

Binomio desarrollo local - familia campesina *Binomial relationship between local development and the* *rural family*

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Resumen: En el contexto actual que vive la sociedad cubana, a la luz de las distintas políticas implementadas, resulta pertinente acercarse de las familias campesinas a través de sus potencialidades para el desarrollo local. Atendiendo a ello se analiza el papel de la familia campesina en el desarrollo local, y se exponen algunas limitantes y oportunidades fundamentales.

Palabras clave: Familia campesina; Desarrollo local; Plan de desarrollo integral; Reproducción social campesina

Abstract: In the current context of Cuban society, to face the different policies implemented, it is pertinent to approach rural families through their potential for local development. Based on this, the role of the rural' family in local development is analyzed in this essay, and some fundamental limitations and opportunities are discussed.

Keywords: Rural' family; Local development; Comprehensive development plan; Rural social reproduction

At present, the different political projections of Cuba point towards local development in close link with seven nationally established priorities by the government, including the production of food for the population and for animal consumption, and the integral development of the population.

In this endeavor, the family is the first reference group for the human being. It is the family institution that reproduces and / or creates a culture that promotes change and balance within the limits of an existing social order.

Cuban families today are characterized by the heterogeneity not only of structures but also in terms of their socioeconomic conditions (Pérez Yera et al., 2011). Specifically, rural families that produce food are a fundamental pillar for achieving the economic objectives set. Although the family as the basic cell of society is vital for development, the rural' family acquires crucial importance in municipalities where the main economic activity is agriculture and whose impact tends to overwhelm local frameworks.

Binomial relationship local development - rural' family

Development as a universal process of change and transformation accuses its character according to the type of prevailing social relations of production, values, ideology and class interests of the society in question, understood in different ways as progress, economic growth, industrialization and others. In Cuba, the territorial-local space began to be valued in the nineties of the 20th century, working mainly from the universities (García, 2015), in its different edges.

So, what can be understood as local development?

In our country, local development has been studied from various perspectives by various researchers; among the most recent we can mention Álvarez (2008), Garcés (2012), Riera (2012), Rodríguez (2014), García (2015).

In the academic and political discourse on local development, it has been important to consider the economic dimension of development as a determinant because of its capacity to promote other spheres of social life, which has reached the point of defining as a tendency the reduction of the concept to one single dimension when it is denominated local economic development. It is a multi-causal, evaluative, normative and cultural phenomenon, centered on the use of endogenous potentialities, for which popular participation, training of local actors, high levels of coordination of material and human resources are required (Álvarez, 2008, P. 3).

In addition, some of the conceptualizations include cooperation processes in social interaction and the promotion of integrated actions in the processes of production and reproduction of daily life in the local dimension (García, 2015, p.86), which applies to the family that produces food.

Assuming here as such in the strictly local sense since it is taken as the municipal, whose purpose is related to the direct benefit to the population of the territory through the local potential of production and services.

On the other hand, the tendency to associate development in any of its meanings to economic growth persists, which invites to associate the rural' family as a unit of economic production with the category of local development, especially if it is investigated by a municipality that intends to implement a plan of integral development and that is eminently agricultural.

For its part, the concept of rural family tends to be controversial, especially for the second term in question "rural", so debated in the social sciences. Also designated as family production units,

differentiating the domestic, residential units, and the production units (of food). In Cuba, it is often called relatives of members of some of the agricultural cooperatives, more specifically those who belong to cooperatives of credits and services that work in or to produce food and that usually live where they produce, as well as individual rurals.

One of the issues that is common both for families in urban areas and rural and rural families is the fact of being able to form a network of kinship, and is that kinship relations as a form of social bond (Espronceda, 2005) should be analyzed from its incidence and representation in the social fabric.

An approximation to the current state in Guantánamo province, easternmost region of Cuba, was obtained through interviews conducted in 2015 with experts from the National Association of Small Rural in Guantánamo -both provincial and municipal-, the Municipal Government, the Delegation of the Municipal Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the journalist of the provincial TV center that attends the agricultural food sphere, which coincide in that more than 90% of the producers use mainly family work force, live where they produce and are associated to Cooperatives also express that the Credit and Service Cooperatives are the productive forms that contribute most to the total productions of the municipality. Therefore, the demands of the economic development that is to be achieved cannot ignore the families that produce food since they constitute an important factor in the municipal agrarian context, whose sustained reproduction depends on the success of a large part of the processes of development.

What are the limits imposed by the reality of the rural family as a unit of economic production to local development?

Recurring question when it comes to focusing on the "possible ideal" of our family reality. The following elements are annotations for a response: the subsistence of a patriarchal culture (corresponding distribution of roles *vs* equity), the absence of critical awareness towards the problems that afflict them, the absence of formal mechanisms to influence in this area by the actors local, inadequate preparation of local actors for the treatment of family problems at the local level, the objective living conditions of the family that favors the violation of space among its members and that constitute a threat to the subjective conditions of life, the increase in divorce without consensus, single parenthood without sufficient support, population aging, the economic

and food crisis that favors the relationship between people who see subjects as an object, the different conceptual positions to define what is "rural family", social representations about the work in the field that the projects put militaries outside.

Hence the importance of looking from reality to what they can really achieve in the specific historical conditions in which they operate. Each historical-social context will determine what is the "possible ideal" of the families that make it up.

Can the planned local development limit the social reproduction of the rural' family?

This response is positive if the rural families are completely unknown in these development plans and, as a consequence, decisions are made, albeit well-intentioned, that do not fulfill the aspirations, and where the perceptions of its members are not involved.

The construction of integral development plans for each municipality should ensure their families from their in-depth knowledge to find the best way to preserve them. Knowledge that must go from statistics or official evidence that account for the social mobility reflected in changes in the composition of rural family members, to the qualification of their social relationships. And the absence of these data or studies in the municipality makes it difficult to implement a strategy of development that is consequently sufficient.

Under these conditions, could other elements be considered for the approach of the rural family in local development?

The problematic of the rural family as a production unit for local development can be approached from all the functions (economic, cultural, biological) that it plays as a group / institution. Other aspects to be considered for its approach: communication (symmetrical links), participation in decision-making, collective life projects, the autonomy of its members, coordination in tasks, respect for the spaces of each member, mutual collaboration, the limits established in the relationship between its members, access to their own income, spaces for the participation of all members where each opinion is heard equally, the most democratic educational styles, leadership styles, leadership , their kinship networks.

The family transmits the culture of a society for generations. In the case of rural families as a production unit they are an opportunity to take advantage of both the contribution to food

production and the creation of producer mentalities that the country's economy needs, which needs to be treated as a diverse fact, without formulas, attending to their particularities. If in addition, that system of social relations that establishes the family in function of the economic activity that realizes passes on the base of the cooperation, participation and transmission of the cultural traditions that surrounds it from generation to generation, has a positive impact on the construction of the sustainable and inclusive local development to which we aspire. Social work with families must empower them with critical awareness, intelligence, coherence between feeling, thinking and acting, as well as the achievement of their autonomy and participation towards their interior and towards the neighborhoods where they are inserted. (Pérez Yera and others, 2011, p.188) At the social level, the empowerment of the community and the family, particularly as socializing agents with great energy for the solution of their own problems, has been fundamental. Account in any action that is carried out for the local development that is desired. The rural family in the municipalities where their presence is remarkable constitutes one of the most important base links for local development. It takes place a series of social processes, both productive and reproductive, which overflow, whose comprehensive and profound understanding depends, to a large extent, its conservation and the success of the development strategies of the municipalities.

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