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- Ageing is an issue for all countries, not only for developed countries as it is usually thought.
- Ageing is not a problem in itself, but a demographic process that reflects progress made by countries as they develop.
- The problem when facing an ageing process emerges when this process occurs in countries where constrained macroeconomic conditions and a lack of institutional infrastructure limit the capacity to care for the ageing population.
- For example, in developing countries the capacity to deal with the ageing process is limited under conditions of high unemployment and informality.
- Actually, even in these countries, the positive aspects of the demographic bonus were not perceived as such, since the increased younger population did not have access to opportunities to contribute to overall development.
- Ageing-related challenges are even greater for developing countries because:
 - the ageing process tends to occur in a context of greater inequity, weaker institutional development and a more constrained economy;
 - the demographic transition is more accelerated (a process that took over 200 years for countries such as the UK in the advent of the industrial revolution, has taken only 50 years in countries like Mexico).
 - consequently, countries have not had the time to create adequate institutional arrangements to deal with an ageing population.
 - Evidence has shown that out-of-pocket expenditures are greater in households with at least one elderly.
 - Evidence has also shown a more concentrated demand for health care services in such households.
 - As compared to children, the percentage of elderly without health insurance is greater than the percentage of elderly with health insurance coverage.
- Conclusion: in developing countries social policy is forced to take a leap-frogging, countries need to learn from other countries' experiences and find new institutional arrangements to deal with an ageing population.