

Analysis of the factors that influence marginalization and poverty in the Huasteca Potosina from the perspective of public administration

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Abstract

The Huasteca Potosina is a region of economic and ecological importance for the state of San Luis Potosí given that it has a great ecological diversity which allows the development of agricultural and tourism activities mainly. However, despite the great natural wealth that this region has, it now faces problems of poverty and marginalization due to the lack of adequate strategies for the management of resources, as well as the lack of innovation technologies that impede productive development. Therefore, the objective of this work was to perform an analysis of the indices of marginalization and poverty in the Huasteca Potosina, and propose strategies for improvement from the perspective of public administration. The analysis showed a lag in terms of infrastructure and innovation in productive activities, and lack of human resource training. For this reason, several strategies are proposed for the improvement of this situation, in order to promote the development of the Huasteca region.

Public administration, marginalization, poverty

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Introduction

The Huasteca Potosina is a region of warm and lowlands that extends off the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. It has several sites of great attractiveness, places of exuberant vegetation, intense humidity that favors the existence of numerous natural landscapes. The Huasteca Potosina has 20 municipalities grouped into microregions. The North microregion is one of the most socially and productively complex, given that it faces difficulties in its mountainous geography and the dependence on a little diversified agricultural sector, with little technology and with a predominance of small productive plots, which places it as the microregion with the highest concentration of poverty in the State (State Development Plan 2009-2015). On the other hand, the South microregion is one of the most densely populated areas and with the greatest pulverization of its settlements, its productive axes are agricultural, the sugar cane for piloncillo, that currently ventures into markets with granulated piloncillo; citrus and coffee; although much of the surface is planted with corn, more associated with the culture and traditions of the community as a food source, than as a commercial alternative (State Development Plan 2009-2015).

Justification

The Huasteca Potosina faces problems of poverty and marginalization that start from its mountainous geographical location, to its scarce technological diversification with predominance of small productive plots, which has caused little agricultural development and economic growth abroad. Given the economic importance represented by the Huasteca Potosina for the state of San Luis Potosí, it is important to analyze the factors that generated the backwardness, poverty and social marginalization, which may be useful in the decision making of public administration.

Problem

In the State of San Luis Potosí, poverty is an evident reality in both rural and urban areas, as a result of the inequities that distinguish productive and social activities; and that are expressed among people by the existing gaps in work and income opportunities. In the context of micro-regions, inequities have been generated by the advantages of one over another in a context of economic competitiveness; and between productive sectors due to the imbalances that the rural economy presents with respect to industrial activities and services in the urban environment.

Hypotesis

The analysis of critical factors in the economy of the Huasteca Potosina can contribute to making appropriate decisions in public administration.

Objectives**General Objective**

Analyze the factors that influence the decision-making of the public administration to solve the problems of marginalization and poverty in the Huasteca Potosina.

Specific objectives

- Carry out an analysis of the main economic sectors of the Huasteca Potosina.
- Identify factors that affect marginalization and poverty.
- Make a proposal for improvement that is the basis in the decision making of public servants.

Theoretical framework

Poverty is a reality that violates the foundations that sustain the lives of people. Its current magnitude, according to the estimates of the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), show that 44.2% of the total population is in a situation of multidimensional poverty, that is, approximately 47.2 million people present severe social deficiencies with insufficient resources to obtain a basic food basket. In particular, in the state of San Luis Potosí, the situation of poverty and social backwardness, carried out by the Subsecretariat of Social Development (Sedesol), 9.5% of the total population is in extreme poverty, that is, 258 thousand people. Among the municipalities of the Huasteca Potosina with the largest number of people with basic services deficiencies are Aquismón with 90.6%, Tamazunchale with 82% and Ciudad Valles with 28.2% (Sedesol, 2016).

Based on the foregoing, it is very important to determine the degree of intervention of the Public Administration in making decisions about the development of the rural communities of the Huasteca Potosina with the purpose of proposing strategies from the public to the social sphere.

Public administration is a science that is characterized as an activity of the State, and is aimed at society, for which it performs functions for the benefit of their welfare and momentum. Therefore, public administration has its origin, legitimacy and justification, in the growth and development of society (Guerrero-Orozco, 1997). The science of administration occupies a terrain of extensive publicity emerging from the civic activity, where individual destiny can not be cultivated without securing the destiny of the community, and where the social design is penetrated by the strength of the individual personality.

It is the knowledge that deals with a complex accumulation of links between society and the administered, which is applied to the preservation of these relationships through the action of public authority over men and things that belong to men, but always according to the interest of all. As scientific knowledge characterized as theory and as a social practice, it can then be considered as the knowledge of certain inherently administrative social relations (Guerrero-Orozco, 2015).

Research Methodology

The methodology used for this work consisted in carrying out an analysis of public information on the factors caused by marginalization and poverty in the Huasteca Potosina. To do this, basic information was collected in databases, State and Municipal Development Plans, news, articles, and later the opinions of the government representatives of some municipalities. The work strategy followed consisted in making an analysis about the factors that affect the public administration in the decision making of marginalization and poverty in the Huasteca Potosina to make an exploration of the public problem with the level of sufficient depth, to offer the reader a clear idea about its dimensions and the possible vision of the solution of this problem. However, it is difficult to obtain such information and opinion from public servants and society interested in this issue of Marginalization and Poverty, since there has been no public policy intervention where citizens express their dissatisfaction, services or programs offered by the municipality itself.

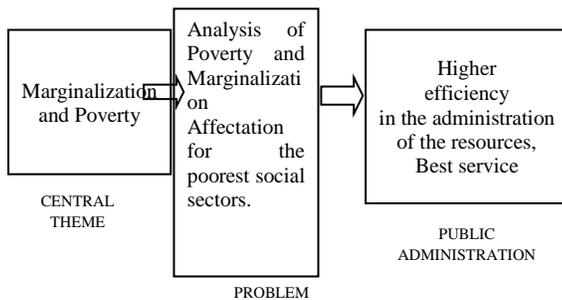


Figure 1 Analysis of the definition of the problem and establishment of the Public Agenda. Source: self made.

Kind of investigation

A qualitative research approach was used based on a variety of conceptions, visions, techniques and non-quantitative studies (Hernández Sampieri et al., 2010). This qualitative research was based on a logic and inductive process (explore and describe, and then generate theoretical perspectives) (Grinnell, 1997). In the qualitative search of this project, we began by examining the social side of the communities of the Huasteca Potosina, and during this process a coherent theory with the data was developed, according to what was observed. This process is often called grounded theory (Esterberg, 2002).

Analysis

According to the Marginalization Indexes 2014, published by the National Population Council (CONAPO), the state of San Luis Potosí was part of the group of entities with high marginalization, ranking sixth, after Guerrero, Chiapas and Oaxaca. Likewise, it was ranked 11th among the entities with the highest percentage of illiterate population aged 15 and over, and the same place with reference to the percentage of the population aged 15 and over without a full primary education.

The most critical were the fourth place in percentage of population without electric power; the fifth place by the percentage of people in dwellings with dirt floors; and the sixth as a percentage of dwellings without piped water.

Out of a total of 2 million 410 thousand 414 inhabitants, 3.5% was found in four municipalities with very high marginalization (Aquismón, San Antonio, Santa Catarina and Tanlajás) and 32.7% in 37 municipalities with high marginalization, which represents almost 873 thousand people in conditions of critical social backwardness. In addition, more than half (51.5%) was located in seven municipalities of low and very low marginalization (Ciudad Valles).

On the other hand, the CONEVAL's recent data indicate that 15.2% of the population is in extreme multidimensional poverty, 35.9% in moderate multidimensional poverty and that more than half of the population, 51.1%, suffers from poverty, which means in total 1 million 260 thousand people. Derived from the above, there are 570 thousand people in educational backwardness; 1 million 590 thousand people do not have access to social security; 560 thousand lack a quality housing and sufficient space; 640 thousand lack basic services in housing and 580 thousand do not have access to safe food.

In terms of human development, according to the most recent information from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), San Luis Potosí ranks 19th in the national context for its Human Development Index; This position is the result of the limited possibilities that the population has to reach a healthy standard of living; acquire individual and socially valuable knowledge; and the opportunity to obtain the necessary resources to enjoy a decent standard of living.

The pattern of concentration of the population in few urban centers and the dispersion in rural areas, poses a number of problems to reduce social inequalities, eradicate the conditions of extreme poverty and marginalization, and raise their human development.

The fact that a small proportion of the population lives in a large number of localities, often rural and isolated, involves a complex challenge for social policy: 19.4% of the population resides in localities with less than 500 inhabitants.

The demographic and territorial dynamics are highly differentiated. Of the 6,887 localities of the State, only 60 localities are urban and concentrate 1.5 million inhabitants settled mainly in eight cities: San Luis Potosí, Soledad de Graciano Sánchez, Ciudad Valles, Matehuala, Rioverde, Ciudad Fernández, Ébano and Tamazunchale. In contrast, 6 thousand 827 settlements are rural, that is, have less than 2 thousand 500 inhabitants and there reside 900 thousand 449 people. Of these, 72% show high and very high marginalization. In addition to these structural conditions, multiple challenges are seen to promote equitable social development. San Luis has a predominantly young, urban, thriving society that seeks and shows industrial, commercial and infrastructure growth; but that, at the same time, coexists with important lags in opportunities and living conditions, particularly for people who live in rural and indigenous areas, as well as in marginal urban areas.

For this reason, a social agenda is proposed to deal with income inequality in the differences in access to education and technology, in order to expand the structure of vital services such as electricity, water, sanitation and care of the population environment; as well as to favorably influence social integration and human development.

Results

In order to conceptualize and study the formation of an agenda in public administration, it is necessary to investigate a public policy that is directed at how problems are solved and not so much at what problems they become the object of government intervention..

The state congress has not discussed the case of marginalization and poverty, has not been concerned about this phenomenon, have approved increases to public services such is the case of drinking water proposed by the drinking water and sewerage operators, and that some deputies have expressed that if there is a new increase in public services in the capital of Potosina, the family economy will be affected. "It is necessary to value the cost involved in creating programs that help to participate and contribute to productive support of localities, for their benefit, it is important to fight against the poverty and marginalization of these rural regions that in their case have seldom been attended.

In addition to the above, the actions of some officials with sufficient power of intervention disregard the normative provisions, which is interpreted as a hostile action by other users, thus triggering conflicts.

In addition to the coverage needs for the population, these criteria must be understood and hence find the best solution to address this situation. " In addition, a job dignifies the human being and the government has the obligation to provide this service, and that the municipal government is efficient.

Proposal

According to the analysis of this research, it is proposed that from the perspective of the public administration programs that guarantee a better social increase should be authorized, as long as the operator municipality guarantees economic growth in sufficient quantity and quality to its inhabitants, and recover the economically active population index. In addition, it is necessary to disseminate to the inhabitants the poverty and marginalization rates that currently exist. It is also essential to define the authorities responsible for providing and monitoring that the population occupies itself in productive activities to which the inhabitants have access, disposition and social participation in the different programs taught in the Huasteca Potosina localities.

As for the users, this social benefit, urgently guarantee them a good service and let them know the problems of marginalization and poverty the risks they can incur by not taking care of any productive activity.

Conclusions

The analysis presented in this article reveals that it is urgent to implement solutions in the short, medium and long term. One way to prevent the effects on marginalization and poverty is the training and occupation of human resources. Regarding the lack of economic resources, it is urgent to provide infrastructure to the field, and create more jobs.

On the other hand, it is important that public servants work on adequate legislation to be able to give possibilities to the problem of marginalization and poverty in the Huasteca Potosina.

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