

A research about status and quality of live in elderly people.

Carlo Cristini, Giovanni Cesa – Bianchi¹, Patrizia Pirani²

In western world old age is often conceived as a condition marked by loss and decline. Aged people, excluded from work, have difficulties to find a positive social role and cultural purposes useful to themselves and the community.

Many prejudices contribute an inactivity status, an unavoidable rest and a passive waiting; aged people appear as inert spectators in time. The aim of the research was to explore the self-image of a sample of 60 subjects, aged over 65 years, who live in two different towns. A questionnaire and a personality test (Adjective Check List) were used.

Unfavourable cultural environment and negative events seem to restrain choices and possibilities. However creativity enhances a positive attitude toward opportunities, and stimulates the development of new interests, especially in an urban context. Men exhibit a greater self evaluation, but women seem to accept better entirely life experiences as a whole.

Although with many prejudices, old people recognise their personal value, have persisting willingness to express their own skills, and actively propose their knowledge, that reflects their images.

¹*Istituto di Psicologia, Facoltà Medica, Università degli Studi di Milano.*

²*Istituto di Psicologia, Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione, Libera Università degli Studi di Urbino*