

## **Material Poverty of the Elderly as a Factor Limiting their Access to Education**

### **Abstract:**

The issue of old age and the functioning of old people in society is an issue that has been given a lot of attention recently. Such an approach is determined by the fact that Poland belongs to aging societies, where the elderly population is more represented than the generation of young people, i.e. inverted demographic pyramid. The aging process of the Polish society is progressing at a fast pace and determines multidimensional effects both in the demographic and in the individual and social dimensions.

Elderly people struggle with many economic, health, mental and social problems, which most often result from the depreciation of their social status and position in society, from isolation, loneliness and from intergenerational distortions that hamper social integration. In order to improve the quality of social functioning of older people, it is

necessary to disseminate broadly understood education among seniors. Educational activity is perceived as a factor activating an elderly man to participate in all areas of social life, counteracting apathy, a sense of uselessness and boredom, and finally preventing the process of exclusion from active functioning in society.

However, there are many barriers and limitations in accessing education for older people, among them one can mention a difficult financial situation, generating serious barriers to access to the educational offer addressed to seniors. Therefore, it is necessary to undertake all activities aimed at creating conditions for elderly people to permanent education through the use of both institutional and non-institutional forms of education.

**Keywords:** poverty, social exclusion, senility, old person, aging society, education, barriers to access to education, permanent education.