and the loss of the purchasing power of income, together with the desire for self-realization, seem to have favored the incorporation of women in the labor market".

As Garduño-Rivera [4] indicated, Mexico is living since 1970, a liberalization process of its economy, and considers that regional disparities and some demographics aspects affect the economic participation of the women.

In the case of the state of Hidalgo, Mexico, in the mid-twentieth century some of its rural regions were identified as the most lagging in the country, affecting significantly its population, especially in indigenous communities that stand out for their high presence in the state. Since those years, programs of economic and social development have been implemented, with diverse effects, which have contributed to modify the economic conditions of the regions of the state of Hidalgo.

III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In a context of economic change and presence of marginalization and poverty, as presented in the state of Hidalgo, Mexico, the research problem is to know the trends of female economic participation and their differences between rural and urban localities, and the population of ethnic origin, in the period 1990-2015.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A. The study area

The state of Hidalgo is located at the coordinates North 21º 24 '; South 19º 36‘of North latitude; East 97° 58'; West 99º 53' West longitude [10], in the central region of Mexico.

B. Population for study

The target population analyzed in this study is the Economically Active Population (EAP) resident in the state of Hidalgo, in the years 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2015. Following the specific legislation of the period, it is considered as economically active population the persons that was aged 12 years old and over.

C. Data sources

The Population and Housing Census 1990 [7], 2000 [8], 2010 [9] and the Intercensal Survey 2015 [11] are produced by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). These sources were used as principal information for the analysis of the female economic participation of population of Hidalgo, through the direct digital consultation to the base of the censuses, in the access of interactive tabulates.

D. Method of data analysis

In this research, from a demographic methodology, census information and survey results were organized for the estimation of Economic Participation Rates (EPR) in each year: 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2015. Since this information, economic participation indicators were estimated according to sex and the rural/urban condition of the population, under the hypothesis that gender and context influence the levels of economic participation.

For the distinction of rural and urban contexts, in the case of Mexico, in this study is accepted the proposal of Unikel [15], classifying as urban localities those with a population equal to or greater than 15,000 inhabitants. The smaller size localities were classified as rural.

The Economically Active Population (EAP) was identified following the definition of INEGI [9] - [9], that include in this group the population that participated in economic activities in the reference week. The Economically Active Population includes Employed Population (EP) if they performed an economic activity; and Unemployed Population (UP) if they did not perform any activity.

The rates of economic participation are an indicator that measures the degree of economic participation of the population in the labor market [12]- [3]. Although some studies for Latin America consider economic participation after 15 years of age [3], in this case it is

covered from 12 years of age given the availability of information captured by the INEGI.

The Economic Participation Rates (EPR) are estimated as the quotient resulting from the ratio between the Economically Active Population (EAP) divided by the Population of 12 years and over, as a percentage. The indicator shows the percentage of the population of 12 years and over that is inserted in the economic activity, either working or looking for work. Finally, the ethnicity condition is identified by the ability to speak an indigenous language. This information is offered by the census sources of the INEGI.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, I present an analysis of the economic participation of women, using the indicator of the Economic Participation Rate by sex, rural / urban condition and ethnicity in the period 1990-2015.

The total economic participation rate of the state of Hidalgo increased from 1990 to 2010, going from 40.51 percent of the population aged 12 and over to 50.14 percent. The indicator for 2015 is reduced, passing to 47.23 percent of participation, slightly above the level observed in the year 2000.

The economic participation of the population is predominantly male throughout the observed period. The economic participation of women in the state of Hidalgo increased significantly in the period, going from 14.81 percent in 1990 to 30.70 percent in 2015, more than doubling in the period.

During the period, the economic participation of women increased continuously until 2010, and although it increased in 2015, it shows a strong deceleration in the five-year period 2010-2015.

Economic participation is clearly different between men and women, although the gender gap has been narrowing. While in 1990, 67.69 percent of men aged 12 and older worked or had looked for work that year, only 14.81 percent of women in that age range did so. That is, the economic participation was 4.3 men for each woman; or, one in five people in the labor market was female.

For the year 2000 the increase in the economic participation of women in Hidalgo was notorious, going to 26.54 percent. That is, the economic participation was 2.5 men for each woman. For the year 2015, the increase in the economic participation of women in Hidalgo remained, reaching 30.70 percent. In contrast to the male participation of 65.78 percent, it means that 2.14 men for every woman participate in the economy.

For a more detailed analysis, I considered the available information by localities corresponding to the 2010 General Population and Housing Census. This information allows us to consider the rural or urban condition of the population and estimate the economic participation.

It was observed that the economic participation is different between the urban and rural context, existing an unfavorable gap for the rural population with a participation of 47.88 percent in contrast to the urban context of 55.47 percent.

The gap between men and women is notorious, being wider in rural areas. While rural women participate in 25.09 percent in economic activity, men do it in 72.79 percent. That is, almost 3 men for every woman participate in the labor market. In contrast, in urban areas, the participation of women reached a percentage of 40.69 in 2010, that is, almost two men for each woman.

If one considers the condition of an indigenous language speaker, it can be observed that economic participation is lower among the indigenous language speaker population (45.84 percent) than among the non-indigenous language speaker population (50.96 percent).

Likewise, the economic participation of women that are indigenous language speakers is noticeably lower than that of men, reaching only a participation rate of 17.2 percent in 2010, while men that are indigenous language speakers had an economic participation of 75.53 percent. It also a highlight that among the non-indigenous population, the gap between the economic participation of women and men is lower and even the male participation rate is slightly lower than that of indigenous-speaking men.

CONCLUSIONS

The structure of the labor market in the state of Hidalgo has presented transformations in the last decades, allowing the increase in the participation of women in the period 1990-2015, notwithstanding the economic backwardness and poverty in the region.
The increment of the economic participation of women in the state of Hidalgo has been observed in urban contexts and among non-native-speaking populations. In urban areas, the gap in economic participation between men and women was reduced during the 1990-2010 period. However, the gender gap in the economic participation is still notable in the

contexts of indigenous language-speaking populations.

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